



725 W. 75TH STREET DARIEN, IL 60561

Dear Lord of Life,

We are fast approaching the end of Epiphany, a season celebrating the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world as the Son of God. It is a time to reflect on the many ways in which Christ reveals himself to us, through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. God has felt so present with us at Lord of Life in the people in our vibrant ministries and events like Feed My Starving Children, family bingo night, and Senior Spirits.

Also, during this season, we remember the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus, bringing gifts and recognizing him as the King of Kings. I feel as if we were right there with Wise Men bringing our tithes and offerings displayed by the monumental giving we had during December.

Lastly, the season of Epiphany reminds us that Christ came to bring hope to a troubled world and to offer salvation to all people, regardless of their background or status. Let us continue to seek and follow the footsteps of Christ, and to share the good news of his love with those around us in our Darin, Willowbrook, and surrounding communities.

As we approach the end of the season of Epiphany and the start of the season of Lent, we take time to reflect on the meaning of Shrove Tuesday. Celebrated on February 21st this year, it is also known as Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday marks the last day of feasting and revelry before the start of the 40-day period of fasting and self-reflection during Lent.

In the Lutheran tradition, Shrove Tuesday is a day to confess our sins and receive absolution from our Lord. It is a reminder of our human frailty and the need for constant repentance and



renewal in our faith. By examining our hearts and confessing our sins, we are made aware of the grace and forgiveness that is offered to us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. How can we use this Lenten season to reflect on areas where we have grown apathetic in our commitments and rededicate ourselves to the Lord through taking on a discipline that encourages our spiritual growth?

As we move from the season of Epiphany to the season of Lent, let us remember that our Lord's love and grace are always present in our lives, guiding us on our journey of faith. May we use the 40 days of Lent to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, fasting, and acts of service to others.

May the hope of Christ sustain you on your journey,

Pastor Adam

Shrove Tuesday

On Tuesday, February 21, 2023, the LCW will sponsor a Shrove Tuesday Sloppy Joe dinner. We hope all of you can join us for a celebration before the beginning of Lent. There is a signup sheet on the table by the east Sanctuary door so please sign up so we will know how many people to plan for. There will be a social period from 6-6:30 p.m. and we will begin serving the food at 6:30 p.m. It is a wonderful time for us to enjoy the fellowship of our church members, so mark your calendars for the Shrove Tuesday Slppy Joe night.



Paint with Pastor

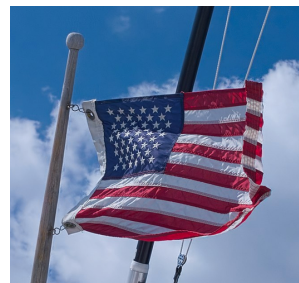
Friday, February 10th, at 6:00 pm sign up to paint with Pastor Adam. He will go step by step in having you create your own painting to take home. You need to sign up for this event. Space is limited.



Lunch Bunch

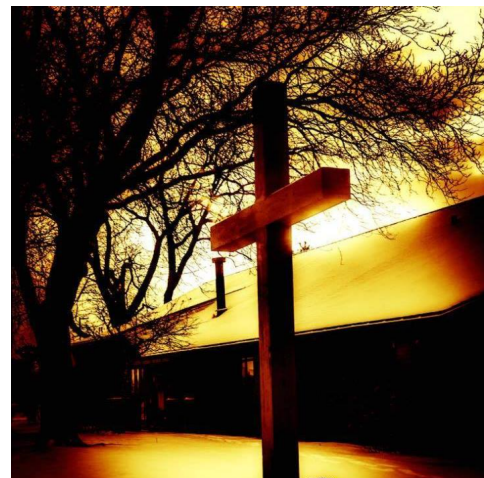
In February, we will meet at Steven's Restaurant, 2393 63rd St. Woodridge, on Tuesday, February 14th, at 11:30 am. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Marilyn Sells at 630-927-9996.

Senior Spirits



On February 16th, Seniors will meet at noon for Potluck luncheon please bring a dish to share and Dennis Breier from Modell's will be there to

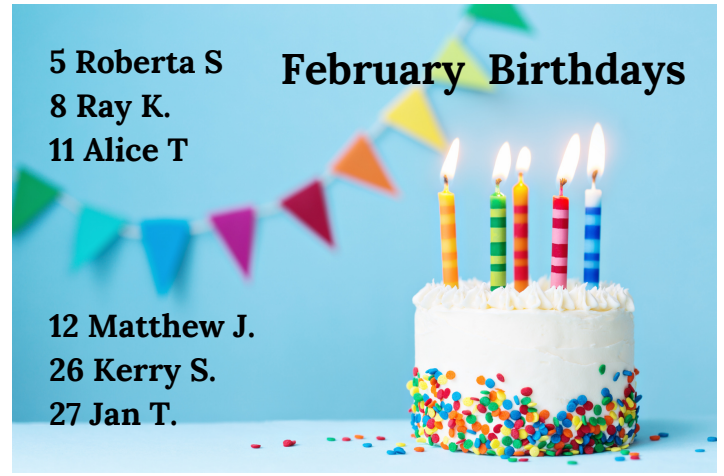
give a presentation on Old Glory. Everyone is welcome! If you have questions please feel free to contact Marilyn at 630-927-9996.



Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. **Romans 12:12**



The Comfort dogs will be at Lord of Life on Sunday, February 12th, from 9:30 to 12:30. We will have a free will offering and a refreshment table provided by hospitality.



February Birthdays
 5 Roberta S
 8 Ray K.
 11 Alice T
 12 Matthew J.
 26 Kerry S.
 27 Jan T.

Feed My Starving Children



On Saturday, April 22nd, from 4:30 pm to 6:15 pm, LoL has a set time to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children. We will be hand-packing rice, soy, dried vegetables and a nutritionally complete blend of vitamins and minerals into bags which are then sealed, boxed, placed on pallets and shipped to reach the neediest children around the world. We can meet at the church and carpool together. You can register online at <http://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=4WV8EY> or you can sign up at church or by calling the church office at 630-323-3161.

Adopt a Plot

Spring will be here before you know it. Lord of Life needs some help maintaining the garden spaces around the church this year. We have a lawn service for the grass, but the shrubs and garden space is taken care of entirely by volunteers. This ministry enhances our building's exterior and provides a cheery welcome to visitors. If you are interested please talk with Judy Padera or Arlene Danielson. Thanks again for your hard work to make our grounds beautiful.



The Church Council would like to thank Marilyn Sells for all her work with organizing Senior Spirits and bringing the comfort dogs to Lord of Life.

We would also like to thank Amiee Jimenez, Stacie Plzak and Marla Suda for all the hard work and dedication with Sunday School



LCW – The LCW met on Friday, January 6, 2023, to discuss plans for the year. The group decided to go forward with a plan for a Shrove Tuesday Sloppy Joe dinner on February 21, 2023. A Shrove Tuesday planning meeting will be held on Sunday January 22, 23023 at 11 a.m. to finalize plans for the dinner. It was decided to have a signup sheet for church members to sign up so that the committee will know how many people to plan for. In further discussion, it was suggested that we plan for a Salad Supper in the spring and a picnic in the fall.

Worship and Music Committee –

- The Worship and Music Committee met on January 11th.
- There will be two services on Ash Wednesday one in the morning and another in the evening! Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday will have one service. Holden Evening will be held during Lent.
- Discussion was held about having the Outdoors Service on Wednesday evening during the from May to September.
- There will be a meeting following service on February 5th to discuss ushering. Everyone is invited to attend if you are interested in ushering.
- Next Meeting is set for February 8th at 11:30.

RIC – Due to the holidays, no meeting was held in December. In January Andy Buda joined the committee. The committee continued to discuss the book Rescuing Jesus: How People of Color, Women, and Queer Christians are Reclaiming Evangelicalism focusing on the chapter regarding Racial Awareness. Further considerations of the committee will focus on visiting churches to become familiar with how people of color, and queer Christians worship and developing a message that welcomes and affirms all people in regard to their gender expression, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

Finance – December donations were, in a word, phenomenal. The \$66,506 total is highest December not only in the last ten years, but in the last 20 years by just under \$14,000. more than doubling a very good 2021 (\$32,878) by \$33,628 and exceeding a very good 2020 (\$35,717) by \$30,789. December expenses (\$17,281) were lower than 2021 by \$871 and higher than 2020 by \$2,203. December operations generated a \$49,225 surplus. The year-to-date deficit was eliminated, and the year ended with a \$306 surplus. Given the exceptional deficit that was overcome, the results are truly remarkable. At the end of twelve months, 100.00% of the year, 95.6% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 95.6% were highly seasonal. As in prior years the percent expended is several percent lower than the completed portion of the year. Donations through December recorded in Shepherd's Staff agree in total and by fund with the financial records. No pass-through funds are overdrawn. Six on-line donations totaling \$788 were received by the last counters report date (12/30/22). There were no Thrivent donations (YTD there have been 3 Thrivent donations totaling \$222). The balance sheet remains strong. There is no long-term debt. Total assets have increased by \$1,404 since 12/31/21. The increase is due to Capital Improvement donations more than offsetting resurfacing the parking lot and the Ministry Fund operational surplus.

Property

- The new water cooler has been received and installation is in progress. The old water cooler has been removed and the rough-in work for the new water cooler is in progress.
- The bench made from recycled plastic bags has been received and assembled by Pastor Adam. It will be installed by the playground as soon as a secure location is determined by the property committee.
- Work on the audio/visual system in the Sanctuary continues. To date the new ethernet line has been temporarily connected to the present location of the A/V desk at the southeast side of the Sanctuary. The remaining work includes moving the A/V desk to its new location and running the camera feeds to the desk. When completed we will have cameras located in the northeast and southeast corners of the Sanctuary.
- A new 85" high-definition TV has been purchased for the Sanctuary to be installed on the wall behind the lectern. Installation planning will begin the morning of January 23rd.
- The Seventh Day Adventist congregation has purchased new wireless microphones to be used in the Sanctuary.
- Karl Obien has joined the Lord of life Property Committee.

Council Highlights

- Bingo night was a success, we had 38 attend and a good time was had by all. In addition, good will offering raised \$150
- Attendance is averaging around 46 in-person on Sundays
- Pastor Adam will be hosting a Paint with Pastor event. More details to come.
- April 16th will hold a viewing of Jesus Christ Superstar as the service. We will have a viewing of the original version of the movie and will only serve communion.
- Council approved the 2023 budget to be submitted for the annual meeting
- Ushering Training – Scheduled for February 5th after the service
- Comfort Dogs coming to visit February 12th
- Feed My Starving Children 4/22/2023 4:30 to 6:15
- Lent Services are in the works of planning

Pictures Throughout the Month



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13**



2023 Council Members

Connie Allekian
 Arlene Danielson
 Elsy Eggert
 Art Kardatzke
 Ron Mata
 Debbie McNichols
 Judy Padera
 Elanie Sherman
 Roberta Sejnost
 Sherry Sejnost
 Marilynn Sells
 Alice Tangora
 Pastor Adam

February 2023

SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED Feb 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 11am Annual Meeting 2pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4pm RIC Meeting 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 11am Christian Educa 11am Ushering Trainir 2pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 7pm Troop 56 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 6pm Paint with Pastor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA 12:30pm SDA Lunchet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 11am Christian Educa 2pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Lunch Bunch 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Senior Spirits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 11am Christian Educa 2pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 6pm Shrove Tuesday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Ash Wednesday 10am Bible Study 11:15am Hymn Select 2 more 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA 6pm SDA Church Towl
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 11am Christian Educa 2pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 7pm Church Council 7pm Troop 56 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 7pm Holden Evening F 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA