

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

725-75th Street - Darien, Illinois 60559

*April, 2021*

## FROM THE PASTOR

When we sit down to eat we often repeat the familiar table prayer, Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest... Actually, how blessed are we that Jesus invites us to be his guest at table. When we pray, Lord Jesus, come into my heart...actually what we truly need is just the opposite: for us to come into Jesus' heart; to be absorbed into the wisdom of God, the compassion of the savior, and the drive of the Holy Spirit. During Holy Week this is what God offers us.

On Maundy Thursday we are invited to dine with the Lord. He makes us ready for the meal by serving us, washing our feet, our hands, and anointing our heads with the oil of his love. How honored are we to sit at table with Jesus and eat of his body and drink of his blood. We are united with him. On Good Friday the compassionate savior chooses the hard way of love. The wisdom of God is revealed to us not in powerful weapons or influence, but in paradox. God turns the power structures of his world upside down. On Easter God plays his cards and in so doing brings life out of death. Truly, as we walk the way of Holy Week we are walking towards the light beyond the darkness.

When we come into the holy we cannot use God for our human goals. Instead, we are transformed by the experience of God. We are changed. We begin to see the world through holy eyes.

Today, Jesus invites you to walk with him to the table, to the cross, to the tomb, and back to life. Come join the journey of Jesus today.

*Jesus of Nazareth requests the honor  
of your presence  
at a dinner to be given in his honor.*



## Dress the Church for Easter

**Volunteers Needed!** Please consider donating some time on **Saturday, April 3 at 11:00 am** to set up the worship center for Easter Sunday worship services. Everyone is encouraged to come and help. Thank you in advance for your ministry.

## Come For Lunch

**Goods News:** The Lunch Bunch will resume its monthly luncheon meetings on April 12, 2021 at 11:30 A.M. We will be meeting at Papa Passeros Restaurant on Cass Avenue. Please contact Toni Blesy at 630-297-8330 if you plan to attend and for any questions you might have.

## God's Work, Our Hands

Continuing our dedication to the ELCA project God's Work, Our Hands, the LCW committee invites you all to join us in "*Sharing God's Love for our April*" by contacting, each week, someone you have not seen or been in touch with for some time by either calling to have a chat or writing a note to that person. Many people have been experiencing loneliness and isolation over this past year, and if we each reach out to someone every week, we will be serving, in part, God's purpose for our lives. "Please contact Connie Allekian if you have any questions or suggestions."

## From the Hospitality Committee

We had our first meeting on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. We continue to send out Pray For cards to congregation members. We welcome new members Nina Behrendt and Deanna Riha to the committee. We invite all congregation members to join us. The next Hospitality meeting is Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at noon.

## Lord of Life's Vision Team at Work

During the months of March, April and May our **Virtual Coffee Hours**, led by members of the vision team, focuses on questions we need to answer as we develop Lord of Life's Ministry Profile to prepare to call a new pastor.

Below is a summary of the first two **Virtual Coffee Hours** and a list of questions we will focus on and the dates we will discuss them. **PLEASE join us; we need your input.** Meet with us in the sanctuary or via ZOOM at 10:00 A.M.

*In response to the question discussed on March 14th  
What are the areas of activity or focus do you wish your new pastor would give special attention to during his/her first year at Lord of Life?*

A recent survey of the Lord of Life congregation has established the following elements our new pastor should focus on during his/her first year at Lord of Life. The Lord of Life congregation has suffered the loss of their beloved pastor. As a result, we are a congregation in need of healing.

To accomplish this, we are searching for a pastor who can facilitate that healing, one who will build social fellowship and community. In addition, our new pastor should be able to relate to the congregation, listen to what they say, and show compassion and respect to them and the staff. Furthermore, he/she should have an outgoing, vibrant personality and instill humor, music and attention to real world problems in his/her preaching.

In addition to a congregation that needs healing, we are a congregation whose numbers have declined, especially in the area of young families with children. As our new pastor moves through his/her first year, we want him/her to focus on membership development. And, as our membership grows, we ask him/her to build programs for our children and youth groups, especially with a focus on community service and environmental protection. Furthermore, as we slowly recover from the restrictions of the Covid 19 pandemic, we need a pastor who will resurrect the social and educational programs we had in the past and help us develop new programs, especially in the area of Bible study and outdoor and indoor fellowship.

