



Lord of Life Lutheran Church
725-75th Street • Darien, Illinois 60559

August 2020

From the Pastor

Dear Lord of Life family,

A transition of pastor in any circumstance is challenging. From the moment the pastor announces that s/he is leaving emotions run high. Some rejoice at the new opportunity or retirement of a cherished pastor. Others might be saying, “It’s about time.” Others feel abandoned: “How could he leave me when I count on him so much?” Those responsible for the smooth running of the congregation feel anxiety about how things are going to get done. What about all the responsibilities the pastor filled? Who is going to do them? Here at Lord of Life the trauma is even greater because Pastor Todd’s death was a true tragedy. Moving forward will need to be a careful, loving process. Nevertheless, noted expert Elisabeth Kubler-Ross describes death as the final stage of growth. Death provides us with the final opportunity to come to terms with our relationships, our values, and our lives. The process of grieving the death of a loved one, if approached with openness and vulnerability, also provides us with an opportunity for growth.

In this Lifelines you will read about 2 ways our congregation is moving forward lovingly, and carefully. Our evening to remember Pastor Todd, August 13, is a first of many moments that we will spend pausing to reflect back, give thanks, and then carry forward what we have received. I hope you will plan to be with us, face-to-face or virtually for this event.

Secondly, your Congregation Council has been at work consulting with the Metropolitan Chicago Synod about steps forward and planning the framework of a process for Moving Forward. You can read in detail about this plan in the section by Congregation President Arlene Danielson.

At this time, I will be moving from being the “fill-in” pastor while Pastor Todd was recovering to Interim Pastor-pastor and guide for the months ahead as the congregation works through the necessary steps to prepare for the future. During this process we will evaluate where the congregation has been, strengths and weaknesses now, think about the neighborhood in which we live, and dream about where God wants the congregation to extend in the next five to ten years. In addition, we will continue to worship, learn, encourage, and reach out—all while trying to cope with the additional challenges of Covid19 and the restrictions we must live with to remain safe. This is a huge assignment for any congregation. Even more difficult because we have been touched by death. As we move forward keeping lines of communication open will be essential. I invite you to call me with your ideas and memories. Together we can build a vibrant future for this family of faith.

In conclusion I want to include this quote from John O’Donohue:

“The dead are not distant or absent. They are alongside us. When we lose someone to death, we lose their physical image and presence, they slip out of visible form into invisible presence. This alteration of form is the reason we cannot see the dead. But because we cannot see them does not mean that they are not there. Transfigured into eternal form, the dead cannot reverse the journey and even for one second re-enter their old form to linger with us a while. Though they cannot reappear, they continue to be near us and part of the healing of grief is the refinement of our hearts whereby we come to sense their loving nearness.

When we ourselves enter the eternal world and come to see our lives on earth in full view, we may be surprised at the immense assistance and support with which our departed loved ones have accompanied every moment of our lives. In their new, transfigured presence their compassion, understanding and love take on a divine

depth, enabling them to become secret angels guiding and sheltering the unfolding of our destiny.”

In introduction I would like to share some exciting events in my life. This month my daughter and son-in-law are expecting their first child. My husband Roger and I plan to travel (nonstop by car) to Vermont after the child is born. This was arranged many months ago with the Congregation Council and we have arranged for Pastor Kyle Severson, assistant to Bishop Yehiel Curry and Pastor Phyllis Kersten to provide pulpit supply.

