



Lord of Life Lutheran Church

725-75th Street • Darien, Illinois 60559

March, 2021

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the month of March begins so many diverse movements and ideas are at play.



Grieving...

Last year Ash Wednesday was February 26 and the nationwide stay at home order began around March 13. We are about to mark a year of covid19 turning our lives upside down. We need to name the changes, the losses great and small. We need to name them so that we can reflect, grieve, and remember. Over 500,000 people dead; no funerals, no public grieving. Those who died of other diseases are also buried without funerals. The US life expectancy went down for the first time since the end of the 2nd World War. Millions unemployed, will lose houses, became homeless. A generation, hit by the great recession, hit again: Birth rates down. Families isolated. Extreme loneliness and depression. Churches and other houses of faith redesigning their ministries away from buildings. The loss of public music and especially singing. Travel and the interconnectedness of people stopped. Nations isolated from nations. The inequality of a pandemic on people of color and the poor: raising questions how the United States can do better at offering the American Dream to all people...

Sometimes Our Only Song is Weeping

1. Sometimes our only song is weeping; our only sound is gasping breath. Sometimes it seems that God is sleeping while our brief lives are bound in death. Who hears the song our sorrows swallow and offers hope to calm our fears? When all our words seem frail and hollow, God heeds the prayers within our tears.
2. Sometimes we catch the faintest humming, a far off tune our hearts know well. Sometimes we sense the spirit coming our song returns; our voices swell. The Spirit sings though we are shaken, and Christ has shared our heartfelt cries. Restored, our weary souls awaken to join God's song that never dies.

Gracious God, by day and night we pour out our prayer to you. We are crying out for justice, yearning for what is right and good, longing for your peace. Come quickly to help us, O God; save those who call upon your name. Amen

(song and prayer from All Creation Sings, Augsburg Fortress; 2020) Tune: Wayfaring Stranger



Spring is coming...

Can you feel the warm winds of spring melting away the feet of snow and the frigid temperatures of the last month? If we didn't have cabin fever from covid restrictions we sure had them from the sub-zero temperatures. Ah, spring. We want to throw off the cold weather apparel; Everything that holds us back. We want to let loose. And look at all the people who are being vaccinated! (see article inside about help getting an appointment) Continued . . .

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BUT, we can't let loose of masks, hand washing, social distancing and caution. Doctors tell us that with the new covid variants we will have a 4th wave before summer hits. Please, dear ones, don't go this far to let down your guard and get sick. It wouldn't be right. But, be prudent in participating in Lenten activities at the church. Holden Evening Prayer will be sung every week. The Palms are ordered for Passion Sunday. Easter flowers are sprouting even as you read this. We will bless the new paschal candle for 2021. We will celebrate resurrection at Lord of Life. We will gather outside, inside, and virtually!

1. Each winter as the year grows older, we each grow older, too.
The chill sets in a little colder;
the verities we knew seem shaken and untrue.
2. Yet I believe beyond believing that life can spring from death,
That growth can flower from our grieving,
that we can catch our breath and turn transfixed by faith.
3. O Christ of ecstasy and sorrows, O Prince of peace and pain.
Brighten today's world by tomorrow's,
renew our lives again. Lord Jesus, rise again and reign.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise O crucified and risen one. Grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony as we prepare and celebrate the greatest of mysteries, your resurrection from the dead. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Each Winter As the Year Grows Older Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Augsburg Fortress.

And, the Mars rover is sending back pictures and sound from Mars in 11 minutes...

And, we have grown and changed in this year...

And, new birth is in our midst...

And, And, And **God is with us.**

In Christ, Pastor Carole

Welcome New Member Nina Behrendt to Lord of Life

A resident of Darien since 2006 and formally from Elmwood Park, Nina attended Lord of Life in the past and was able to hear some of Pastor Todd's Sunday services. When Lord of Life began giving drive up communion packets, Nina came and got to meet and talk with Pastor Carole. Looking for a small church, a friendly congregation, services she would enjoy, sermons that sent a message to her, and the opportunity to get involved in church activities, Nina knew that Lord of Life was the church she wanted to be a part of.

Nina has a son and daughter in-law who live in Arizona and many nieces and nephews she is close to. She worked as a secretary before retirement, and her last job was working for Feldco Windows where she worked with and personally knew Dave Cook, the spokesman we see on Feldco's TV commercials. Nina enjoys making personalized greeting cards for her family and friends, and considers it her hobby. "God is my Dearest Friend," says Nina. We are so blessed to have Nina at Lord of Life. May we grow together in faith and be witnesses to the love of God and the peace of Christ.



Pastor Carole welcoming new member Nina Behrendt.

Sunday School Begins

Sunday School will resume March 7th. Children of all ages from Kindergarten to older kids are welcome. We will be following the COVID 19 protocol by wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. We look forward to seeing everyone on the 7th!!

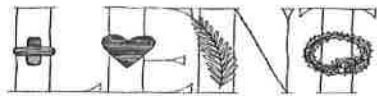
Get Your COVID 19 Vaccination

The COVID 19 vaccine is now available to people 65 years or older, teachers and essential workers. from several sources.

To register for the vaccine at the **DuPage County Health Department**, click on this link <https://www.dupagehealth.org/667/COVID-19-Vaccine> or call 630-682-7400.

The Metro Infectious Disease Center in Burr Ridge is also offering vaccines. Send them an email at vaccine@midcusa.com with your name, address, telephone number, email address and birthday. They will call or email you to schedule an appointment. They are very busy and have limited capacity, so it may take a couple of weeks for them to respond.

Finally, you can also register with your doctor's network (such as Loyola, DuPage Medical Group, etc.) and local entities such as Walgreens, Meijer, CVS, Mariano's, and Jewel. The medical practices and pharmacies will open new appointments on a regular basis, sometimes daily. It is best to register with your pharmacy's website and log in daily to try to get an appointment. The next available dates can open up after midnight or 6:00 A. M. in the morning. If you would like assistance registering for a vaccine, please contact Bruce or Arlene Danielson at bargdaniel@comcast.net or call 630 654-8665.



What to Give up for Lent:

Give up bitterness-turn to forgiveness

Give up hatred-return good for evil

Give up negativism-be positive

Give up anger-be more patient

Give up gossiping-control your tongue

Give up gloom-be thankful for the blessings all around you.

Some Important Things To Know

- Lord of Life is holding in person services at both 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. and on Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M. The are recorded and made available through our Facebook Page.
- The Virtual Coffee Hour/Information Sessions will meet in-between the 9:00 and 11:00 church service. You can attend in person in the sanctuary. Join us for some great discussions as we develop the Ministry Profile in our search for a new pastor.
- The Library, closed to us for so long, is now opening. Call Carolyn Katt at 630-974-6248 to make an appointment to browse the massive collection of books and choose something to read.

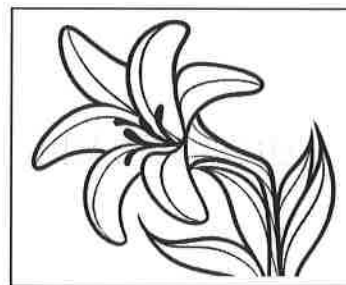
Senior Spirits

I'm happy to announce that Senior Spirits will begin meeting again on Thursday, March 25th at noon. Good news is that we'll have a representative from Hope's Front Door located in Downers Grove to provide us with information regarding their organization which provides assistance to those in need on many levels. Please bring your own lunch and beverage as the kitchen remains closed. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on the 25th!
(From Marilyn Sells)

2021 Easter

Flowers Orders

It's time to bring the glory of spring into our church. Envelopes to purchase the flowers are available in the church narthex and from Kathy. The Easter



lily flowers come in 6 ½" pots with 6 or more bulbs and cost \$14.00. The hyacinths are \$11.00 each. On the envelopes, please mark the flowers you choose, the amount you want, and the amount of money you have enclosed. Be sure to include your name, telephone number and donation envelope number.

Visioning Survey

At the beginning of February all members of our faith community received a survey that asks your input on the questions we need to answer for the Congregational Profile. Please complete it and return it ASAP. We want your input. Discussions of the results will begin in March.

Welcome to the New Congregational Council Members and Officers

Please say a hearty hello to the 5 new Council members: Aimee Jimenez, Art Kardatzke, Debbie McNichols, and Marilyn Sells who were elected for three year terms; and Connie Alliekian who was elected for a two year term. The 2021 liaisons for Lord of Life's committees are:

Audit Committee - Art Kardatzke,
Children and Hunger - Stacie Plzak,
Christian Education - Marla Suda,
Evangelism - Sheila Ruh and Sherry Sejnost,
Finance and PPP - Arlene Danielson,
Hospitality - Debbie McNichols,
LCW - Connie Alliekian.
NCD/Vision - Roberta Sejnost,
Property - Art Kardatzke, and
Worship and Music – Marilyn Sells.

New Council officers are

Sherry Sejnost, President,
Arlene Danielson, Vice President,
Stacie Plzak, Secretary.

