



725 W. 75TH STREET DARIEN, IL 60561

Dear Beloved Community,

Christ is risen—Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!

After a season of deep reflection, honest questions, and sacred gatherings, we have arrived on the other side of the cross. But Easter is not the end of the story—it's a new beginning.

Throughout Lent, we walked together through honest conversations about mortality and meaning. We prayed, studied, and worshiped as people seeking to live with devotion and purpose. In Holy Week, we gathered around a shared table on Maundy Thursday and stood beneath the cross on Good Friday—not to rush past suffering, but to face it with Jesus.

Now, the tomb is empty. And something in us has been changed.

This Easter season, we are invited to live as resurrection people:

People who see signs of life where others see despair.

People who walk with open hands and hearts.

People who believe that love can rise, even from the ashes.

The season of Easter lasts for fifty days—not just as a calendar detail, but as a spiritual truth: resurrection takes time. It unfolds. It surprises. It invites us, again and again, into a deeper trust that God is not done with us yet.

So let's keep showing up. Let's keep listening, growing, and loving boldly. New life is already blooming—in our worship, in our ministries, and in our relationships with one another.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I'm so grateful for the ways you show up with courage, tenderness, and hope.

In resurrection joy,

Pastor Adam



Lunch Bunch



We will meet at 3 Corners, 7231 Lemont Road, Downers Grove, on **Tuesday, May 13th, at 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Sandy Waechter at 630-853-2437. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

Happy Birthday

May 2 Penny S.
May 3 Susan R.
May 9th Janet K.
May 11 Francesco C.
May 12 Dan B.
May 15 James E.
May 18 Rene B.
May 19 Wendy A.



Easter Meal Boxes

This Easter season the Children and Hunger Committee will again be organizing Lord of Life's participation in the holiday meal program with Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish (OLMC). Please sign up and then bring to LoL specific grocery items. The sign-up sheets will be available through Sunday, April 6. We plan to fill four large and four medium sized boxes. We will include canned or fresh hams in all the boxes. **ONE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS:** Because OLMC will distribute the meals on the day before Palm Sunday rather than on that Sunday, we will pack the boxes that Friday instead of on Saturday. Please bring all items to Lord of Life by Friday, April 11, no later than 11:00 AM. If you would like to pack the meal boxes, please join us at 10:00 AM on that same Friday. Thank you very much for your generosity and your help.

Senior Spirits

Senior Spirits met on Thursday April 17th. We had a representative from the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County! She provided us with updated information on the Willowbrook Wildlife Refuge! The area and surrounding buildings have all been renovated and expanded to accommodate more creators in need of medical attention! The new facility isn't open but should be opening soon! The members very generously brought in much needed supplies and we sent Jeanine home with a car full of supplies!

The next meeting for Senior Spirits is on Thursday May 22nd (one week later than usual) at noon! Officer Dave from the Darien Police K-9 Unit is coming to give us information on what our K-9 Police Officer duties are! Our K-9 officer will also attend! We will have are usual Potluck!

At June's Meeting we will collect dues (still \$15.00) and have Pizza!

Everyone is welcome!

If you have any questions or suggestions for a speaker please feel free to contact me!

Marilynn Sells
630-927-9996

AED Training

AED training empowers individuals to save lives by teaching how to use Automated External Defibrillators. It's a crucial skill that can mean the difference between life and death during cardiac emergencies. Let's spread the knowledge and confidence to act swiftly and effectively. If you are interested, we will meet on the West Room on May 20th at 6:00 pm.

Thank You

The Lord of Life Council would like to recognize our members for their commitment to volunteering as an inspiration to us all. Thank you for your tireless efforts in making our church a welcoming community and a vibrant place. Your service is invaluable and makes a significant difference.

Arlene Danielson and Judy Padera for the organization of the closet off the kitchen.

Rosita Yao and Sue Tomaszek for the beautiful music at the Holden Service. The Lord of Life Singers hymn at Palm Sunday Service.

Pastor Adam for all the time and energies that made celebrating Holy Week's time for reflection, prayer, and remembering the Paschal Mystery, the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Cougar's Game

It is All Faith's Night at the Kane County Cougars on July 25th at 6:30 pm. Pastor will have his July event at the baseball stadium. Tickets at \$12.00 for reserved seats, at the end of the game there will be post game fireworks and you are able to run the bases. If you are interested please let Sherry know.

Over 50 years

Celebrating over 50 years of faith, love, and dedication—our deepest gratitude goes to the families who have been the cornerstone of our church community for generations. Your steadfast presence and unwavering support have enriched our shared journey in faith. Thank you for being a testament to the enduring power of family and devotion.

Not Pictures:

Margie C. 11/12/1972

Janet H. 11/10/1975

Elaine S. 1/9/1972



Member for 53 Years

Sue R. 2/9/1975



Member for 50 Years

Art and Janet K 4/13/1975



Member for 50 Years

Set-up Medical ID on Your Cell Phone

Open the Health app: Locate and open the Health app on your **iPhone**.

Access Medical ID: Tap your profile picture in the top right corner of the screen, then tap Medical ID.

Edit Information: Tap "Edit" in the top right corner.

Add Medical Information: Enter details like your name, date of birth, allergies, medical conditions, medications, blood type, and organ donor status.

Add Emergency Contacts: Add your emergency contacts by tapping "Add Emergency Contact" and entering their name and phone number.

Enable "Show When Locked": Ensure the "Show When Locked" option is turned on so that your Medical ID is accessible from the lock screen, even when your phone is locked.

Tap Done: Once you've entered all the necessary information, tap "Done".

To set up a medical alert on your **Android phone**, you'll typically use the **Settings app**, **navigating to sections related to emergency information or safety settings**. You can then add your medical information, including allergies, medications, and blood type, and designate emergency contacts. Some phones also offer the option to display this information on the lock screen, making it readily accessible in an emergency.

Committee Report

Evangelism

Two brochure holders were mounted on the glass above the plastic bag bins at both entrances for the current issue of the postcard. Anyone stopping at the church will be able to see what services and activities are currently on our agenda. Easter postcards were labeled and stamped. (They were dropped in the postal box later that day.)

Ash Wednesday postcards were passed out at Sunday services on March 23 and 30 . Thanks to Linda and Connie for offering to do that before I left on vacation. We will continue to pass cards out on Sundays but will change from after service to entering the sanctuary, timewise. Marilynn commented that ushers should be able to do that along with the service bulletins. Those Sundays will be April 6 and 13. (Currently, there are 78 names on the postcard mail list; any new names can easily be added.)

Easter cards were available for pickup on the voter's treat table on Tuesday, April 1.

Pastor will prepare our "Summer" postcard after Easter and we will mail it in early May. Sunday Services at 10 am will be the first item of that calendar. It will especially highlight the Wednesday evening services, 4th of July parade, Darien Fest plus whatever else we foresee that will fit with space limits - Kane County Cougar game is a possibility for example.

We spoke about our involvement in the July 4th parade. Entrance papers should be filed early for participation so hopefully we can be placed closer to beginning versus being towards the end which certainly involved a lot of "wait time" last year. We will order 500 glow sticks which will need to be assembled for distribution by the "church walkers"; we can easily take some home to assemble while watching TV in the evening. Sherry, Arlene and Pastor were the committee last year and hopefully will be able to do that again this year plus anyone else who would be able to volunteer. Also hoping that those who did walk alongside the Jeep vehicles will be available plus others to personally pass out the glow sticks along the parade route.- Janet Kardatzke

Finance:

March donations were weak. The \$13,375 total is the fourth lowest March in the last ten years, trailing a good 2024 (\$15,693) by \$2,319 and an outstanding 2023 (\$22,157) by \$8,782. March expenses (\$20,713) were higher than 2024 by \$1,260 and higher than

2023 by \$1,268. March operations generated a \$7,343 deficit. The year-to-date deficit increased to \$28,647, the deficit is the highest at the end of three months in the last twenty-five years

At the end of three months, 25.00% of the year, 25.1% of the budget was spent. Most categories that exceeded 25.1% were highly seasonal. However, it should be noted that in prior years the percent expended has been several percent lower than the completed portion of the year.

Donations through March recorded in Shepherd's Staff agree in total and by fund with the financial records.

No pass-through funds are overdrawn. Seventeen on-line donations totaling \$1,189.62 were received by the last counters report date (03/31/25). There was one Thrivent donation totaling \$22. (YTD there have been 3 Thrivent donation totaling \$301).

The balance sheet remains strong. There is no long term debt. Total assets have decreased by \$30,938 since 12/31/24. The decrease is due to the operational deficit and the Gathering Place project. - James T. Kelly Treasurer

LCW

The Shrove Tuesday dinner was held on March 4th at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall we had about 32 people in attendance this year.

The committee as well as congregation members met in February and planned the Shrove Tuesday dinner. There was a sign-up sheet where everyone signed up for a dish to bring. Of course we had sloppy joes as well as many different dishes and delicious desserts. We all had fun decorating the fellowship hall with the Mardi Gras theme.

This year Pastor Adam asked everyone to write down" something that is holding us back" and to reflect on this during the Lenten season, then they were put into the fire along with the palms for next day's Ash Wednesday.

It was a wonderful evening of fellowship and enjoying the meal, before entering the period of Lent. Respectfully submitted Judy Padera

Worship and Music

Judy gave an update on Altar Guild and indicated that everything is ready for Holy Week and Easter Day services!

Pastor Adam is planning some changes to the Maundy Thursday Service! The Service would still include Readings, Foot washing, Communion and Stripping of the Altar. Pastor would like to set up tables in the center of the Sanctuary in the shape of a cross and everyone would sit around the tables and would receive Communion at the tables! Volunteers would be needed that afternoon to help set up! More information to follow!

Marilynn is going to meet with the Ushers to go over the protocol for ushering! The Banners and Paraments will be changed for Easter Sunday!

The next meeting will be on May 28th at 11:30. - Respectfully submitted Marilynn Sells

Council Highlights

Pastor's Report

- Reflections on the Lenten series "Being Mortal" and a suggestion to resume the book club post-Easter.
- Holy Week service updates:
- Maundy Thursday to focus more on communion; stripping of the altar moved to Good Friday.
- Good Friday service to begin with the stripping altar for tone-setting.
- Easter Sunday and Holy Saturday preparations underway.
- Positive feedback on seed planting activity—seeds are sprouting, will consider repeating next year.
- Palm Sunday service feedback noted; future change to have people seated while palms are waved during the procession.
- Worship attendance is rising with Easter approaching.

Upcoming Events

- **Bingo & Music Night:** Scheduled for Thursday, May 8.
- **Kane County Cougars Game:** Scheduled for July 25.
- **Paint with Pastor:** Scheduled for September 12.
- **Willis Tower Outing:** Planned for June 4; estimated cost ~\$40/person including parking.
- **Wednesday Evening Services:** Will continue through summer with adjusted dates.

Reports & Updates

- **Easter Baskets:** Assembled and delivered successfully. Positive connection made with Father Jeff from Our Lady of Mount Carmel.
- **Holden Evening Services:** Well-received; encouraged more attendance.
- **Adopt-a-Plot:** Approved for Arlene to continue coordinating summer garden upkeep.
- **Mulch & Grounds Work:** Meeting to be scheduled (April 23 or 25) for planning. Need volunteer support for mulch spreading.
- **Primary Election Welcome Table:** Positive community feedback; will continue tradition.

Old Business

- **Audit Committee:** Seeking volunteers. Committee may conduct a simplified audit this year. Initial planning group: Ray, Wendy, Marilyn, Linda.
- **Safe Deposit Box, Asset Review, Room Inventory:** Postponed until after Easter.
- **Funeral Policy:** Revised and approved. Pastor honorarium set at \$250.

New Business

- **Sanctuary Tables:** Proposal presented for new wall-mounted welcome/sign-up tables. Finalized dimensions and mock-up to be shared at next meeting.
- **Kitchen Closet:** Thanks to Arlene and Judy for cleaning and organizing. Tupperware and supplies now properly stored.
- **Plaque for Recognition:** Pastor Adam will design a wooden plaque with engraved names using library tools.

Financial Discussion

- Offering patterns discussed; many congregants give monthly or annually. Suggestions made to promote mid-year giving to ease year-end pressure.
- Council discussed the possibility of adjusting fiscal year in the future.

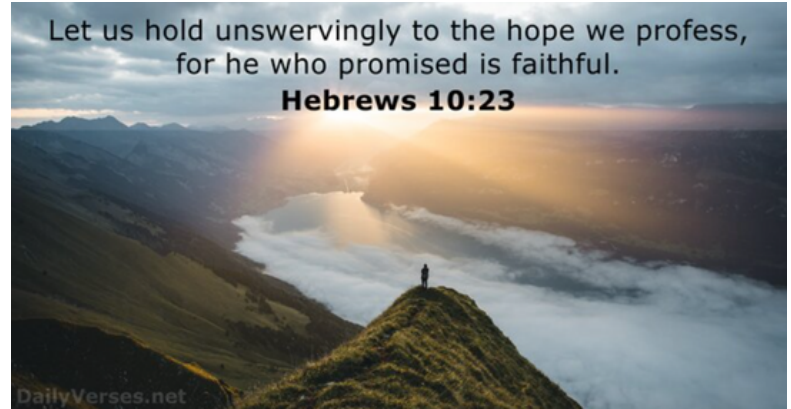
May

SUN 27	MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU May 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Jesus Christ Su 10am Worship Service 12pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30pm Adopt A Plot 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Dance Academy 	<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 Daughter's Day 12pm Loving Word Ser 	Cinco de Mayo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Property Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Dance Academy 6:30pm Bingo and Mu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA
Mother's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 12pm 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 6:30pm Outdoor Wors 7pm AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Senior Spirits 5pm Dance Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA 12:30pm SDA Lunche
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Worship Service 12pm Loving Word Ser 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 7pm Church Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 7pm AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Dance Academy 	<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 12pm Loving Word Ser 	Memorial Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:15pm OA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Bible Study 11:30am Worship and 7pm AA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Dance Academy 	Chicago Metro Synod <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Card Group 	Chicago Metro Synod <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am SDA



2025 Council Members

- Marilyn Sells - President, Personnel, Worship and Music
- Ron Matta - Vice President, Personnel
- Linda Glover- Secretary
- Jim Kelly - Treasurer
- Connie Allekian - Evangelism, Stewardship
- Wendy Amurao
- Marlene Carlson - RIC
- Elsy Eggert - Children and Hunger
- Art Kardatzke - Property Committee
- Ray Kozak
- Debbie McNichols - Hospitality
- Judy Padera - LCW
- Alice Tangorra - Hospitality
- Pastor Adam



Month in Video



"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