



725 W. 75TH STREET DARIEN, IL 60561

Grace and Peace to You, Beloved Church,

June is shaping up to be a joyful and meaningful month in the life of Lord of Life.

For more than four years now, we have been engaged in the work of becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. During that time, we have listened, learned, prayed, worshiped, wrestled, and grown together. We have hosted speakers, musicians, films, and plays. We have partnered with organizations like Equality Downers Grove and participated in events like Downers Grove Pride Fest. Along the way, these relationships have brought new energy, new friendships, and new life into our congregation.

This month, we will once again participate in Downers Grove Pride Fest, offering face painting and temporary tattoos while sharing the love of Christ with our wider community. We will also invite people to join us for a screening and discussion of the documentary *Come See Me in the Good Light*, a film that explores love, identity, grief, hope, and what it means to be fully seen and fully loved. While the documentary speaks powerfully to LGBTQIA+ experiences, I believe its themes resonate deeply with allies and with anyone who has ever longed to be accepted as they truly are.

Then, on June 28th, we will welcome Rev. Dr. Elle Dowd as our guest preacher. Following worship, we will hold a special congregational meeting to officially vote on becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

This moment is deeply meaningful to me personally for several reasons.

First, becoming an RIC congregation was one of the long-term hopes I carried with me when I first accepted the call to serve as pastor at Lord of Life. Seeing this journey come to fruition feels like witnessing the completion of something the Holy Spirit planted years ago.

Second, I love many people dearly who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. Their lives, faith, relationships, gifts, and stories matter profoundly to me. I believe every person deserves to hear clearly and explicitly that they are beloved by God. But perhaps most importantly, I am simply proud of you.

I am proud of the ways this congregation has grown. Proud of your willingness to learn. Proud of your compassion. Proud of your courage. Proud of your desire to share God's love more fully and more publicly with the world. Again and again, I have seen this congregation strive to become a community that not only welcomes people, but celebrates who God created them to be.

Thank you for the ways you continue to show up for one another, for our neighbors, and for the wider world. Thank you for your openness, your faithfulness, and your courage.

I am grateful to be your pastor.

With Hope and Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Dowd". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

Lunch Bunch



OLD COUNTRY STORE

We will meet at Cracker Barrel, 1295 Lake View Dr., Romeoville on Tuesday, June 9th at 11:30 AM. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Linda Matta at 630-297-8894. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.



Join the RIC Committee at EQDG Pride Fest at Fishel Park in Downers Grove on June 6th from 11am to 3pm. Bring your family, friends, and furry companions to join the festivities and show your pride! Don't miss out on the fun and unforgettable memories!

thank you

Council Recognition for the month goes to the adopt a plot committee who helped with the mulching and planting: Arlene & Bruce Danielson, who also bought & delivered 74 bags of mulch Pastor Adam & Alice Dowd, Linda & Kevin Glover, Mark Alterson & Bryon Levan, Andy Buda who donated a wooden bench for garden supplies, Judy Padera, Trish & Lori Oldman, who also gave us and helped plant the Hosta's.

Senior Spirits

Senior Spirits met on Thursday May 21st! We had a Representative from Downers Grove Township who gave us a nice presentation of all the activities that are available for Seniors in DuPage County!

The next meeting is on June 18th and we will collect dues that we raised to \$20.00 for the year! We'll have pizza and play Bingo! No potluck!

We won't have a meeting in July! Next meeting will be August 20th with usual Potluck!

Everyone is welcome!

Any questions or suggestions please contact Marilynn at 630-927-9996



June 5 Louis P.

June 22 Gregory S.

June 7 Gale D.

June 26 Andrew B.

June 12 Christopher V.

June 28 Evelyn F.

