

Pastor Letter

Advent Greetings Lord of Life!

We are now in the new year of the church calendar, sometimes called the *liturgical calendar*. The liturgical calendar is broken up into different seasons. Each season is a different length of time and has a different color associated with it. The color for Advent is blue. In the past, you may have seen purple used instead of blue. Both purple and blue are used to represent Jesus's royalty. However, blue has recently become more prominent in order to distinguish it from Lent, which is also purple. Blue reminds us of the colder, darker nights we experience in the northern hemisphere. It also implies a connection to the darkness of the sea before creation from which all things were created and the parallel to the waters and darkness of Mary's womb from which our savior was born.

Advent is a time of watching and waiting as we anxiously wait for our coming savior. With Christmas just around the corner and snow flurries in the air, it is easy to get caught up in our excitement and forget that Advent also challenges us to remember all those who are suffering, those for whom Jesus came to set free. For those who go without, Christmas can emphasize the things they lack, like warm clothes, food and housing. Christmas can also be difficult for those who are separated from the ones they love because of tension, estrangements, or abuse, or because they are ill and in the hospital, or because their loved ones have died. The holidays can be a chaotic and complicated time, full of a variety of emotions.

This is exactly the type of world in which Jesus was born. Mary was an unwed mother, carrying a baby that didn't belong to the man to whom she was engaged. She was forced to travel while pregnant because the occupying Roman Empire wanted to take a census. Then, after having just given birth, she was forced to flee to Egypt with Joseph and her newborn to avoid a new law ordering the death of all infants. Jesus entered the world as an infant during a very scary and harrowing time.

No matter how messy, frightening, or depressing our lives are, Jesus is right there coming to us amidst it all. The Christmas story is a testimony to how Jesus comes to us not in the peaceful, joyful times of our lives but amidst all the confusion and stress. There is nothing in our lives that can keep God from wanting to be right there with us.

As your pastor, I pray that God will grant you a peace that surpasses understanding during the stress filled holidays. I ask God to comfort those who are celebrating alone or separated from their loved ones. As we watch and wait for Jesus to come to us now in this time of Advent and again in glory when he establishes his kingdom upon the Earth, I hope you are able to feel the love and eagerness of a God who would give up Heaven in order to be our Emmanuel, “God with us.”

Blessings

Pastor Adam

ORDINATION



Pastor Adam and his spouse **Pastor Elle** will be ordained at Lord of Life Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 4th, at 3pm. For members of Lord of Life who wish together and watch the livestream together, Lord of Life will be hosting a viewing party

in the fellowship hall at 3pm December 4th. **Pastor Adam** will be able to visit shortly after the ceremony is complete.

"We are thankful for the support of all our friends, family, colleagues, and congregations. In an ideal world we would be able to accommodate and celebrate with everyone who wants to be present. Given current concerns around Covid and physical capacity limits of the church, we ask that you join us online on Lord of Life's Facebook or Youtube."

-Pastors Adam and Elle

Livestreams

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChBKCNIJwVKj3wciuE4Jxw>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LordofLifeDarien>

Our God's Work Our Hands Projects Continue to Prosper



FISH

A big THANK YOU to all who supported our Thanksgiving Food for FISH collection! **Carolyn Katt, Judy Padera and Sherry Sejnost** delivered 204 lbs. of food to the FISH pantry on Sunday, November 21st. Lord of Life folks added to a Happy Thanksgiving for those in need

Mothers and Children at the Family Shelter.

Many thanks to all at Lord of Life who have so generously given gifts for the mothers and children at the Family Shelter. The Sharing of God's Love that you have shown is so very much appreciated by the Shelter staff, and the LCW extends our sincere gratitude for your kindness.

Mt. Carmel Food Pantry

The God's Work Our Hands Project for December is Gift Cards for Mt. Carmel Food Pantry. They are requesting gift cards from Jewel, Mariano's, Aldi's, Pete's, Walmart or Target. They can also use canned goods such as vegetables, fruit etc. Thank you in advance for your donations. Questions? Contact **Marilynn Sells**.

Keep the Winter Winds Away: Warm up with LoL Friends

Senior Spirits



Our active Senior Spirits group is gathering again on Thursday December 16th at 12 noon. We will have a gift card exchange so please bring a \$10.00 gift card from a local grocery store or fast food restaurant. We have been given the okay to resume our Pot Luck luncheon so please bring a dish to share and your own drink. We are all looking forward to celebrating Christmas. Questions? Contact **Marilynn Sells**

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is meeting on **Tuesday, December 14th at 11:30**. This month the group is going to the **3 Corners** at 7231` Lemont Road in Darien. If you want to attend, please **RSVP to Don Dibbern (630) 323-1239**. Everyone is welcome.



Decorating the Church for Christmas:

Please save Sunday, December 5 after the 11:00 service to help decorate the church for Christmas.

Come join us and help decorate the trees and church to celebrate the birth of Jesus. And, an added treat is you will enjoy hot chocolate, light snacks, and warm fellowship with your Lord of Life family.

Sad New: Santa Lucia is Cancelled



The Santa Lucia committee met to review the results of the Santa Lucia survey and would like to thank those who replied. The committee discussed the estimated attendance, options for smorgasbord/desserts, and the effort required to conduct the program and serve food. With the limited people estimated to attend and the limited number of volunteers, the committee voted and decided not to hold Santa Lucia program and smorgasbord this year. We look forward to Santa Lucia next year!

ELCA Ministries: A Christmas Shopping Opportunity



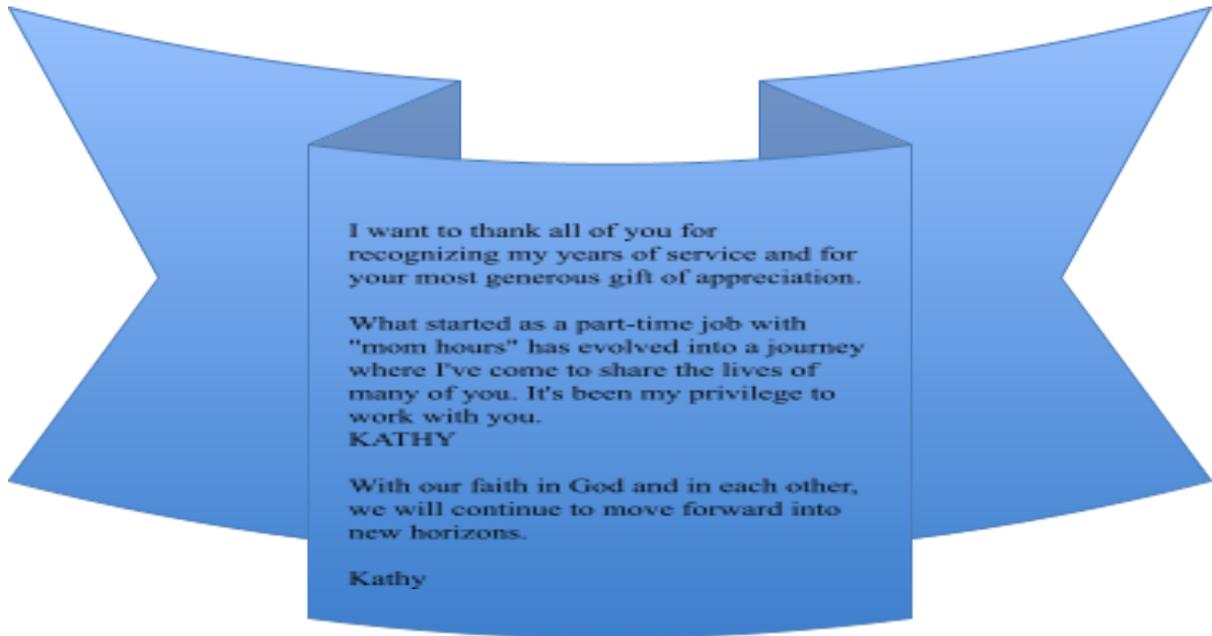
ELCA Good Gifts provide support to those in need and can help you with your Christmas shopping. ***ELCA Good Gifts*** is your opportunity to provide support to the ministries while sharing the support as a gift to someone you love.

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options starting at just \$10, that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives all the while providing direct support for the church wide ministries of the ELCA. Some examples of these gifts are honey bees, chicks, goats, mosquito nets, pig, water filter, etc. The process is simple. You can choose a gift, get a card to send/give to someone, but the real gift is helping others in need through ELCA ministries. See the ELCA website for more details. <https://goodgifts.elca.org/christmas>

We Love Your Photos!

We need pictures and artwork for our daily Bible reading and prayers. Please share your photos with us at lordoflifechurchdarien@gmail.com

20 years of Service and a Thank You From Your Church Secretary



Calling all Sunday School Aged Children!!

Wrap up 2021 by joining us at 10: A.M. on December 5th, 12th and 19th for Sunday School. All children are welcome ages Kindergarten and older.

Did You Know?

Pastor Adam holds a **Lectionary Bible Study and Prayer** on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. at Lord of Life? Join him!

A **Family GAME NIGHT** with fellowship and pizza will be held on Friday, December 10th at the church at 6:00 P.M. in the West Room. Join Us!

S'Mores and Fellowship

Lord of Life members had a chance to savor a fall favorite. Gathered around Pastor Adam's portable fire



pit, S'mores were roasted and conversations, recollections and prayers were shared.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE LOL MEMBERS

December 3 Brenda S.
December 5 Bruce D.
December 8 Art K.
December 10 Raymond S.
December 15 Paul R.
December 17 Ray S.

Poinsettias

We are selling poinsettias: red or white, \$14.00 each, orders are due in the church office by December 16. Envelopes are on the table in the narthex.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Worship attendance continues to grow. LoL has reached 65 in-person attendance.
- Pastor Adam will travel to Sierra Leone from January 3rd – 21st, missing two Sundays and will locate fill-ins for those two Sundays.
- Pastor Adam will hold a Family Game Night on December 10th.
- On recommendation of the Worship committee, Council voted that no service would be held on Christmas Day. Pastor Adam will conduct an online, pre-recorded service that will be posted for viewing on Christmas Day.
- A new banner will be hung facing 75th Street introducing Pastor Adam as the new pastor of Lord of Life.
- Since the current copier contract is up, a new contract has been secured for a copier that will print color, staple, fold and collate.
- Pastor Todd's family has approved use of his memorial funds to purchase a new media system (Yolo video system) for live streaming. This new system will tremendously improve the quality of the video and sound of the recorded services.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday January 30th. Committees are working to prepare reports to be turned into Kathy.
- October donations were outstanding and are the highest in the last 10 years. Balance sheets remain strong, and there is no long-term debt. Deficit is below what it has been at the end of ten months in the last 10 years.
- Bids are out for landscaping (after 2021) and snow removal (After 2021/2022) for next three years
- Side pews will be placed back in Sanctuary for Pastor Adams ordination.

HVAC maintenance will be performed by Perfect Home Services on November 18, 2021

Merry Christmas

**ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE
WEDNESDAYS AT 11AM & 7PM
DECEMBER 1ST TO 22ND**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
530PM & 1100PM**

Midweek Advent Services will be a musical prayer service - Holden Evening Prayer.

Also join us for Bible study at 10am and 6pm
Wednesdays during Advent: December 1st - 22nd.
