Lord of Life Lutheran Church

725 W. 75TH STREET DARIEN, IL 60561

Dear Lord of Life Community,

This week's election was an emotional experience for many people. Some of you may be celebrating the results, feeling excited and hopeful about what comes next. Others may be disappointed, frustrated, or uncertain about the future. Still others may simply be relieved that the election is over!

Whatever emotions you are experiencing, I hope we can recognize something we share: We all want a better future for ourselves, our families, and our communities.

Elections like this remind me just how deeply people are longing for something different. People want to know that their voices matter, that their struggles are being heard, and that tomorrow might be better than today.

I see that longing in the growing number of people experiencing homelessness. I hear it when organizations like Mount Carmel struggle to keep food on their shelves. I hear it in conversations with many of you about the rising cost of healthcare and the shrinking benefits you receive. These are real challenges facing our neighbors, and they remind us how much work there is still to do.

But there are also reasons to celebrate and be hopeful!

This election was historic in many ways. Georgia elected Keisha Lance Bottoms, the first Black woman to serve as governor of any state. New Mexico elected Deb Haaland, the first Native American woman governor. New Hampshire elected Chris Pappas, the first openly gay man elected to the U.S. Senate, and Florida Elected Bryon Donalds, the First Black Republican Governor. Here in Illinois, Juliana Stratton's election means our state will be represented by two women of color in the U.S. Senate.

These are remarkable milestones! They remind us that change is possible, that barriers can be broken, and that our democracy continues to grow and evolve.

But as I said in church on Sunday, there are **no saviors on the ballot.**

No single politician or political party can bring about the kingdom of God. Our hope as Christians is rooted in something much greater: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and God's promise to make all things new.

That doesn't mean elections are unimportant. Quite the opposite! Our faith calls us to participate in the world, to advocate for our neighbors, and to hold our elected leaders accountable. Regardless of who wins, we must insist that those entrusted with power use it to serve people, especially those who are struggling.

And that brings me to something that gives me tremendous hope.

On Election Day, right here at Lord of Life, our congregation did something wonderful. We opened our doors to our neighbors and welcomed them with smiles, snacks, hot dogs, and a little extra joy!

We didn't ask people how they voted or what political party they belonged to. We leaned into our Lutheran values by welcoming our neighbors, sharing God's love, and doing what we do best: feeding them.

In a time when so much attention is focused on what divides us, you reminded our community of what brings us together, the joy and love found in Jesus Christ.

And perhaps that is the greatest reason for hope. We don't have to wait for an election, a new law, or a new leader to begin making the world a better place. We can start right here, right now, following in Jesus' footsteps, with the people God has placed in our lives.

Political power comes and goes, but the power of love never fails, never fades, and where our salvation is found.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Election Day such a joyful experience. May we carry that same spirit of hospitality, generosity, and hope into the days ahead.

Together, we will continue to share God's love and help make God's kingdom a reality here on earth.

In love,



Pastor Adam

Lunch Bunch



We will meet at Stevens, 2393 63rd Street, Woodridge on Tuesday, November 10th at 11:30 AM. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP Connie Allekain at 630-986-9238. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.



November 4 Linda G.
November 4 Mary S.
November 6 Eleanor S.
November 6 Karl O.
November 8 Joyce G.
November 22 Jack C.

Blue Christmas

A joint Blue Christmas service with Christ Lutheran and Prince of Peace will be December 20. Time and venue will be announced closer to the event.

Senior Spirits

Senior Spirits met on October 15th . We enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Leslie Goddard as she portrayed Gilda Radner!

On November 19th Seniors will meet and enjoy a Potluck luncheon and a presentation by a Representative from the Downers Grove Township who will show us how to make boxes out of old Christmas cards! If you have any old Christmas cards please feel free to bring them!

Seniors meets at 12 noon and everyone is welcome!

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

Gingerbread House Making Contest



Bring your creativity and holiday cheer to our Gingerbread House Making Contest on November 13 at 6:00 PM! We'll provide the gingerbread house kits and decorating supplies. Want to make your house extra special? Feel free to bring additional candies, frosting, or decorations. Gather your family and friends for an evening of festive fun and friendly competition!



The Sounds of the Season will be held on Dec 13th at 4:30 pm, a pot luck dinner to follow after the program and there will once again be a raffle. The first meeting will be on November 8th after church service, if anyone is interested in participating in the program or helping with the set up and decorating the tables and there will also be a sign-up sheet for those wishing to bring food.

Decorating the Church





Come and join us to decorate the church for Advent on November 22nd at 11:15 am. It will be a jolly good time!

To all that helped to plan for the Pet Blessing and Picnic. We want you to know that we appreciate you. Your tireless service for the Lord is reflected in all that you do. So we pray that you will know how special you are to us to carry on the work of God, serving in his love.

THANK YOU!

South Loop Community Table

We're preparing a special Thanksgiving meal for our friends at the South Loop Community Table on November 22nd! You can help by bringing part of the meal—sign-up sheets are available in the back of the sanctuary. If you'd like to come along to serve the meal and share in the fellowship, there is a sign up sheet. Together, let's spread gratitude and love this season!

Poinsettias

Our 2026 Poinsettias this year will come in a foiled 6-1/2" sized pot with 5 or more flowers on the plant. The cost is $17.00 per plant. Please mark the color you prefer (red or white), how many plants you are ordering and the amount enclosed. Please place your order envelope in the collection plate or give it to the church office by December 13th at the very latest! Thank you!

Burr Ridge SDA Church

Movie Night



The

Best Christmas Pageant Ever

(When the Herdman kids collide with the Christmas pageant, it will never be the same.)

A laugh out loud holiday movie for the whole family!

