



725 W. 75TH STREET DARIEN, IL 60561

Dear Beloved Friends,

What a wild world we live in, but we worship an even more awesome God. With all the division and violence we see around the world and here at home, it was a breath of fresh air to gather for our recent community picnic with Loving Word Ministries. Though we may not look alike or worship exactly the same way, we came together around our shared love for God—and also for Bingo and snow cones!

Throughout Scripture, heaven is often pictured as a great banquet, a wedding feast, or a joyful dinner party where everyone is welcome at God's table. When we share food, laughter, and fellowship across differences, we get a little foretaste of that heavenly celebration. Our picnic was one of those moments—a glimpse of the unity, joy, and hospitality God desires for us and for the whole world.

Looking ahead, we have many opportunities this fall to continue living out that vision: Darien Oktoberfest, Pet Blessings, Outdoor Worship and not to mention many more in November and December. Each event is another chance to widen the table and invite neighbors, friends, and newcomers into our shared life of faith.



I also want to express my heartfelt thanks for being a congregation that is open and welcoming. Your warmth, generosity, and willingness to partner with others—whether it's Loving Word Church, our local schools, or community organizations—show the world what Christ's love looks like in action.

With gratitude and love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Adam Dowd'.

Pastor Adam Dowd
Lord of Life Lutheran Church



Lord of Life
We Share God's Love

A photograph of the exterior of Steven's Family Restaurant. The building is a single-story structure with a light-colored facade and a green roofline. The entrance features large glass windows and doors, partially covered by a green awning. Above the entrance, the restaurant's name "STEVEN'S FAMILY RESTAURANT" is displayed in large, colorful letters, with "FAMILY RESTAURANT" in red and "STEVEN'S" in green. Below the name, a sign reads "PINEAPPLE JUICE • CUCUMBER SMOOTHIE". The building is surrounded by landscaping, including green bushes and pink flowers. A small sign on the left side of the entrance reads "OPEN 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM".

Happy Birthday

A close-up photograph of a single cupcake. The cupcake has a swirl of white frosting topped with a single lit candle. The candle is decorated with colorful stripes. The cupcake liner is also decorated with vertical stripes in various colors. The cupcake is surrounded by colorful sprinkles on a light-colored surface. The background is softly blurred with bokeh light effects.

A group of various domestic animals including dogs, cats, and guinea pigs, with blue bone icons on either side.

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth". **1 John 3:18**

2025 Council Members

- Marilyn Sells - President, Personnel, Worship and Music
- Ron Matta - Vice President, Personnel
- Linda Glover- Secretary
- Jim Kelly - Treasurer
- Connie Allekian - Evangelism, Stewardship
- Marlene Carlson - RIC
- Elsy Eggert - Children and Hunger
- Art Kardatzke - Property Committee
- Ray Kozak
- Debbie McNichols - Hospitality
- Judy Padera - LCW
- Alice Tangorra - Hospitality
- Pastor Adam



Community Events

Recycling Extravaganza –drive thru & drop off

Who: Rotary Club of Darien

What: Recycling Extravaganza –drive thru & drop off

When: Saturday – October 18, 2025 - 10:00 am until 2:00 pm

Where: St. John Lutheran Church, 7214 S Cass Ave, Darien, IL 60561

We are proud to announce Our 4th Annual Drive-Through Recycling Event in partnership with SCARCE! This year we are adding a battery collection! (Household batteries only, no car / boat batteries). The Rotary Club of Darien will be covering the cost of the shredding truck for document Shredding (tax, bank and medical records) Please NO plastic, NO rubber bands, NO big binder clips. Staples & paperclips are okay.

Additional organizations will be there collecting the following:

- DuPage County Sheriff's Office will be collecting Syringes, Epi pens, Sharps, lancets, medicine (over the counter or prescription), old vitamins.... Just put in one big plastic see thru bag, no bottles needed.
- Working Bikes will be collecting Bikes, bike repair tools, bike baskets, tire pumps
- Project C.U.R.E. will be collecting Medical Equipment – walkers, crutches, canes,
- Darien Lions Club - Darien, IL will be collecting eyeglasses, hearing aids, household keys, cell phones
- SCARCE will be collecting
 - Books– paperback, hard cover, novels, textbooks, children's books
 - Records – 45s, LP, vinyl
 - Musical instruments & sheet music
 - Brita (ONLY Brita Brand) filters & pitchers
 - Ink Jet cartridges (only small ink jet cartridges)
 - Bread Tags – no twist ties please
- Darien VFW - US flags to be properly disposed of and recycled
- Rotary Club of Darien - Used Household batteries (one time and rechargeable) to recycle

Did you know that recycling helps to preserve wildlife habitats? By recycling paper, plastic, and other materials, we can reduce the need for raw materials that would otherwise destroy forests and harm our animal friends. Let's protect nature together! Together we can make a difference!



FREE EVENT

Brushstrokes and Beyond Winter Showcase

December 3rd
5:00PM – 8:00PM
Holden Service 7:00-7:30
Lord of Life Church
725 75th Street, Darien, IL

A one-of-a-kind community event presenting many different art forms. Showcasing local talent from in & around our community!