*In response to the question discussed on 3/21  
What are the goals we want to set for Lord of Life?*

- Rebuild the Lord of Life congregation, its membership, social community, and financial strength
  - ✓ Look and act like a family again
  - ✓ Bring faith community back together
    - “Grow” the church
  - ✓ Be opened to new ideas
  - ✓ Offer programs and events to meet the interests of the various ages of the congregation.
  - ✓ Vary services offering both traditional and contemporary services
- Develop a presence in the community

The next *Virtual Coffee Hour* topics are listed below:

- **April 11<sup>th</sup>:** What is the purpose of LoL? Who is LoL and why are we here?
- **April 18:** What are LoL's gifts or resources? What are our top 3 assets? How do we use them?
- **April 25<sup>th</sup>:** What obstacles does LoL face? How will these obstacles affect obtaining our mission?
- **May 5<sup>th</sup>:** What are 3 mission priorities will assure the continuation of LoL?

### **Please join us; we need your voice and thoughts**

#### **Adoption Needed: Lord of Life Flower Gardens**

There are two flower gardens at LoL that Pastor Todd tended as part of his love for the outdoors that are in need of adoption. The larger one is to the west of the breezeway and was created by Pastor Todd as a Monarch butterfly Way Station. The smaller one is to the east of the storage shed and is a normal flower garden.

In Pastor Todd's memory it would be nice to maintain the larger one as a Monarch Way Station. This will, of course, take a bit of work, especially in learning the proper procedures for developing a Monarch Way Station, but it will become a lasting memorial. The smaller one can be maintained as a flower garden based on the gardener's vision for it.

Please let one of the "property brothers" (Art Kardatzke, Ron Motta, Bruce Danielson) know if you are interested in adopting one of these gardens. If no one agrees to adopt them, we will sadly have to replant them as normal landscaping.

#### **Help Spread the Mulch**

Come join the Boy Scouts on April 17, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. (Rain date is April 24) We will spread mulch around the church. Please bring shovels and a wheelbarrow if possible.

#### **Senior Spirits**

Senior Spirits will meet on April 15<sup>th</sup> at noon. Watch the church bulletin for details.

#### **Highlights from the March Congregation Council Meetings**

- Attendance is slowly increasing at in-person services. In addition, new visitors have attended church services. We will create more welcome bags and follow up letters to visitors.
- Receiving new members and baptism is tentatively scheduled for May 23rd

- Communion pick up will be moved to 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. on Saturdays. Communion can also be dropped off at people's home.
- COVID19 taskforce will meet to discuss future guidelines as Illinois tiers open up and we take steps forward to reopen.
- Plans for Holy Week and Easter services include adding a third service to accommodate enough room for people to worship in-person. Reservations for all Easter service are required.
- Virtual Coffee Hours will focus on the Ministry Site Profile topics. The topics to be discussed will be posted in the bulletin each week
- Pastor Carole suggested planning an Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, activity. Senior Spirits will try to plan a speaker.
- Lunch Bunch begins in April  
Boy Scout Troop 101 will use the West room on Monday evenings.
- New signage for Sunday School will go up on the front lawn of the building after Easter
- If people have pictures, they would like shared in the daily prayer emails, send them into Sheila Ruh and she can incorporate into the emails.
- Finance update - February offerings were weak, third lowest February in 10 years. 2020 PPP loan was forgiven.

#### **Easter Collections a Success**

Our dual Easter collections for people in need of food were a resounding success. \$285.00 in food based gift cards and \$50 in cash was presented to Mt. Carmel's food pantry and a van full of food items was delivered to FISH, a food pantry which serves Darien, Westmont, Woodridge, Clarendon Hills and Lisle. FISH is located in its new facility in Downers Grove Township office building and is directly attached to the new Senior Center. LoL members delivering the food items took a tour of the new facility and learned the food pantry is especially in need of items that needy folks are unable to purchase on their SNAP cards such as personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies. Perhaps LoL can help them out with these items in the future.



