LifeLines

The newsletter of Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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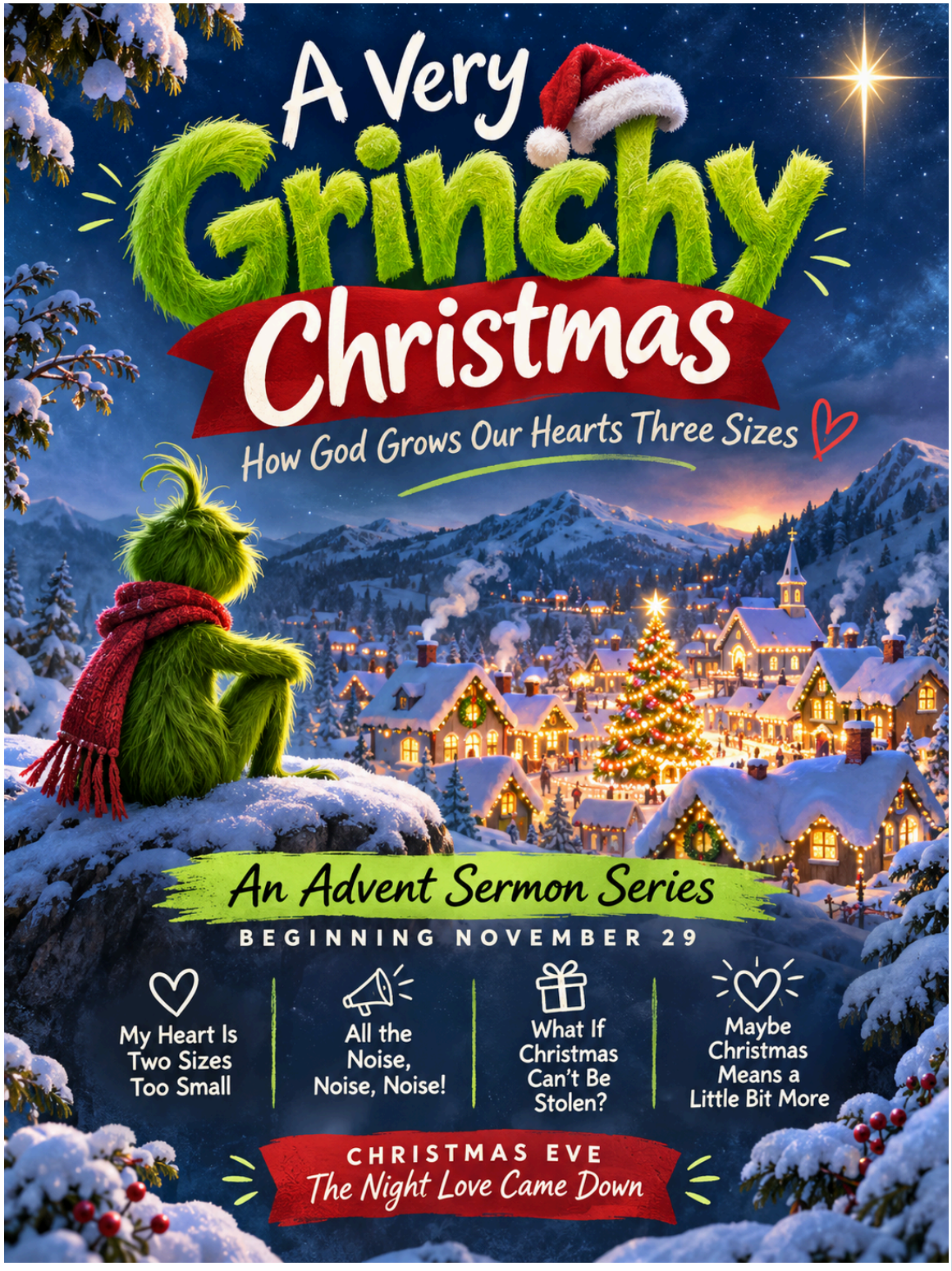
DECEMBER 2026 EDITION



SERVING YOU AT LORD OF LIFE

STAFF

Rev. Chip Lutz
- Pastor

Angie Wollschlager
- Church Administrator

Connie Wittmus
- Administrative Assistant

Sue Quever
- Parish Nurse

Claudia Murillo
- Bookkeeper

Karel Suchy
- Music Director

Ian Clyne
- Contemporary Keyboardist

Nancy Cerminara
- Custodian

CHURCH COUNCIL

Matt Ley
- President

Kathy Cooper
- Vice President

Ralph McCarthy
- Treasurer

Tanya Brady
- Secretary

Russ Brewer

Lynn Kancian

Gary Kovacs

- Members-at-large

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday
10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

visit our website
www.lordoflifekenosha.org

Like Us On facebook
www.facebook.com/LordofLifeKenosha

We are led by love and inspired by grace to serve.

