

# Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church November 30, 2025 First Sunday of Advent



*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

**Welcome:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church's long-standing credo is "We share God's Love".

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

**Worship: Communion:** All are welcome to share in Holy Communion. Individual packets available near the entrance to the worship center.

*Passing of the Peace:* It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

*Physical Distancing:* It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

**Children Welcome:** Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kids bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.*

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

## **PRELUDE**

### ***Gathering***

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#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

† You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

## GREETING

*All are seated.*

## ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

*Light One Candle*

1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.  
You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world.  
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.  
Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.  
We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,  
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.  
**Amen.**

***Word*****First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains

and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.  
<sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm: Psalm 122**

<sup>1</sup> I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”  
<sup>2</sup> **Now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**  
<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built as a city  
that is at unity with itself;  
<sup>4</sup> **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**  
<sup>5</sup> For there are the thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the house of David.  
<sup>6</sup> **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:**  
“May they prosper who love you.  
<sup>7</sup> Peace be within your walls  
and quietness within your towers.  
<sup>8</sup> **For the sake of my kindred and companions,**

**I pray for our prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek to | do you good.”

## **Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable*

***Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow***

***ELW 885***

*Alleluia.* Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, **and grant us your salvation.** *Alleluia.* (Ps. 85:7)

## **THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 24:36-44**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty fourth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup> “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and

one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All are seated*

**SERMON**

*‘Tis the Season*

*Pastor Adam Dowd*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*If Every Day Was Like Christmas*

*Elvis Presley*

## ***Response to the Word***

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*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

### ***THE NICENE CREED***

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

*All are seated.*

### ***THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH***

*Each prayer petition will end with...*  
**God, of grace, receive our prayer.**

### ***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE***

**The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
And also with you.**

*The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “**Peace be with you.**” If you have your phone available, text a word of peace to someone who is worshiping alone.*

### ***OFFERING AND PRAYER***

*The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included,  
God has given us.*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## ***OFFERING PRAYER***

### ***Meal***

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

## ***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING***

***p. 129***

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## ***PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER...***

*join their unending hymn*

Holy, holy, holy are you,  
 God of power and might,  
 heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
 Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is he who comes in your name.



Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

*The minister continues the eucharistic prayer.*

*....We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us sing as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION**

*All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.*

*We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.*

**SONG DURING COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

# ***Sending***

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## ***BLESSING***

May God who comes among us,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,  
The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.  
**Amen**

***SENDING HYMN***    **Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn**    **ELW 242**

## ***DISMISSAL***

Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ***POSTLUDE***

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

### **Presiding Minister**

### **Assisting Minister**

Lector

Organist

Guitarist

Greeters

Ushers

Acolyte

Video

Pastor Adam Dowd

Ron Matta

Art Kardatzke

Rosita Yao

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Connie Allekian

Arlene Danielson and Bruce Danielson

Judy Padera

Arlene Danielson and Sherry Sejnost

## **Announcements 11-30-2025**

**Wine and Candles** this month are provided by **Elaine Sherman and LeeAnn Swanson**  
with thanks for all our blessings.

**Christmas Poinsettias** - Our **2025 Poinsettias** this year will come in a foiled 6-1/2” sized pot with 5 or more flowers on the plant. ***The cost is \$17.00 per plant.*** Please mark the color you prefer (red or white), how many plants you are ordering and the amount enclosed. Please place your order envelope in the collection plate or give it to the church office by **December 14th** at the very latest! Thank you!

**Brush Strokes** On **December 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 5:00-7:00 PM.** A one-of-a-kind community event presenting many different art forms. Showcasing local talent from in & around our community! To participate, please contact the Darien Arts Council for guidelines and submission information at [www.darienartscouncil.org](http://www.darienartscouncil.org) or [darienartscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:darienartscouncil@gmail.com)

**Holden Evening Prayer** On **December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM** we will have our Holden Evening Prayer Service.

**Rock & Roll Singo Night** Join us on Thursday, December 4th, at Freedom Brothers Pizzeria & Alehouse in Naperville, 1293 S Naper Blvd, for a night of music, mayhem, and mouthwatering pizza! Sing along. Win prizes. Fuel up on legendary pies and cold brews. Game time starts at 7 PM. Let’s meet at 6:15 PM to get a table. Let Sherry Sejnost, 630-546-1917, know if you are planning to attend.

**Pop Culture Spirituality Event** We are hosting a special event for high schoolers and young adults on **December 6th at 6:00pm** called Pop Culture Spirituality: K-Pop Demon Hunter. It will be a fun night with popcorn, snacks, and great conversation.

**International Christmas Celebration** Our annual International Christmas Celebration on **Sunday, December 7th from 4:00 to 7:00.** We are also having a Christmas raffle and are looking for items to raffle off, with all proceeds going to the ministry fund. Ticket Prices: \$15 for adults, \$7 (5-11 years), under 5 free, Family max \$45.

**Lunch Bunch** We will meet at Longhorn, 708 Janes Avenue, Bolingbrook, on **Tuesday, December 10th at 11:30 AM.** If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Marilyn Sells at 630-927-9996. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

**Senior Spirits** – We will meet on **Thursday December 11th at noon**, this is a week earlier. We will continue with our Potluck Luncheon. If you would like to participate in the gift card exchange please bring a \$10.00 gift card to Senior Spirits. Everyone is

welcome at Seniors! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me at 1 (630) 927-9996 Marilynn.

**Christmas Meal Boxes** The Children and Hunger Committee is collecting food to put together Christmas meals in partnership with Mt. Carmel food pantry. Sign up today!

**Final Donations for 2025** All **cash** and **check donations** for 2025 need to be in the Church office by 10:00 AM on **Wednesday, December 31st** to be included in the final count for 2025. All **electronic donations** for 2025 need to be submitted by **Sunday, December 14th** to be included in the final count. Thank you!

**Please pray for members:**

Pastor Elle Dowd	Art Sejnost	Aimee Jimenez	Donna Motes
Marla Suda	Ken Gulliford	Vern Sima	Kerry Spitznagle
Roberta Sejnost	Judy Padera	Linda Matta	Paul Ristau
Toni Blesy	Jim Eckwall	Caryl Schaer	Gale Dyskie

A full list of relatives, friends, and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday.

**THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE**

Sunday	11/30	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>International Christmas Meeting</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Monday	12/1	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Property Committee</b>
Tuesday	12/2	4:00 PM	Set-up for Brush Strokes
		5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday	12/3	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		5:00 PM	Brush Strokes and Beyond
		<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Holden Evening Prayer</b>
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Thursday	12/4	5:00 PM	Dance Academy
		<b>6:15 PM</b>	<b>Singo – Freedom Brothers</b>
Friday	12/5	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Cards</b>
Saturday	12/6	9:00 AM	SDA
		<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Youth Event</b>
Sunday	12/7	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
		<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>International Christmas</b>