

GOOD NEWS

March
2019

Lord of Life
Lutheran
Church
(ELCA)

Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 am
& 10:30 am
Wednesday 6:00 pm

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9:00 am-12 pm
1:00 pm-3 pm

Ministers

The Lord of Life
Family of Faith

Pastors

Steven J. Rye
Erika R. Nilsen

Contact Info

Phone:218-828-9374

Email:

office@lolbaxter.org
www.lolbaxter.org

In January I spent six days in Israel — an amount of time I consider to be way too short. On the first night, when our group arrived at the hotel in Jerusalem, several of us were standing around the counter waiting to pick up our room keys. I glanced at the list, curious to know what room number I had been given. As I looked down the list of people, I saw my name down at the bottom. Next to my name were written the letters: VIP. I thought this was strange. Perhaps, I thought, it was some kind of code. Sloppy Hebrew?

When I entered my room, my breath was taken away by the view out the window. I had a beautiful view of the Damascus Gate. There was fruit and other goodies laid out on the table...even a bottle of wine. It was certainly a very, very nice place. Immediately, I thought this was very odd. But if it hadn't been for the glance at the room list, I likely wouldn't have given my elevated status a second thought. I would have assumed that this was the customary treatment. After all, it was Jerusalem.

The very next morning I went down for breakfast, and it became clear. A reserved sign on the table said: "The Golden Wall Welcomes The Steven Rye Group; Shepherd Tours." There was a mistake. They thought I was the leader of the tour. In fact, that role belonged to three other members of our group.

I believe all trips (or Pilgrimages) have the potential to teach us "little sermons." My good fortune those first two days was an experience that worked on me for the rest of the time I was there. Frequently, I reflected on how it is that we come to take our place of privilege in this world: by virtue of where we live...by virtue of where we are born. We are given certain privileges—like my VIP room—in this world.

We can easily feel that we deserve this—that we deserve our space, that we deserve our place of privilege, that we deserve the Very Important Person status we are given as Americans. We need to be reminded that, in fact, it is not by our own doing. The privilege and status are not ours because we earned our place in this world, they have been given to us.

In light of this truth, how one responds is important. One of the little things I did to try to make up for my elevated status was to bring the bottle of wine given just to me to share with the rest of the group at our "get to know you" gathering.

I invite you to think about what "bottles of wine"—what possessions that have been given to you--God calls you to share. Realistically we can't trade rooms with people, but we can share what we have.

This is just one of the many blessings and insights I learned during my trip to Holy ground. I look forward to sharing more with you in the future.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve



Greetings,

One of the March health observance highlights is Colorectal Cancer.

Colorectal cancer is cancer that occurs in the colon or rectum. Sometimes it is called colon cancer, for short.

Sometimes abnormal growths, called *polyps*, form in the colon or rectum. Over time, some polyps may turn into cancer. Screenings can find polyps so they can be removed before turning into cancer.

Screening also helps find colorectal cancer at an early stage, when treatment works best. Signs and symptoms are noted below.

Stomach pain, aches, or cramps may be symptoms of colorectal cancer. If you have any symptoms that worry you, be sure to see your doctor right away.

Colorectal polyps and colorectal cancer don't always cause symptoms, especially at first. Someone could have polyps or colorectal cancer and not know it. That is why getting screened regularly for colorectal cancer is so important.

If you have symptoms, they may include:

- Blood in or on your stool (bowel movement).
- Stomach pain, aches, or cramps that don't go away.
- Losing weight and you don't know why.

If you have any of these symptoms, please talk to your health care provider.

Looking forward to spring and blessings

Deb Bergstrom RN
Parish Nurse

deb.bergstrom@lolbaxter.org



Maverick Marlyn Pierzinski

Baptism: January 27, 2019

Parents: Michael & Kasey Pierzinski



Ash Wednesday Services

March 6

12 pm & 7 pm

Looking Ahead To Lent

Our theme during the season of Lent is "Lasting Hope." On Wednesday nights we'll be exploring the Psalms. Augsburg Fortress has created a beautiful, full-color Lenten devotional to accompany us. It's available in pocket and large-print versions. Copies will be available in March at \$3 a book and \$6 for large print. You can also get the devotions on your Kindle, Nook or through Google Play.

Join us on Wednesday nights starting at 5:15 pm for a Lenten Soup Supper; at 6 pm join us for worship where our service will include the "Holden Evening Prayer".

Join us on Wednesdays during Lent for a soup and bread lunch and a time of Worship starting at 12 pm.



Regular suppers on Wednesday, March 20 & 27. No supper on March 6 for Ash Wednesday and no supper on March 13 for Spring Break.

Prayers for Strength, Comfort and Healing for...

Becky Bennett, who is now in remission.

Seth Pederson, son-in-law of Bruce & Carol Femling, who has cancer of the liver and is having further tests done.

Tonya, Rick & Renzen Caughey, who lost their home in a house fire. Prayers for Rick who is recovering from injuries.

David Schliek, who has stage 4 cancer.

Bruce Femling, as he recovers from a single lung transplant.

Our members & family in the Military:

Eric Nelson, James Nelson, Aaron Sopelle, Ben Correll

Renew Your Life

I'm so grateful to have spent the past 8 weeks diving deep into our creation story and rediscovering the wellspring of God's energy for our lives. If you read the book, attended worship, or joined a life group - **THANK YOU** for journeying together in faith and hope for a life filled with energy - God's energy - for living and loving, serving and working, relating and resting.

As we move into the season of Lent, I invite you to choose one faith practice that will help you stay connected to the incredible source of all that is, the God we know in Jesus Christ. Remember, being renewed isn't a one time thing, we are being renewed every day!

How will you experience that renewal:

- 1. Breathe Prayer:** Stop and notice your breathe. When you inhale say, "Spirit of God..." As you exhale say, "Fill me with..."[you fill in the blank for whatever you need].
- 2. Grace in - Grace out:** Ask yourself each day - where did I extend grace and where did I receive it?
- 3. Three Good Things:** at the end of every day write down three good things that happened to you.
- 4. Compassion:** think about someone who needs to be cared for and reach out to them.
- 5. Notice:** Take time in the natural world. Notice what's around you. Notice what you notice. Take action on what you notice.
- 6. The Prayer of St. Francis:** Daily-recite this prayer and make it the lens through which you see relationships.
- 7. Love and Joy:** Examine each part of your day through the lens of love and joy. How can I share more of God's love in this place? How can I experience more joy in this place?
- 8. Solitude:** Find a time. Find a place. Breathe in God. Find yourself.

Blessings to you as you are renewed again and again!

Pastor Erika

Pray & Ponder Women's Breakfast

Join us Saturday, March 2, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at LOL, for great food, conversation, inspiration and prayer. If you have any questions contact Wendy Adamson at wendyadamson@gmail.com.

Men's Friday Breakfast - Join the Men's Friday Breakfast at their new time of 7:30 am to 8:30 am. Come for fellowship, great food and a time of study.

This Month on Your Connection Cards Please mark the Connection Cards if you are interested in being a part of:

Prayer Vigil Group - This group will plan and carry out the Easter Vigil. This group may also organize other congregational or community-wide prayer vigils in times that are traumatic to a large portion of our community. (In time of national tragedy, for example.)

Worship Planning Group - This group plans the music and worship services and meets four times a year.

Book Discussion Group - Are you interested in joining a book discussion group? We currently have a book group on Sunday Evenings that meets twice a month, a Tuesday morning book group that meets twice a month and a Monday afternoon book group that meets once a week.

Welcome Center - Would you like to volunteer to help at our Welcome Center? You will greet and help people/visitors on Sunday mornings before the 9 am or 10:30 am Worship Service.

Librarian - Would you like to help with our church library? We are looking for someone to help with putting donated books away and to organize the bookshelves.

Join us for a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 3 at 9:45 am. Free-will donations go towards our youth going on the mission trip in July.



Daylight Saving Time March 10

1st Communion Class for 5th graders and their parent(s)

First Communion Class will be March 18 & 25, April 1 & 8 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. We'll celebrate First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 18 at 7 pm and Easter Sunday, April 21 at either the 9 am or 10:30 am worship Services!

Register at:

<https://tinyurl.com/lolfirstCommunion2019>



Mission Trip Update:

This past month we have been busy raising funds for our upcoming mission trip. Our group spent two Saturdays at Range Printing. Thanks for the opportunity Range Printing!



Upcoming Fundraisers:

• **Butter Braid Sale March 3rd:** These delicious pastries would make great Easter treats. Delivery will be before Easter Sunday.