Saturday, November 21, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

725 75th Street, Darien, IL 60561

Please join us for pizza and popcorn

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:
September donations were fair. The $13,496 total is the sixth highest September in the last ten years; trailing a good 2025 ($16,141) by $2,644 and a very good 2024 ($17,693) by $4,196. September expenses ($19,494) were lower than 2025 ($20,118) by $625 and higher than 2024 ($18,746) by $748. September operations generated a $5,997 deficit. The year-to-date deficit increased to $31,045 and is the fourth lowest at the end of nine months in the last ten years.

At the end of nine months, 75.00% of the year, 69.8% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 69.8% were highly seasonal. As in many prior years, the percent expended is several percent lower than the completed portion of the year.

Donations through September 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. Fifteen on-line donations totaling $906.62 were received by the last counters report date (09/28/26). There were no Thrivent donations (YTD there have been 5 Thrivent donations totaling $433)
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The balance sheet remains strong. There is no long term debt. Total assets have decreased by $21,470 since 12/31/25. The decrease is due to the operational deficit.

James T. Kelly
Treasurer

Church Council

Old Business

- **Roof repairs** The roof leak was repaired, additional areas were patched, and the roof was cleaned. A reimbursement request was submitted. Two damaged ceiling tiles will be replaced, and the area will be monitored for further leakage.
- **Sanctuary banners** New banner racks have made seasonal changes easier and safer. Council thanked those responsible. Pastor Adam was invited to address the imagery of the stained-glass windows in future preaching.
- **Christmas gathering** Council continued discussing a revised program, including a gingerbread-house decorating contest. A proposed cooking demonstration will not proceed. December 6 remained the working date, with December 13 suggested as an alternative. Pastor Adam, Marilynn, and Arlene will meet to develop the program and confirm arrangements.
- **Blue Christmas** A joint Blue Christmas service with Christ Lutheran and Prince of Peace was announced for December 20.

New Business

- **New member approval** Pastor Adam moved to approve Carol Boberg as a member of Lord of Life Lutheran Church. The motion was seconded and carried.
- **Mount Carmel food pantry** An announcement will remind members that nonperishable food, canned goods, and pet food may be placed in the grocery basket in the breezeway. Arlene transports donations to Mount Carmel. The separate holiday food-bin collection was discussed, with 12 bins anticipated and December 18 identified as a tentative date pending coordination with Mount Carmel. Collection lists and volunteer details will follow.
- **Nominating Committee** Marilyn, Debbie, and Art will complete their allowable council service and must rotate off in 2027, creating three vacancies. Marlene indicated willingness to serve another term. The Nominating Committee membership will be confirmed from annual meeting records, and the committee will meet to begin recruitment.
- **Sunday refreshments** Council agreed to try providing bagels and doughnuts each Sunday to encourage fellowship after worship. Pastor Adam volunteered to purchase and set them out. A voluntary donation basket will help offset costs. Individual coffee service will continue; regular large-pot coffee preparation would require another volunteer. The arrangement will be revisited as needed.

Committee Reports

- **Children in Hunger** The holiday food-bin ministry serves Christmas and Easter. Thanksgiving food support is coordinated through South Loop Community Table.
- **Other committees** Evangelism, Personnel, and Hospitality had not met. The RIC Committee's most recent meeting was in September. The Nominating Committee needs to convene.
- **Finance** Jim's financial report was available for council review. No additional finance action was recorded.
- **Property and narthex flooring** Approximately half the project funds are available. The property team discussed plank flooring, decorative layout options, and additional entrance mats for winter weather. Installation is anticipated in spring. Council discussed prioritizing year-end operating support before announcing a flooring appeal at the annual meeting. No new expenditure motion was recorded.

Synod Election Protection Work

- Pastor Adam reported on his participation in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod's election and democracy protection efforts at the bishop's invitation. He developed a polling-place hospitality guide based on Lord of Life's practices and has contacted congregations serving as polling places. The bishop's video and ELCA resources were shared for members seeking further involvement. Council expressed appreciation for Art's service as an election judge.

Month in Review



November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Nov 1 All Saints Daylight Saving Time ends 10am Worship Service In 2 more	2 10:30am Election Deliver	3 Election Day 5am General Election 5:15pm OA	4 10am Google Meets -Bibl 10am Bible Study 7pm AA	5	6 9:30am Card Group	7 9am SDA
8 10am Worship Service In 11am Sounds of the Seas 1pm Loving Word Ministry 1pm Loving Word Service	9 6pm Marydale Condo Bo	10 11:30am Lunch Bunch 5:15pm OA 6:15pm Green Willow Con	11 Veterans Day 10am Google Meets -Bibl 10am Bible Study 7pm AA	12	13 9:30am Card Group 6pm Gingerbread Making	14 9am SDA 12:30pm SDA Luncheon
15 10am Worship Service In 1pm Loving Word Ministry 1pm Loving Word Service	16	17 5:15pm OA 7pm Google Meets - Chu 7pm Farmingdale 3 Cond 7pm Church Council	18 10am Google Meets -Bibl 10am Bible Study 7pm AA	19 12pm Senior Spirits	20 9:30am Card Group	21 Best Christmas Pageant E 9am SDA
22 10am Worship Service In 11am Christmas Tree Dec 1pm Loving Word Ministry 1pm Loving Word Service	23	24 5:15pm OA	25 10am Google Meets -Bibl 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Outdoor Worship 7pm AA	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Black Friday 9:30am Card Group	28 9am SDA
29 10am Worship Service In 1pm Loving Word Ministry 1pm Loving Word Service	30	Dec 1 5:15pm OA	2 10am Google Meets -Bibl 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 7pm Holden Evening Ser	3	4 9:30am Card Group	5 9am SDA 1pm Darien Arts Council