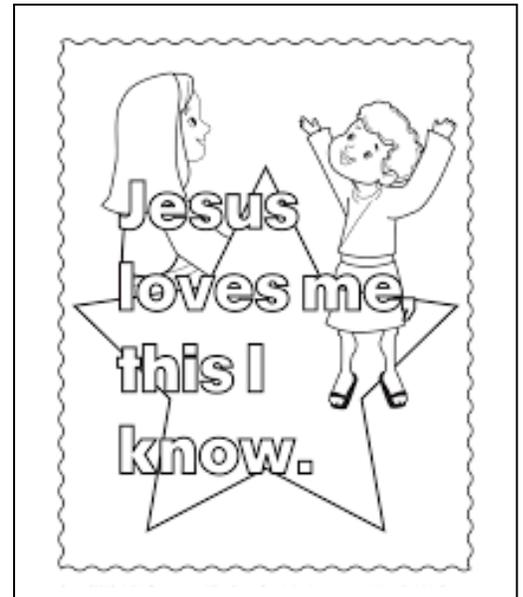
#### **Delivering Food to Fish Food Pantry**

Pictured: Judy Padera, Arlene Danielson, Sherry Sejnost, Carolyn Katt, Bobbie Sejnost \* Thank you to Judy Padera and Deanna Riha for delivering the gift cards to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel food pantry.

The 2021 council members and their liaisons for Lord of Life's committees are:

Sherry Sejnost	President
Arlene Danielson	Vice President
Stacie Plzak,	Secretary.
Art Kardatzke	Audit Committee
Stacie Plzak,	Children and Hunger
Marla Suda,	Christian Education
Sheila Ruh	Evangelism
Sherry Sejnost	Evangelism
Arlene Danielson	Finance and PPP
Debbie McNichols	Hospitality
Connie Allekian	LCW
Roberta Sejnost	NCD/Vision -
Art Kardatzke	Property
Marilynn Sells	Worship and Music
Jim Kelly	Treasurer

**Join us for Sunday School April 11—  
We are taking Easter Sunday off.**



### **Palm Sunday- Sunday of the Passion**



Unfortunately the rain and winds stopped us from blessing the Palms outside but it did not extinguish the enthusiasm on Palm Sunday. Thank you to all those who participated in the dramatic reading of the Passion.



**Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**



Please remember the following people  
in your daily prayers:

### **Please pray for our faith community**

**Cor Peterson has moved to another facility.** Her new address and direct phone is:

Providence Rehabilitation Center  
3450 Saratoga Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
(630) 324-7288

Brenda Slonek sends her thanks for your concern,  
prayers and calls.

Dolores Schramm sends her thanks for your prayers,  
cards and calls.

### **Lord of Life Community Members**

Sue Ames  
Cor Peterson  
Roger Willer  
Brenda Slonek  
Dolores Schramm

### **Our Relatives and Friends**

Jennifer Freeze, daughter of the Spitznagles  
Rosemary Balasz, friend of Caryl Schaer  
Gail and Larry Goesch, friend of Caryl Schaer  
Paul Szyszka, Mary's son  
Beverly Blake, aunt of Aimee Jimenez  
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 Eggert's brother  
Jaden Rhode, Linda and Ron Matta's grandson  
Provi Valentin, Elsy Eggert's aunt  
Joyce Adams, friend of Cor Peterson  
Dennis Schneider, friend of the Randas  
Chris H., friend of Sue Ames  
Ken and Bonly Dry, former LoL members  
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

### **Those serving in the Armed Forces**

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

### **Condolences**

to Mary Szyszka whose sister-in-law recently died.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
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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



## **Holy Week**

**Maundy Thursday- April 1 7:00pm**

**Good Friday- April 2 7:00pm**

**Saturday- April 3**

**Communion Distribution 10:30-11:30**

**Easter Worship Center Decorating 11:00am**

**Easter: The Resurrection of our Lord!!! -April 4**

Blessing of the Paschal Candle and Celebration Worship  
at **9, 10, 11**

Please call the church or email to make reservations. There will be plenty of room for everyone.

All covid 19 protocols will be in place to best ensure everyone's safety.

No Sunday School