

GOOD NEWS

June
2020

Lord of Life
Lutheran
Church
(ELCA)

Ministers
The Lord of Life
Family of Faith

Pastors
Steven J. Rye
Erika R. Nilsen

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Dear friends in Christ,

During the past 8 weeks as we have done our best to observe Minnesota's "Stay At Home" order – there has been a significant amount of HGTV watching going on in our home. One of our absolute favorites is Maine Cabin Masters. [We also really like Beachfront Bargains.] In Maine Cabin Masters – as in most of the fix-it-up shows – something OLD is transformed into something NEW.

And every time I watch, from beginning to end, I am in awe of what happens and what it takes for change, David and I almost always shed a tear or two at the reveal.

So how does it go . . .

1. An Acknowledgment! Recognizing that something needs to change. Maybe the cabin is run down and not safe. Maybe the family has grown and it's not big enough anymore. Maybe what was okay for the grandparents just doesn't feel right for the younger generation [think indoor plumbing and electricity].
2. A Call for help! Change is hard and we often need guides and helpers along the way. People with specific skills to offer and a willingness to make it happen.
3. A Vision! This is the part that always blows my mind - how people can see what a run-down old cabin CAN BECOME with skill and time and resources.
4. A Cost! There's always a cost in change. For Maine Cabin Masters they have a specific budget they need to work with to bring about the new vision for the cabin. So – there's a financial cost to change. There's also an emotional cost. Often those old cabins are filled with memories, passed down through generations, stories of life, love, and shared experience. It's hard to see the structure that holds those memories change.
5. A Trust! This is maybe the hardest part. Will the cabin still feel like it's ours? Will it work for the family? Will everyone like it? Will we recognize it? Will we be okay with what ISN'T anymore and be able to embrace what IS?
6. A wiliness to Leave. It's a poignant moment when the owners hand over the keys and drive away. It has felt like that a little - hasn't it? On March 15th you drove away from Lord of Life after going to worship and haven't been back. That's hard.
7. A New Start! The reveal is always a tear-jerker, as families and individuals take in, for the first time, the transformation of a place that has carried meaning and memory and will hopefully continue to do so into the future. One of the things I love about the reveal – is that the construction/design crew always incorporates something of the old cabin into the redone cabin – so that there's this tangible connection – an "altar" per se to what was and a commitment to what will be.

So, why did I take a page to talk about Maine Cabin Masters? Because, the past eight weeks in our country and world, what WAS the way we operated at Lord of Life and the way we worshiped and conducted business isn't going to work right now and we have to acknowledge that and ask for help and embrace a new vision for what is being re-made into what WILL BE. We know that change is hard. And it takes time. And it takes trust. And right now we've had to already do some "new construction" – even as we are working on that new vision. So it may be a little messy for awhile. That's part of the cost.

But as followers of Jesus, we know this! We understand this! It's our story! You remember – that story about grace out of chaos, new out of old, life out of death.

Hang in there with us my friends! God's got this!

Peace,
Pastor Erika

Sunday's Lessons

June 7 - Holy Trinity

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8;
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

June 14 - 2nd Sunday of Pentecost

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

June 21 - 6th 3rd Sunday of Pentecost

2 Corinthians 2:1-10

June 28 - 4th Sunday of Pentecost

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Worshiping On Wednesdays and Sundays - Worship services are not only held on Facebook (click [here](#)), but also on YouTube ([LordofLifeBaxter](#)), and can be accessed by visiting [lolbaxter.org](#).

Daily Devotions and Prayer - Join us each weekday for prayerLIFE@12:45 on Facebook. Videos will also be uploaded to our YouTube Channel, [LordofLifeBaxter](#).

Prayers for our friends, members & family in the Military:

Eric Nelson
James Nelson
Aaron Sopelle
Ben Correll
Jacob Haefner
Josh Haefner

If you'd like someone added to this list, please contact the church office at 218-828-9374 or office@lolbaxter.org.