Connect with some of our youth or contact me if you would like to place an order.

• **Hotdish & Hoopla:** March 24th at 5pm. This is our 2nd Annual Hotdish & Hoopla. Join us for a great Midwest meal and amazing talent from our congregation and community. We need help again this year! Sign-up sheets to help will be available by the beginning of March. Have a talent to share? Sign-up today in the Narthex or contact Everyone is welcome!

Confirmation Update:

As we journey into the Lenten season our 9th graders will be assisting in worship on Wednesday nights. Our 7th & 8th graders will be studying the New Testament while our 9th graders will work with their mentor to explore the themes and scriptures lifted up during Lent.

Challenge This Month:

Check out our Youth Groups. Wednesday & Sundays offer great opportunities for youth to gather together! With weekly games, Bible Study and time to unwind, this is a great way to connect with your friends and explore more about your faith. Will you join us?

Teen's Upstream: Wednesday Nights 8pm (Meet in the Sonshine Room)

Middle School Youth Group: Sundays 5:30pm-7pm (Meet in the Sonshine Room)

Lunch in the Schools:

Mondays throughout the remainder of the school year I will be having lunch at Forestview Middle School and High School. Be on the lookout during your lunch period. You might just see me with some of my other youth director friends from the community!

Important Calendar Dates:

- March 6th Ash Wednesday 12 pm and 7pm - no Wednesday night programming
- No Wednesday night programming March 13th (Spring Break)
- No Middle School Youth Group March 10th & 17th (Spring Break)
- Hotdish & Hoopla March 24th 5pm



ABOUT MY TRIP TO ISRAEL

Since moving to Minnesota from Indiana, I've come to the conclusion that it's important to get away to somewhere warmer during the month of January or February, for the sake of one's health and outlook. This could have something to do with the southern facing bay window in my office at Purdue that I'm now greatly missing.

So, in order to cure any cabin fever and in order to bond with a group of fellow pastors, I signed up for a tour to Israel. There I gained some great insight into the land that I've been preaching about for 25 years. I dove deep into the political and economic situation for the Israeli's and Palestinians who live near Bethlehem, and gained experiences that will help my preaching come alive in future years of ministry.

On Friday, January 18th our group departed Chicago on an overnight flight to Istanbul. The ten-hour flight was arduous, but we were well taken care of by the staff of Turkish Airlines. From there we continued on a flight to Tel Aviv. We easily made our way through Israeli customs, which surprised me somewhat, grabbed our luggage, met our tour guide and driver who took us to the Golden Walls Hotel in Jerusalem.

The next day we walked through the old city of Jerusalem and attended the English-language worship service at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. After worship we met with the English-speaking Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, to learn about the various ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). From there we embarked on a walking tour of the Old City that had us walking backwards on the path that Jesus took to the cross.

We began at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which commemorates Jesus' crucifixion and then took a meaningful journey backwards down the Via Dolorosa, stopping at a few Stations of the Cross before arriving at the Church of St. Anne and Pools of Bethesda. Our day of sightseeing was capped off by a walk through a Muslim cemetery, with a beautiful view of a moonrise. We had a delightful supper back at the hotel and then gathered for a social time to get to know one another better.

On Monday, we paid an early morning visit to the Haram al Sharif/Temple Mount with views of the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque, then drove to Bethlehem for a walking tour of the Old City including Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity, which is built over the cave stable where tradition says Jesus was born. We checked in at the guesthouse at the International Center of Bethlehem, the Abu Gubran Lutheran Guesthouse.

The next day, we visited Deheisheh Refugee camp for a conversation with Palestinian refugees. Then drove to Efrat Israeli Settlement to meet with one of the residents. We continued on to Beit Sahour to see Shepherds' Field, where according to Scripture, the angels announced the birth of Jesus. There was also an opportunity to shop at a gift shop before returning to Abu Gubran Lutheran Guesthouse in the evening for dinner and time on our own.

On Wednesday, we visited Dar Al Kalima University for an introductory program and time for conversation with students during lunch. In route we stopped for a close-up view of the Separation Wall. After lunch we met with The Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb and learned how lives and livelihoods are positively changing through the focus on arts and culture, continuous education for children, youth and older adults, and civic leadership engagement. We enjoyed a special dinner prepared by students of the culinary school.

