

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

October, 2020

From Pastor Carole

Dear Friends,

Jesus went off by himself to pray. When his disciples found him no doubt they asked, “Jesus, what are you doing.” Jesus responded, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” The disciples suggested an array of answers. Then Jesus asked a more challenging question, “Who do YOU say that I am?”

In many ways the world, and specifically the parish profile we will submit is asking our congregation that question. In these days of the pandemic we have to think doubly hard for an answer because nothing is the same, it seems.

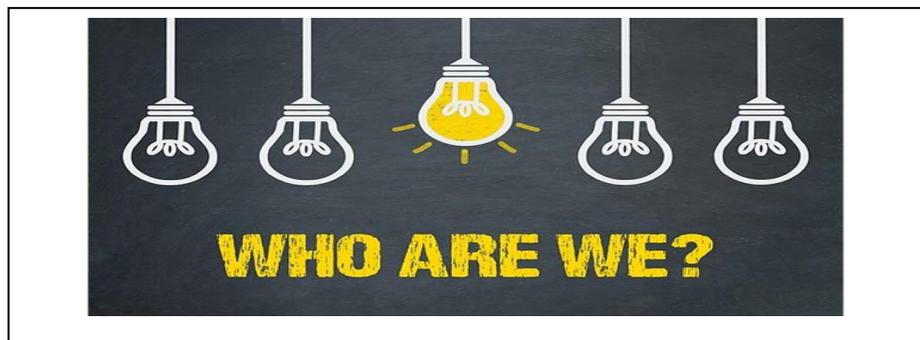
Who/what is Lord of Life? If you were to ask your neighbors in a blind survey this key question you might get several answers. This is, in fact, a very helpful question to see how our congregation is reflected in the mirror of the neighborhood.

But, perhaps more importantly, what do you say Lord of Life is? Lord of Life is the congregation that... How do you finish the sentence? With grace filled imagination we are at a special time to answer this question and dream about the future.

When we talk about identity we are centering on how we understand ourselves. This includes how we think of ourselves and how we describe ourselves to others. What we do, how we love, how we welcome, even how we dream about our ministry define our self-description. Our hopes for the future, our experiences from the past and our present realities all combine to form our identity.

It is these realities we will study and ponder as our vision team soon invites you to meetings to look back, dream a future and deal concretely with our present-day realities. As we become conscious of who we are we are ready to grow into a new relationship; that of new pastor, people, and our Lord God. I hope you will be eagerly looking forward to our visioning meetings.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Carole



Congregational Council Highlights

- Reviewed the COVID19 guidelines for outside groups. Each outside group has signed a form stating they have read the guidelines and will follow them completely as a requirement for meeting at Lord of Life.
- Determined that as of October 18th, the 11:00 service will be held indoors. This will require airing out the sanctuary between services and wiping down surfaces.
- Set God's work. Our hands outreach for October as SOCKSTOBER
- Reviewed congregational concerns and developed a set of FAQ and their answers to be distributed in Lifelines. If someone has a question we encourage the person to call Pastor Carole, Arlene or any member of Council so that all plans are well communicated. There will also be a question box in the narthex.
- Previewed the final copy of the LoL website
- Established September 27th as Pastor Carole's installation as Interim Pastor of LoL and the dedication of Pastor Todd's memorials of wind chimes and garden sign.
- Reviewed the possible constitution changes suggested by the ELCA. After a second review of items recommended by the constitution update team the whole constitution with required and suggested changes will be printed and sent (by mail, as prescribed by the Constitution) to all members. Times for review will take place before our January annual meeting.
- We need to have an audit committee and audit as "best practices" for dealing with finances in the congregation. Art Kardatske, Deanna Riha and Kerry Spitznagel have agreed to do this task. A yearly audit is mandated in the constitution.
- LoL standing committees have not functioned well for several years. Each Council member is reviewing the committees of which they are responsible to ascertain their coordinators, members and job description. Pastor Carole would like to pull together the worship committee during October to help make decisions about worship, advise the pastor and coordinate efforts.
- Discussed the elements of the Transition Team work and the need to secure volunteers for the team. Several members of the LoL congregation have volunteered to serve on the Transition team. The transition team will be divided in several groups so that we can divide the assignments among a greater group of people. Some will get the statistical data

needed, some the financial data needed and others to help design the visioning process (a series of discussion about the past, present, and future of Lord of Life.) A mixture of age, length of membership, male/female, on Council/not on Council will be considered for these teams.

We will inquire about establishing a grief group at Lord of Life. LSSI and Good Samaritan Hospital have been contacted about possible leaders. We also will establish a "We remember Pastor Todd" bulletin board in the Narthex. Members can post pictures etc. When the actual search for a new pastor begins all items collected will be placed in a scrap book to be kept in the library.

