



725 W. 75TH STREET DARIEN, IL 60561

Summer Greetings!

This past weekend I spent four days at Lollapalooza in Chicago.

People often ask why anyone, let alone a pastor, would spend an entire weekend standing in crowds, listening to music, walking miles in the summer heat, and paying far too much for food.

The easy answer is the music. And yes, the music was incredible.

The food was wonderful. The art installations were beautiful. The people were fascinating. But I've come to realize that's not really why I go.

As I stood among tens of thousands of people singing the same songs, dancing together, laughing with strangers, and celebrating artists from every imaginable background, I found myself wondering why experiences like this feel so different from everyday life.

Psychologists have a word for it: awe. Moments so vast, so beautiful, or so unexpected that they interrupt our normal patterns of thinking. For a little while, we stop worrying about yesterday. We stop obsessing over tomorrow. We simply become present.

For a few days, people stop pretending.

You see people wearing clothes they would never wear anywhere else. You see people expressing themselves freely without fear of judgment. You see strangers helping one another, sharing sunscreen, offering water, celebrating birthdays, picking each other up after a long day, and dancing together even though they'll probably never meet again.

For just a moment, people remember who they are.

And standing there, I couldn't help but think: Isn't this what the Church is supposed to be?

I don't mean a concert or a festival, but a community where people can finally stop pretending. A place where you don't have to earn your place. Where you don't have to perform. Where you don't have to hide the parts of yourself you're afraid others might reject.

Instead, you simply come. You come as someone who is, in the words of Psalm 139, "fearfully and wonderfully made." You come as someone created in the image of God. You come as someone made to love and to be loved.

As Lutherans, we believe something remarkable: we don't have to become worthy of God's love. We don't have to earn belonging. God's grace declares that we belong before we've done anything to deserve it. Worship doesn't create our identity—it reminds us of the identity God has already given us.

Perhaps that's why gathering together matters so much. Every Sunday is an opportunity to remember who we truly are—not because we've escaped the world for an hour, but because we've gathered around God's promises. Around Word and Sacrament. Around a table where everyone is invited.

Then we're sent back into the world to carry that same grace, acceptance, and love into our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and homes. The goal isn't to live only for festival weekends. The goal is to become the kind of community where every Sunday reminds us of who we are in Christ. Because if people can experience belonging for a weekend at a music festival, imagine how much more they should experience it in the Body of Christ.

Grace and Peace.

Lunch Bunch



We will meet at Red Lobster, 3001 Finley Road, Downers Grove on Tuesday, August 11th 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.



Once again LoL will host a booth at Darien Fest on **August 8th and 9th**. Darien Fest will be at **Hinsdale South High School**. 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.



Senior Spirits

Our next meeting will be August 20th with usual Potluck! Everyone is welcome! Any questions or suggestions please contact Marilynn at 630-927-9996

Happy Birthday

August 2 Byron L.

August 10 Janet H.

August 12 Gabrielle P.

August 16 Pastor Adam D.

August 18 Elle D.

August 19 Stacie P.

August 23 Kenneth G.

August 30 Art S.

August 31 Nicholas P.

Outdoor Worship



For August we will be joining Christ Lutheran on **Wednesday, August 19 at 6:00 p.m.** They are offering a Service of Healing and a light summer potluck dinner.

A Service of Healing is an opportunity to pray together for our community and world and to come forward for a laying on of hands for individuals who would like to be blessed and prayed over for their personal needs of healing.

I hope you will join us as it seems an appropriate time to lift the needs of our world together in prayer for healing. Please bring a favorite summer dish to share.

Christ Lutheran is located at 60 55th Street (near Route 83 and 55th Street) in Clarendon Hills.

Rummage and Bake Sale

Lord of Life will be having a Rummage & Bake sale on Friday, September 11th from 8:00 to 2:00 & also on Saturday, September 12th from 8:00 to 2:00 in Fellowship Hall.

We are looking for donations from the congregation & friends of clothing, shoes, coats, purses, jewelry, household items, small electrical appliances, tools, holiday decorations, knick knacks, books, toys, sporting goods & games. All items can be brought to the North Room any time after August 16th prior to the sale. (We could also use boxes, bags & hangars.)

