

# Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church February 8, 2026 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



*Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.*

**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.

**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***

---

#### **CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\dagger$  one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community,**  
**but we have served our own interests**  
**at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,**  
**but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,**  
**that we may do justice, love mercy,**  
**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in  $\dagger$  Jesus' name.  
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.

**Amen.**

- 1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
- 2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
- 4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away—  
here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,

gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## ***GREETING***

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**and also with you.**

## ***PRAYER OF THE DAY***

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*All are seated*

## ***Word***

---

### **First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12**

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

<sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9a</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

<sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 112:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in God’s commandments!

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;**  
**the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;**  
**the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> **For they will never be shaken;**

**the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness  
stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

<sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth  
and pine away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the

rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.<sup>9</sup> But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.<sup>11</sup> For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God.<sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

<sup>13</sup> And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup> Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.<sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup> “For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

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; praise God, all  
 creatures here below; praise God above, ye  
 heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

***Alleluia.*** Jesus says, I am the light of the world; **whoever follows me will have the light of life.** ***Alleluia.*** (John 8:12)

### **THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:13-20**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least

in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

*All are seated*

**SERMON**

*Salty*

**Pastor Adam Dowd**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*All That Really Matters*

*Illenium*

**Response to the Word**

---

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

*All are seated.*

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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving especially Leeann, Nancy, Jenna, Art, Aimee, Donna, Ken, Vernette, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, and Gale. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

**Amen.**

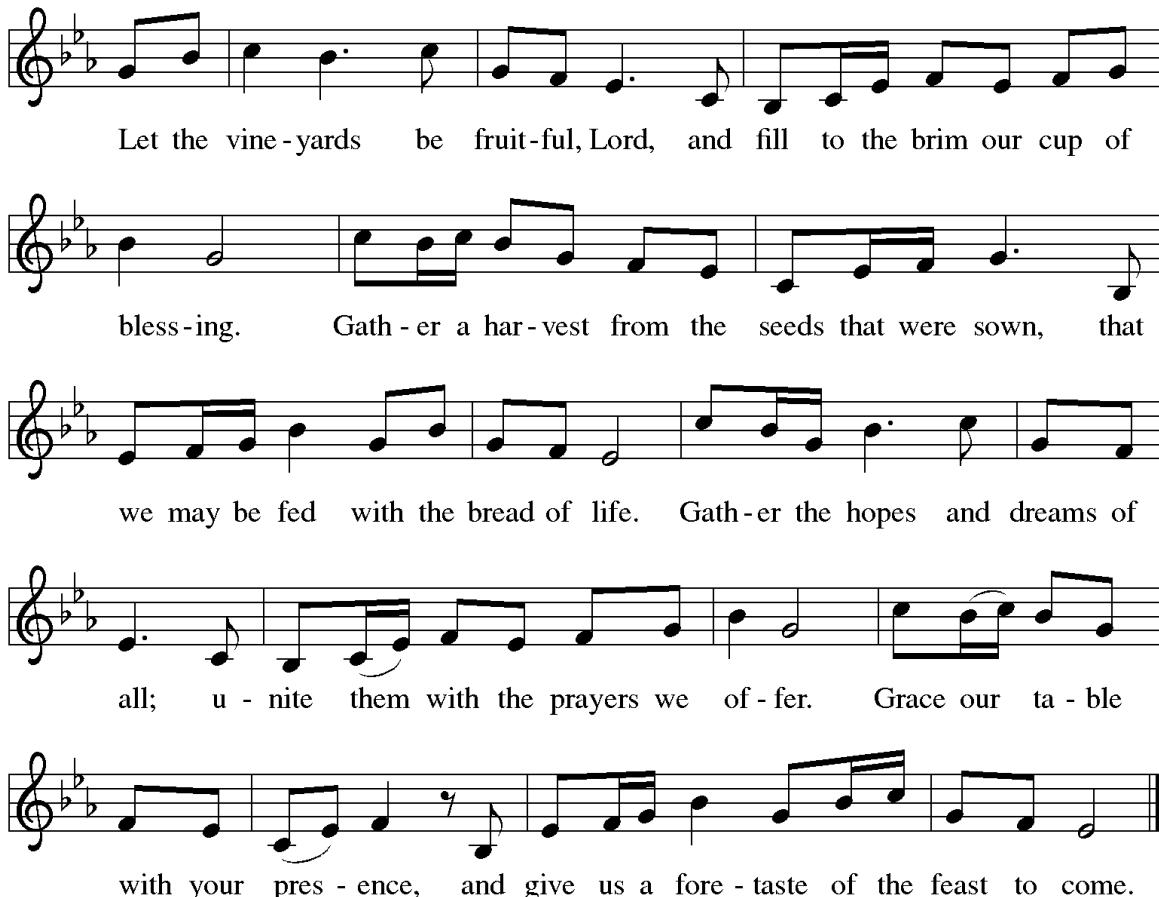
### ***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE***

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 blessing. 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.

God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## *Meal*

*The assembly stands as they are comfortable.*

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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 *pray* the prayer that 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
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***

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

### ***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***

Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## ***Sending***

---

## ***BLESSING***

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
bless you now and forever.

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**

- 1 Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!
- 2 No more crying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more crying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more crying there, we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!
- 3 No more dying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more dying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more dying there, we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!
- 4 Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

***DISMISSAL***

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

***POSTLUDE***

From Now the Feast and Celebration by Marty Haugen. Copyright 1990 by Gia Publications, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

From PODCAST and PRINT STREAMED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE #A-715297

Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License 166234

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Pastor Adam Dowd
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Dan Buchman
Lector	Roberta Sejnost
Pianist	Jim Eckwall
Guitarist	Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd
Greeters	Marlene Carlson
Ushers	Joy Prueter and Raymond Silhan III
Acolyte	Alex Kerfin
Video	Roberta Sejnost and Arlene Danielson

## **Announcements 2-8-2026**

**Wine and Candles** this month are provided by **Connie Allekian** in memory of **Harvey Allekian**.

**Lunch Bunch** We will meet at 3 Corners, 7231 Lemont Road, Downers Grove on **Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Sandy Waechter at 630-853-2437. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

**Chicago Wolves** If you signed up to attend the Wolves' game, we will meet at the church at **1:30 pm** to caravan to the game on **February 15, 2026**.

**Shrove Tuesday** Let's celebrate Shrove Tuesday together. There will be a dinner in the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, Feb 17 at 6 PM** followed by a game. The committee will make Sloppy Joes. If you wish to attend, please sign the sheet at the back of the sanctuary and bring a dish to pass. All are welcome to join the committee to organize the event. We will **meet on today** after service. If you have any questions, please reach out to Judy Padera and Arlene Danielson who are the event coordinators.

**Ash Wednesday** There will be two services for **Ash Wednesday**. The **11:00 am service** will be held at **Lord of Life** and the **7:00 pm service** will be held at **Christ Lutheran Church** in Clarendon Hills

**Senior Spirits** We will meet on **Thursday, February 19th at noon!**  
A representative from the Scarce Organization will update us on current environmental issues and recycling changes! We will also have our Potluck luncheon!

Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions or ideas for future programs please contact me! Marilynn at 630-927-9996

**Singo** Join us on **Thursday, February 26th** at Freedom Brothers Pizzeria & Alehouse in Naperville, 1293 S Naper Blvd, for a night of music, mayhem, and mouthwatering pizza! We're cranking up the volume with Rock & Roll Singo—a high-energy twist on bingo where your favorite classic rock hits are your game card clues.  
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.

**Please pray for members:**

Leeeann Swanson	Nancy Urban	Jenna Suda
Art Sejnost	Aimee Jimenez	Donna Motes
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.

**Last Week's Giving – \$3218.00**

**Electronic Donation for the month of January- \$842.96**

## THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday	2/8	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Shove Tuesday Meeting</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Tuesday	2/10	<b>11:30 AM</b>	<b>Lunch Bunch</b>
		5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday	2/11	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Friday	2/13	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Cards</b>
Saturday	2/14	9:00 AM	SDA
		12:30 PM	SDA Luncheon
Sunday	2/15	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
		<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Chicago Wolves</b>