The next day, we traveled north to the Sea of Galilee. We first visited the Church of the Beatitudes, one of the most beautiful in the Galilee region. We then saw the first century "Jesus Boat" which was salvaged from the muddy bottom of the Galilee. We sailed on the waters of the Galilee with a communion service. After that we drove along the shore to Tabgha to visit the Church of Multiplication and the Chapel of the Primacy. Our day in the region ended with a visit to the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House at Capernaum before an evening journey through the Jordan Valley back to Bethlehem for dinner.

On Friday, we were encouraged to explore on our own. I wandered the streets of Bethlehem, gathered items to take home, and just enjoyed a leisurely day. Early morning on Saturday we journeyed home, where I arrived as the polar vortex was just hitting the state. The temperature when I arrived in Baxter was -35 degrees.

In looking back on the trip, I find myself anxious to return. Anxious to bring folks from our congregation to experience the wonder...and joy...and also the lament of a divided land. I felt safe the entire time. I come back proud of the work that the Lutheran Church is doing in the region, and I feel well prepared to lead a trip back to the Holy Land in the near future. I hope you'll consider joining me on the next journey.

Blessings!

Pr. Steve

LORD OF LIFE'S FIRST STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE BEGINS

Thanks to the faithful support and prayers of many Lord of Life folks, the first Stephen Ministry training course began on Tuesday, February 12, with five enthusiastic trainees who will become Lord of Life's first Stephen Ministers! This group of faith-filled, generous, compassionate and committed folks include: Wendy Adamson, Deb Cervantez, Pam Cook, Gary Engelmann and Julie Johnson. We, the Stephen Leader Team, thank God that these five said YES! The weekly classes are being taught by our trained and commissioned Stephen Leaders: Deb Bergstrom, Lolly Kalinoski, and Pr. Erika Nilsen, with support from Sonja Nefstead and Pr. Steven Rye. The three presenters alternate teaching the 2-1/2 hour classes on Tuesday evenings 4:30 – 7:00 pm.

The required 50 hours of training will be completed in 18 classes, including two 6-hour Saturday retreats. The last class will be on June 18, and shortly after that the new Stephen Ministers will be commissioned into service at a Sunday worship service. Each care giver will then be paired up with a care receiver in a one-to-one caring relationship, to last as long as needed by the care receiver. The care givers will meet with their care receivers about 1 hour a week, using their God-given gifts and their already well-established life skills, reinforced by the skills and insights learned during the training course.

Stephen Ministry training is top-notch, combining sound theological principles with contemporary psychology. The skills taught prepare the new Stephen Ministers to provide a very high level of distinctively Christian caregiving. Though the training is intense and explores serious life issues, it also provides opportunities for personal spiritual growth and enjoyable group interactions for the trainees and leaders alike. During the Stephen LEADER training course, Deb, Pr. Erika, and Lolly spoke with many experienced Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders who told them that one of the major benefits of training was the close Christian community formed by the folks who participate in Stephen Ministry training.

The most up-to-date statistics on the Stephen Ministry website (www.stephenministries.org) show that since Stephen Ministry began in 1975:

- Stephen Ministry is now in more than 13,000 congregations from more than 170 Christian denominations, in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries.
- More than 75,000 pastors, church staff, and laypeople have trained as Stephen Leaders (those who oversee and direct Stephen Ministry in the congregation) at a [Leader's Training Course](#).
- More than 600,000 people have trained as [Stephen Ministers](#) (laypeople who provide care to those who are hurting) in their congregations.
- More than one-and-a-half million people have [received care from a Stephen Minister](#) in a formal one-to-one Stephen Ministry caring relationship, and millions more have been touched by Stephen Ministry in informal ways.

Please lift up the trainees and instructors in your prayers over the coming months and watch for regular training class updates in the newsletter and Family Weekly. Thank you for your support and prayers!



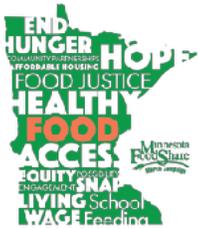
Hotdish & Hoopla



Join us at Lord of Life
Sunday, March 24
Starting with supper at 5 pm
and Talent Show to follow

This event is a free-will donation and proceeds will go to the Youth Mission Trip in July.

Pack the Pews Sunday, March 24



Fill a bag for the Local Food Shelf!

