



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

725 W. 75TH STREET DARIEN, IL 60561

Warm (or even hot) July Greetings!

This past Sunday, June 28th, Lord of Life Lutheran Church officially voted to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

That sentence is simple enough to write, but it represents more than four years of prayer, study, conversation, discernment, worship, and relationship-building.

Together we hosted speakers and musicians. We watched films. We participated in Pride events in Downers Grove. We partnered with Equality Downers Grove and ReconcilingWorks. We listened to one another's questions, hopes, and concerns. Most importantly, we continually returned to Scripture, asking what it means to faithfully follow Jesus in our time and place.

This journey has always been about becoming more fully the church God is calling us to be.

The word *reconciling* is important. It reminds us that reconciliation is God's work before it is ours. Throughout Scripture, God is always the one bringing people back together—breaking down walls, healing divisions, and creating new communities where strangers become neighbors and neighbors become family.

That work, like ours, is never finished.

Becoming Reconciling in Christ does not mean we have arrived. It means we have publicly committed ourselves to continue welcoming, including, celebrating, and advocating for our neighbors, while continuing to pursue racial equity and justice. It means we have promised to keep listening, keep learning, and keep growing.

I believe the greatest gift of this journey has been watching what God has done among us.

I have watched this congregation grow in compassion. I have watched people ask difficult questions with humility. I have watched friendships form across differences. I have watched our community become more confident in sharing God's love with people who may have wondered if there was a place for them in church.

That is the Gospel.

Jesus was always expanding the table. He welcomed those others overlooked, crossed social, cultural, and economic boundaries, and reminded the world that God's love is always larger than our fears.

Now that same Gospel calls us forward.

The vote may be over, but the ministry continues.

There are neighbors yet to meet. Stories yet to hear. Relationships yet to build. People still wondering whether there is a church where they can belong.

By God's grace, may Lord of Life continue to grow as one of those places.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your courage, and your trust in the Holy Spirit. I cannot wait to see where God leads us next.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam David". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark color.

Lunch Bunch



We will meet at Stevens, 2393 63rd Street, Woodridge on Tuesday, July 14th at 11:30 AM. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Elaine Sherman at 708-638-2642. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

4th of July



Our church is proud to be part of this year's 250th Independence Day celebration and we need you to make it special! If you would like to volunteer to walk or ride in the parade and represent our community, please join us in the Jewel parking lot at 8:15 am.

OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling

Outspoken returns to SKB for an evening of personal stories from the LGBTQ+ community!

July 14, 2026

Doors open at 5pm & stories start at 7:30pm!

As always, Outspoken is free to attend (for 21+) and a portion of our sales for the evening will be donated to Youth Outlook to help support LGBTQ+ youth.

Senior Spirits

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



July 4 Jonathon S.

July 7 Toni B.

July 13 Adeline S.

July 15 Lynn R.

July 20 James K.



We are so grateful to Ron and Art for the ongoing progress on the handicap entrance doors; to the anonymous donation towards the purchase of the handicap entrance doors; to all that made the Son's day treat table a success; to Pastor Adam, Arlene, and Linda for attending the Metropolitan Chicago 2026 Synod Assembly; to Pastor Adam and friends for manning a table at Downers Grove Pride Fest. It's because of all of you, we're able to spread the gospel and improve our congregation and our community. We pray that God continues to use your strengths and talents in ways that will bless his kingdom.



Lord of Life
We Share God's Love

Join Us for

*Outdoor
Worship*

July 22, 2026
6:30 pm

PAINT WITH
Pastor

JULY 24
6:00 PM
SIGN UP IN THE
SANCTUARY

Music • Food • Family • Fun

38th Annual
DARIEN FEST

Presented by the City of Darien &
the Darien Business Alliance
www.darien.il.us

August 8 - 9
2026

A MUSICAL REVIEW OF
American History

The American Tapestry:
TRIUMPHS, TRAGEDIES & TRUTHS

★ ONE NIGHT ONLY ★
JULY 18 AT 6:30 PM

LORD OF LIFE CHURCH
75TH STREET • DARIEN

★ *Our story. Our song. Our future.* ★

Presented by the Darien Arts Council
Tickets available at the door
\$10.00/each... 5 & under free!

2026 Council Members

- **Marilynn 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:

May donations were good. The \$16,308 total is the fifth highest May in the last ten years; trailing a very strong 2025 (\$25,599) by \$9,290 while exceeding a very weak 2024 (\$10,870) by \$5,438. May expenses (\$20,797) were higher than 2025 (\$20,620) by \$177 and lower than 2024 (\$20,940) by \$143. May operations generated a \$4,489 deficit. The year-to-date deficit increased to \$4,502 and is the third lowest at the end of five months in the last ten years.

At the end of five months, 41.67% of the year, 39.5% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 39.5% 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 May 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. Fourteen on-line donations totaling \$1,124.62 were received by the last counters report date (05/25/26). There was one \$168 Thrivent donation (YTD there have been 3 Thrivent donations totaling \$318).

The balance sheet remains strong. There is no long term debt. Total assets have decreased by \$1,630 since 12/31/25. The decrease is due to the operational deficit.

James T. Kelly
Treasurer

Council Highlights

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Adam shared personal and pastoral updates, including family milestones, Alice's internship and college transition, and the first Father's Day since his father's death.
- Pastor reported that Downers Grove Pride went very well, with strong participation from Lord of Life volunteers. The Pride window painting was completed again this year, with Alice and Elle assisting. Pastor hopes to involve more youth and artistic members next year.
- Council discussed the Pride flag that had been removed from the outdoor cross. A motion was made and seconded to replace the flag. Motion carried.
- Pastor reported strong June worship attendance, averaging 53. This continues an encouraging trend compared with previous years.
- Pastor shared updates regarding worship musicians. Nicholas Tangorra may be a potential regular pianist. He will be invited to play and be evaluated. Rosita will return to play for Pride Sunday.
- Pastor noted upcoming outdoor worship opportunities, including a shortened service before the film *Come See Me in the Good Light*. Pastor will also meet with Pastor Carol regarding possible shared outdoor worship activities with Christ Lutheran.
- Council discussed Pride Sunday and the invitation for Rev. Dr. Elle Dowd to preach. Because of the family relationship, Pastor requested council approval for compensation. A motion was made and seconded to pay Rev. Dr. Dowd. Motion carried.
- The Darien Arts Council will hold a 250th anniversary music review on July 18. Volunteers are invited to read or sing.
- Glow sticks for the July 4 parade have arrived. Volunteers are needed to attach connector caps.
- Council discussed October 4, which will include the Pet Blessing, Pastor Adam's five-year anniversary at Lord of Life, and a fall picnic. A motion was made by Marilyn and seconded by Kathy to move worship that day to 11:30 a.m. Motion carried.

Points of Interest

Synod Assembly

- Pastor Adam, Linda, and Arlene attended portions of Synod Assembly. Pastor expressed excitement about Bishop-elect Erik Christiansen. Linda noted that the Synod and ELCA websites include many useful resources for congregations.

Accessible Door Project

- Ron reported that the accessible door is now functional, with finishing touches still needed. Additional door openers will be ordered and installed as time permits. Pastor noted that the project is fully funded due to donor support and Ron and Art's donated labor. Council expressed gratitude to Ron and Art.

July 4 Parade

- Two convertibles are expected again this year. Volunteers will walk, ride, hand out glow sticks, and assist with supplies. Additional candy or gum may be donated. More information about meeting time will be placed in weekly announcements.

School Supplies

- Kellie will follow up with local schools and a women's shelter to determine school supply needs. A signup will be created once needs are confirmed.

Name Lanyards

- Pastor and Sherry are finalizing names. Lanyards should be ready in July. Visitor lanyards may be color-coded to indicate whether visitors prefer more or less engagement.

Church Shirts

- Approximately 22–23 people have expressed interest in shirts. Two have paid so far.

New Business

Rummage Sale / Garage Sale

- A committee has formed to plan a rummage sale. Members include Kathy, Judy, Arlene, Bobby, Sherry, Leanne, and Kelly. The preferred dates are Friday, September 11, and Saturday, September 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Items may be dropped off beginning three weeks before the sale and stored in the north room.
- Items will be organized and priced simply. Proceeds will go to Lord of Life. A bake sale/freewill offering table may also be included. Leftover items may be donated to a shelter, Salvation Army, or another organization.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the rummage sale on September 11–12, with proceeds going to Lord of Life, and to approve a banner not to exceed \$100. Motion carried.

Mission Investment Fund CD

- Jim reported that the Mission Investment Fund CD matures in July. The CD is approximately \$56,000 and earns a little over 4%. A motion was made and seconded to renew the CD for one year. Motion carried.

July Council Meeting

- Council discussed whether to meet in July. Since Marilyn and Pastor Adam may have travel conflicts, and any urgent business could be handled by email, a motion was made and seconded to cancel the July council meeting unless something urgent arises. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Evangelism

- Focus remains on the July 4 parade. Meeting time will be announced.

Finance

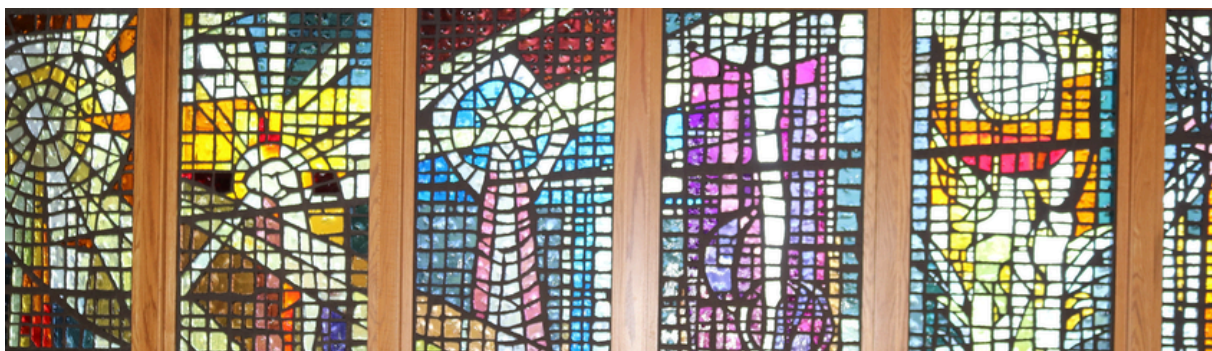
- Jim reported that the church has moved from a small deficit to a deficit of approximately \$4,502.

Property

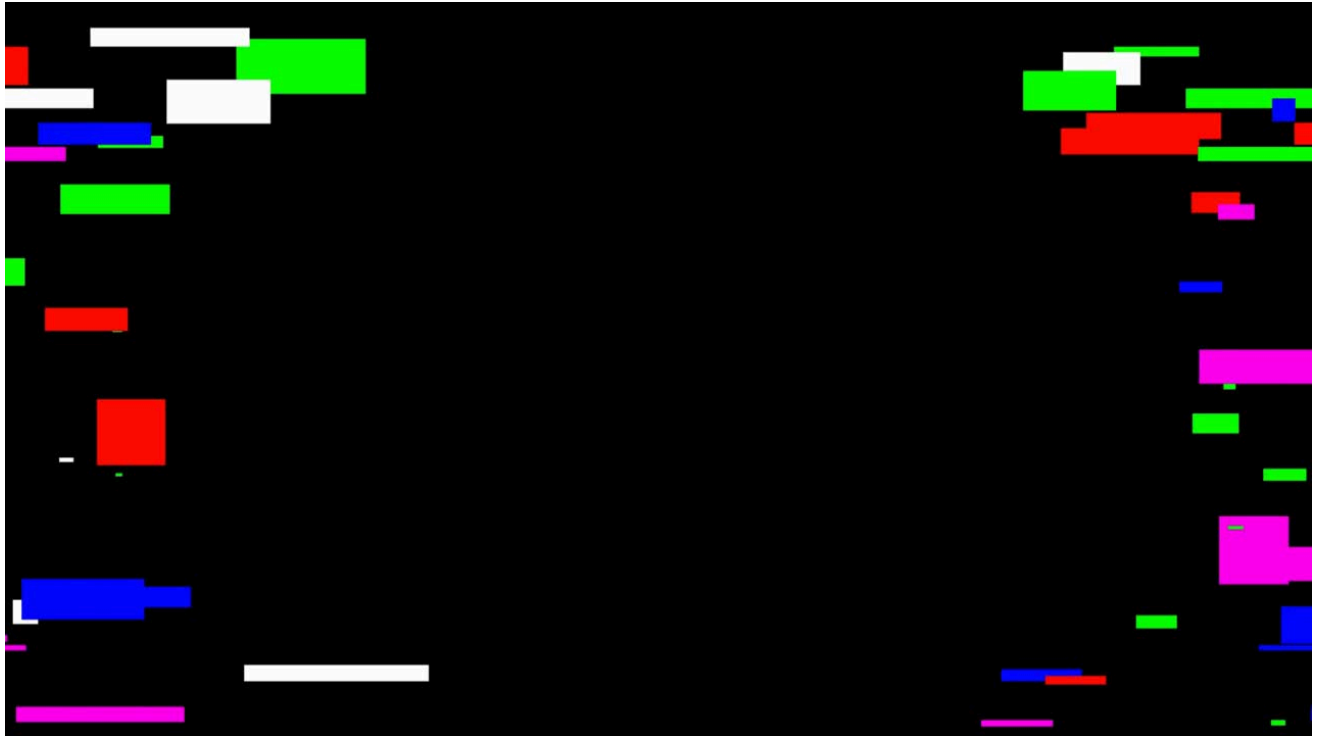
- In addition to the accessible door project, work continues on patching cracks and repairs around the building. The property list remains ongoing.

LCW

- Thanks were given to all who helped with the Father's Day treat table. Extra treats were shared with the South Loop Community Table volunteer gathering. SLCT will resume in September.



Month in Review



July

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED Jul 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
Pride Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service In Pers 11am Congregational Meeting 1pm Loving Word Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 6:30pm Darien Arts Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 		Independence Day (substitute) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	Darien 4th of July Parade Independence Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service In Pers 1pm Loving Word Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA 12:30pm SDA Luncheon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service In Pers 1pm Loving Word Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Lunch Bunch 5:15pm OA 7pm OUT Spoken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 		Ray's Work Anniversary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA 6:30pm The American Tapestry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service In Pers 1pm Loving Word Service 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Outdoor Worship 7pm AA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service In Pers 1pm Loving Word Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm property committee 	<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"> 5:30pm Seaspar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
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