

Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
725-75th Street - Darien, Illinois 60558

*December, 2020*

## From Pastor Carole

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Grinch stopped. He wanted to hear the noise of sorrow and loss. "And the Grinch put his hand to his ear, and he did hear a sound rising over the snow. It started in low. Then it started to grow... but the sound wasn't sad! Why, this sound sounded merry! It couldn't be so! But it WAS merry! Very! Every Who down in Who-ville, the tall and the small, was singing! Without any presents at all! He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming! IT CAME! Somehow or other, it came just the same! Maybe Christmas, he thought doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"

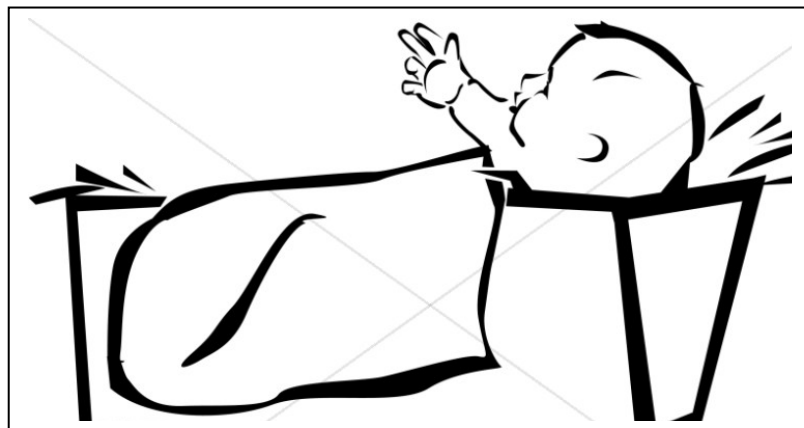
Yes! Christmas is more than stockings and packages, Christmas luncheons and parties. Because no virus or illness, this or that can stop the truth: Jesus came, Jesus is with us now, Jesus will always be!

This is the message the angels sing yesterday, today, and tomorrow. This is the message Jesus people communicate to our neighbors, to the grocery store clerks, to the cars on the road.

We Christians need to concentrate on what we have, not what we don't have. We are called to light candles against all the darkness in our world. We light them by gathering around our Advent Wreaths and by bringing light into the world in a myriad of ways. At Lord of Life we are sharing what we have by helping the women and children at the family shelter, by donating a huge bin full of hats and mittens. This December we will be gathering food together for those in need. World Hunger contributions continue and ELCA Good Gifts are a great way to give to everyone on your shopping list. I know that some of you are making contributions for other organizations. Thank God! When you do that you are pushing away the darkness.

We must push away the darkness in our hearts as well. Depression, anger and frustration are natural responses to the powerlessness we are experiencing. Your church is here for you. Reach out. We care.

He came down that we might have love, peace, hope, joy. Hallelujah forever more. In the name of the one who was, who is, who is to come, Merry Christmas.



## December Activities at Lord of Life

### Holy Communion

**pick up-** Each Saturday morning from 10 a.m to noon communion packets are available at the east entrance of the church. Each week we have something special to share to keep our spirits bright. We will be watching for you!



**Midweek Virtual Worship of Prayer and Reflection** happens Wednesdays December 2, 9,16 at 7 p.m. *Watch, Wait and Wonder!*

**Advent Devotion Books-** If you missed getting a daily devotional book to go with your Advent Wreath give the church office a call. We'll make sure you get one.



**Poinsettias** (red and white) are available to beautify the church for Christmas. The cost is \$14 dollars. Call the church office to make your order or pick up an envelope on Saturday morning during communion pick-up.

**Virtual Coffee Hours-** Each week during December join your friends for a cup of "Joe" and good conversation at 10:00 am. A Zoom link is included in your weekly email. Use this link to enjoy a time of mutual conversation. Each coffee hour has special themes:

December 6 is St. Nicholas Day. Mary Szyszka will tell us all about the famous saint. When



you pick up communion on the 5<sup>th</sup> receive chocolates. We won't even require you to pass your shoe out the car window!

December 13 is Santa Lucia Day- In honor of

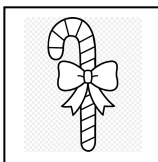
that day; we will have a Swedish Christmas tree. Nancy Malik's children Terry & Tom Carlson were kind enough to share Nancy's Swedish ornaments with us this year to adorn the Christmas tree. We are doing this in memory of



Nancy Malik & Pastor Todd who each has been a part of the Santa Lucia Festival at Lord of Life since its inception in 2010.

