



725 W. 75TH STREET DARIEN, IL 60561

Grace and peace to you,

Over the past days, we have witnessed troubling news of bombings in Iran carried out by the United States and Israeli governments. These actions have been framed as necessary—to eliminate nuclear threats and destabilize an oppressive regime. And yet, as people shaped by the Gospel, we are called to pause, to reflect, and to ask deeper questions.

Jesus teaches us to first remove the log from our own eye before addressing the speck in another's. That teaching invites humility—especially in moments like this. It reminds us that righteousness is not claimed through force, and that justice cannot be secured through destruction alone.

We must also be honest about this truth: we cannot bomb our way to peace. We cannot destroy our way into democracy. Violence may silence for a moment, but it does not heal. It does not reconcile. It does not restore.

Jesus gives us a different way.

“The measure you give will be the measure you get.”  
(Matthew 7:2)

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31)

The Golden Rule is not sentimental—it is profoundly demanding. It calls us to imagine our enemies not as targets, but as neighbors. It calls us to consider the lives disrupted, the families grieving, the fear carried by ordinary people caught in the wake of decisions far beyond their control.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a vision that still feels far off, yet deeply necessary: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares.” Tools of death transformed into instruments of life.

If we long for a world that is flourishing, life-giving, and whole, then our focus must shift. Not toward greater weapons, but toward deeper compassion. Not toward domination, but toward cultivation—of peace, of justice, of shared humanity.

As followers of Christ, we are called to a different kind of leadership—a cross-shaped leadership. One that does not grasp for power, but pours itself out in love. One that does not conquer through fear, but transforms through sacrifice.

So we pray.

We pray for peace in places torn apart by violence.  
We pray for families who are mourning loved ones.  
We pray for those living in fear tonight.  
We pray for world leaders—that they may be guided not by vengeance or power, but by wisdom, restraint, and a commitment to life.

And we pray for ourselves—that we might not grow numb, or cynical, or indifferent. That we might remain people who believe that another way is possible, because we have seen it in Jesus.

May we be people who embody that way—  
in how we speak,  
in how we act,  
in how we love.

Blessings,



## Lunch Bunch

We will meet at Ki's, 705 North Avenue in Glendale Heights on Tuesday, March 10th at 11:30 AM. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Leona Breede at 630-254-8584. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

March 9 Marlene C.  
March 10 Joy P.  
March 11 Karen L.  
March 12 Jeanette Z.  
March 14 Aimee J.  
March 20 Eric S.  
March 22 Alice D.  
March 24 Caryl S.  
March 31 Linda M.



## Easter Flowers

Envelopes for Easter flowers are on the table in the Sanctuary. Help beautify the Sanctuary for the Easter season! A 6-1/2" potted lily is \$16.00, and hyacinth are \$12.00 each. Orders need to be in the church office by Sunday, March 22nd.



## Senior Spirits

Senior Spirits met on Thursday February 19th and enjoyed a very informative presentation by representatives from the Scarce Organization on the current guidelines for recycling which are continually being updated!

We will meet again on Thursday March 19th at noon and a representative from the Darien Police Department will update us on all the latest Scams and other safety measures Seniors should be aware of!

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

**SPRING FORWARD  
AS DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME  
STARTS  
MARCH 8TH**



## Election Day Treat Table

We are planning on having a treat table for the voters on March 17, 2026. We will be at LoL from 6 am to 7 pm. If you are interested in helping, please sign up. The clip board is in the Sanctuary.

*Lenten Bible Study and Services*  
*on Wednesdays*

*10 am Bible Study*  
*11 am Service*

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*6 pm Bible Study*  
*w/ Soup & Bread*  
*7 pm Holden Evening Service*

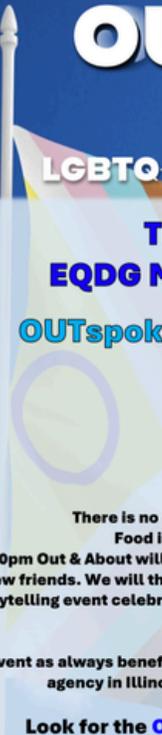


## Shrove Tuesday

The Shrove Tuesday dinner was held on February 17th at 6:00 in Fellowship Hall. There were 42 people in attendance this year including Pastor Carole and one other person from Christ Lutheran Church, the attendance was up by 10 from last year. Not only did we have our traditional Sloppy Joe's but also added mini hot dogs in a bun and hot dogs in delicious sauce. There was plenty of wonderful side dishes and delicious desserts. Pastor Adam burned the palms in a fire pit outside and while they burned Pastor Adam had put together a Jeopardy game pertaining to Lent, the Bible and other religious questions, we played in table teams and the team that won got to wear gold crowns and were given scratch off lottery tickets for prizes. We learned a lot and certainly had a fun time doing it. There was a Free Will offering of \$170.00 which goes into the LCW budget. We had a wonderful evening of fellowship, and enjoying the meal before entering the period of Lent.

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped make this such a success this year either in setting up, decorating in a Mardi Gras Theme and making or bringing food, and special thanks for all who helped with the cleanup.

Respectfully submitted- Judy Padera



# OUT & ABOUT

## LGBTQ+ Community Meetups

**Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**EQDG Meetup 6:00pm – 6:45pm**  
**OUTspoken Event 7:00pm – 9:30pm**

*Skeleton Key Brewery*  
 8102 Lemont Rd. #300  
 Woodridge, IL 60517

**This is a 21 & over event.**

There is no cost to attend. Drinks available for purchase.  
 Food is usually available for purchase as well.

At 6:00pm Out & About will be there to greet people, hang out and hopefully meet some new friends. We will then join everyone else for OUTspoken which is an LGBTQ+ storytelling event celebrating uniquely personal stories from a cross-section of the LGBTQ+ community.

This event as always benefits Youth Outlook the first and longest-running social service agency in Illinois solely dedicated to supporting LGBTQ+ youth.

**Look for the Out & About welcome sign and say Hello!**





contact@eqdg.org  
 www.EQDG.org

Sign Up to Receive Emails About Future Out & About Events!



## Holy Week

The Reconciling In Christ (RIC) committee is planning on attend this event. We would love to see you there.

- **March 29 2026** Palm Sunday
- **April 2, 2026** Maundy Thursday @ 7:00pm
- **April 3, 2026** Good Friday Service @ 7:00pm
- **April 4, 2026** Holy Saturday Service and Cleanup @3:00pm
- **April 5, 2026** Easter

# 2026 Council Members

- Marilyn Sells - President, Personnel
- Ron Matta - Vice President, Property, Personnel
- Linda Glover - Secretary, Worship and Music, Christian Education
- Jim Kelly - Treasurer, Finance
- Marlene Carlson - RIC
- Art Kardatzke - Property
- Kellie Kerfin
- Ray Kozak
- Kathy Kratochvil
- Debbie McNichols - Hospitality
- Judy Padera - LCW
- Joy Prueter - Children and Hunger
- Alice Tangorra
- Pastor Adam - Christen Education, Evangelism, Personnel

## Committee Report

### **Finance:**

January donations were weak. The \$11,878 total is the fourth highest January in the last ten years, trailing a weak 2025 (\$12,265) by \$387 while exceeding an extremely weak 2024 (\$9,368) by \$2,510. January expenses (\$21,966) were higher than 2025 by \$67 and higher than 2024 by \$1,460. January operations generated a \$10,088 deficit. The deficit is the fourth highest at the end of one month in the last ten years.

At the end of one month, 8.33% of the year, 8.4% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 8.4% 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 January recorded in Shepherd's Staff agree in total and by fund with the financial records.

No pass-through funds are overdrawn. Twelve on-line donations totaling \$835.28 were received by the last counters report date (01/26/26). There was one Thrivent donation totaling \$127.

Following adoption of the 2026 budget at the 2026 Annual Congregation Meeting, money was transferred to fund the pastoral debit card at \$2,400.

The balance sheet remains strong. There is no long term debt. Total assets have decreased by \$9,595 since 12/31/25. The decrease is due to the operational deficit.

James T. Kelly  
Treasurer

# Council Highlights

## **Election of Council Officers (2026)**

Council elected officers, noting the two-term consecutive limit

Marilyn Sells - President and Ron Matta - Vice President Linda Glover - Secretary are in their second consecutive term. Jim Kelly - Treasure

## **Ministry & Events Calendar Review (2026)**

Council reviewed annual rhythm and updates:

- March: Lent (no additional new project added due to heavy Lenten schedule)
- April: Easter bins
- May: Comfort Dogs (requested)
- June: Pride Month / Downers Grove Pride Fest
- July: 4th of July parade; explore school supplies/backpacks partnership with D86 Community Action Team
- August: Darien Fest; possible Mount Carmel food collection
- September: Picnic
- October: Pet Blessing (near St. Francis Day)
- November: South Loop Community Table Thanksgiving support (added)
- December: Bins (holiday giving)

## **Pastor's Report**

### **Pastoral Care**

- Significant pastoral care needs (hospitalizations, cancer scares, homebound members).
- Two members homebound with serious health challenges; request to organize meal support, noting gluten-free need. Council discussed possible Township/county resources; Pastor will also explore options.

### **Community Partnerships / Visibility**

- Continued partnerships: Darien Arts Council, Loving Word, Christ Lutheran, Indian Prairie Public Library, and Sunrise Senior Living.
- Ashes at the Library (Ash Wednesday): strong community engagement; Pastor intends to continue.

### **ELCA / Synod / Wider Church**

- Pastor attended ELCA National Day of Racial Healing at Our Saviour's (Naperville) and noted the recordings are available online; exploring ways to share portions with the congregation seasonally.
- Seminarian Brandon Fuhr (LSTC): Pastor pursuing an MIC (Ministry-in-Context) placement for next fall (approx. 7 hrs/week; no cost); would include worship participation, a project, and exposure to council/committee life.

### **Shared Worship Relationship Notes**

- Loving Word anniversary banquet attended by Pastor and several council members; positive relationship-building.