Respond to food insecurity in our community by filling a grocery bag with much needed food and household items.

Needed items:

- Proteins - canned meat, fish, and beans, nuts and nut butters
- Fresh/dried herbs & spices
- White, wild, & brown rice varieties
- Gluten-free flours & flour blends
- Personal care items - Shampoo/soap, deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene, diapers, toilet paper
- Household supplies - laundry & dish detergent, kitchen & bathroom cleaners, paper towels

Sunday's Lessons

March 3 The Energy of Rest and Conclusion

Renew your Life

March 10 First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 17 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

March 24 Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 31 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Driver Improvement Refresher Course

St. Cloud University offers Driver Improvement classes for Minnesota licensed drivers 55 and older. Participants can earn a 10% discount on their auto insurance premium by taking the initial 8 hour course. The 10% discount can be maintained by taking a 4 hour refresher course every three years. A refresher class will be offered at Lord of Life on Thursday, March 21 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, cost is \$22. For more information and to register for the class, call St. Cloud University Driver Improvement Program toll-free 1-888-234-1294 or visit their website at www.mnsafetycenter.org.

Interested in going to Tanzania in the Summer of 2020?

A mission trip to partner with International Health Partners is underway!

Planning has begun and there is a great deal of interest. Here's a rough look at what we know so far -

Date of trip proposed: June 7-20, 2020. (14 days)

Estimated trip timeline: 1.5 days travel to Tanzania, 6-7 days of mission work, 3-4 days Safari with travel, 1.5 travel back to USA.

Estimated trip costs: about \$4000. This amount may change depending on flight costs in 2020. Fundraising would begin with raising funds for the actual work we would do at the clinic (such as paint supplies, landscaping supplies, etc) followed by fundraising for individuals in the group. The trip is considered tax deductible for each individual. We would set-up, through Lord of Life, an account for each participating individual to collect payments and their own fundraising funds. Each individual would also want to have some spending money with for their own personal souvenirs and/or incidental.

Maximum number of participants: 33

Housing at the clinic: (would vary from 2 to 6 individuals per hut—depending on size and participants). Cost at the clinic \$40 per adult per night (which is included in the estimated \$4000)

Safari costs: As a group we would need to decide together what expense level we wish to spend—again that cost is included in the estimated \$4000 unless we upgrade the safari location/accommodations significantly.

Participants needs: Need a valid passport, series of shots with a doctor record, medication list if needed from a doctor.

Safety: Tanzania is a third world country and is currently in a stable government. The clinic and grounds are patrolled 24 hours a day. The Lofstroms feel it is safe for travel on a safari.

Insurance: We would work with a travel agent who would help us arrange flights, safari & accommodations, travel and/or flight insurance would probably be recommended.

If you would like more information please email the church office at colleen@lolbaxter.org.

Time to Clean Out Your Closets

Lord of Life is having its annual Rummage and Bake Sale on **May 10th and 11th** and we would love for you to donate items to our sale. Please put aside gently used items for the sale. No televisions, computers, or adult clothing. Kids and junior clothing are welcome.

2019 WINTER SCHEDULE

New Member Orientation 101 – Pastor's Office (choose one class to attend)

- Thursday, March 7 - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 20 – 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Membership 201 – Pastor's Office (this is a three-night session)

- Monday, March 25 – 7:00-8:30pm
- Monday, April 1 – 7:00-8:30pm
- Monday, April 8 – 7:00-8:30pm

Register at:
<https://lolbaxter.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/75/responses/new>



2nd Annual Chili Cook Off!!

The Congregational Life team wishes to thank all those who brought Chili to the February Cook Off! It was a lot of fun and we had a great turn out for tasting chili. There were 42 in attendance who voted! Tony Smith won the Golden Ladle Trophy for his Thai Chili! The trophy will be passed on each year! Recipe on page 11.

3rd Annual NE MN Synod EcoFaith Summit

Saturday, March 30, 2019
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brainerd
9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Summit

Caring for the creation is important to everything we do as church. The EcoFaith Summit will be a day of equipping congregations to initiate or enhance creation care teams. Learn how your church can integrate care of creation throughout all of your congregation's activities, including worship, education, congregational life, building and grounds, and community engagement.

Registration has been paid by Lord of Life Care of Creation Group; please email the church office if you are interested in going at colleen@lolbaxter.org.

