



Lordy, Lordy, Look Who's Forty!

This summer I turned forty. The big 4-0. Middle-aged. Over the hill.

Thank you all for the wonderful celebration you put together for me, because my actual 40th birthday wasn't exactly the birthday celebration I imagined. I spent the day moving Alice into Drake University and getting Jessica ready for her own next chapter, continuing her cosmetology studies and beginning esthetician school in Iowa.

People have all sorts of expectations for forty—the joke gifts, the big party, maybe even a shiny new sports car. But I spent mine carrying boxes up dorm stairs, making trips to the store for the things we forgot, and helping my daughters take their next steps into the lives they are building.

And honestly, maybe that was exactly where I was supposed to be. Because perhaps forty isn't a crisis at all. Maybe forty is a threshold.

In Scripture, forty is rarely just a number. Forty marks seasons of testing, preparation, transformation, and new beginnings. Forty days of rain before a new beginning for Noah and his family. Forty years for Israel in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. Forty days for Moses on Mount Sinai. Forty days for Elijah on his journey to Horeb. Forty days for Jesus in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry.

Again and again, forty is the end of an era and the start of something new.

When you walk through forty, you come out on the other side different.

And as I think about my own forty years, I find myself thinking less about what I have accumulated and more about who has walked those years with me.

The things we sometimes use to measure a successful life—money, possessions, houses, cars—aren't ultimately the things that matter most. What matters are the relationships we have built along the way. Family. Friends. The people we have loved and who have loved us. The people who have journeyed with us, sat around tables with us, laughed with us, cried with us, prayed with us, and helped shape us into who we are.

And that includes all of you at Lord of Life.

These past five years with you have been formative years for me. You have given me space to grow, to learn, to hone my skills as a pastor, and to discover more deeply what this calling means. We have done ministry together, weathered challenges together, celebrated together, and continued to discover what God is calling this congregation to become.

You have shaped me, just as we continue to shape one another in Christ.

So perhaps spending my 40th birthday helping my daughters begin their next chapters really was the perfect way to celebrate. Because as they stand at new thresholds in their lives, I realize that I am standing at one too.

And so is Lord of Life.

If forty teaches us anything, perhaps it is that the wilderness is never the end of the story. God meets us in these places of transition—not simply to get us through them, but to transform us through them and lead us toward whatever comes next.

So, as I begin this next chapter, I find myself incredibly grateful for the forty years behind me, for the people who have walked them with me, and especially for the family I have found here at Lord of Life.

And I'm excited to discover what God has waiting for us on the other side of this threshold.

Forty and Fabulous,



Lunch Bunch



We will meet at Public Landing, 800 West 8th Street, Lockport on Tuesday, September 8th at 11:30 AM. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Marilyn Sells at 630-927-9996. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.



Sept. 7 Agnes D.	Sept. 18 Robert E.
Sept. 9 Marilyn S.	Sept. 20 Judy P.
Sept. 11 Jenna S.	Sept. 21 Sherry S.
Sept. 11 Marla S.	Sept. 22 Sheila R.
Sept. 14 Elaine S.	Sept. 23 Vernetta S.
Sept. 15 Bob T.	Sept. 27 Linda K.
Sept. 16 Kathy K.	Sept. 30 LeeAnn S.

Senior Spirits

Senior Spirits met on August 20th! We had wonderful presentation by Alan Jirik about Monarch Butterflies! We even got to release one!

Seniors meets the on **September 17th** with our usual Potluck lunch and we will be putting together puzzles! In October Leslie Goddard will be giving a presentation on Gilda Radner! We will have a Free Will offering to help defer her cost!

Any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact Marilyn at 1 (630) 927-9996

Rummage and Bake Sale

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Church Rummage Sale, happening **Friday and Saturday, September 11 and 12, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.** Come browse a wide variety of gently-used items — clothing, household goods, décor, books, toys, and plenty of unexpected treasures. Delicious baked goods will also be available for purchase, so be sure to stop by the bake table while you shop. It's a wonderful chance to find something new-to-you while supporting the ministries of our church. We hope you'll stop by, shop a little, and enjoy the fellowship that makes these two days so special.

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

Looking for Singers

Gloria Dei has asked Lord of Life to join them for their Reformation Hymn Festival on **Sunday, October 25th at 4 pm.** They are looking for people to join the choir. There will be choir rehearsals at Gloria Dei on Wednesday, October 21 from 7-9 pm and Saturday, October 24, 10 am-noon.