Book of the Dun Cow Discussion

It's not too late to read Book of the Dun Cow by Walter Wangerin in preparation for our book discussion Sunday March 7 during Virtual Coffee Hour or Wednesday March 10 am (a hybrid meeting)

Lenten Place Packets Still Available

There are still a few Lenten Place packets available. Our Lenten Bible Study is reading the gospel of Mark in it's entirety. Follow along as Pastor Carole reads a section each day and then write a note to Jesus in response.



Highlights from the February Church Council Meeting

- Pastor Carole is choosing books from the pastor's office to create a religious library in the breezeway. Due to Covid, the library can't be opened yet, but appointments to check out books can be made through Carolyn Katt.
- The Virtual Coffee Hour/Information Sessions will continue in-between the 9:00 and 11:00 church service sessions. You can participate by coming to the worship center.
- With some of the Covid restrictions lifted, Senior Spirits will start up again in March. Lunch Bunch has not started back up yet, but this will be revisited in April.
- Finance and PPP - January had the largest offerings and the smallest deficit in last 10 years.
- Christian Education – Marla reported that in-person Sunday school will begin on March 7th.
- Stewardship Committee – There was discussion on starting a renewed Stewardship Committee that would consist of 3-4 members. If interested, please reach out to Pastor, Marilyn or Connie.
- Vision Committee will review and analyze the results of the survey sent out to congregation members. Additional congregational information sessions will take place in March and April.
- Council Recognitions for the Month:
 - Jim Kelly for all the work on Financials
 - 4 outgoing council members: Carolyn Katt, Don Dibbern, Ron Matta, and Judy Padera
 - Colant Landscaping for plowing parking lot

Holden Evening Prayer

The beautiful, restorative Holden Evening prayer takes place by candlelight Wednesday Evenings March 3, 10, 17, 24 at 7:00pm. It is also available virtually so you can take part from your home.





Please remember the following people in your daily prayers:

Please pray for our faith community

Roger Willer
Kerry Spitznagle
Dolores Schramm
Brenda Slonek

Pray for other family and friends ...

Debi Scarpelli sends her thanks for your prayers for her friend Bev, who has passed away.

Donna Morlock, Marla Suda's mother
Lauren Fuentes- friend of Sherry Sejnost
Bill Fuentes- friend of Sherry Sejnost
Marie Seaman, friend of Caryl Schaer
Dave Shook
Marion Sletten, friend of Caryl Schaer
Dick Eggert, Bob's brother
Jaden Rhode, grandson of the Mattas
Provi Valentin, Elsy Eggert's aunt
Joyce Adams, friend of Cor Peterson
Dennis Schneider, friend of the Randas
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
Stephen Plunkett, cousin of Carolyn Katt
Jan Dubick, sister of Cor Peterson
Ryan Hart, friend 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
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

Our condolences to Jack Cranshaw at the sudden death of his father.

Military Personnel

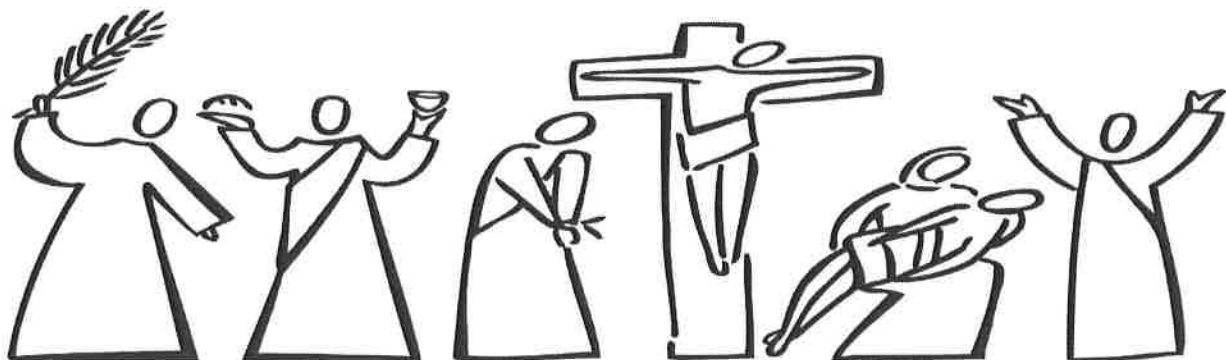
Brian Irizarry, Elsy Eggert's grand nephew
Anthony Modica, Denise's son

Sunday of the Passion- With Shouts of Hosanna we wave Palms and honor Jesus before we betray him. (March 28)

Maundy Thursday – Jesus eats with his disciples one last time and institutes Holy Communion (April 1)

Good Friday—We walk the road to Golgotha with Jesus (April 2)

The Sunday of the Resurrection-Easter The women go to the tomb expecting to find the dead Jesus—but he is alive. We bless the paschal candle, we sing Hallelujahs.



Holy Week

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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

