

December 2024

# LIFELINES

*The monthly newsletter of Lord of Life Lutheran Church*

5601 Washington Rd. • Kenosha, WI 53144

E-mail Address: [office@lordoflifekenosha.org](mailto:office@lordoflifekenosha.org)

Phone: (262) 656-1995



ADVENT SERMON SERIES

## *Peace in the Pressure*

-  **WEEK ONE: HOPE IN THE OVERWHELM**
-  **WEEK TWO: LOVE IN THE LONELINESS**
-  **WEEK THREE: JOY IN THE CHAOS**
-  **WEEK FOUR: PEACE IN THE PRESSURE**

### **SERVING YOU AT LORD OF LIFE**

**Rev. Chip Lutz**

- Pastor

**Angie Wollschlager**

- Church Administrator

**Connie Wittmus**

- Admin. Assistant

**Sue Quever**

- Parish Nurse

**Claudia Murillo**

- Bookkeeper

**Kerry Bieneman**

- Music Director

**Nancy Cerminara**

- Custodian

### **Church Council**

**Russ Brewer**

- President

**Matt Ley**

- Vice President

**Ralph McCarthy**

- Treasurer

**Lori Vogel**

- Secretary

**Tanya Brady**

**Julie Chase**

**Lynn Kancian**

- Members-at-large

### **Office Hours**

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



[www.facebook.com/  
LordofLifeKenosha](http://www.facebook.com/LordofLifeKenosha)

## *O Come Let Us Adore Him*

Christmas Eve Worship at Lord of Life

2:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m. Pajama Service

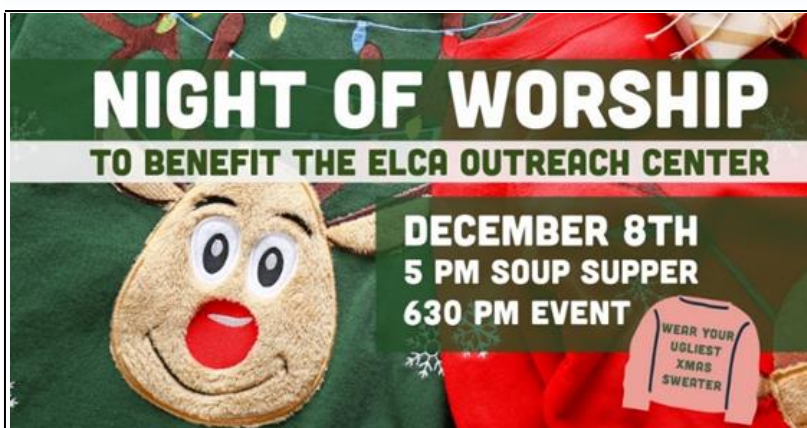
Communion & our favorite Christmas  
hymns at all three services.



**Please note that there will be no contemporary  
evening worship service on Saturday, Dec. 28th.**

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





Hosted by Lord of Life Lutheran Church



**The goal of Safe Zone training is:**

- ◆ Increase awareness & knowledge of gender and sexuality
- ◆ Learn how to be a better ally
- ◆ Examine prejudice, assumptions, and privilege
- ◆ Promote awareness and education on the needs & concerns of sexual and gender minorities

**SAFE ZONE**

Inclusion training for LGBTQIA+ allies

Monday December 9th  
Church opened: 5:30-8pm  
Training Time: 6-7:30pm  
4600 60th Street  
Kenosha, WI  
53144  
Contact Cal - 414-215-0451



*No need to RSVP – just show up! Spirit Alive shares space with Wesley United Methodist Church: 4600 60th St.*

## Blue Christmas Service

A Service of Lament and Hope of Reaching Toward the Light

**Tuesday, December 17th**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Presented by the Kenosha ELCA churches

**Hosted by**  
**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
**8760 37th Ave., Kenosha**



PB&J at the ELCA Outreach Center  
**Fridays at 11:30 a.m.**

6218 26th Avenue

Join us to serve pizza & a short Bible study led by Pastor Chip.



Community Meal

**Sunday, December 8 at 3:45 p.m.**

Living Faith Lutheran Church  
2915 Wright Ave, Racine.