Wednesday Worship/Devotion Time - Join us at 6 pm on Wednesday nights for a time of sharing and hearing God's word.

Walk the Labyrinth - Jennifer and Darrell Pedersen have opened up the Labyrinth in their backyard to the LOL congregation. We have set up times that are 45 minutes apart and will start at 7:30 am and go until 10:30 am on Wednesdays. It takes about 30 minutes to walk through the Labyrinth. If you are interested, please email colleen@lolbaxter.org. We will send you the sign-up sheet and Jennifer will send you instructions.

Pastor Led Bible Study - takes place every Wednesday evening at 6 pm. We are working our way through the Bible.

Contact colleen@lolbaxter.org and we will send you the Zoom link or look for Pastor Led Bible Study on CCB and sign up.

On July 16 back in 1995, Pastor Erika Nilsen was ordained - This July, Lord of Life will celebrate the 25th anniversary of that great day. You are encouraged to participate in a card & letter shower for her. Send cards and letters to her c/o Colleen at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 6190 Fairview Road, Baxter, MN 56425. Letters sent directly to Colleen will be collected in a scrapbook. Normally we might try to make this a surprise, but these aren't normal times. Please help us all celebrate her ministry here and at First Lutheran in Aitken. Mail in your cards before July 3rd.

Do you like to scrapbook or craft? We are need of someone to help with a project. Please email colleen@lolbaxter.org if you can help out and would like more information.

Brainerd Area Coalition on Homelessness - will be holding an organizing Zoom meeting soon. Please contact Pastor Steve if you are interested in helping us find solutions to homelessness in our community by emailing steve@lolbaxter.org.

Stephen Ministries' Principles for Caring for a Grieving Person during Social Distancing

Even when you can't offer care in person, there are still ways to be a light in the darkness of someone's grief.

- Be there emotionally for the person. When you are not able to be physically present, you can still let the person know you're there for them and you do care. As you connect with them, give them your full attention.
- Use the phone or video chat. When being physically present isn't possible, the next best way to care is by phone or video chat. Your voice and face can communicate compassion and support much more effectively than a text or email.
- Encourage the honest expression of feelings. In a caring way, ask how the grieving person is really doing and what they're thinking and feeling, and show that you're willing to listen. If the person doesn't have a lot to say initially, that's okay. Just continue to be available, and as time goes on, they'll most likely appreciate having a safe person to open up to.
- Listen and validate. Validating lets the person know you heard what they said and you accept that they feel that way. For instance, if the person says, "Sometimes it hurts so much I don't know what to do," a validating response would be "That sounds awful. I'm sorry you're going through that."
- Avoid platitudes or other words that discount the person's feelings. Platitudes are words that sound caring or helpful on the surface but usually end up causing further pain, such as "She lived a good, long life" or "Only the good die young." Words that discount the person's feelings include "At least . . ." or "You shouldn't feel that way."
- Let the person know that it's okay to grieve. Too often people feel pressured to rush through their grief or bury their feelings, and that may be especially true in the current crisis. Grieving is normal, natural, and necessary. Encourage the person to take the time they need to grieve.
- Be there for the long term. Grief takes time, so if you're willing and able, let the person know you'll be there for them throughout the grief journey—and then follow through. Check in periodically to see how they're doing. They'll likely appreciate knowing you remember their loss and still care.

Even though it's not the same as in-person care, these behaviors can make a big difference to someone who's grieving, especially during these times when people may be feeling very alone.