Our coffee hour on Zoom after service that day will be hosted by Arlene Danielson and Judy Padera. We will share memories and stories of past Santa Lucia Festivals, feature Nancy's favorite Swedish ornaments, and celebrate the hour with a favorite Swedish recipe or your own family traditions. Everyone is welcome (Valkommen). In honor of Santa Lucia, we will be distributing Swedish Gnome (Tomten) ornaments on Saturday Dec 12<sup>th</sup> when you pick up your communion packets. God Jul to all.

December 20 will focus reflections on the candy cane tradition. We also will reflect on Lord of Life-past, present and future. This discussion is part of our visioning process.



God rest you merry, ladies and gentlemen; let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day.  
To save us all from Satan's power when we had gone astray.  
Oh tidings of comfort and joy!

## The Reverse Advent Calendar

*Hunger is at an all time high. Last year at his time 5 million people expressed a need for food. Today that figure stands at over 20 million. Lord of Life's Caring Project for December is a food collection for Mt. Carmel's Food Pantry. YOU can do your part in a meaningful and fun way. Each day add an item to a box. On Christmas Eve the boxes go to the food pantry.*



**Virtual Christmas Eve Worship-** will feature music, lessons, the Word and Holy Communion. We will coordinate with the Not So Silent Night Community Singing Event

### **Virtual Christmas Morning Worship-**

Celebrate at 10 a.m.

**December 27 Virtual Service of Lessons and Carols** presented by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod



### **In Progress : Next Steps For Lord of Life**

**GOOD NEWS:** Lord of Life is moving forward in preparation for the search for a new permanent pastor. The financial audit is underway under the guidance of Art Kardatske, Aimee Jimenez, and Kerry Spitznagle

A congregational profile, based on the demographics of the Lord of Life community, is being researched by Janet Kardatzke, Sue Tomasek, Debbie McNichals and Arlene Danielson.

Bobbie Sejnost, Sheryl Sejnost and Judy Padera have completed the update of the Lord of Life constitution. Watch your mail for information on how to receive a copy of the update. And join us the January 3rd Coffee Hour for discussion. Coffee Hours will also be devoted to discussions to frame the vision statement

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been set for January 31, 2021

- November 29 – vegetable soup
- November 30- jar of jam
- December 1 -a box of cereal
- December 2 – peanut butter
- December 3- stuffing mix
- December 4-boxed potatoes
- December 5-macaroni and cheese
- December 6-canned fruit
- December 7-canned tomatoes
- December 8-canned tuna
- December 9-dessert mix
- December 10-jar of applesauce
- December 11-canned sweet potatoes
- December 12-cranberry sauce
- December 13-canned beans
- December 14-box of crackers
- December 15-package of rice
- December 16-package of oatmeal
- December 17-package of pasta
- December 18-jar of spaghetti sauce
- December 19- chicken noodle soup
- December 20- tomato soup
- December 21-can of corn
- December 22-can of mixed vegetables



## Highlights from the November Church Council Meetings

- A new church directory will be compiled.
- Virtual Coffee Hours at 10:00 A.M. each Sunday. The themes for the coffee hour are:
  - ✓ November 29<sup>th</sup> Advent wreaths
  - ✓ December 13<sup>th</sup> Santa Lucia
  - ✓ December 20<sup>th</sup> Vision for Lord of Life
  - ✓ December 27<sup>th</sup> New Year's resolutions for LoL
- January 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord of Life's Constitution update. Many thanks to Bobbie Sejnost, Judy Padera, Sherry Sejnost. The constitution will be available on line to review. A limited number of paper copies will be printed to avoid the expense.
- New member class
- The updated Constitution was approved by the Council. Coffee Hour sessions will provide input and discussion from the congregation
  - Advent Services, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day virtual services are being planned
- The Next Steps process for calling a new minister is progressing well.
- Pastor Carole kindly proposed not increasing her salary and housing allowance for next year.
- A Boy Scout will be building a collection cabinet for the narthex to collect food and other donations.
- Year-end donations, especially those submitted electronically, must be "on the books" by the last day of the year. To assure that electronic donations are processed by year's end, the last day to contribute electronically is **December 27<sup>th</sup>**

## It's Church Council Nominating Time

The time has come for the Nominating Committee to place interested candidates on the ballot to be elected to the Church Council for 2021-2023. The 2020 Lord of Life Council Nominating committee consists of Don Dibbern, Marilynn Sells, Debbie McNichols and Arlene Danielson. If you are interested in serving on Council, please contact any of the Nominating Committee members. Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings start at 7:00 PM and are limited to two to two and half hours. If the agenda items are not covered within that time frame, an additional meeting is scheduled later in the month. Council meetings are conducted in a hybrid approach in person and virtually.

## WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER???

We are updating our directory! Kathy will be reaching out to everyone to update their information in the church directory. We will include multiple telephone numbers for individuals and families with a note of the preferred number. You will also be able to indicate whether or not you want your information published. We would also like to include birthdates as it is part of the Shepherd's Staff database. Don't worry – we will not share anyone's age. Keep an eye out for the form to fill in your information.

## Something New Is Coming Our Way

Ron Matta and the Property Brothers have been working with a Boy Scout as he completes his requirements for the Eagle Scout rank. A major requirement is the completion of a major project, and to accomplish this, the Scout has designed and built an oak veneer, removable multi- shelf cabinet to house the various collections we periodically conduct at LoL. While this cabinet will not necessarily replace any existing objects used for collection means, it will look very nice in our narthex.



## Lord of Life Comes Through with Gifts for the Family Shelter

November brought the wind and rain of a Chicago winter but those at the Family Shelter will be warmer because of the generosity of Lord of Life members and friends of the congregation. The collection bin for hats, scarves, and blankets was overflowing with contributions by month's end including the donation of 20 handmade hats from a friend of the congregation. In addition, 28 gift cards were donated for the families in the shelter totaling over \$420. Thank you go out to Lord of Life from the Family Shelter who were greatly appreciative of the items when Elaine Sherman delivered them! Lord of Life has been supporting the work of the Family Shelter for many years.



## ELCA Good Gifts Give an Unexpected Gift this Year

Looking for a gift for the person with everything. Donate some chicks, or bees, or a goat to a family in need. Good Gifts provide sustainable resources for people all over the world. By going to **ELCA Good Gifts** on the internet you can choose from a variety of gifts and then choose a clever card to tell your friend about the gift you have chosen.

## 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.*"

## Senior Spirits/Lunch Bunch

Both fellowship groups are cancelled for the month of December due to the current government restrictions. Hopefully we can meet again in January.

## Hospitality Committee

Committee meetings are cancelled until the covid19 government restrictions are lifted.

## END OF THE YEAR IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **Lord of Life Committee budget requests are due to Jim Kelly by request are due by December 12<sup>th</sup>**
- **Lord of Life Committee reports are due to Kathy by January 11<sup>th</sup>**
- **In order for electronic donations be credited to 2020, offerings must be submitted by December 27<sup>th</sup>**

## 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  
Ron Matta Property  
Carolyn Katt LCW  
Pastor Carole Willer  
Jim Kelly Treasurer  
Finance Comm.



Please remember the following people in your daily prayers:

**Please pray for members**

Manny Jimenez

### Pray for other family and friends ...

Stewart Herman, friend of the Willers  
Ace Savage, Caryl Schaer's nephew  
Chris H., friend of Sue Ames  
Sue Horton, daughter of Toni Blesy  
Joseph Capozziello, son of Toni Blesy  
Former LoL members Ken and Bonly Dry  
Dick Eggert, Bob's brother  
Provi Valentin, Elsy Eggert's aunt  
Ella Jones, Eggert's friends' young child  
Gilbert, Elsy Eggert's nephew  
Gloria Valentin, Elsy Eggert's sister  
Carson, grandson of the Gullifords  
James Hazelton  
Stephen Plunkett, cousin of Carolyn Katt  
Jaden Rhode, grandson of the Mattas  
Scott Hutt, Judy Padera's brother  
Jim Gardner, friend of Cor Peterson  
Joyce Adams, friend of Cor Peterson  
Jan Dubick, sister of Cor Peterson  
Ryan Hart, friend of Cor Peterson  
Joanne Mutz, niece of Cor Peterson  
Dennis Schneider, friend of the Randas  
Marion Sletten, friend of Caryl Schaer  
Bev, friend of Debi Scarpelli  
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

**PRAY FOR OUR**  
**★★★★★**  
**MILITARY**

Brian Irizarry, Elsy Eggert's grand nephew  
Dalia Wenckus

Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
725 75<sup>th</sup> 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

## ***December, 2020***

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