Property brothers are working on wifi booster so the wifi will extend dependably throughout the building.

1st communion class has begun. Baptism on 10/11.

Council met with Pr. Kyle Severson 9/27 following church to discuss meeting guidelines in light of covid restrictions and the call process.

Prayer list is being sent out weekly by email.

We need to update our phone directory data. Marla Suda will work with Kathy in this effort.

Giving for 2020 is significantly down. As we look to a new "settled" pastor, a solid financial future will be essential.



Upcoming Gatherings

Lunch Bunch will be meeting on **Monday, October 12th at 11:30** at **Stevens**, in Woodridge at 63rd and Woodward. Please RSVP to Marilynn Sells at (630) 927-9996.

The Senior Spirits will meet again on **Thursday, October 15th at noon in the Fellowship Hall**. Please bring your own lunch and beverage. RSVP to Marilynn at 630-927-9996.



Our Pets are a Blessing to Us

As Pastor Carole stated, “Our pets are a blessing to us. This year when we were at home so much more, we received an extra measure of companionship from our pets. So, what better way to give thanks to them than to give them a special blessing?”

The Pet Blessing at Lord of Life will be held at 12:00 noon on Sunday October 4th, 2020. We will gather with our pets outside at the front entrance to the church to receive the blessing.

Please come and join us for our annual Pet Blessing. Please tell your family, friends & neighbors. Above all, if your pet can't make it, bring a picture of your pet. Children are welcome to bring a favorite stuffed animal. Pet treats will be provided. “Our pets are a blessing to us.” Please join us in blessing them.

Attention all members! Council Seeks Transition Team

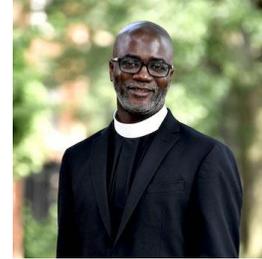
A transition team member will study the transition process, will help design the congregational reflection process, lead discussions, record results and help prepare the congregational profile. The council is seeking individuals who are interested in helping lead this journey of faith. The team will consist of 6 or 7 persons and will work with the council in leading the congregation forward. It will include numerous meetings; many most likely will be ZOOM meetings. The commitment will run from October through January. We need your help. Arlene Danielson is taking questions and nominations for this important ministry team. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to this important ministry.

If you would like to participate on the transition team please contact Pastor Carole, Arlene Danielson or Sherry Sejnost soon.



Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Bishop Yeheil Curry



Metropolitan Chicago Synod State of the Synod Event!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020 AT 10:30 AM
Everyone is invited to this Synod-wide Online Video Event.

The pandemic has turned so much of our lives upside down, but the creative minds of our Metro Synod Assembly have developed something new, a **Synod Event**, and we are all invited.

On October 3 at 10:30 AM, the synod will gather on YouTube. In this premier event, you may watch the video, commenting and participating with others, or you may watch it after the event at a time that is convenient for you.

The video will highlight stories from MCS congregations, songs submitted from various areas of the synod, and brief reports from the bishop and synod staff. Just think of it as an audio and visual online celebration of God's Spirit at work in and through our communities and at the synodical level. The video will be accompanied by a full written report from the bishop. The entire event can be found at **Metropolitan Chicago Synod, ELCA, the MCSELCA website**

New Drop Box

The property brothers have replaced the old drop box with a new shiny and secure box. It is located by the west entrance. With this new box, it is once again safe again to drop off your offerings in the drop box. Thanks to Ron Matta.



**God's work.
Our hands.**



God's Work: Our Hands Continues

Our **God's Work: Our Hands** outreach has been a blessing. Here are pictures of the events held in July and August. The first pictures Pastor Carole, Judy Padera and Bobbie Sejnost delivering the \$1,054 check to FISH, Downers Grove Township Food Pantry. FISH provides food assistance for people all over the Downers Grove Township area including Darien. The second shows the immense pile of school supplies we were able to collect for the Family Shelter. There are over 14 children living there at almost any time. Having good school supplies means they have an easier transition. Our next project is the **SOCK IT TO ME ONCE AGAIN, our October Sock Collection.**



SOCK IT TO ME ONCE AGAIN OCTOBER 4th THROUGH OCTOBER 25th

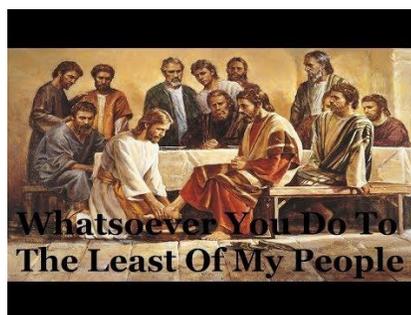
Lord of Life has been helping the Church of Our Savior in Chicago for the past 5 years. So, once again we are having a SOCK GATHERING in October. This year we are asking for new socks for their clinic. They have requested NO shoes this year.