Lord of Life Lutheran Ministry Opportunities

Connecting to Christ

Circle, Martha - Meets the second Tuesday of the month off site at 7:00 p.m. (August-June) For more information contact Mary Anderson 330-6171 maryteda@charter.net

Circle, Sarah - Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. (Sept-May) at Lord of Life. For information contact Bugs Schmidt 829-3864 shmidye@icloud.com

Men's Breakfast - Fridays, 7:30 a.m. at LOL for Bible study, fellowship, fun and food - Ted Anderson 218-831-1372

Men's Fellowship - Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. at LOL for Bible study, fellowship and fun - Ted Anderson 831-1372

New Member Class - For individuals and families interested in joining Lord of Life. Childcare is provided upon request. - Pastor Steve 828-9374 steve@lolbaxter.org

Pray & Ponder Women's Breakfast - A gathering of women on one Saturday each month, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. in the Commons. (Oct.-May). Experience great food, conversation, inspiration and prayer. Contact Wendy Adamson at wendyadamson@ymail.com

Prayer Chain - Faithfully lift up in prayer the needs and concerns of our church family and their loved ones. Contact Lolly Kalinoski at 828-3699.

Connecting to our Community

Caring for Creation Workgroup

We will meet from 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month. The Caring for Creation Workgroup on ecology and the environment is grounded in a biblical vision of God's intention for the healing and wholeness of creation. This group will meet to discuss ways to help take care of God's Creation. Contact Todd Holman with any questions at tholman@tnc.org.

Habitat for Humanity - Scott Hall, (w) 828-8517- scott.hall@lakesareahabitat.org

LOL Quilters - The LOL Quilters will meet Thursdays, from 9 am to 12 pm. Quilts are made for our graduating seniors, local charities and special requests. Thursdays are used for quilt designing, packaging into kits for LOL volunteers to sew into quilt tops, and also for tying and binding. Sewing experience is not required! If you have any questions you can contact Jan Hardesty at 218-828-1434.

Prayer Shawl Group - Meets 3 to 4 times a year. Anyone who is interested in this wonderful ministry is welcome to join our group. Please contact Jeannine zumBrunnen 829-2177- zummyb@brainerd.net or Brenda Johnson 831-9725- brensid@brainerd.net. Check our website at www.shawlministry.com for more information.

Soup Kitchen - Serving meals at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen (923 Oak St., Brainerd), first Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. - To volunteer contact Nancy Smith (820-4273) or sign-up on the clipboard in the Narthex.

Connecting to Each Other

Sunday Evening Book Discussion Group meets on alternating Sundays at 6:30 p.m. (Sept. - May). All book lovers are welcome. Contact: Jerry Kuehn at 218-820-8566.

Monday Afternoon Book Group will meet at 1:00 p.m. each Monday (Sept. - May). For more information contact Nancy Smith 820-4273.

Tuesday Morning Book Group This group meets on the 1st and the 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 9:00 a.m. and focuses on studying biblical books to expand our knowledge of the Bible and grow in faith. Contact Claire Rud at paulclairerud@msn.com.

Caring Friends Ministry - Find out how to become a Caring Friend or to receive this ministry as you navigate life transitions. Meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Contact Jeannine zumBrunnen 829-2177 zummyb@brainerd.net

LOL Ministry Teams - Congregational Life, Children's Education, Adult Education, Evangelism, Finance, Property, Social Concerns, Stewardship, Worship, Youth - Pastor Erika 828-9374 erika@lolbaxter.org

LOLLY (Lots of Living Left Yet) - Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m.; ages 55+ (Sept-May). Call Mary Anderson at 330-6171 or Ted Anderson at maryteda@charter.net for more info.

Pre-Marriage Retreat - For couples preparing for the joys and struggles of married life. This is a pre-requisite for couples planning to be married at LOL. The next retreat is April 13, 2019. For more information, contact Anne in the church office at 828-9374 or anne@lolbaxter.org

Wednesday Night Supper Prep & Serving - Assist with cooking and serving of our Wednesday evening meal. (Sept.-May) Contact the church office at www.lolbaxter.org

Those Older Folders - Our energetic group meets every Friday at 1:00 p.m. to fold bulletins for the Sunday services.