Bakery can be brought to the church kitchen on Thursday for pricing. Any questions on bakery please see Marlene Carlson or Joy Prueter.

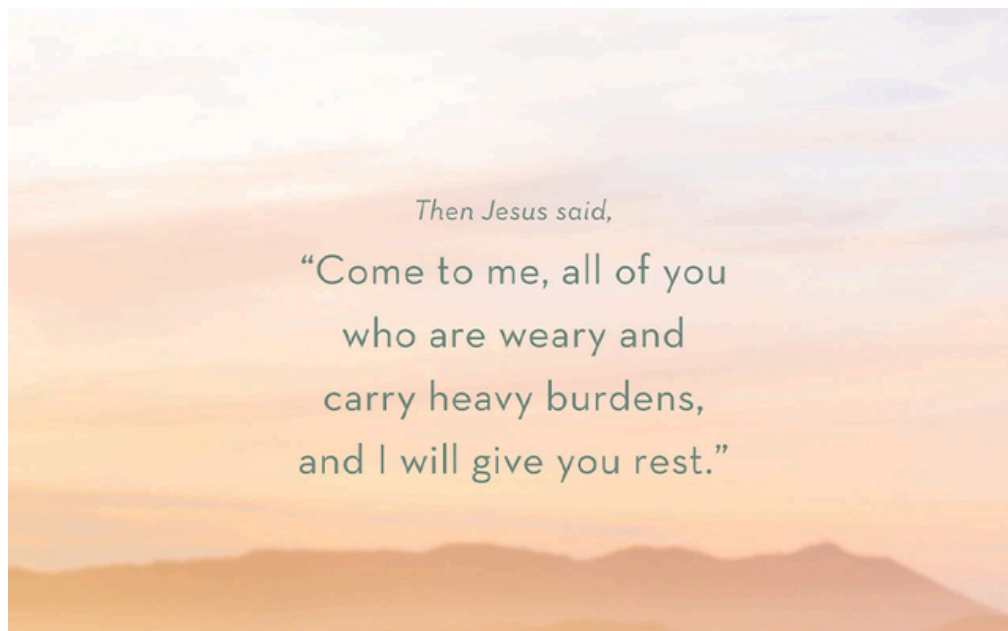
All proceeds will go to the Ministry fund, and any items not sold by the end of Saturday will be brought to charitable organizations such as Good Will or Am Vets.

Any questions please contact either Arlene Danielson, Kathy Kratochvil or Judy Padera.

Picture Books

Can you decipher the book of the Bible represented by each set of emojis?

1. 👑 🔥 🌊 🪦 🪦 🏕️ 🌵
2. 🏃 ⚓ 🐋 🧠 😭 🙌 😡 🌱
3. 👩 👵 🌾 👤 👤 👤 👤 👤
4. 🎵 🙌 🎵 😊 😞 😡 😭 🎵
5. 👤 👤 👤 🏰 👤 ✝️ 🩸 🌅 👤 🏃 🏃



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:

June donations were weak. The \$13,791 total is the fifth lowest June in the last ten years; exceeding a very weak 2025 (\$11,837) by \$1,953 while trailing an outstanding 2024 (\$24,603) by \$10,812. June expenses (\$21,236) were lower than 2025 (\$21,775) by \$539 and higher than 2024 (\$21,073) by \$163. June operations generated a \$7,446 deficit. The year-to-date deficit increased to \$11,897 and is the third lowest at the end of six months in the last ten years.

At the end of six months, 50.00% of the year, 47.3% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 47.3% 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.