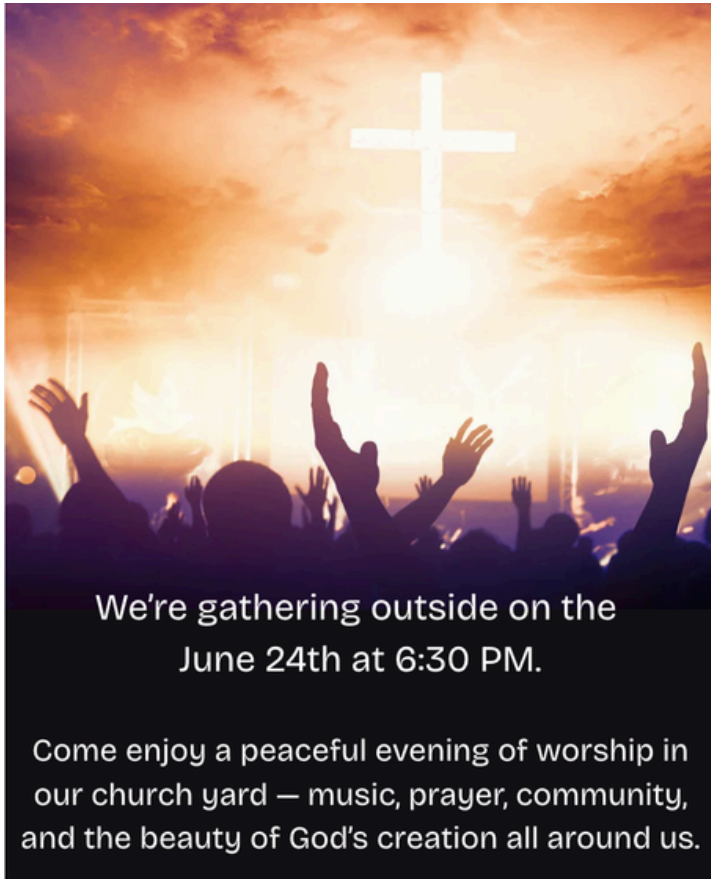
June 22 Sue T.

Son's Day

On Sunday, June 14th we will be celebrating Son's Day. After service we will be having a treat table. So come and join us for a sweet treat.



It is All Faiths Night at the Kane County Cougars on June 12th. Tickets at \$13.00 for reserve seats and parking, at the end of the game there will be post-game fireworks, and you are able to run the bases. If you are interested, please sign up in the Sanctuary.



We're gathering outside on the
June 24th at 6:30 PM.

Come enjoy a peaceful evening of worship in
our church yard – music, prayer, community,
and the beauty of God's creation all around us.

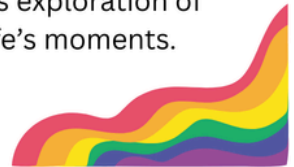


Pride Month



Movie after Outdoor Worship
June 24 @ 7:00pm

Come See Me in the Good Light
Facing an incurable diagnosis, two poet
lovers embark on a poignant yet
unexpectedly humorous exploration of
love, mortality, and life's moments.



**COMMUNITY
ASSISTED RIDES**

Community Assisted Rides is a non-profit organization that works together with volunteers to provide rides to older adults. Our volunteers provide accompanied transportation to medical appointments, and life-enhancing errands such as the grocery store, hairdresser, bank, and church. Our mission is to maximize the independence and well-being of older adults by enabling connections with others in their community. To become a VIP (Very Important Passenger) call [\(708\) 354-9328](tel:7083549328)



Lord of Life Lutheran Church Invites You

Worship Services

Sundays @ 10 am

Midweek Outdoor Worship

5/27, 6/24, 7/22, 8/19, 9/16, 10/28

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

Darien 4th of July Parade

Friday, July 4th @ 9:30am

Kane County Cougars Baseball

Friday, 6/12 @ 6:30pm

Downers Grove Pride Fest

6/6 @ 12:00pm

Darien Fest

8/8-9 @ 1:00pm

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:

April donations were exceptional. The \$33,509 total is the highest April not just in the last ten years, but in the last 25 years by over \$5,600; exceeding a very strong 2025 (\$27,846) by \$5,663 and a very good 2024 (\$22,852) by \$10,657. April expenses (\$20,786) were lower than 2025 (\$23,422) by \$2,636 and lower than 2024 (\$22,351) by \$1,565. April operations generated a \$12,723 surplus. The year-to-date deficit decreased to \$13 and is the lowest at the end of four months in the last twenty years.

At the end of four months, 33.33% of the year, 31.9% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 31.9% 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 April recorded in Shepherd's Staff agree in total and by fund with the financial records.

One pass-through fund is overdrawn. The To Be Determined Later pass-through was used for the Kane County Cougars tickets and will be repaid by individual participants. Nine on-line donations totaling \$524.62 were received by the last counters report date (04/27/26). There were no Thrivent donations (YTD there have been 2 Thrivent donations totaling \$150).

The balance sheet remains strong. There is no long term debt. Total assets have increased by \$1,793 since 12/31/25. The increase is due to the Capital Improvement donations and Reserve Fund interest.