For updated information on the above events, check out our website: <http://www.lolbaxter.org>



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

Council Members

President - Cindy Swenson
Vice President - Matt Feigum
Secretary - Beth Hensel
Treasurer - Scott Kraling
Council Representative
 Sarah Nesheim
Adult Faith Growth, Children's Education, Youth
 Emilee Freed
Congregational Life, Worship
 Pat Huhta
Evangelism, Missions/Social Concerns
 Ann Smallman
Finance, Mission Support/Stewardship, Property
 Layne Danielson

Lord of Life Office & Program Staff

Ministry Operations Manager Anne Laechel
anne@lolbaxter.org
Sr. Pastor's Ministry Assistant Colleen Bush
colleen@lolbaxter.org
Youth Director Tim Slinger
tim@lolbaxter.org
Senior Choir Director Sarah Aamot
sarah-lundin@hotmail.com
Parish Nurse Deb Bergstrom
deb@lolbaxter.org
Custodians Karen & Paul Erickson
kde12112@gmail.com
Pianist Jennifer Person
jennifer.person@lolbaxter.org
Sunday Traditional Group Dir. Jennifer Person
Wed Musician Coordinator Jennifer Person

Lord of life Church Council Meeting Notes for January

By Unanimous Consent: Approved

TO ADOPT -December 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes (CC. 2019.1.2)

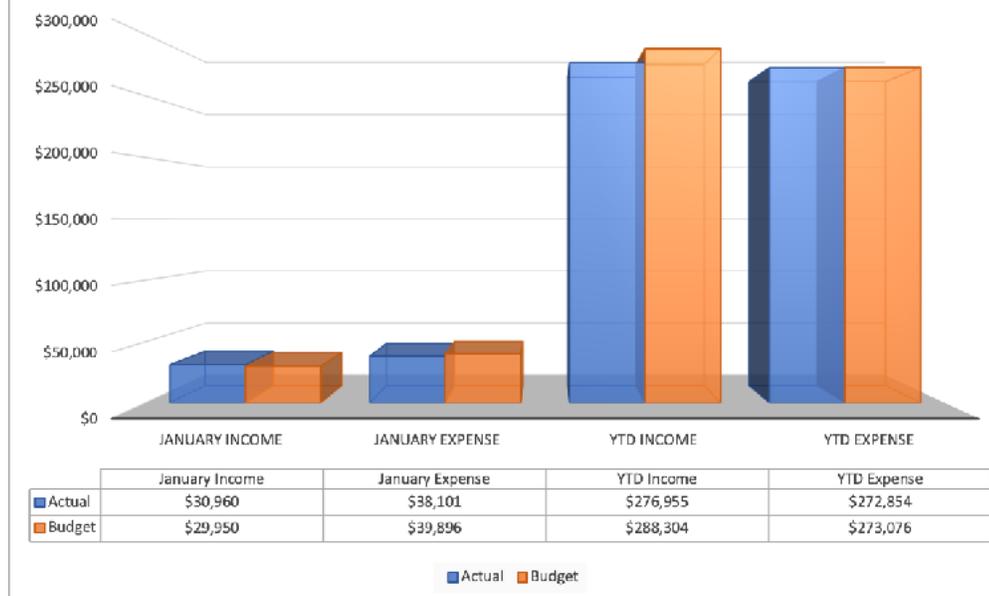
Other Approved Motions:

Layne Danielson moved that the edited Capital Campaign update letter be included with the Year-end Contribution Statements. All approved. (CC.2019.1.3)

**Finance Team has not yet had January meeting at the time of the January Council Meeting. Council will receive the December and January reports at the Council Meeting on Thursday February 21.*