Help assemble and distribute 120+ meals.



**Lord of Life Lutheran Church**  
**Blood Drive**

5601 Washington Rd  
Kenosha

**Thursday, December 19, 2024**  
**1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

For an appointment  
call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)  
or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org)



Siblings in Christ,

As the Advent season unfolds, we find ourselves surrounded by reminders of joy, hope, and peace—the very promises of God through the coming of Jesus Christ. Yet, for many of us, this season also brings a unique set of pressures: full calendars, financial concerns, the expectations of family and friends, and the persistent desire to make everything "perfect."

If you're feeling weighed down instead of lifted up, please know this: you are not alone. Even during this sacred time, it is natural to feel overwhelmed. But God, in His infinite love, invites us to approach this season differently.

### 1. Rest in God's Presence

Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11:28-30 is as relevant today as it was when He first spoke it: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* This Advent, make space to sit quietly with God. A simple prayer, a moment of gratitude, or even a deep breath while reflecting on His promises can be a balm to your soul.

### 2. Embrace Simplicity

The first Christmas was marked by simplicity: a stable, a manger, a newborn King. Often, our stress comes from trying to do too much or striving for perfection. What would it look like to focus on what truly matters—relationships, worship, and acts of kindness—and let go of the rest?

### 3. Share Your Burdens

God created us to live in community, to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). If stress feels overwhelming, reach out to a trusted friend, family member, or one of your church leaders. You don't have to carry the weight alone.

### 4. Remember the Promise of Emmanuel

Advent reminds us of the greatest truth: God is with us. Emmanuel. In every moment of stress, He is there, offering His peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:6-7). Fix your eyes on Him, and let His presence guide you through the challenges of this season.

Finally, let us walk together as a church family through this Advent journey. Whether through worship, fellowship, or service, let's be a source of encouragement to one another.

May this Advent bring you not just moments of joy but the abiding peace of knowing you are deeply loved by God.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Chip*





November 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes**Pastor's report:**

- Felt having the Veteran's Day Service on Friday worked well, attendance was increased. He would like anyone who sees Steve Casey - please thank him for sponsoring the lunch. In addition, please thank Bill Chase for preparing it!
- Both the Community Meal and PBJ are going well. PBJ has had less volunteers, but feels that this is understandable given that it is on Friday's at lunch time. He would like to continue this into the New Year, but needs to figure out funding. In addition, he would like to find new lead for the Community Meal.
- *Funding Forward* is the book that Pastor Chip would like Council to read. An offsite workshop is being planned to go over the book and how we can put things into practice.
- Time & Talent sheets were distributed but Pastor Chip reported that the response was "mediocre". However, he felt that good responses for things that are sometimes hard to fill (like light maintenance, and finance / audits).
- We've had quite a few visitors from Carthage College recently. He'd like us to continue to welcome them to LoL!
- Would like to see a women's bible study get started and has done some "asks" to lead one, but has not had any takers. Please let Pastor Chip know if you have any ideas of candidates.

**Church Administrator's report:**

- Craft and Vendor Fair (November 8, 2024) Results: \$845 - Registrations, \$246 - Raffles, \$179 - Concessions, \$109 - Angie's booth sales, \$1,067 - Bake Sale, TOTAL - \$2,446. Last year we raised \$1,551 - so an \$895 increase. Decent success, but this event is a LOT of work!
- Angie has obtained 3 new snow removal quotes, but all were significantly more than what we've been paying, even with our current vendor slightly increasing costs for the upcoming season. So, no change will be made to the provider.

**Treasurer's report:**

Still trending in the right direction and bank accounts are in good standing.

**Stewardship report:**

- 69 intent cards were returned for a total of \$242,324 committed.
- \$64,012 in Simply Giving that did NOT return their cards and have not requested a change. This would bring our total commitment at this point to \$306,336 for 2025.
- There are 64 Giving Units to contact still that have contributed in the past and have not turned in a card yet for 2025.
- The Stewardship Committee is looking forward to 2025 and adding in a campaign to reduce the building debt.