Pastor's Message

"QUIT THAT SINGING!" is what my dad yelled at my brother and me after we had been sent to our room for knocking over our twelve-foot-tall Christmas tree. We immediately stopped because we didn't want to feel the wrath of our father and, well, Christmas was only a few days away, and we wanted to get presents.

At the time, it seemed like a Christmas catastrophe. Today, it's one of those childhood memories that makes me chuckle. I couldn't tell you what presents I received that Christmas, but I can certainly tell you about the year the Christmas tree came crashing down!

Isn't it funny how some of our biggest frustrations eventually become some of our favorite stories?

As we enter December, many of us are already putting unnecessary pressure on ourselves to create the perfect Christmas. We want the house decorated, the cookies baked, the presents wrapped, the family getting along, and everything looking like it belongs in a Hallmark movie. Unfortunately, most of us live somewhere between a Hallmark movie and a National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. Things are going to go wrong. When things do go wrong, I encourage you to take a moment, smile, and say to yourself, "This will make a good story one day."

More importantly, give yourself a little grace. In 2 Corinthians 12:9, God reminds us, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."*

Notice that God doesn't say His grace is sufficient only when we have everything together. Grace meets us precisely where we are—in our weakness, our weariness, our mistakes, and even amid the wreckage of a twelve-foot Christmas tree.

The beauty of Christmas is that God didn't wait for the world to get everything right before sending Jesus. Christ entered a messy, complicated, imperfect world. There was no beautifully decorated nursery, no carefully coordinated welcoming committee, and certainly no Pinterest-worthy birth announcement. Yet, in the middle of all that imperfection, God's perfect love showed up. And that same love shows up for us today.

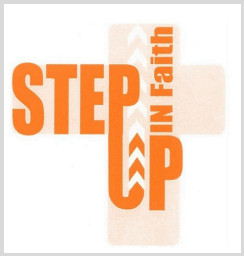
So, this December, give yourself permission to be human. Laugh a little more. Worry a little less. Extend grace to those around you, and don't forget to extend some to the person looking back at you in the mirror.

Christmas isn't about creating the perfect experience. It's about celebrating the perfect love of a God who comes to us in the midst of our imperfect lives.

May your December be filled with more presence than pressure, more laughter than frustration, and more grace than guilt. And when things inevitably go sideways, remember: you might just be making your next favorite Christmas memory.

Merry Christmas and God's blessings,
Pastor Chip

What's Happening?





As we approach the end of the year, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a year-end gift to our *Step Up in Faith* mortgage debt reduction initiative. Every gift, no matter the size, helps reduce our mortgage debt and allows us to dedicate more of our financial resources to ministry, outreach, and serving our community.

Together, we can build a stronger financial foundation and create even more opportunities to share God's love for generations to come. Thank you for your continued generosity, faithful stewardship, and commitment to the mission and ministry of Lord of Life.



POINSETTIA ORDERS

$15.00 each

See the weekly email for ordering information.

Orders must be in by Sunday, December 13th.





Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Led by love and inspired by grace to serve.

ELCA OUTREACH CENTER

Cleaning & Organizing

at the ELCA Outreach Center

Saturdays,
January 9th &
February 20th, 2027

9:00 a.m. – Noon

The center serves approximately 100 people in the Kenosha community DAILY, which makes it very difficult to keep up with sorting, cleaning and organizing.

If you can spare three hours on Saturday, January 9th and or February 20th, we are trying to organize a small army to help out from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. The center will not be open to guests, which will allow us to really roll up our sleeves to help out. All skill levels are welcome and this is an excellent opportunity for young people to earn service hours.

We need you, so please mark your calendars and plan to join us. Contact Kathy Miller or Julie Chase with any questions.