Meeting Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

January 2019 General Fund Financial Report





- 1 Mason Kruse
- 2 Kobe Ahonen, Jacob Booth, Addy Helmricks,
Steve Mau, Evan Nelson, Bev Owen
- 3 Evan Heittola, Marilyn Kraemer
- 4 Gary Dirlam, Amber Heittola
- 5 William Frank, Rob Freelove, Claire Nybeck, Paul
Rud, Trevor Wangsness
- 6 Erin Einarson, Levi Sazama
- 7 Blair Benson, Joe Bisek, Jan Walters
- 8 Shelby Fitch, Lucy Houde, Jan Sheets, Colton
Stout, JP Whalen, John Zemke
- 9 Trevor Christenson, Lindsey Jensen, John Larson
- 10 Becky Beckerleg, Sarah Borchert, Boone Fromm,
Doug Schultz, Karla Skwira, Jerry Westphal
- 11 Ken Campbell, Deb Koop, AJ Felix, Glorya
Narveson, Mark Parrish, Olivia Stirewalt, Ryan
Weihemuller
- 12 Sayali Blowers, Kelly Jo Mogensen, Rachel Stoen,
Mandy Wangsness, Jean Weizenegger
- 13 Keith Binggeli, Lizz Coonfield, Emilee Freed,
Emily Isackson, Sid Johnson, August Johnson-
Ding, Shaelie Shanks, Kate Smith, Tina Smude
- 14 Thomas Getty, Ensley Gordon, Deanne Joy, Avery
Rauen, Shelley Hansch
- 15 Tanner Heinlen
- 16 Jody Blowers, Sharon Freelove, Conith Mackner
- 17 Jacob Blong, Teresa Lund, Curtis Nelson, Craig
West
- 18 Linda Bylander, R. J. Campbell, Anabelle
Holcomb-Smith, Jake Meyer, Eli McConkey
- 19 Wade Haapajoki, Kathi Lind, Seth Sazama, Erica
Swenson
- 20 Bob Nelsen, Isla Porter, William Porter, Luther
Skwira, Aaron Sopelle
- 21 Connie Fordyce, Gary Krall, Margie Young
- 22 Paula Mangan
- 23 Darren Larson
- 24 Sydney Foss, David Johnson, Megan Marlatt,
Saydie Olson
- 25 Darlene Blake, Diane Flesher, Jackie Sliver, Cally
Robertson, Christopher Rud
- 26 Russell Heittola, Diane Hoglin, Jordan Peterson,
Brandon Thompson
- 27 Atlie Danielson, Joshua Hukriede, Tammy
Stellmach
- 28 Dean Clink, Hanson Devine, Kim Larson, Kelsey
Pape, Kaden Schilling
- 29 Joseph Anderson, Christine Cox, Trayton
Lofstrom, Erik Speer, Avery Vagts
- 30 Raegan Coonfield, Rory Peterson, Tony Smith
- 31 Leesha Bisek, Jim Jackson

- 3/2 Dave & Rita Linder
- 3/4 Gary & Diane Hoglin❖
- 3/5 Dave & Kari Stengrim
- 3/8 Dan & Lisa Tupy
- 3/9 Brian & Maria Orłowski
- 3/11 Gary & Iris Weihemuller❖
- 3/12 Dick & Carol Rodseth
- 3/20 Dan & Beth Selinger❖
- 3/24 Amber & Mark Taylor
- 3/28 Gary & Betty Krall†
- 3/30 Chris & Wendy Adamson❖

❖=Celebrating 24-49 years!
†=Celebrating 50 years or more!

Thai Turkey Chili

Ingredients:

- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 cup chopped green onions
- 1^{1/4} pounds lean ground turkey
- 2 cups shredded carrots
- 2 tablespoons fresh ginger root, grated or chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon red hot pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1 cup Brooks Rich & Tangy Catsup
- 2-15^{1/2} ounce cans Brooks Hot chili Beans in Chili
Sauce
- 3 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped

Instructions:

In a large nonstick skillet, sauté garlic and onion in sesame oil until tender, 2-3 minutes. Add turkey and continue cooking until turkey is no longer pink, stirring constantly to break up turkey; drain. In a large soup kettle, combine turkey mixture with the remaining ingredients, except peanut butter and cilantro, mix well. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce to a simmer, cover and cook for 1 hour. Stir in peanut butter and cilantro. (serves 6)

Newsletter Team

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for the April Newsletter are due March 18.

Where did our offering baskets come from?



The baskets were made in Tanzania and purchased via Paula and Dennis Lofstrom from International Health Partners during one of their visits. They always bring items with that are available for purchase.

We loved how colorful the baskets are - reminders of life and diversity and beauty.

We loved the fact that they are woven by hand - a reminder of how our hands are used to serve God.

We loved that they are woven from elements of the creation - reminders of how God provides all that we need.

We loved the fact that purchasing these baskets financially supported the men and women of Tanzania that made them. These baskets hold hope for them and hope for us.

We, like the baskets themselves, are woven together in beauty, hard work, love and support with our brothers and sisters in Africa.