- Ash Wednesday partnership with Christ Lutheran: encouragement given to actively welcome Christ members at joint services, including inviting people to sit together.
- Sunrise Senior Living Valentines delivered successfully across independent living and memory care. Families expressed gratitude.
- Sunrise invited the church to join for bingo; idea received positively.

### **Notable Upcoming Items**

- Kerry's 80th birthday open house (2-4 pm; Saturday) mentioned;
- Good Samaritan Fund: Pastor reported a \$150 assistance disbursement.
- Livestream/YouTube: views increase over time; people are watching later in the week; discussion about channel visibility/search ability and privacy.

### **Pastor Availability / Travel**

- Pastor Elle in a call process for a quarter-time digital campus role in North Carolina; travel needed for a call vote on April 12 (Pastor Adam plans to attend), requiring a fill-in preacher on the Sunday after Easter (also conflicts with the usual Jesus Christ Superstar viewing—schedule to be revisited).
- Possible family travel Aug. 16 (Drake move-in timing dependent on finances).
- Synod Assembly June 5-6: bishop election year; council preferred Pastor attend Day 1 and represent the church at Downers Grove Pride Fest on Day 2.
- Attendees: Linda plans to attend assembly; others may attend (council or lay). Pastor to identify additional attendee(s) by end of March registration window.

### **Old Business**

#### **Shrove Tuesday Dinner Report**

LCW reported:

- Held Feb. 17, 42 attendees (up ~10 from last year).
- Menu expanded (sloppy joes and additional items).
- Jeopardy game was a highlight.
- Christ Lutheran attendance was much lower than expected (one guest plus Pastor Carol); extra food resulted.

#### **Automatic Door Opener Proposal (Accessibility)**

- Updated estimate: **\$11,054** for one set (one leaf outer + one leaf inner) at the parking lot/handicap-access side.
- A member has offered **up to \$5,000** toward the project (terms to be clarified).
- Discussion included:
  - Funding options (special gifts, fundraising, CIF/capital improvement, reserve borrowing).
  - Congregational approval requirements if drawing over threshold from certain funds.
  - Operational considerations (door locking, switch/key control, power/electrical requirements).
- **Next Steps:** Pastor will clarify donor terms and gather remaining technical/funding details; proposal returns to next council agenda and may be routed to a congregational vote (possibly alongside June meeting items).

### **New Business**

#### **Darien Arts Council – Godspell at Lord of Life**

- Rehearsals to occur in the building; auditions noted.
- Performances: April 17-18, 7:00 pm

### **Possible March Outreach**

- Idea raised: Women's History Month / National Craft Month / Pi Day options.
- Suggested: collection/support for a local women's shelter; Pastor requested help identifying the specific local organization(s) and needs.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Children & Hunger**

- Easter bins: 12 bins planned.
- Signup begins March 8.
- Delivery date: March 27 at 10:00 am.
- Deep freezer now available for early ham drop-off.

#### **Hospitality**

- Treat table planned for March 15 (St. Patrick's-themed items including Green River/cheese/refreshments).

#### **Evangelism**

- Preparing Easter/spring postcard to have available for March 17 voting/event.

#### **Christian Education**

- Lenten Bible study Wednesdays at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.

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#### **Finance**

- Jim reviewed the monthly report packet and highlighted that the summary funds year-to-date page is the key overview.
- Council invited to ask questions any time (in person/email).

#### **LCW (Judy)**

- Mother-daughter event planned for June.

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#### **Council Recognition**

Council offered thanks/recognition for:

- **Jan Tribeck** for sewing a new **purple fair linen** for Lent.
- **All volunteers** and **Judy Padera & Arlene Danielson** for Shrove Tuesday.
- **Jim Kelly** for organizing outstanding seats for the hockey game outing.
- **Jim Eckwall** for filling in on piano for several weeks.

# February Month in Review



# March

SUN Mar 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In Perso</li> <li>1pm Loving Word Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:15pm OA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>11am Worship Service with Con</li> <li>7pm AA</li> <li>7pm Holden Evening Prayer</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> </ul>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daylight Saving Time starts</li> <li>10am Worship Service In Perso</li> <li>1pm Loving Word Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:30am Lunch Bunch</li> <li>5:15pm OA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>11am Worship Service with Con</li> <li>7pm AA</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> <li>12:30pm SDA Luncheon</li> </ul>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In Perso</li> <li>1pm Loving Word Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8am Drop off Election Box</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Patrick's Day</li> <li>5am General Primary Election</li> <li>5:15pm OA</li> <li>6pm Church Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>11am Worship Service with Con</li> <li>7pm AA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm Senior Spirits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> </ul>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Worship Service In Perso</li> <li>1pm Loving Word Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:15pm OA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>11am Worship Service with Con</li> <li>12pm Hymn Pick Committee</li> <li>7pm AA</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> </ul>
29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Palm Sunday</li> <li>10am Worship Service In Perso</li> <li>1pm Loving Word Service</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:15pm OA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sherry's Work Anniversary</li> <li>10am Bible Study</li> <li>7pm AA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Maundy Thursday</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Card Group</li> <li>7pm Good Friday Service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am SDA</li> <li>3pm Holy Saturday Service anc</li> </ul>



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