Contact us for participation information



Committee Report

Finance:

August donations were good. The \$15,569 total is the third highest August in the last ten years, Exceeding a very weak 2024 (\$9,812) by \$5,756 and a weak 2023 (\$11,656) by \$3,913. August expenses (\$20,439) were higher than 2024 (\$18,911) by \$1,529 and higher than 2023 (\$17,668) by \$2,771. August operations generated a \$4,871 deficit. The year-to-date deficit increased to \$39,435, the deficit is the second highest at the end of eight months in the last ten years.

At the end of eight months, 66.67% of the year, 66.6% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 66.6% were highly seasonal. However, it should be noted that in prior years the percent expended has been several percent lower than the completed portion of the year.

Donations through August recorded in Shepherd's Staff agree in total and by fund with the financial records.

No pass-through funds are overdrawn. Ten on-line donations totaling \$633.82 were received by the last counters report date (08/25/25). There was one \$18 Thrivent donation (YTD there have been 6 Thrivent donations totaling \$402).

The balance sheet remains strong. There is no long term debt. Total assets have decreased by \$41,830 since 12/31/24. The decrease is due to the operational deficit and the Gathering Place project.

James T. Kelly
Treasurer

Council Highlights

Pastor's Report

- Expressed gratitude to Council for encouraging time away to be with family following his father's death.
- Outdoor Worship: Moved to new location near building for flatter ground and less traffic noise; experimenting with event tie-ins before/after worship (e.g., bonfire, "Paint with Pastor") to boost attendance.
- SLCT: South Loop Community Table restarted; Byron Levan and Mark Alterson volunteering; Thanksgiving meal will be provided by Lord of Life (no overlap with Mt. Carmel baskets).
- Livestream/AV: Views slightly down but still an effective outreach tool (recent newcomers came via YouTube). Improvements made to sound quality; humming traced to ground loop; new mic picking up organ music.
- Holden Village: Pastor Adam will be away September 25-28 for a retreat to learn about Holden and explore future congregational trips.

Property Committee Report

- Sanctuary “table/shelf” nearly complete.
- Gutters and gutter covers being installed/cleaned.
- Closets and outdoor touch-ups ongoing.

Parking Lot Seal/Restripe

- Wilson Paving to seal and restripe parking lot for \$4,500 (same price as three years ago).

HVAC (Narthex/Breezeway/Restrooms)

- Current unit (2012) has small heat-exchanger crack and refrigerant leak; estimated replacement \$15,000 including crane.
- Decision: Obtain at least two additional bids (e.g., Fire & Ice, Precision) using Stevens’ specs; revisit in October.

Pastor’s Health Insurance

- Pastor Adam uses VA benefits; coverage through Portico for Pastor Elle and family continues at lower cost than alternative.

New Members

- Byron Levan and Mark Alterson requested membership.
- Council discussed ELCA open table practice and membership requirements.

Committee Reports

- Personnel - Recommended approval of Pastor’s health insurance.
- RIC - Met Aug. 20; next date TBD.
- Social Ministry - SLCT Thanksgiving meal moving forward.

Upcoming Events & Volunteer Needs

Pet Blessing

- Oct. event needs new coordinators (Marilyn & Judy away).
- Marilyn will make dog treats; G. will make cat treats.
- Action: Pastor Adam to ask Kelly/Nancy (Darien Arts Council) to lead; Sherry to handle certificates; Marilyn/Judy to create checklist.

Church Picnic

- 9:00 am Sunday set-up; hot dogs, buns, chips, lemonade provided; chili & cheese added.
- Bingo with \$1 scratch-off prizes (~5 games).
- Loving Word invited;
- rain plan = indoors hallway.
- Sign-up sheet for volunteers at 9:00 am.

Mount Carmel Donations

- Cart in breezeway; no perishables; sign to be made.
- Pet supplies also accepted.

October

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED Oct 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<div>+</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Worship Service In Perso12pm Loving Word Service		<ul style="list-style-type: none">5:15pm OA	<div>Pastor Adam Anniversary</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Bible Study7pm AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5pm Dance Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:30am Card Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am SDA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Worship Service In Perso11:30am Pet Blessing12pm Loving Word Service		<ul style="list-style-type: none">5:15pm OA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Bible Study6pm Outdoor Worship7pm AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5pm Dance Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:30am Card Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am SDA12:30pm SDA Luncheon
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Worship Service In Perso12pm Loving Word Service	<div>Columbus Day</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">11:30am Lunch Bunch5:15pm OA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Bible Study7pm AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">12pm Senior Spirits5pm Dance Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:30am Card Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am SDA12:30pm SDA Luncheon
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Worship Service In Perso12pm Loving Word Service		<ul style="list-style-type: none">5:15pm OA7pm Church Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Bible Study7pm AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5pm Dance Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9:30am Card Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am SDA
26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
<div>Reformation Sunday</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Worship Service In Perso12pm Loving Word Service		<ul style="list-style-type: none">5:15pm OA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10am Bible Study7pm AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5pm Dance Academy	<div>Halloween</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">9:30am Card Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">9am SDA

September in Review