Many of you have had a chance now to greet my husband, Roger. He is also a pastor the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and serves as the Director for Theological Ethics in the Office of the Presiding Bishop at the Churchwide office on Higgins Road. His work carries the primary responsibility for helping the church develop its teachings and policy about social issues. For instance, his current responsibilities include being lead staff person for the ELCA Task Force for studies of Government, Church and Civic Participation. He has worked as co or lead staff person with five respective task forces in the development of ELCA social teaching documents since 2005. He earned a PhD from the University of Chicago in theology and is contributing scholar in theology and ethics for both church and academic audiences on topics of Lutheran ethics, genetics and bioethics. While he will be worshipping at Lord of Life often many Sundays, he has responsibilities that take him away either in person or virtually. I hope you will get to know Roger over the time we are here at Lord of Life. When you do you will learn that he loves to ride his bicycle long distances, gets regular exercise through running and doing (and teaching) yoga, enjoys movies, books and is a persistent vegetable gardener. He claims that he is either a Cubs or Sox fan depending on who is winning more games but mostly harbors secret hopes that Cleveland will win the World Series when next we play one as he has been waiting for that since he was a boy growing up in Akron Ohio.

Peace Pastor Carole

Remembering Pastor Todd Napoli: An evening of rejoicing, loving, and memories

Join the Lord of Life family Thursday August 13, 7:00 pm for an evening of remembering and telling stories.

We will gather at church or virtually to spend precious moments together. You are invited to tell a story, write about a memory, record a memory or song or write something for someone else to read for you. If you have a special picture send it to the church office so it can be included.

Pastor Todd has been pivotal in almost every facet of our church's life together and our personal lives. He baptized our children, taught confirmation and first communion, officiated at funerals and weddings. He gardened, camped, sang and celebrated life through his unique personality and faith. As we gather to remember him we promise to carry forward what he taught us as his lasting legacy.

Plan to be a part of this evening.

If you are planning to join us *virtually* please contact Kathy Clinton in the church office so that we can send to you a PRIVATE link to this event. This event will not be posted publicly. If you are planning to attend *in person* please also contact Kathy Clinton. We will have room for 50 persons in the sanctuary and 40 person in Fellowship Hall. We will project the images on the wall.

If you have questions contact Marilyn Sells, Sherry Sejnost, Aimee Jimenez or Pr. Carole. We would love to know if you are planning to share your memory so that we can plan but it's not required.



Congregational Council Highlights

July Council Meeting Highlights

- The Chicago Metro ELCA Synod will be a virtual assembly; 2 delegates are eligible to attend
- COVID-19 changes are established and successfully running
- The time and meeting arrangements for the Loving Word Outreach Ministry were established
- Pastor Carole's vacation in August will be covered by Pastor Kyle and Pastor Phyllis
- Pastor Kyle suggested the next steps before calling a pastor. They are:
- A subcommittee of Judy Padera, Bobbie Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost will evaluate the current LoL constitution for revision to conform with the ELCA constitution.
- A subcommittee to develop process for reflection and a Ministry Profile will be developed
- A committee to organize the Remembrance of Pastor Todd celebration will be developed
- Council approved the Moving Forward plan
- Pastor Carole was selected as the Interim Pastor of LoL
- Sheila Ruh and Sherry Sejnost demonstrated the new LoL website
- Pastor Carole's name will be added to The Good Samaritan bank account
- Deadlines for announcements for bulletin are 2:00 P.M. on each Thursday

Scheduling rooms for meetings

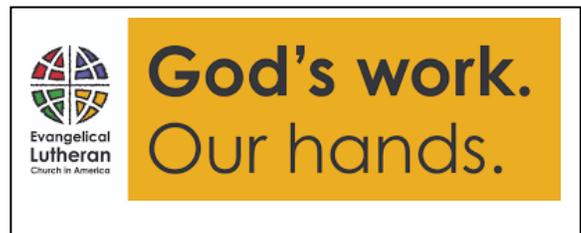
With COVID-19 it is important that any room that is used be thoroughly cleaned afterwards according to the CDC guidelines. Rooms are available for use but need to be reserved with the church office first. Please email or call Kathy to reserve the room. She will update the calendar and let Mark know so that he can clean the rooms accordingly.

Loving Word Outreach Ministry

In continuing on our mission to share God's Love and service the community Loving Word Outreach Ministry will be using the Fellowship Hall at Lord of Life for their services on Sunday afternoons. They rented space elsewhere and with COVID-19 were unable to continue to use it. The Pastor of LWOM reached out to other pastors in the area and LoL was able to accommodate them.

God's Work. Our Hands

The **God's Work. Our Hands** donation fund to FISH, Downers Grove Township Food Pantry collected \$865.00 and our goal was \$500.00 so we did a fantastic job . With the possible end of governmental subsidies at the end of July, those who are in need will be greatly helped . God Bless them and Lord of Life for helping those in need. Making our first **God's Work. Our Hands** project succeed.



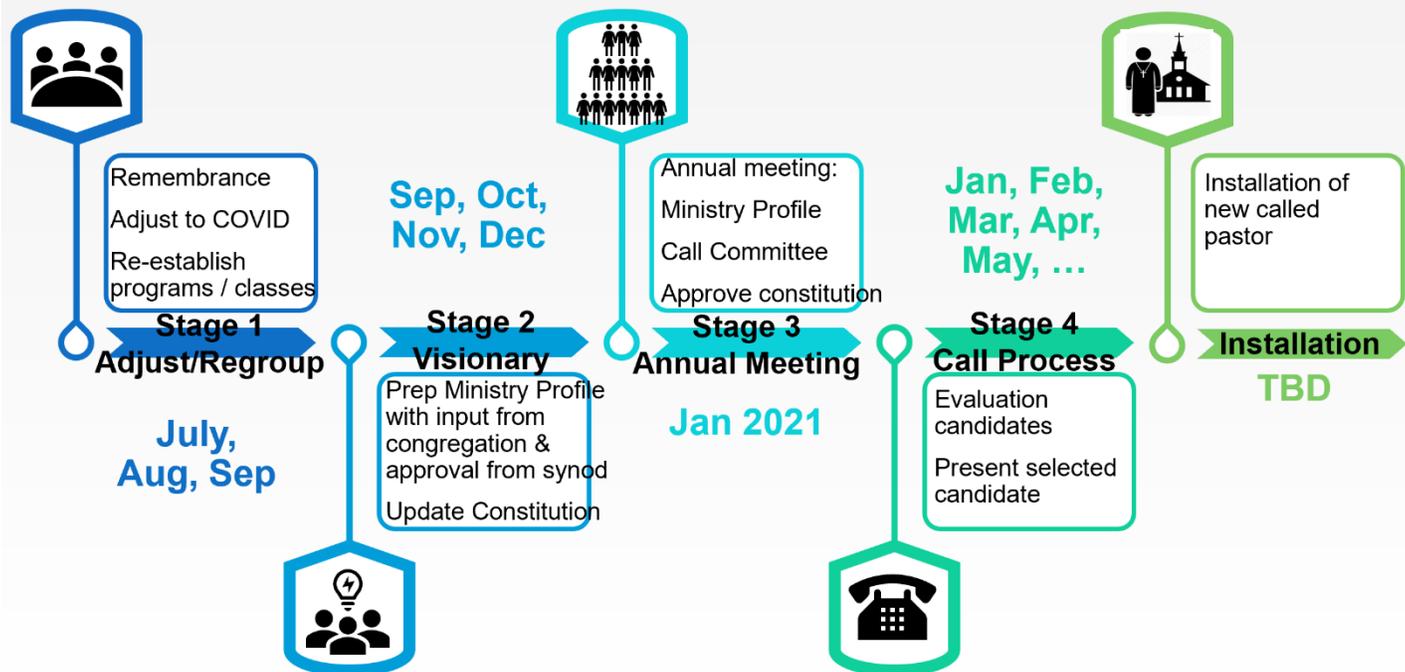
Next Steps for Lord of Life

Pastor Carole, Sherry Sejnost (council vice president), and Arlene Danielson (council president) met with Pastor Kyle Severson from the Chicago ELCA synod who provided guidance in defining the next steps for Lord of Life. The Congregation Council reviewed and approved the next steps as outlined in the stages below.

the changes will be very beneficial with COVID-19 restrictions because it allows for virtual attendance to congregational meetings.

The council will select a call committee to work with the synod on selecting a new pastor. The call committee is to be diversified representing different ages, sex, interest and length of membership at LoL. The call committee

Next Steps for Lord of Life



Stage 1 includes adjusting to the new restrictions in the worship service as a result of COVID-19. On top of these changes we need to grieve the loss of our beloved Pastor Todd. We are working with a few members to plan a remembrance service which can help us through the grieving process.

We will restart programs as best we can with COVID-19 guidelines such as Senoir Spirits, Sunday School, Adult Ed, Confirmation, First Communion, Lunch Bunch, and others. Pastor Carole is a trained Interim Pastor. The Congregation Council unanimously agreed to keep Pastor Carole as the interim pastor. We will schedule the official installation with the bishop in the fall.

Stage 2 is the Visionary Stage where the council will work with the congregatirion in defining the future vision of Lord of Life. The vision is a key element in defining the Ministry Profile of Lord of Life which is used to match available pastoral candidates.

The synod requires that the constitution be updated to align with the current church-wide constitutional guidelines. A task force consisting of Bobbie Sejnost, Judy Pedara and Sherry Sejnost was developed and will propose changes to the constitution by yearend. One of

consists of six members and an alternate.

Stage 3 is to hold the annual congregational meeting to approve the changes to the constiuition, present the ministry profile to the congregation and to install the call committee.

Stage 4 is the Call Process. The synod will present three condidates to Lord of Life that match the ministry profile. The call process has changed from past years as much of it can be conducted with virtual meetings and video recordings. We won't let COVID-19 delay the process. However, the duration of the call process varies based on the number of available candidate, ministry profile requirements and location. This could take six to twelve months.

The goal of the council is to be fully transparent throughout this process. Please reach out to Pastor Carole or any member of the Congregation Council with your questions and concerns. We will include an article in each LifeLines with a brief update. If you are interested being involved in these stages please reach out to Pastor Carole, Arlene Danielson or Sherry Sejnost.

COVID- 19 At Lord of Life

At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, there have been so many changes these last few months, with Pastor Todd’s illness, his passing and COVID -19. As we navigate through these changes it is important to be patient and kind with one another. Many of the changes in the church worship service are due to the guidelines of the CDC. Since knowledge is power, we wanted to share them here. We know that many of you will be familiar with some of them.

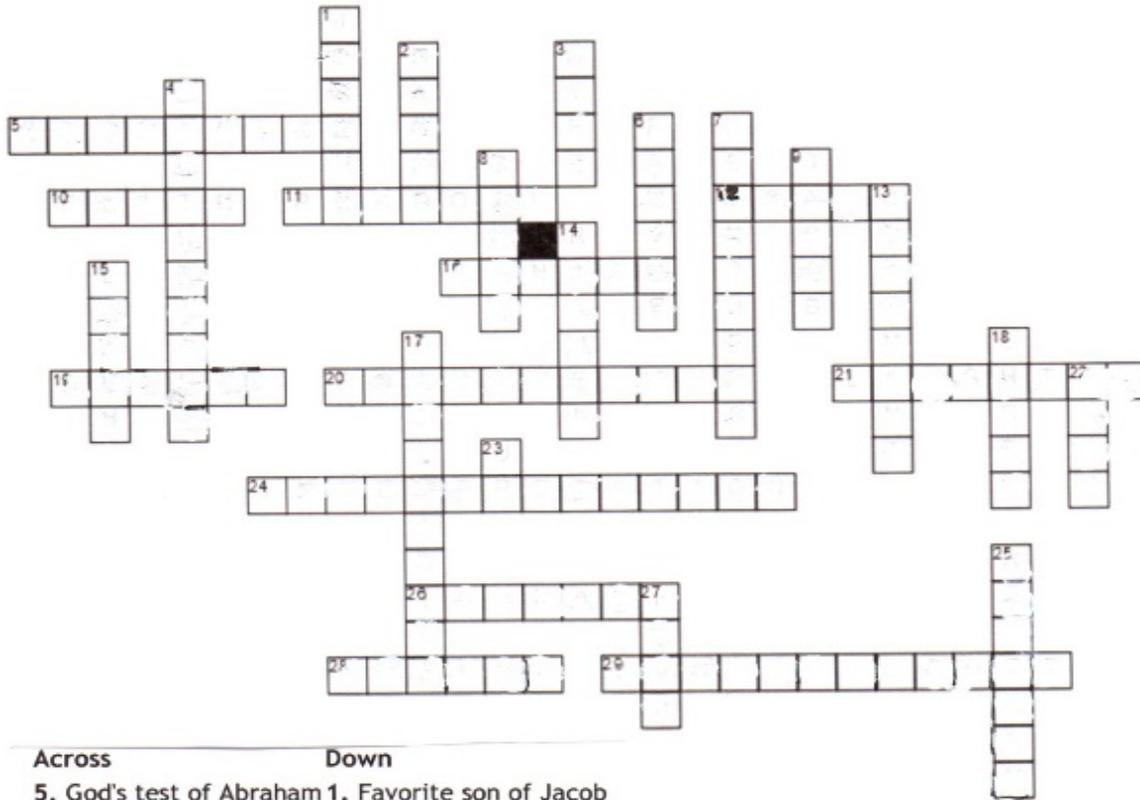
We are also including the following link to an entertaining video. Enjoy! <https://youtu.be/CFduNE4pXAQ>

Illinois Department of Health Recommendations	Changes in Worship
Strongly consider discontinuing singing (and post signage discouraging singing), group recitation, and other practices and performances where there is increased likelihood for transmission from contaminated exhaled droplets.	No Singing or Reciting Long Texts
Reconfigure seating and standing areas to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or more between congregants/visitors from different households.	Social Distancing
Limit touching for religious purposes, such as shaking hands or holding hands, to members of the same household.	Sharing the Peace
Consider limiting the number of people that use the restroom at one time to allow for physical distancing.	One Person in the Bathroom Clean bathroom between use
Ensure proper use of face coverings. Congregants/visitors and staff should be screened for temperature and/or symptoms upon arrival to places of worship and asked to use hand sanitizer and to wear face coverings.	Wearing Masks Take temperature with contactless thermometer
Have a clear plan to facilitate contact tracing if an attendee later tests positive for COVID-19.	Contact Tracing with sign-in sheet
Consider modifying practices specific to faith traditions that might encourage the spread of COVID-19. Examples are discontinuing kissing of ritual objects, discontinuing bathing rites, allowing rites to be performed by fewer people, providing pre-packed communion items on chairs prior to service, avoiding the use of a common cup, and offering communion in the hand instead of on the tongue.	Individual Communion Cups Package individual communion servings
Discontinue passing offering plates and similar items that move between people.	Do not pass the offering plate

<p>Phase 4 Guideline - All gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed with this limit subject to change based on latest data & guidance</p> <p>Consider implementing a reservation system to limit the number of congregants/visitors attending facilities at a time. This can include the use of digital platforms or other types of tools.</p>	<p>Limitation of capacity in rooms with a maximum of 50 people in one room. Consider requiring reservations for services.</p>
<p>Perform thorough cleaning of high traffic areas, such as lobbies, halls, chapels, meeting rooms, offices, libraries, and study areas, and areas of ingress and egress, including stairways, stairwells, handrails, and elevator controls. Frequently disinfect commonly used surfaces including doorknobs, toilets, handwashing facilities, pulpits and podiums, donation boxes or plates, altars, and pews and seating areas.</p>	<p>Mark common touch points and clean often</p> <p>Increase cleaning schedule and disinfect rooms after each use.</p>
<p>Prop or hold doors open during peak periods when congregants/visitors are entering and exiting facilities, if possible and in accordance with security and safety protocols.</p>	<p>Create contactless operations with propping doors open</p>
<p>Discourage sharing items used in worship and services (such as prayer books, cushions, prayer rugs) whenever possible.</p>	<p>Remove cloth seats, hymnals and all unnecessary items that may encourage common touchpoints.</p>
<p>Children should remain in the care of those in their household unit and not interact with children of other parties at any time while visiting facilities. Close play areas and discontinue activities and services for children where physical distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained.</p>	<p>Close Nursery</p>
<p>Discontinue offering food and beverages. Do not hold potlucks or buffet-style meals or events that increase the risk of cross contamination. If food and beverages must be served, provide items in single-serve containers (disposable containers whenever possible), and ensure congregants or others who are living together are seated together and more than 6 feet apart from others.</p>	<p>No sharing or serving of food and coffee</p>
<p>Close or restrict common areas, such as break rooms, kitchenettes, and foyers where people are likely to congregate and interact.</p>	<p>Close Kitchen</p>
<p>If possible, provide bottled water or touchless water fountains.</p>	<p>Turn off drinking fountains</p>
<p>If someone who attended a service, event or meeting tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of being on premises the individual is to contact Lord of Life and Illinois Department of Public Health.</p>	<p>All who attended the event / service with that individual are to quarantine for 14 days and not return to Lord of Life for 14 days or until they are symptom, free for 48 hours.</p>

Information found at https://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19_Places_of_Worship_Guidance_06.30.2020.pdf

Abraham and his family from Genesis



Across

- 5. God's test of Abraham
- 10. Abraham is known for his
- 11. Joseph served the
- 12. promised son of Abraham and his wife
- 16. Promised land
- 19. Place of God's presence
- 20. Joseph offers
- 21. Sarah's response to God's messenger
- 24. Jacob's talent
- 26. first son of Abraham
- 28. number of Jacob's sons
- 29. dream about God's constant presence

Down

- 1. Favorite son of Jacob
- 2. Servant woman
- 3. Jacob served 7 years to earn
- 4. promises to the firstborn
- 6. drought and lack of food cause
- 7. Isaac's malady
- 8. Wife of Abraham
- 9. the trickster
- 13. promises between God and people
- 14. Jacob loved
- 15. Jacob's uncle
- 17. killing of your brother
- 18. animal kept by the patriarchs
- 22. First twin of Rebekah
- 23. original home
- 25. Isaac's wife
- 27. first wife of Jacob

Foundations of Faith

From June 14-August 16 we will have read and reflected on the first family of faith. These reading from Genesis 18 through 45 are foundational to Christian theology. By following the "semicontinuous readings" of the Revised Common Lectionary we have heard them in their integrity. Here is a review of the major characters. Can you get them all?

Note: The answers will be included in next week's bulletin.

Annual Synod Assembly

The annual Synod Assembly has tentatively been rescheduled for Saturday, October 3rd. Details will be announced as they become available.

Upcoming Meetings

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Monday August 10th at Cooper's Hawk at 11:30. Please RSVP to Marilyn at 630-927-9996. Masks required until you are seated at the table.

Senior Spirits will meet Thursday, August 20 at 12:00 noon at Lord of Life. We will meet in the West room. Please bring your own lunch and drink. We have not been able to confirm guest speakers at this time, but we are working on it. Please RSVP to Marilyn at 630-927-9996.

2020 Council Members and Committees:

Arlene Danielson	President Vision Team Finance Committee Personnel Comm.
Sherry Sejnost	Vice President Evangelism Personnel Comm.
Bobbie Sejnost	Secretary Vision Team
Stacie Plzak	Worship & Music
Marla Suda	Christian Education
Judy Padera	Children & Hunger Hospitality

Sheila Ruh	Evangelism
Don Dibbern	
Ron Matta	Property
Carolyn Katt	LCW
Pastor Carole Willer	
Jim Kelly	Treasurer Finance Comm.