Outdoor Worship

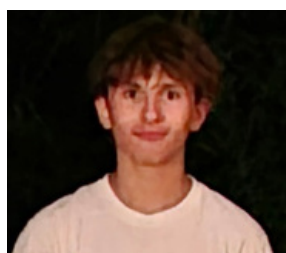


Join us as we take our worship outside on **Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 6:30 pm**. We'll gather under the open sky to celebrate God's presence in His creation. Invite your friends and family to this special time of praise and fellowship.



Join us on **Sunday, October 4th at 11:30 AM** for a special outdoor worship with the Blessing of the Animals in honor of St. Francis. Bring your pet or a photo if they're not a fan of crowds, and stay after for a **church-wide picnic** with food, games, and fellowship. We'll also take time to celebrate Pastor Adam's 5th anniversary at Lord of Life. Note that there will be **no 10:00AM service** that day.

New Pianist



Join Church Council in welcoming our newest addition to the staff, Nick Tangorra. Nick is a pianist and a saxophone player. He is the grandson of Bob and Alice Tangorra.

Emoji Answers

Picture Books

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

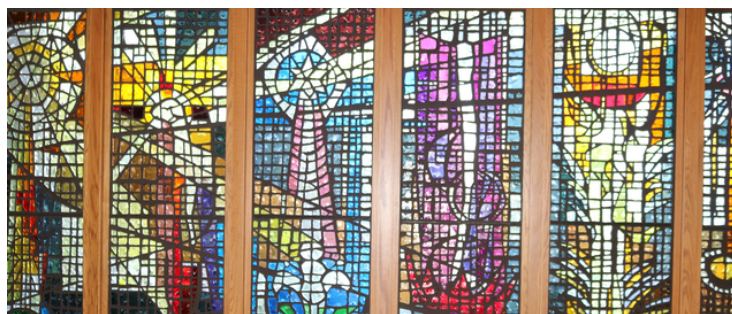


ANSWERS:

Exodus
Jonah
Ruth
Psalms
Luke (the only Gospel that details the annunciation to Mary, young Jesus in the temple, and the encounter on the road to Emmaus)



The Church Council would like to say a heartfelt thank you to those who came together and helped this past month: Adopt-A-Plot committee, the property looks beautiful, The Property Committee for all the ongoing projects, All who participated for a successful Darien Fest, the 4th of July Parade, and the collection of school supplies. We have managed to see the hand of God at work. You have revealed the true foundation of this church is kindness and love.



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:

July donations were extremely weak. The \$11,967 total is the third lowest July in the last ten years; trailing a good 2025 (\$16,820) by \$4,853 and good 2024 (\$16,281) by \$4,314. July expenses (\$21,685) were lower than 2025 (\$22,202) by \$518 and higher than 2024 (\$21,177) by \$507. July operations generated a \$9,718 deficit. The year-to-date deficit increased to \$21,615 and is the third lowest at the end of seven months in the last ten years.

At the end of seven months, 58.33% of the year, 55.3% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 55.3% 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 July 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. Thirteen on-line donations totaling \$959.62 were received by the last counters report date (07/27/26). There was one \$25 Thrivent donation (YTD there have been 5 Thrivent donations totaling \$433).

The balance sheet remains strong. There is no long term debt. Total assets have decreased by \$16,145 since 12/31/25. The decrease is due to the operational deficit.

James T. Kelly
Treasurer

Month in Review



September

SUN 30	MON 31	TUE Sep 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
10am Worship Ser 1pm Loving Word S		Add to announcer 5:15pm OA	10am Google Meet 10am Bible Study 5pm RIC meeting 7pm AA		9:30am Card Group	9am SDA
10am Worship Ser 1pm Loving Word S	Labor Day	11am Rummage Sa 11:30am Lunch Bur 5:15pm OA	10am Google Meet 10am Bible Study 11am Rummage Sa 7pm AA	11am Rummage Sa	8am Rummage Sal 9:30am Card Group	8am Rummage Sal
10am Worship Ser 1pm Loving Word S		5:15pm OA 7pm Google Meets 7pm Church Counc	10am Google Meet 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Outdoor W 7pm AA	12pm Senior Spirits	9:30am Card Group	9am SDA 1pm Darien Arts Co
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				Pastor Adam Annive	9:30am Card Group	9am SDA



Lord of Life Lutheran Church
725 75th Street
Darien, IL 60561