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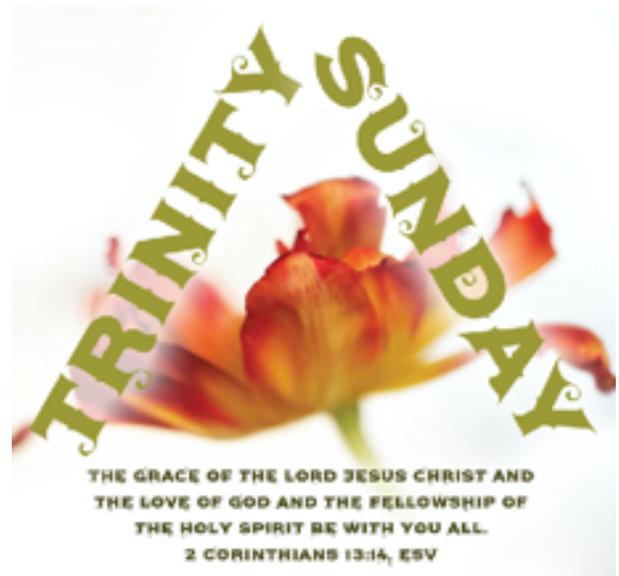
Dear Lord of Life,

Thank you for your donation of \$250 to Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen.

Your generous gift of money helps pay for 60-80 meals per day.

With Gratitude,

Glen Gustafson,
Treasurer
Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen





Youth Ministry Update

Summer is officially here. Our youth at Lord of Life have finished up their school year with distant learning and it is time to enjoy some of the nice weather and the lakes area as best as we can. With the launch of summer, brings about new changes to youth ministry programming. I will do my best to share with you some of those changes here. The best way to keep up to date with what is happening at Lord of Life and youth ministry is to continue to check our social media platforms and website for weekly announcements and updates.

Meeting Online and Not Currently in Person

Please note that weekly we seem to be getting updates and changes to how we can navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic together. As you know the last couple of months we have been conducting all of our programming online. As a church, we have been using our social media platforms along with Zoom to do our best to connect with you! We continue to monitor the situation and guidelines closely and will do what we can to keep you all informed on our direction moving forward. Our council and staff continue to meet and create a plan for ministry moving forward. I am thankful for everyone's hard work and your support. Currently all programming will remain online until further notice.

Recap May 17th Senior Recognition!

During our Sunday worship service on May 17th, we took some time to congratulate our senior class at Lord of Life. Although we were unable to meet in person, thank you to everyone who sent in messages and showed your support to this amazing group! We hope to gather together this summer and bless them before leaving for college and to gift them quilts from our congregation. We will keep you posted when a date is set in the future.

Changes to Summer Stretch: NEW Virtual Challenges!

Youth Grades: 7th-9th Online content & challenges (No in-person programming at this time)

For many years at the start of June, area ELCA Lutheran churches gather their middle school students together to volunteer throughout the community. Thursdays in the summer are spent volunteering, enjoying lunch, bible study, and afternoon fun activities. This year Summer Stretch will have to change while we are in the COVID-19 pandemic. As youth directors and pastors, we have been working to come up with some service challenges that you can do at your own homes. Please be checking your email and online for more updates in the weeks to come!

Youth Group: Teen's Upstream Weekly Zoom - Grades 9th-12th - Time: 8 pm -9 pm

If you are in 9th-12th grade you are invited to join in on our weekly Teen's Upstream meetings via Zoom. This is a great way to take a break throughout the week and check in on your friends! Together we will check in with one another, enjoy bible study, and some games!

Thank you for your continued support of the youth ministry programs at Lord of Life. If you would like to know more about what is happening this summer or how you might get involved with the programs, I would love to hear from you!

Blessings & Stay Safe Everyone!

Tim Slinger,
Youth Director



As we look ahead to the summer months, there are a lot of unknowns and uncertainties. However, there is one constant that we can cling to and that is God's goodness.