Special Council Recognition for July

The Property Committee and Mark Rokicki for moving the pews out of the sanctuary in preparation for returning to services inside.

Donations

Please continue to support LoL with your generous contributions, either via the online donations, USPS or by putting them in the drop box outside the west entry. Thank you to everyone who have been coming out to do this.

To access the secure electronic donations go to our website at <http://www.lordoflifedarien.com/> and click on the green "Give" box. With your help we will be able to continue to serve you and the community "*Sharing God's Love.*"

Prayer Requests

Lord of Life is recording one of the services each week so that those who cannot venture out can still worship with us online. When you request to have a name added to the prayer list, we will ask you if want the first name to be mentioned during the live streaming of the service. So, when you reach out to the church office to request adding someone to the prayer list please include whether you want the last name shared during in social media.



Please remember the following people in your daily prayers:

Please pray for members ...

Allene Pitts Diana Pehas
Nancy Malik Mary Szyszka

The Hospitality Committee continues to pray for everyone, including their very good friend, Eileen Wiberg.

Please pray for relatives and friends struggling with cancer/tumors ...

Provi Valentin, Elsy Eggert's aunt
Jim Gardner, friend of Cor Peterson
Joyce Adams, friend of Cor Peterson
Dennis Schneider, friend of the Randas
Dave Brongiel, friend of the Randas
Karen Randa, hospitalized, daughter of the Randas
Bev, friend of Debi Scarpelli

NOTE: We pray for everyone on these lists to recover from their illness. If you have loved ones listed who have made recoveries, please contact the church office so their names can be removed.

Pray for other family and friends ...

Chris H., friend of Sue Ames
Former LoL members Ken and Bonly Dry
Gordon, brother of Don Dibbern
Sue Horton, daughter of Toni Blesy
Joseph Capozziello, son of Toni Blesy
Ella Jones, Eggert's friends' new baby
Gilbert, Elsy Eggert's nephew
Gloria Valentin, Elsy Eggert's sister
Carson, grandson of the Gullifords
Maureen Kery, friend of Janet Haines
John Guzior, friend of the Haines'
James Hazelton
Stephen Plunkett, cousin of Carolyn Katt
Jaden Rhode, grandson of the Mattas
Scott Hutt, Judy Padera's brother
Jan Dubick, sister of Cor Peterson
Ryan Hart, friend of Cor Peterson
John Bailey, friend of the Randas
Nancy Soltis, Sue Randa's sister-in-law
Dean Bohne, friend of the Randas
Lisa Schramm, granddaughter of Dolores
Hannah Stapleton, great niece of the Sloneks
Mary Wojtala, sister of LeeAnn Swanson
Mary Haapoja, goddaughter of Mary Szyszka
Margo Bonbrake, friend of the Waechters
Ken Kettner, Sandy Waechter's brother
Don Michaels, brother-in-law of Nancy Zavattaro
The Rinaldi's, friends of Nancy Zavattaro
Nance Nagy, friend of Nancy Zavattaro

With deep sadness we report that we have just learned of the death of Carol August June 6, 2020 from progressive Alzheimer disease. Due to Covid19 restrictions there were no services.

You can contact Carol's daughter Sue Ambul at 1414 77th St. Darien, Il 60561



Brian Irizarry, Elsy Eggert's grand nephew
Dalia Wenckus

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

725 75th Street

Darien, IL. 60561-4239

630-323-3161

Call us at (630) 323-3161

Web Address: lordoflifedarien.org

Visit the ELCA home page on the Internet at <http://www.elca.org>

Address Service Requested

Lord of Life Staff

Pastor Carole Willer

Rosita Yao, Church Musician

Kathy Clinton, Secretary (e-mail: LordLifeSec@aol.com)

Mark Rokicki, Custodian

All are welcome!

Dated material-Please deliver promptly