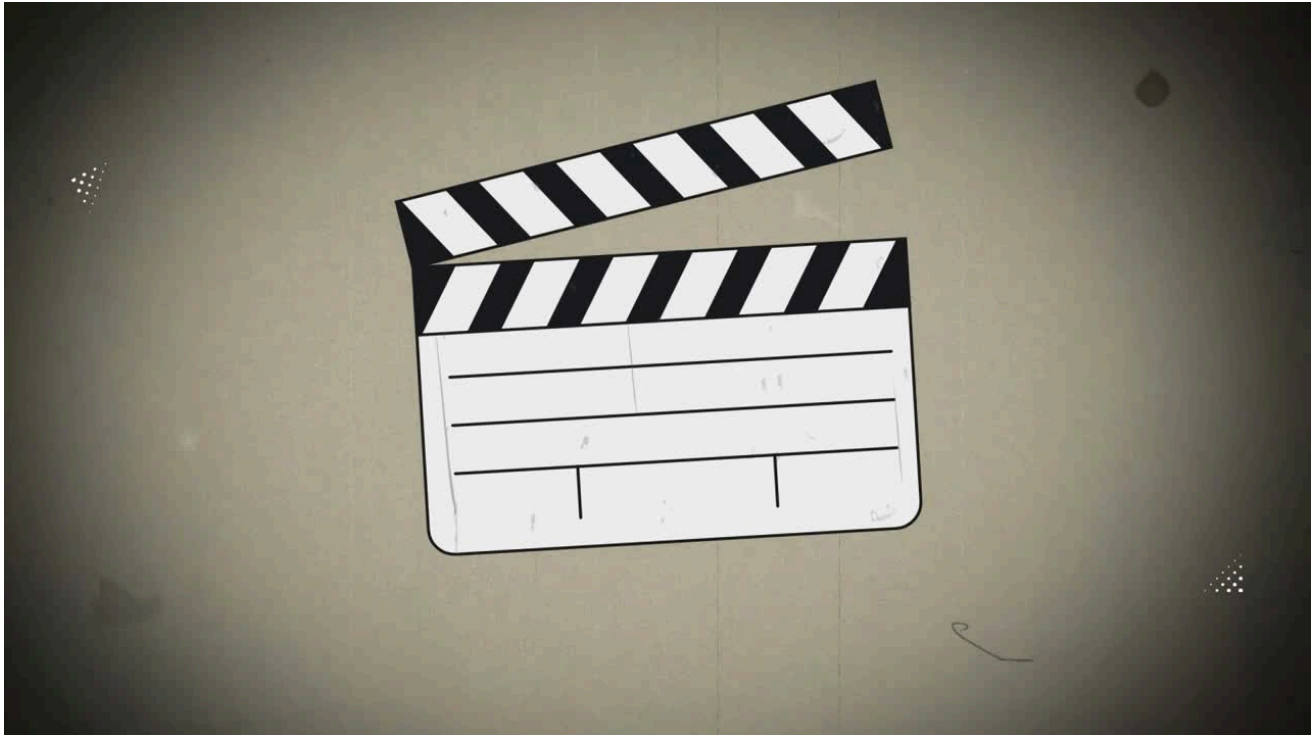
Donations through June recorded in Shepherd's Staff agree in total and by fund with the financial records.

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. Eighteen on-line donations totaling \$1,784.62 were received by the last counters report date (06/29/26). There was one \$90 Thrivent donation (YTD there have been 4 Thrivent donations totaling \$408).

The balance sheet remains strong. There is no long term debt. Total assets have decreased by \$7,243 since 12/31/25. The decrease is due to the operational deficit.

James T. Kelly
Treasurer

Month in Review



August

SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT Aug 1
10am Worship Service 11am Personnel Meetir 1pm Loving Word Serv	1pm property committ	5:15pm OA	10am Bible Study 7pm AA	4:45pm Seaspar	9:30am Card Group	9am SDA
2 10am Worship Service 1pm Loving Word Serv	3	4 5:15pm OA	5 10am Bible Study 7pm AA	6	7 9:30am Card Group	8 9am SDA 12pm Darien Fest 12:30pm SDA Luncheo
9 10am Worship Service 12pm Darien Fest 1pm Loving Word Serv	10	11 11:30am Lunch Bunch 5:15pm OA	12 10am Bible Study 7pm AA	13	14 9:30am Card Group	15 9am SDA
16 10am Worship Service 1pm Loving Word Serv	17	18 5:15pm OA 7pm Church Council	19 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Outdoor Worsl 7pm AA	20 12pm Senior Spirits	21 9:30am Card Group	22 9am SDA
23 10am Worship Service 1pm Loving Word Serv	24	25 5:15pm OA	26 10am Bible Study 7pm AA	27	28 9:30am Card Group	29 9am SDA
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