Summer Programming for Children's Ministry will certainly look different this summer, but it will be provided in some shape and form. To best prepare and meet the needs of our families, below are 5 questions LOL would love for you to answer. Please know there is no right or wrong answer. There are no answers we are hoping or expecting to get, we just want honesty and input. These answers will help us move forward with planning as life and regulations change. *Answers can be emailed to colleen@lolbaxter.org.*

1. If we are not able to physically meet for worship over the summer months, please check or highlight which of the methods below you would prefer Kid's Time to be delivered:

Recorded Video Lessons
Zoom Meetings
Kid's Time lessons and materials delivered to homes

2. If and when the Stay Safe Order is lifted, will your family be comfortable gathering outdoors for summer programming? Social Distancing measures would be in place.
3. If Lord of Life offered virtual VBS for families, would your family enroll and participate?

If you answered Yes to Question #3, please check or highlight which delivery method below you would prefer:

Recorded Video Lessons
Zoom Meetings
VBS Lessons and Materials delivered to homes

1. Have you "liked" and/or visited the Lord of Life Lutheran Children Facebook page?
2. Have you engaged with any of the activities, lessons, or worship provided on the Lord of Life Lutheran Children's Facebook page?

In the meantime, please visit Lord of Life Lutheran Children Facebook page to stay updated with what is going on and have the opportunity to participate in activities, praise & worship, and Bible lessons.

Dear Lord of Life,

I wanted to reach out today to say *thank you* for the generous gift of \$637.64.

With your help, we can deliver hope to the Baxter/Brainerd area community through something as simple as a box of food. Thank you for thinking of those who are struggling to make ends meet during this incredibly difficult time. I thought you might like to read more stories of good happening in Greater Minnesota and beyond: [Donations In Action: Feel - Good Stories During COVID-19](#).

Know we consider it an honor to be one of the organizations your church supports! Please let me know if you have any questions about your gift, how your congregation can get more involved, or how we can pray for you.

Have a blessed day!

Jessica Raboin
Community Engagement Associate
The Salvation Army Northern Division

Lord of Life Church Council Regular Meeting Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Present (10): Pastor Erika Nilsen, Laura Campbell, Cindy Swenson, Dan Tupy, Pastor Steven Rye, Chris Adamson, Pat Huhta, Darcy Dwyer, Lori Rehnblom, Layne Danielson

Guests Present (3): Anne Laechel, Deb Bergstrom, Curt 'Hawk' Hawkinson

Motion to Adopt the Agenda: Pat Huhta motioned; Layne Danielson seconded, all approved. (CC.2020.05.01)

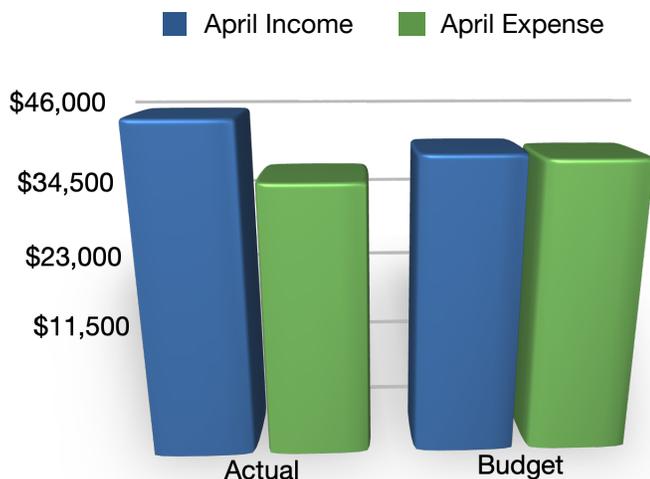
Consent Agenda, as amended:

- TO APPROVE the May 5, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes (CC.2020.05.02)
- TO AUTHORIZE payment of \$2,250 to Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, from Hungry Jar (#9120) (CC.2020.05.03)
- TO AUTHORIZE payment of \$1,000 to ELCA World Hunger, from World Hunger (#9130) (CC.2020.05.04)
- TO AUTHORIZE refunds to Tanzania mission trip participants upon request, from Mission Trip-International (#9364) (CC.2020.05.05)
- TO AUTHORIZE a transfer of the \$3,000.00 balance of Long Term Repair account (#5355) to the Long Term Repair & Maintenance dedicated fund (#9060) (CC.2020.05.06)
- TO AUTHORIZE a transfer of the \$1,000.00 balance of the Technology Upgrades account (#5315) to the Computers dedicated fund (#9010) (CC.2020.05.07) Motioned by Pastor Steven Rye; seconded by Dan Tupy, all approved.