James T. Kelly
Treasurer

Council Highlights

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Adam reported that the June newsletter article is complete and focuses on the congregation's upcoming vote to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. He emphasized the importance of overcommunicating the RIC process so the congregation understands the vote as the culmination of a five-year journey.
- The recent baptism service was joyful and well attended, with 99 people present.
- Average worship attendance has been around 52-53, and 64 when including the baptism Sunday average.
- The smaller bulletin format appears to be working well.
- "Uplifting Moments" are being added during worship to highlight ministries and community engagement.
- A group from Lord of Life helped pack college supply bags with District 86/Hinsdale South.
- Pastor Adam met with Pastor Carol from Christ Lutheran Church, Clarendon Hills, about continued partnership.
- Outdoor worship will be paired with fellowship events, including Rainbow Cone and a documentary screening.
- Upcoming community events may include a Darien Arts Council music review and a C-SPAR recital using the building.
- A tiered building-use/suggested donation policy may be worth exploring, distinguishing between members, nonprofits, and for-profit groups.
- Name tags/lanyards have been purchased for members and visitors to help with hospitality and community-building.
- The Fourth of July parade will continue similarly to previous years, using cars, walkers, and glow sticks.

Property / Grounds Report

Judy reported on the May 9 mulching and yard work day. Volunteers included Arlene and Bruce, Pastor Adam, Alice, Linda and Kevin, Andy, Mark, Byron, Trish and Lori, and Judy.

Work completed included:

- Spreading 75 bags of mulch donated by Arlene and Bruce.
- Planting 40-50 hostas donated by Trish and Lori.
- Installing a donated storage bench in the butterfly garden.
- Restoring the bird bath.
- Preparing soaker hoses, with timers to be installed.
- Removing diseased trees and trimming unsafe branches through an anonymous donation.
- Noting Nancy Urban and her husband added raised vegetable gardens near the stained glass windows.

Old Business

Audit Committee

- Council still needs to form a small audit committee. Counters are not eligible to serve. Pastor Adam and Marilyn will continue working on identifying volunteers.

Automatic Door Openers

- Ron and Art reported that they purchased a test automatic door opener unit and plan to install it as a trial. If successful, additional doors may be upgraded at a significantly lower cost than previous estimates, potentially staying under the amount requiring congregational approval.

Safe Deposit Box / Fireproof Cabinet / Inventory

- The safe deposit box review has been completed. The fireproof cabinet was also reviewed by Sue and Marilyn. Pastor Adam and Marilyn are still completing the church inventory. It was suggested that copies of the inventory and photos be stored in the safe deposit box and shared with Ed O'Connor.

New Business

Funeral Policy / Scattering of Ashes

- Council discussed adding language to the funeral policy requiring approval from the pastor and council president before ashes may be scattered on church grounds.

July Meeting

- Council discussed the possibility of canceling the July meeting, currently scheduled for July 28, depending on the amount of business after the June meeting. Decision deferred until June.

Musician/Pianist Search

- The musician search continues. The position has been posted through synod channels, and contacts have been made with several schools. Kelly offered to post flyers at local music schools/businesses if provided with an ad.

God's Work, Our Hands – July School Supplies

- Council discussed collecting school supplies in July. Kelly will reach out to local school contacts for supply needs. Pastor Adam may also connect with District 86 contacts.

Committee Reports

Evangelism

- The Evangelism Committee meets tomorrow. Focus will include finalizing plans for the Fourth of July parade.

RIC

- Council noted that another RIC meeting should likely be scheduled before the June 28 congregational vote.

Finance

- Jim reported that April was a strong month financially, with the year-to-date deficit reduced to approximately \$13. However, May giving has been lower, and the congregation still carries the previous year's deficit.

Property

- Additional painting/color updates may be explored, possibly using the designer who previously helped select bathroom colors.

LCW

- Father/Son Sunday is scheduled for June 14. A treat table and flowers are planned

Month in Review



June

SUN 31	MON Jun 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 1pm Loving Word Ser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Property Commi 1pm Property Meetin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 6:30pm Darien Arts C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 6pm Green Willow Cc 7pm AA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synod Assembly 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synod Assembly 9am SDA 11am DG Pride Fest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 1pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Lunch Bunch 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 6pm Kane County Co 	
Flag Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 11am Son's Day Treat 1pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 7pm Church Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Senior Spirits 	Juneteenth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
Father's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 1pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 6pm Outdoor Worshij 7pm Movie: Come Se 7pm AA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
Pride Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 1pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 		Independence Day (su <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	Darien 4th of July Par Independence Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA