

Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church June 28, 2026 Pride Sunday



As faith communities in a society that is becoming less affirming and inclusive of anyone who is marginalized, for Pride in 2026 we step up as allies, collaborators, and co-conspirators in the proclamation of the Gospel of an inclusive love for all God's beloveds. Our resistance can make time and space for lamenting, for reclaiming our foundation, for sharing our joy, and building up our courage. We need all of those pieces in our lives and worship during this season of our church's life.

Welcome: Lord of Life Lutheran Church's long-standing credo is "We share God's Love".

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

Worship: *Communion:* All are welcome to share in Holy Communion. Individual packets available near the entrance to the worship center.

Passing of the Peace: It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

Physical Distancing: It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

Children Welcome: Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kids bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

PRELUDE

Gathering

Land Acknowledgement

We, the congregation of Lord of Life Lutheran Church acknowledge and honor the Peoria, Bodwéwadmi (Potawatomi), Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Kaskaskia, and Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo) peoples, upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship this morning, as well as all of our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place - this land - and call it their home.

We gather to honor the Creator, and all creation—human, animal, plant, water, wind, earth, and sky—that belong to God.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose love knows no boundaries,
whose mercy endures forever,
and whose welcome never fails.

Amen.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Loving God,
**we confess that we have not always welcomed as you welcome.
We have drawn lines where you have built bridges.
We have judged where you have shown mercy.
We have excluded where you have gathered.**

**We have failed to recognize your image
in people who are different from us.
We have been slow to listen,
slow to learn,
and slow to love.
Forgive us.
Turn us again toward your heart.
Teach us to see one another as beloved,
and help us rejoice in the diversity of your creation.
For the sake of Jesus Christ,
who welcomes us home again and again.**

Hear the good news:
The God who formed you, knows you,
and calls you beloved does not turn away from you.
In Jesus Christ,
every barrier is broken down, every sin is forgiven,
and every child of God has a place.
Therefore, I proclaim to you the forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

All Are Welcome

ELW 641

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: Refrain

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: Refrain

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: Refrain

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: Refrain

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
and also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Beauty, you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Help us move on from lament to build a foundation out of your loving kindness and justice. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

All are seated

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 56:3-8

This is one of the most radical inclusion texts in scripture. It explicitly welcomes eunuchs—one of the groups often discussed by queer theologians as gender-nonconforming people in the ancient world—and foreigners into God's covenant.

³ Do not let the foreigner joined to the LORD say,
“The LORD will surely separate me from his people,”
and do not let the eunuch say,
“I am just a dry tree.”

⁴ For thus says the LORD:

To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,
⁵ I will give, in my house and within my walls,
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.
⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—
⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 139:1-18

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
² **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**
³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

- 4 Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.**
- 5 You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.**
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**
- 7 Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?**
- 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
10 even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**
- 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,”
12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**
- 13 For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.**
- 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.**
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**
- 16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.**
- 17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!**
- 18 I try to count them—they are more than the sand;**

I come to the end—I am still with you.

Second Reading: Galatians 3:23-29

This is one of Paul's most radical statements of inclusion. In Christ, the identities that separated people—Jew and Greek (ethnicity and nationality), slave and free (social status and class), male and female (gender)—no longer determine who belongs. Our identity is rooted first in God's grace and our baptism into Christ.

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands as they are comfortable

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
 crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Alleluia. There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; **for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.** *Alleluia.* (*Galatians 3:28*)

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 15:11-32

The holy Gospel according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹ Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of

your hired hands.”¹⁹ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Elle Dowd

(Leave Blank)

HYMN OF THE DAY Testify To Love

Ty Herndon + Michael Passons (Feat. Melissa Greene)

Response to the Word

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

All are seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Gathered by the Holy Spirit and clothed in Christ through baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, we pray for the Whole Church and the mission we share, for our Christian LGBTQIA+ siblings around the globe and at home who are persecuted by their country or denomination. You have called and equipped our LGBTQIA+ community for extraordinary ministry. Transform all places into ones of affirmation and celebration where people may flourish boldly as their truest selves. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for Creation, for dolphins and gender-bending sea horses, for king penguins, blue tailed day geckos and baboons, for the rainbow as your sign of promise in the sky, and for all the other ways your queerness is reflected in nature.
receive our prayer.

We pray for our nation and those in authority, for an end to homo/bi/trans phobia in our legislators and legislation and an end to legal discrimination against our community in housing and employment. We pray for fully funded social services and trans-affirming healthcare, and for comprehensive sexual education to be available to people of all genders and orientations. We pray for justice in our streets, in our homes, in our churches. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are in need - for LGBTQIA+ youth rejected by their families, for those in our community who are trapped in

cycles of poverty or homelessness, for those who suffer from addiction or mental illness, and for all the survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, state violence, or any kind of trauma. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, surround us with your healing presence and all who are sick, grieving, lonely, or struggling this day. We remember especially Leeann, Jenna, Art, Vernetta, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, and Gale. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Guiding God, bless us, people of Lord of Life, as we prepare for our congregational meeting. Grant us wisdom, humility, and trust in your Spirit. Help us listen well to one another and seek not our own will, but your vision for this congregation and its ministry in the years ahead. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray in gratitude for faithful LGBTQIA+ people throughout history - for David and Jonathan, Ruth and Naomi, for the beloved disciple, for Perpetua and Felicity, and for our new Bishop Elect - Rev. Erik Christensen.

We remember also the martyrs of our LGBTQIA+ ancestors - the gender and sexual minorities targeted and killed in the the Holocaust, the victims of church and government neglect during the United States AIDS crisis, Matthew Shepard, the victims of the Pulse Massacre, and the trans women of color killed on our streets and in our prisons and detention centers.

May their examples make our path clearer, may their memories be a blessing, may their spirits spur us on towards a better tomorrow.

Into your hands, loving God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “Peace be with you.” If you have your phone available, text a word of peace to someone who is worshiping alone.

OFFERING AND PRAYER

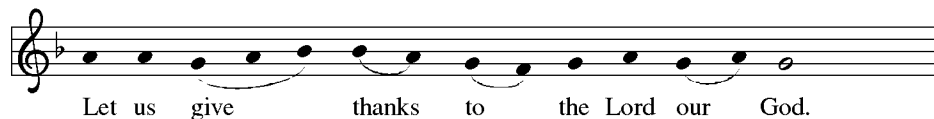
The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and
your creation provides us with an abundance of what we need.
May our gifts of all kinds and
our labor contribute to the building of a blessed community
which welcomes all people,
that sees all people,
and that works for justice for all people.
Amen.**

Meal

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.



PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER...

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us “*Sing*” the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

COMMUNION

All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.

We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundant grace,
at this table you have welcomed us, fed us, forgiven us,
and reminded us who we are.
Send us now into the world
to share the love we have received,
to welcome as we have been welcomed,
to celebrate the gifts of every person,
and to bear witness to your boundless mercy.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
who welcomes us home again and again.
Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

May the Lord,
who formed you in love,
know you completely,
and calls you beloved,
bless you and keep you.

May Jesus Christ,
who welcomes the lost,
seeks the forgotten,

and gathers all people to his table,
shine on you with grace and mercy,

May the Holy Spirit
give you courage to love boldly,
hope generously,
and joyfully bear witness
to God's boundless mercy,
look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.
Amen

SENDING HYMN

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,

you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. Refrain

3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. Refrain

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. Refrain

DISMISSAL

Go forth with courage, loving God and serving neighbors.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

We thank you for your ministry here today:

Presiding Minister

Preaching Minister

Assisting Minister

Lector

Pastor Adam Dowd

The Rev. Dr. Elle Dowd

Kellie Kerfin

Alex Kerfin

Organist
Guitarist
Greeters
Ushers
Acolyte
Video

Rosita Yao
Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd
Marlene Carlson
Marilynn Sells and Debbie McNichols
Judy Padera
Roberta Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost

Announcements

6-28-2026

Wine and Candles this month are provided by **Debbie McNichols** in memory of her husband **Randy**.

Flowers today are provided by **Trish Oldham** in honor of **Lori Oldham-Krezel's birthday** and **Pride Sunday**.

Congregational Meeting Today, after service, we will be having a congregational meeting to vote on whether Lord of Life Church will officially become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation.

4th of July Parade Our church is proud to be part of this year's 250th Independence Day celebration and we need you to make it special! If you would like to volunteer to walk or ride in the parade and represent our community, please join us in the Jewel parking lot at 8:15 am.

Lunch Bunch We will meet at Stevens, 2393 63rd Street, Woodridge on **Tuesday, July 14th at 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Elaine Sherman at 708-638-2642. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

Senior Spirits We will not meet in July. The next meeting will be August 20, 2026 with the usual potluck.

Last Week's Giving – \$4345.00

Electronic Donation for the month of May - \$1124.62

THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday	6/28	Happy Pride Sunday	
		10:00 AM	Worship
		11:00 AM	Congregational Meeting
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Tuesday	6/30	5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
		6:30 PM	Darien Arts Council
Wednesday	7/1	10:00 AM	Bible Study
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Friday	7/3	9:30 AM	Cards
Saturday	7/4	8:15 AM	4th of July Parade
		9:00 AM	SDA
Sunday	7/5	10:00 AM	Worship
		12:00 PM	Loving Word