## OCTOBER 2024 FINANCIALS

Funds on Hand

Cash on Hand - General Fund	\$	35,088.92
Savings Acct - Temp Reg Cash	\$	22,344.15
Savings Acct - Restricted	\$	40,283.52
<b>Total Savings Acct</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>62,627.67</b>

Restricted Accounts

MEMORIAL FUND	\$7,688.35
PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY	\$483.79
WOMEN'S TEA	\$758.77
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP	\$552.85
YOUTH FUND	\$8,574.59
KINGFISH GAME	\$(210.00)
HIGH FIVERS	\$169.01
RESTRICTED GIVING 23-25	\$20,000.00
COLLECTIONS FOR OTHERS	\$1,081.93
FOOD OUTREACH	\$1,184.23
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$40,283.52</b>

Scrip Account	\$5,128.71
Scrip Card Inventory	\$22,490.00

**LIABILITIES**

Credit Card Balance	\$123.13
Payroll Withholdings	\$(110.87)
Mortgage Balance	\$1,042,119.46
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,042,131.72</b>

**YTD Income - YTD Expenses**

YTD Income	\$341,494.97
YTD Expenses	\$318,561.94
YTD Revenue	\$22,933.03

MEMBERS GIVING YTD  
\$43,334.45 OVER BUDGET

TOTAL EXPENSES YTD  
\$12,288.04 OVER BUDGET

ELCA Benevolence Paid \$8,333.30

For a more detailed financial report including line by line income and expenses please contact the Church Treasurer, Claudia Murillo, at [treasurer@lordoflifekenosha.org](mailto:treasurer@lordoflifekenosha.org). Thank you!



**December 5**  
Jeff Williams &  
Candace Isetts-Williams

**December 6**  
Marty & Tracy Pavidonis



**December 13**  
Bill & Julie Remiker

**December 30**  
Brad & Kathy Cooper

- 1** Aidan Vogel, Alyssa Vogel,  
Nathan Retzlaff
- 3** Jim Nelsen
- 4** Nadine Winker, Eugene Capelli,  
Laura Craemer Rasch, Shannon Martin
- 6** Diane Schaeffer, Cliff Lundstrom,
- 7** Gale Haldeman, Deanna Hawlish
- 8** Joey Hawlish, Caleb Mayerak
- 9** Bill Dorst, Nick Terrell, Norah Dishno
- 10** Kyle Young, Jonah Sens, Rachel Taft,  
Mallory Arnold
- 12** Neva Hileman
- 14** Jake Wikstrom, Vinnie Gardina,  
Andrew Pavidonis



- 15** Sherry Sinnen
- 18** Debbie Kaarto, Kay Leslie,
- 20** Shirley Hauck, Chris Jeserig,  
Mary Schroeder, Easton Williams
- 21** Bailey Berger, Jill Jeserig
- 22** David Maedke, Sarah Kancian,  
Gio Bilotta
- 23** Jeff Deinhammer
- 24** Collin Fowler, Jeff Williams,
- 25** Janae Plunkett
- 28** Ally Larson, Rick Musselman,
- 29** Jen Miller, Jennifer Arnold
- 30** Jim Cimfel
- 31** Nick McCoy, Cathy Rutkowski,  
Parker Jeserig, Jeff Dishno



**This year we have welcomed the following new members to Lord of Life:**

Pat Westimayer  
Janet & Norman Hermann  
Patricia & Richard Bushey  
Sharon Hernandez  
Christ Bahr  
Amarjit Bedi

*We are blessed to have them as part of our faith family!*



Please don't forget to notify us of any change to your personal information; email address, home address, or telephone number. If any of your information has changed, please contact the church office; [office@lordoflifekenosha.org](mailto:office@lordoflifekenosha.org) or (262) 656-1995.

Please also notify us if you notice your anniversary or birthday is not appearing in the newsletter.



## 2025 brings the 40th anniversary of Lord of Life!

We're working on a celebration to commemorate this milestone, and leading up to it we will share some history each month in our newsletter.

## Lord of Life may open for homeless

AUGUST 9, 1991

A neighborhood meeting will be held Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5601 Washington Road, to discuss a proposal for the homeless to stay at the facility one night a week.

The congregation voted overwhelmingly to participate in the Interfaith Network Shelter program, church officials said.

Under the plan, seven different churches would host the homeless one night a week during the fall and winter. Organizers said the number of homeless in Kenosha continues

to increase dramatically.

The Emergency Family Shelter at the Shalom Center of the Interfaith Network, 1713 62nd St., constantly is at capacity, organizers said. The center has spent about \$57,000 this year to house other homeless persons in costly hotels, motels, and rooming and boarding houses.

The church still needs to be rezoned and needs a permit to operate the program. The city Plan Commission Thursday night deferred action on rezoning the property until the neighborhood meeting was held.



Lord of Life was one of the initial sites for the Shalom Center's INNS (Interfaith Nightly Network Shelter) program. We were the only church that participated for the full 26 years of the INNS program's existence. Lord of Life hosted homeless individuals on Sunday evenings from October through April each year. The program ended in 2017, when the Shalom Center built a permanent homeless shelter to serve the Kenosha area.

## INNS completes a year of community service

Churches serve the Kenosha homeless

May 1992

It's a sad thing that we need it. And it was difficult to get started — many people were afraid of it. But the Interfaith Network Shelter program, which ended its first year of operation Friday morning, was an unqualified success.

Called INNS, the program provided more than 1,500 beds for people who had no place to go.

And it was all done at churches, starting with Lord of Life Lutheran, 5601 Washington Road, a church that had the gumption and determination to take on a task that many people were afraid of. In all, seven sites were opened by April of this year.

INNS is a proud moment for the churches of Kenosha and we salute those that took part.

There were no riots, no crimes, no unrest — just people who needed a place to stay.

The program began because the Emergency Family Shelter at the Shalom Center of the Interfaith Network, 1713 62nd St., was at its capacity of 32.

INNS saved money because the center did not have to place people in expensive hotels, motels and rooming houses. About \$14,000 was saved.

More than 480 volunteers worked in the program, and more will be needed next year. You couldn't make a better donation to the community.

We say thank you to the volunteers and to the churches — they showed us what "community" is all about.



Sunday School classes helped set up the shelter area several times per season.

Dear Members of Lord of Life,

After much thought and prayer throughout the time of your call process, it is with great joy and expectation that I accept the call to serve as your Pastor.

I believe that God's Spirit has blessed your first 13 years of ministry and I know that God will do wonderful things through you in the future. I feel blessed to be able to share in that future.

I plan to begin my ministry with you on May 15, 1997. I will worship for the last time with my congregation I West Bend on April 27th and then I will take two weeks for rest and for transition time. There are also many good-byes to be said here and I want to take the time to do that well.

Thank you for your commitment to our Lord. I look forward to meeting all of you as we begin a new phase of ministry together.



One in Christ,  
Pastor Jennifer S. Johnston



# Christmas Eve Volunteers

2:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.
<b>Usher/Greeter</b>		
<b>OPEN</b>	Russ & Becky Brewer	Steve & Patsy Kolner
<b>Lesson Reader</b>		
Chris Daugherty	Beth Files	Chris Daugherty
<b>Communion Servers</b>		
<b>OPEN</b> (wine)	Pam Leonard (wine)	Chris Daugherty
<b>OPEN</b> (wine)	Gary Kovacs (wine)	Gary Kovacs (wine)
<b>OPEN</b> (bread)	Beth Files (bread)	Kim Sly (bread)
<b>Altar Care</b>		
<b>OPEN</b>	Kim Sly & Gary Kovacs	Kim Sly & Gary Kovacs
<b>Communion Bread</b>		
Beth Files	Beth Files	Beth Files
<b>A/V</b>		
Matt Bieneman	Angie Wollschlager	TBD



SATURDAY VOLUNTEERS		
December 7	December 14	December 21
Usher/Greeter		
Steve & Patsy Kolner	OPEN	Pat Demos
Lesson Reader		
Lisa McCarthy	Chris Daugherty	Not Needed (Cantata)
Communion Wine Servers		
Ralph McCarthy	Chris Daugherty	Chris Daugherty
Lisa McCarthy	OPEN	OPEN
Altar Care		
OPEN	Sonja Wolfe	OPEN
Coffee Hour Host		
OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
SCRIP Sales		
OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
A/V		
Chris Daugherty	TBD	Matt Bieneman (cantata)

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS			
December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Usher/Greeter			
Kim Sly & Gary Kovacs	Russ & Becky Brewer	Kim Sly & Gary Kovacs	Cathy & Kayla Rutkowski
Lesson Reader			
Beth Files	John Meyer	OPEN	Joyce Behlke
Communion Wine (2)/Bread Servers			
Norma & Cliff Lundstrom (wine) Beth Files (bread)	Pam Leonard (wine) Kathy Miller (wine) John Meyer (bread)	2 OPENINGS (wine) 1 OPENING (bread)	Kathy Miller (wine) OPEN (wine) OPEN (bread)
Altar Care			
Kerry Bieneman	Kathy Miller	OPEN	Kathy Miller
Coffee Hour Host			
Beth Files	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
SCRIP Sales			
Kim Sly	Pam Leonard	Kim Sly	OPEN
Communion Bread			
Beth Files	Kathy Miller	OPEN	Kathy Miller
A/V			
Matt Bieneman	Angie W.	Angie W.	Angie W.

To sign up to volunteer, visit <https://lordoflifekenosha.org/serve>  
WE are the church!



# LOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS



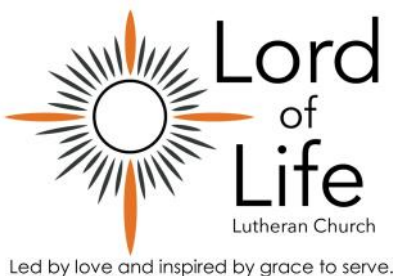
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Adult Education	<b>2</b> 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	<b>3</b> 9:30 a.m. —3:30 p.m. Our Harmony Club	<b>4</b> 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia 6:30 p.m. Cantata Reh @ Peace	<b>5</b> 7:00 p.m. AA	<b>6</b> 11:30 a.m. Peanut Butter & Jesus @ Outreach Center	<b>7</b> 5:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship
<b>8</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Women's Christmas Tea 3:45 p.m. Community Meal @ Living Faith 5:00 p.m. Night of Worship Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Worship	<b>9</b> 6:00 p.m. Safe Zone LGBTQIA+ training at Spirit Alive	<b>10</b> 7:00 p.m. Council meeting	<b>11</b> 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia 6:30 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal @ LoL	<b>12</b> 7:00 p.m. AA	<b>13</b> 11:30 a.m. Peanut Butter & Jesus @ Outreach Center	<b>14</b> 5:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship
<b>15</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Adult Education	<b>16</b> 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	<b>17</b> 9:30 a.m. —3:30 p.m. Our Harmony Club 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service @ St. Paul's Lutheran	<b>18</b> 12:00 p.m. Ladies of Lydia 6:30 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal @ Peace	<b>19</b> 1:00 p.m. Blood Drive 7:00 p.m. AA	<b>20</b> 11:30 a.m. Peanut Butter & Jesus @ Outreach Center	<b>21</b> 5:00 p.m. Christmas Cantata
<b>22</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship 10:15 a.m. Adult Education	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  2:00 p.m. Worship 4:00 p.m. Worship 9:00 p.m. Worship	<b>25 Christmas Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 p.m. AA	<b>27</b> 11:30 a.m. Peanut Butter & Jesus @ Outreach Center	<b>28</b> <b>NO EVENING WORSHIP</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship	<b>30</b>	<b>31 New Years Eve</b> 	   Have a GOOD MOOD!			

# MINISTRY OF THE MONTH



We once again teamed up with the ELCA Outreach Center to provide Christmas gifts for children in need. This year we took 60 names and all of the tags were taken in the first two weekends they were out!  
Return the gifts with the original tag(s) that you chose,  
by Sunday, December 8.

You are welcome to include a roll of wrapping paper with the gift, but the Outreach Center requests that the gifts be returned UNWRAPPED.



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