Historically, A PhD nurse from DePaul University wanted to help the disenfranchised population who did not have support in the community. To do this, she started a Foot Care Clinic with the support of the Church of Our Savior Episcopal Church located on the north side of Chicago. The purpose of the clinic is to develop a relationship with the people on the street.

The clinic meets the 3rd Saturday and last Monday of the month. The nurses soak the participant's feet, take their blood pressure, and assess how they are doing. It may take several visits before there is enough trust to share symptoms and concerns. This rapport helps them to accept further help with clinics or doctors who will offer their services without charge.

Please help us gather new men's socks during the whole month of October. We will place a container for the socks by our offering table. Thank you for your past generosity, and we look forward to accumulating socks for the clinic participants.

Questions? Contact Judy Padera, Bobbie Sejnost, Sherry Sejnost or Carolyn Katt for more information.



Offerings

Please continue to support LoL with your generous contributions, either via the online donations, USPS or by putting them in the new secure **lock box** outside the west entry. Using the locked mailbox adds another layer of security for your offering.

Thank you to everyone who has 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

Given that so many people have shared their need for prayers, we will be sending the prayer list out on a weekly basis. Please contact Kathy, LoL's church secretary, if you need to add someone to the prayer list. By the same token, please remember to contact Kathy if you wish to remove a name from the list.



Please remember the following people in your daily prayers:

Please pray for members

Janet Kardatzke

Diana Pehas

Pray for other family and friends ...

Provi Valentin, Elsy Eggert's aunt
Jim Gardner, friend of Cor Peterson
Joyce Adams, friend of Cor Peterson
Dennis Schneider, friend of the Randas
Bev, friend of Debi Scarpelli
Christie Noward, sister-in-law of Marilyn Sells
Harvey Allekian, Connie's husband
Dick Eggert, Bob's brother
Chris H., friend of Sue Ames
Former LoL members Ken and Bonly Dry
Sue Horton, daughter of Toni Blesy
Joseph Capozziello, son of Toni Blesy
Ella Jones, Eggert's friends' young child
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
Joanne Mutz, niece of Cor Peterson
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
Bob, friend of Deanna Riha



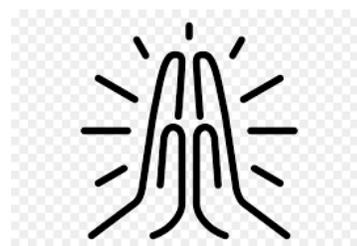
Brian Irizarry, Elsy Eggert's grand nephew
Dalia Wenckus

We share our sympathy with the family and friends of Eileen Wiberg who passed from this life into eternal life September 11. Eileen, a long-time member of Lord of Life, had not been well for several years but is dearly remembered. Due to Covid19 restrictions there was no public service for Eileen.

You can contact Eileen's daughters at the following addresses: Donna Benson, 2040 Little Lake Road, Washington Island, WI 54246; Barb Rabidau, 8931 W. 147th St., Orland Park, IL 60462.

Memorials can be directed to Lord of Life Lutheran Church

From Mary Szyszka: I wish to thank members and friends of Lord of Life for your messages and cards during this frustrating time of recovery. You have made the long days much brighter God Bless you.



A Truly Blessed Day

September 27th was a truly blessed day as we celebrated the installation of Pastor Carole and the dedication of Pastor Todd's wind chimes and garden sign. The pictures below show the splendor of the day.

Pastor Kyle installs Pastor Carole as Lord of Life's Interim Pastor



Pastor Carole dedicates the wind chimes and garden sign in memory of Pastor Todd



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



Let the Blooms Begin

Once again the opportunity to provide flowers for the altar is available. The cost is \$20.00. Please contact Kathy, the church secretary, to reserve your date. Let the glory of God's blooms bring joy and happiness to our worship service.



During the last few weeks the following profound and sometimes off-base questions have been raised during phone conversations. Here are some very important answers! Do you have a question? Call Pastor Carole or any member of Council or use the question box in the narthex!

Let's all live in the light!

Questions and Concerns Raised – September 2020

- 1. Does the synod or anyone at Synod want to close Lord of Life?** Absolutely not! Everyone connected with the Synod wants Lord of Life to succeed and flourish. The best way to succeed and flourish is to provide a ministry for the community that reflects a welcoming place of worship. To support the growth of LoL, LoL members have been asked to participate in the transition team by preparing a Ministry Profile and to prepare and conduct the Call Process. Furthermore, Pastor Carole is a trained interim pastor and will guide us through the process.
- 2. In the previous call process we were told a church needed 100 weekly worshippers to support hiring an ordained minister for a church. Can LoL call a new minister with less than 100 regular worshippers?** According to the ELCA, there is no set number of weekly worshippers required to justify hiring an ordained minister. However, the church's finances and vision are crucial aspects when defining the ministry profile, a profile developed by the LoL congregation, and needed for the call process. The dedication, guidance and generosity of former leaders and members of LoL have given LoL a strong and comfortable position to call a new pastor because there is no debt and a strong vision.
- 3. I hear there is a shortage of ELCA ministers. Will LoL be able to find a new pastor? How long will it take?** While there is a shortage of ordained ministers and priests in all religions, ELCA's Chicago Metro Synod will work hard to identify ordained ministers matching our qualifications, budget and preferences, as listed in the ministry profile.
- 4. We've heard that Lord of Life is a dying congregation. Can Lord of Life proceed with the call process?** The number of members, age of members and declining attendance levels at LoL indicate that, sadly, we are a declining congregation. However, in the Next Steps for LoL, developed with guidance of the Synod, the mission will be reviewed and actions identified to further serve and strengthen the LoL community and grow LoL's membership and outreach.
- 5. Is it true that the current leaders of Lord of Life want to make changes to the current staff members of LoL?** Absolutely not.
- 6. Why are so many changes being made to the services and bulletins?** In order to keep the LoL family safe during this pandemic, adjustments needed to be made to the worship services to be in line with both the COVID-19 guidelines set by the state of Illinois and the Chicago Metro Synod. In addition, changes in the bulletin were made to take advantages of word processing features and to improve the efficiency of the bulletin and Life Lines processes.
- 7. Why were the pews removed from the sanctuary?** Once again following the COVID19 guidelines as set by the state of Illinois and the Synod, the pews were removed to maintain social

distancing and to allow consistent cleaning through rigorous cleaning, which would harm both the fabric and wood on the pews. Furthermore, LoL used chairs for years before being able to afford the current cushioned pews so the use of chairs is not a new phenomenon. Our ability to use chairs has been a significant advantage for LoL. Other congregations have not been able to return to in-person worship because of difficulties around using pews.

- 8. Why is the constitution being updated? Will the congregation be able to review the revised constitution?** In order to call a new pastor, the ELCA requires that key parts of our constitution be updated to match the current Churchwide ELCA constitution, which has been approved at Churchwide Assemblies. To accomplish this, a committee was formed, and the current LoL version, which is 12 years old, was compared to the Churchwide version. Once the comparison was completed, the constitution committee made the Churchwide ELCA required changes. The next step is to consider some minor changes to the non-required articles of our LoL constitution to bring it into the 21st Century. During this process, the constitution committee welcomes input from the congregation. Finally, the Council will review any suggested changes and will present all the proposed changes to the congregation for approval at our Annual Meeting the fourth Sunday in January. All changes made require the vote of the congregation, and some require affirmation at two Congregational Meetings.
- 9. When can we socialize at Lord of Life before and after the services as we used to do?** LoL will follow the guidelines for places of worship set by the CDC and State of Illinois. However, we will continue to monitor these guidelines. In essence, if DuPage County moves to Phase 3, we will return to virtual services only. But, if DuPage County moves beyond Phase 4, the services and social activities will be adjusted accordingly.
- 10. I do not feel comfortable coming to LoL in person. How can I participate in Holy Communion?** If you do not feel comfortable attending LoL services in person but wish to receive Communion, you may simply contact the church office and we will arrange for you to pick up communion supplies or arrange to have them delivered to your doorstep.
- 11. The year-to-date deficit is the highest in the last 20 year. What will happen if Lord of Life ends the year in a deficit?** We at Lord of Life are committed in our mission to “Share God’s Love.” But, like everything in the era of COVID19, our financial status has suffered. We applied for the COVID Payroll Protection Plan to provide some financial assistance, and we have reserve funds. But, to continue to maintain our strong mission of sharing God’s love as we search for a new permanent pastor, we ask that you catch up in your giving, pray and consider increasing your financial support so we can fulfill our mission together.
- 12. If I have a question or concern about LoL what should I do?** Your questions and concerns are important to us. Please contact Pastor Carole or any member of council. We are anxious to hear from you and to answer any questions you have! Call, text, or email Pastor Carole, Arlene, Bobbie, Carolyn, Don, Marla, Judy, Ron, Stacie, Sheila, and Sherry. There is also a “questions” box in the narthex equipped with paper.

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

October, 2020



Sunday, October 4th - Noon – Pet Blessing

Sunday, October 25th – Reformation Sunday