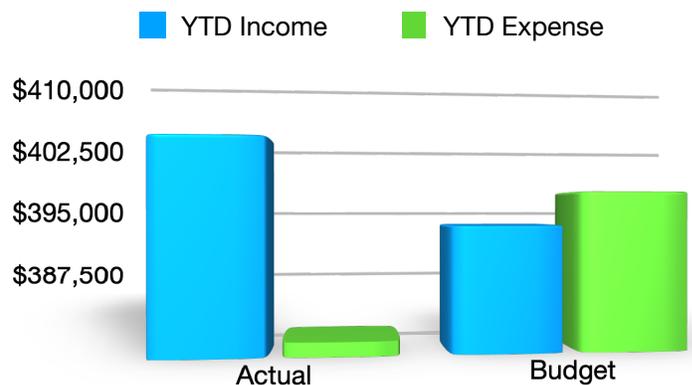
New Business:

- Motion to take off the table the Property Team Soffit and Fascia proposal. Motion by Pastor Steve, Seconded by Layne, all approved. (CC.2020.05.11)
- Motion to approve Property Team Soffit and Fascia proposal, with work starting on the east side and repair the south and west fascia and soffit areas, not to exceed \$7000 to be taken from the Barrett Estate account #9005. Motion by Layne Danielson, Seconded by Lori Rehnblom, all approved. (CC.2020.05.12)
- Motion to authorize \$800 from the Security System account #5367 for the Building Security Proposal. Motion by Laura Campbell; Seconded by Layne Danielson, all approved. (CC.2020.05.13)
- Motion to authorize payment to Preston Owen for video editing and streaming services and other duties as assigned, total funds in the amount of \$3000, \$500 of which would be paid now for video services rendered and \$2500 to be distributed monthly for services through August 24, 2020. Motion by Dan Second by Darcy, all approved (CC.2020.05.14)

April 2020 General Fund



July 2019-April 2020 YTD - General Fund



June Birthdays

- 1 Andy Isackson, Dick Jensen, Timothy Nelson, Megan Winter
- 2 Macin Freed, Bryan Schaitberger
- 3 Connor Hayes, Ben Maurer, Spencer Porter, Taylor Tyrrell, Avery Wikoff
- 4 Laura Adamson, Jon Anderson, Nicholas Bisek, Andy Ehlert, David Jeremiason, Susan Rioux, Jacob Vaughn
- 5 Renzen Caughey, Paul Cervantez, Keegan Davidge, Deb Lasher
- 6 Ryen Christiansen, McKinleigh Rude
- 7 Will Aadland, Becky Clark-Randall, Darcy Dwyer, Kenneth Toole
- 8 Signe Devine, Nicole Johnson, Matt Rubin, Raegan Norquist, Peyton Schlegel
- 9 Jaxon Larson, Gia Lofstrom, Jeremy Ryder, Becca Rye, Kade Stengrim, Sue Tulenchik
- 10 Paige Fink, Samuel Nelson, Alicia Tibbetts, Lisa Tupy
- 11 Aizlynn Ford, Scott Hall, Karen Lundblad, Becky McCutchen-Braak, Minto Porter
- 12 James Bastian, James Gruendemann, Ashley Marichalar, Steven Rye
- 13 David Borgen, Pat Dickson, Lisa Drietz, Steve Frank, Zaylee Massie, Straton Pribula, Jason Winter
- 14 Lacey Christenson, Ahni Perez
- 15 Darlene Christensen, Molly Flaten, Renae Ford, Bryana Kron, Wendy Rueger
- 16 Tom Ferkingstad, Pete Lowe, Kensington Picek, Grace Rueger
- 17 Gail Brecht, Kale Christenson, Tanner Clink, Paula Parrish
- 18 Lee Hauble, Pam Marlatt, Quinn Skwira
- 19 Megan Bisek, Emma Booth, Ryan Larson, Clara Nelson, Chuck Olson, Hanna Ruzich, Rick zumBrunnen
- 20 James Blake, Ava Figliuzzi, Anastacia Ford, Chloe Hames, Bruce Mogensen, Erica Rehnblom
- 21 Mia Berry, David Dewey, Landyn Doud, Adam Langan, Spencer Wagner
- 22 Anne Champion, Garnet Getty, Coyer Mackner, Jaden Miller, Karin Plautz, Breanne Tuma
- 23 Ella Berry, Branden Tulenchik
- 24 Tyler Gapinski, Jack Hoglin, Nancy Larson, Andrew Nybeck, Tami Pliscott, Adam Shipman
- 25 Brooke Swanson, Sandie Youngblom

June birthdays continued...

- 27 Eric Davidge, Damian Fink, Maggie Mattson, Brianna Pliscott, Lincoln Singh, Jill Trtanj
- 28 Lisa Hoglin, Deanna Kohout, Emily Rioux
- 29 Pam Braland, Gail Massie, Paul Rueger
- 30 Mike Anderson, Landon Bruggeman

June Anniversaries

- 6/1 Paul & Sarah Borchert❖
- 6/2 Troy & Lorie Gratke, Bryan & Ivy Ruzynski
- 6/3 Katie & Alex Getty
- 6/6 Joe & Leesha Bisek, Bruce & Lizz Coonfield, Jim & Kelly Larson❖
- 6/7 Glen & Dinah Sundberg❖
- 6/9 Bryan & Gina Barber, Gary & Jeanine Christiansen❖, Alan & Dawn Genz❖
- 6/12 Mark & Rose Bankers❖, Dean & Monica Clink❖
- 6/13 Rick & Ann Smallman❖
- 6/14 Bruce Eastman & Donna Salli❖
- 6/15 Jim & Debra Kron❖
- 6/16 Alix & Kevin Burke, Patty & Steven Hins❖, Jeff & Kim Johnson❖
- 6/17 Don & Gloria Narveson†
- 6/18 Ted & Connie Toensing†
- 6/19 Bill & Marlowe Fortune†, Ron & Michelle Meyer❖, Greg & Jolene Parks, Brian & Patty Wallace❖
- 6/20 Tim & Pam Cook❖, Nancy & Rick Redshaw❖, Steve & Brenda Schaitberger
- 6/21 Sid & Brenda Johnson❖, Ben & Becky Robertson
- 6/22 Trent & Jennifer Grams, Bob & Leone Johnson†, Ed & Pat Swenson†
- 6/23 Steve & Lisa Drietz
- 6/24 Steve & Lisa Kohls, Curtis & Kim Nelson❖, Mark & Paula Parrish❖, Joel & Erica Staehling❖, Alicia & Chris Tibbetts
- 6/26 Matthew & Jenny Vaughn, John & Kris Zemke❖
- 6/27 Andy & Darcy Dwyer, Kellie & Kelby Klimek, Greg & Cindy Swenson❖
- 6/28 C. B. & Linda Bylander, Guy & Katy Kelm, Tim & Jody Sweet❖
- 6/29 Mike & Judy Bialka❖, Mike & Jana Shogren
- 6/30 Bryan & Paula Barrer❖, Audrey & Wes Powers†

❖=Celebrating 24-49 years!

†=Celebrating 50 years or more!



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The church windows are starting to fill up and we could use some more hearts! Bring your hearts in a ziplock bag to the black box outside of LOL and we will put them up in our windows. Drive on by and check it out!

Behind the Scenes