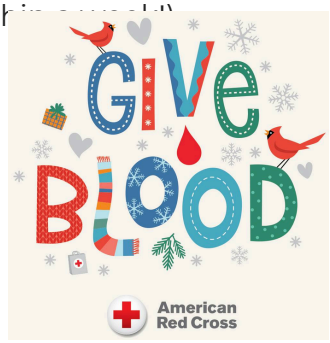
Join Our Upcoming Blood Drive at Lord of Life

Thursday, December 17th from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Help Us Reach Our Goal of Collecting 60 Lifesaving Donations!

Want to make a real difference in just one hour? Donate blood and you'll be giving someone a second chance at life. **Here's why you should donate:**

- Find out your blood type (first-time donors will get their results with
- Enjoy free snacks after your donation
- Save more than one life with just one donation



Eligibility:

- You must be in good health and feeling well
- You must be at least 16 years old in most states
- You must weigh at least 110 lbs

Special December Thank-You Gift!
Gift a gift get a gift. All presenting donors 12/7-12/17 will receive a $20 e-gift card from a selection of merchants. (Instructions on how to redeem the gift card will be emailed to the address listed on the presenting donor's American Red Cross donor profile approximately thirty days after attempted donation.)

Ready to sign up?
Visit www.redcrossblood.org, enter zip code 53144 in the "Find a Drive" box in the upper right hand corner and choose Lord of Life from the list on the left. You can also call 1-800-733-2767 for assistance with making an appointment.

Let's make a difference together. Donate blood, save lives, and inspire gratitude this December.

Shalom,
Nurse Sue, R.N., F.C.N. Aurora Faith and Health Team



Birthdays

1 Aidan Vogel, Alyssa Vogel, Nathan Retzlaff
3 Jim Nelsen
4 Laura Craemer Rasch, Nadine Winker, Eugene Capelli, Shannon Martin
6 Cliff Lundstrom, Elizabeth Simmons
7 Gale Haldeman, Deanna Hawlish, Kyra Kolaske
8 Joey Hawlish, Caleb Mayerak
9 Bill Dorst, Nick Terrell, Norah Dishno
10 Jonah Sens, Rachel Taft, Mallory Arnold
12 Neva Hileman
14 Jake Wikstrom, Vinnie Gardina, Andrew Pavilonis
15 Sherry Sinnen
18 Debbie Kaarto
20 Shirley Hauck, Chris Jeserig
21 Bailey Berger, Jill Jeserig
22 David Maedke, Sarah Kancian, Gio Bilotta
23 Jeff Deinhammer
24 Collin Fowler, Jeff Williams
25 Janae Plunkett
26 Rob Walden
27 Stella Dunn
28 Ally Larson, Rick Musselman
29 Jen Miller, Jennifer Arnold
31 Nick McCoy, Cathy Rutkowski, Parker Jeserig, Jeff Dishno

Anniversaries

December 5
Jeff Williams & Candace Isetts-Williams

December 6
Marty & Tracy Pavilonis

December 13
Bill & Julie Remiker

December 30
Brad & Kathy Cooper





Stay connected! Life changes quickly, and we don't want to lose touch with you. If you've recently updated your phone number, moved to a new address,or started using a new email, please let the church office know. Keeping your information current means you'll never miss what'shappening in our church family! Send any updates to office@lordoflifekenosha.org or call the office at (262)656-1995.

Saturday & Christmas Eve Volunteers

Saturday Worship Services		
December 5th	**December 12th**	**December 19th**
Usher/Greeter		
Steve & Patsy Kolner	Tammy Skendziel	**OPEN**
Lesson Reader		
Amanda Maedke	**OPEN**	**OPEN**
Communion Wine Server		
OPEN	**OPEN**	**OPEN**
Communion Bread		
OPEN	**OPEN**	**Beth Files**
Altar Care		
Carrie Anderson	Tammy Skendziel	**OPEN**
SCRIP sales		
OPEN	**OPEN**	**OPEN**
A/V		
Audrey Maedke	Ralph McCarthy	**OPEN**

Christmas Eve Worship		
2:00 p.m.	**4:00 p.m.**	**9:00 p.m.**
Usher/Greeter		
Kim Sly & Gary Kovacs	Russ & Becky Brewer	Kim Sly & Gary Kovacs
Lesson Reader		
OPEN	Pam Leonard	**OPEN**
Communion Wine Server		
OPEN	Pam Leonard, Gary Kovacs	**OPEN**
Communion Bread Server		
OPEN	**OPEN**	**OPEN**
Communion Bread		
OPEN	**OPEN**	**OPEN**
Altar Care		
Kim Sly & Gary Kovacs	Kim Sly & Gary Kovacs	**OPEN**
A/V		
OPEN	**OPEN**	**OPEN**



To sign up to volunteer, visit https://lordoflifekenosha.org/serve

Sunday Volunteers

December 6th	December 13th	December 20th	December 27th
Usher/Greeter			
Norma & Cliff Lundstrom	Kim Sly & Gary Kovacs	Russ & Becky Brewer	Kim Sly & Gary Kovacs
Lesson Reader			
Margie Breckenfeld	Becky Brewer	Beth Files	OPEN
Communion Wine (2)/Bread Servers			
Kim Sly, Gary Kovacs (wine) **1 Needed (bread)**	Norma & Cliff Lundstrom (wine) **1 Needed (bread)**	Pam Leonard (Wine) **1 needed (wine)** Beth Files (bread)	Kathy Miller (Wine) **1 Needed (wine)** **1 Needed (bread)**
Altar Care			
OPEN	Kathy Miller	**OPEN**	Kathy Miller
Coffee Hour Host			
OPEN	**OPEN**	Beth Files	**OPEN**
SCRIP sales			
Kim Sly	Kim Sly	Becky Brewer	Kim Sly
Communion Bread			
OPEN	Kathy Miller	Beth Files	Kathy Miller
A/V			
Angie Wollschlager	Angie Wollschlager	**OPEN**	**OPEN**

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December



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Our Harmony Club	2 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia	3 7:00 p.m. AA	4 **11:15 a.m.** Peanut Butter & Jesus @ Outreach Center	5 **5:00 p.m.** Contemporary Worship
6 **9:00 a.m.** Worship & Sunday School **10:00 a.m.** Coffee Fellowship **10:15 a.m.** Confirmation	7 **7:00 p.m.** Adult Confirmation	8 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Our Harmony Club **7:00 p.m.** Council Meeting	9 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia	10 7:00 p.m. AA	11 **11:15 a.m.** Peanut Butter & Jesus @ Outreach Center	12 **5:00 p.m.** Contemporary Worship
13 **9:00 a.m.** Worship & Sunday School **10:00 a.m.** Coffee Fellowship **10:15 a.m.** Confirmation **3:45 p.m.** Community Meal	14	15 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Our Harmony Club	16 **12:00 p.m.** Ladies of Lydia **6:30 p.m.** Choir Rehearsal	17 **1:00 p.m.** American Red Cross Blood Drive **7:00 p.m.** AA	18 **11:15 a.m.** Peanut Butter & Jesus @ Outreach Center	19 **8:00 a.m.** Men's Bible Study **5:00 p.m.** Contemporary Worship
20 **8:00 a.m.** Choir Rehearsal **9:00 a.m.** Worship & Sunday School Christmas Program **10:00 a.m.** Coffee Fellowship **10:15 a.m.** Confirmation	21	22 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Our Harmony Club	23 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia	24 **2:00, 4:00 & 9:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Worship **7:00 p.m.** AA	25 **Merry Christmas**	 **December 26**
27 **9:00 a.m.** Worship **10:00 a.m.** Coffee Fellowship	28	29	30 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia	31		 **January 2, 2027**

Ministry of the Month



come serve with us

PB&J at the ELCA Outreach Center
Fridays at 11:15 a.m.
6218 26th Avenue
Join us to serve pizza & a short Bible study

Community Meal
Sunday, December 13th at 3:45 p.m.
Living Faith Lutheran Church
2915 Wright Ave, Racine.
Help assemble and distribute 130+ meals.

This month we will be collecting monetary donations to support our food outreach ministries. These donations are used for the pizza served along with a Bible study on Fridays at the Outreach Center (about $88 per week) as well as to cover supplies and any food items not donated for the monthly Community Meal.

Please indicate "Food Ministries" on any donations made online or in the offering basket. Your continued support of these important ministries is greatly appreciated!





Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
Led by love and inspired by grace to serve.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.