

**Welcome to Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
July 19, 2026
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**



It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

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

Land Acknowledgement

We, the congregation of Lord of Life Lutheran Church acknowledge and honor the Peoria, Bodwéwadmí (Potawatomi), Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Kaskaskia, and Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo) peoples, upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship this morning, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place - this land - and call it their home.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.”

In the name of God,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God’s love.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Praise and Thanksgiving

ELW 689

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
- 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.
- 3 Instrumental
- 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

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

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

All are seated

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?

Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?

You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of
violent people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your
handmaid.**

¹⁷ **Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may
see it and be put to shame;
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit

that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

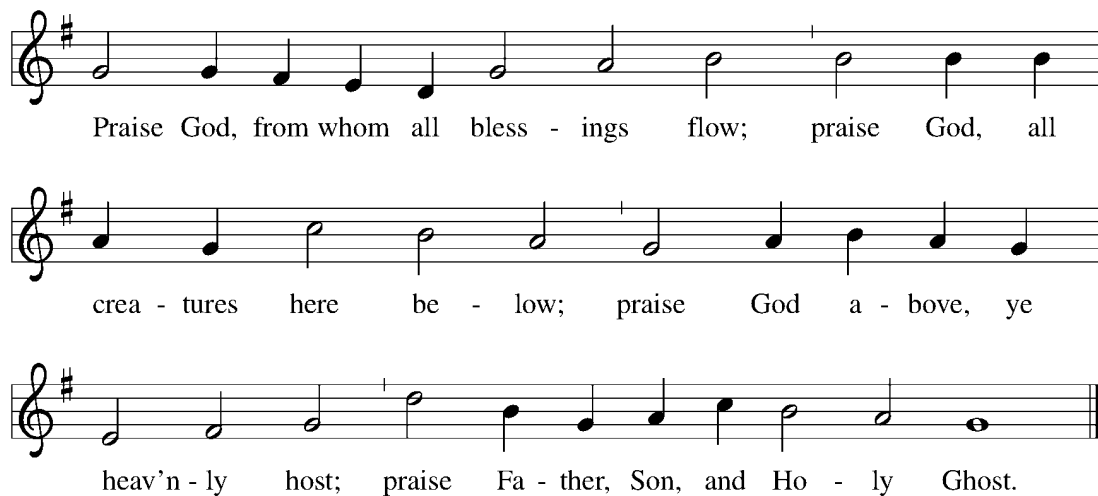
¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands as they are comfortable



Alleluia. My word shall accomplish that which I purpose, **and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Alleluia.** (*Isa. 55:11*)

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the

weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

All are seated.

SERMON

Pastor Adam Dowd

(Leave Blank)

(Leave Blank for Sermon)

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

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury. We pray especially for Margie, Nancy, Linda, Lee Ann, Jenna, Art, Vernetta, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, and Gale. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
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 alones*

OFFERING AND PRAYER

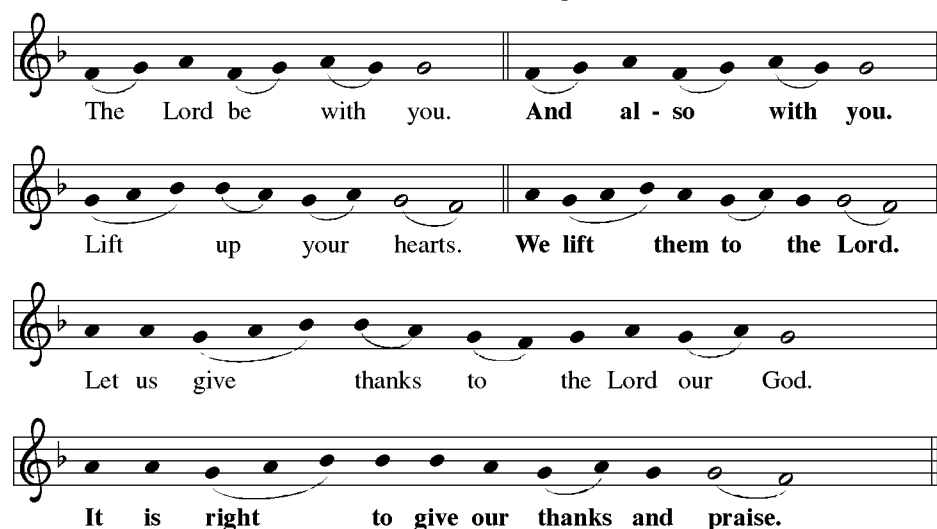
The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.

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.

Loving God,
 we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
 Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
 so that all creation can taste your abundance.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

Meal

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.



PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER...

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and
ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us “*SING*” 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 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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

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

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
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.

On Eagle's Wings

ELW 787

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

- 2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge,
with faithfulness your shield.

Refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

- 3 Instrumental

Refrain

Instrumental

- 4 For to the angels God's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Final refrain

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand;
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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

We thank you for your ministry here today:

Presiding Minister

Assisting Minister

Lector

Pianist

Guitarist

Greeters

Ushers

Acolyte

Video

Pastor Adam Dowd

Kellie Kerfin

Art Kardatzke

Pastor Joyce Gulliford, Nick Tangorra

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Marlene Carlson

Ray Silhan III and Marlene Carlson

Alice Tangorra

Roberta Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost

Announcements **7-19-2026**

Wine and Candles this month are provided by **Judy Padera** for the celebration of her **51st wedding anniversary**.

Flowers today are provided by **Agnes Durairaj** in memory of her **Mother**.

School Supplies We are collecting the following school supplies pens, pencils, highlighters, dry erase markers, washable markers, sharpies, crayons, colored pencils, pencil bags or boxes, erasers, notebooks, binders, folders, tab dividers, calculators, rulers, glue sticks, mini hot glue sticks, post it notes, Ziplock Bags (gallon and sandwich, Kleenex. The school supplies will benefit Metropolitan Family Services Shelter, Cass School District and Lakeview Jr High.

Outdoor Worship Join us as we take our worship outside on **Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 6:30 pm**. Stick around after for a campfire with S'mores and Hotdogs! Invite your friends and family to this special time of praise and fellowship.

Paint with Pastor Unleash your inner artist and join Pastor Adam for an evening of creativity and fellowship on **July 24, 2026**. He will go step by step in having you create your own painting to take home. Don't forget to sign up to secure a spot. Can't wait to see you there.

Darien Fest is Coming Once again LoL will host a booth at Darien Fest on **August 8th and 9th**. Last year's event was a great success with lots of kids anxiously waiting in line for Pastor Adam's face-painting skills. To make this year's FEST as successful as last year's, volunteers are needed to man the FEST booth. So, take the challenge and sign up to man the booth. Sign-up sheets are in the Sanctuary.

Last Week's Giving – \$ 4755.00

Electronic Donation for the month of June - \$1784.62

THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday	7/19	10:00 AM	Worship
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Tuesday	7/21	5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
		6:30 PM	Darien Art Council
Wednesday	7/22	6:30 PM	Outdoor Worship
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Friday	7/24	9:30 AM	Cards
		6:00 PM	Paint with Pastor
Saturday	7/25	9:00 AM	SDA
Sunday	7/26	10:00 AM	Worship
		11:00 AM	Personnel Meeting
		12:00 PM	Loving Word