

# GOOD NEWS

November  
2020

Lord of Life  
Lutheran  
Church  
(ELCA)

Worship Schedule  
Sunday 9:00 am  
Streaming  
10:30 in person

Office Hours  
By Appointment  
Please Call  
218-828-9374

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](mailto:office@lolbaxter.org)  
[www.lolbaxter.org](http://www.lolbaxter.org)

## Greetings, Fellow Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

It is good to be writing a newsletter article for you! I have to confess though. Of all the things a pastor gets called on to do: preach, walk alongside folks, collaborate with staff, and so much more. Had you had to ask me before COVID-19 hit, I probably would NOT have said I enjoyed writing a newsletter article.

It's essential. And I'm glad for the connection we have through it. But, honestly, writing a newsletter article would have been pretty low on the list of things to do. How different things are today. Due to understaffing, we've had a couple months break in sending out the newsletter, and it feels good to have the capacity to communicate with you this way. A big thanks to Lolly Kalinoski and Karen Erickson for stepping up to make this newsletter possible.

The first thing to say is: "I miss you." I miss gathering together. Words cannot describe how deep the yearning to be together is for me. Yet I am grateful that we are bound together as the body of Christ even during these times when we are apart.

The most pressing question we face regards our worship life together. If there is one constant during these COVID times, it is "change." For this reason, I am hesitant to share specifics about worship because the situation is almost guaranteed to change between when I write this and when you read it. This is especially true now.

When we first entertained the idea of holding in-building worship, the SMART team discussed at what point we would discontinue if the spread of COVID became too great within the community. Minnesota's state came out with guidelines that when the 14-day COVID-19 case rate per 10,000 reached 30 cases, the high school should cease in-building education. Also, when the 14-day case rate reached 50, the elementary should stop in-building education. At the time, it seemed reasonable to split the difference and say that at 40 cases, Lord of Life should cease in-building activities.

As of the writing of this article, the current 14-day rate is 40 cases. Before any changes are made to these plans, we will need to have further discussions as a staff, and a SMART team, and a council. It does look like there will be a period when we will not be worshipping in-building. All I can say is, please check the website for updates. And especially check the website just before coming to worship or an event at Lord of Life. The situation changes quickly.

Because of the weather and concerns about cameras and musicians, we will discontinue the parking lot worship services we've been holding every Sunday at 9am. I am immensely grateful to everyone who has pitched in to maintain these services. It is profoundly moving to see the esprit-de-corp of everyone involved. *(continued on pg 2)*

As of this moment, our hope is to hold two indoor worship services beginning on November 8. The first service will be at 9:00am. The second service may shift to 11:00am to accommodate the extra cleaning required between worship services.

We are contacting the current volunteer team to determine if they are willing to serve the entire morning (2 services). Whether we have two services in November and beyond will be determined by (a) volunteer staffing and (b) a demand.

Many people have asked whether we will continue live-streaming in the future. Rest assured, we will ALWAYS stream a worship service at 9:00am no matter how lousy COVID-19 gets.

We have been holding drive-up communion each Sunday after live-streaming worship. In the future, people will be invited to come to the church but take communion while the rest of the congregation is worshipping from 10:30am - 11:00am.

Worship attendance in the building will be capped at 50. As of now, we do not anticipate going over that number, and so we are dis-continuing asking people to register for worship ahead of time.

We are exploring the possibility of holding a limited Wednesday night worship service. If you are interested in attending on Wednesdays, please send an email to [office@lolbaxter.org](mailto:office@lolbaxter.org) or call the church office to let us know you would like an invitation to worship on Wednesdays.

Finally, if you would like a pastoral visit. I would very much welcome that. I'd be glad to visit with you in your yard or some other open space. Even as the season gets colder. I still have my gear from my days in International Falls. I would love to bring over a cup of hot chocolate to your house and see you in person.

God Bless!  
Pastor Steve

### Christmas Poinsettias 2020



I wish to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
for Poinsettias and other decorative Sanctuary enhancements.

Cost per poinsettia is \$10.00 \_\_\_ I will take my poinsettia(s) home.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

*Place your completed form and payment in the offering box or mail to the church  
at 6190 Fairview Rd, Baxter MN 56425 by Sunday, December 13th  
Additional forms will be available in the black box outside of the church.  
Do not place poinsettia orders in the black box outside of the church as that is not a secure location.*

# Thanksgiving Worship Service

On Wednesday, November 25th there will be a 12:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. This service will also be live streamed and available to watch in the evening.



Be sure to set your clocks back Saturday night October 31st as daylight saving time ends at 2 am. Be sure to change the batteries on your smoke detectors. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep before worship on Sunday, November 1st.

## OH NO! SNOW!

Are you trying to figure out good ways to get out of the house, to get fresh air, and to exercise during this COVID winter? Perfect solution!! Volunteer to help shovel the snow that will surely fall on Lord of Life's sidewalks! Choose a week that will work for you, and all you'll need to do is shovel once in the morning and once in the evening if it has snowed that day. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help with this need. Email [lollykadlec@hotmail.com](mailto:lollykadlec@hotmail.com) if you can help for one or more winter weeks or respond to the automated CCB invitation.

### Prayers for Strength, Comfort and Healing for...

- Jerry Kuehn
- Deb Bergstrom's sister Karen Sebek - diagnosed with COVID-19
- Deb Bergstrom - cataract surgery
- Karen Erickson - spinal surgery

### **CONTACT THE CHURCH...**

**828-9374**

- ❖ When you or a family member is hospitalized or will be hospitalized.
- ❖ When there is a birth or death in the family.
- ❖ When there is a crisis.
- ❖ When you change your address.
- ❖ When new neighbors move in near you and they are looking for a church home.
- ❖ When you have good news to share.
- ❖ When you have a suggestion to make or a comment to share.
- ❖ If you do not wish to receive our newsletter.
- ❖ If you have a college or post high-school young person no longer living at home.

Your pastors are available to walk with you in times of sadness and joy. Please contact the church office by phone at 828-9374.

#### **The pastors can also be reached via email:**

Pastor Steve: [steve@lolbaxter.org](mailto:steve@lolbaxter.org)

Pastor Erika: [erika@lolbaxter.org](mailto:erika@lolbaxter.org)

### **The Season of ADVENT**

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 29th. Advent is a time to wait and wonder and watch. A time to focus on hope, peace, joy and love. A time to prepare for the coming of Christ once again.

Be on the lookout for daily Advent devotionals and kits to make an Advent wreath. You'll be blessed by paying attention to this special season of the church year.

# WORSHIP SERVICE ASSISTANTS NEEDED!

Even though we are in a period of transition due to the pandemic, we ask you to consider volunteering to be worship assistants. We do, of course, honor each congregational member's decision whether to participate in indoor worship services. Needless to say, LOL will support and carry out all currently recommended mitigation practices as we strive to keep our community healthy for as long as necessary. It is still unclear when we will be able to once again offer two in-church worship services on Sundays, but we would like to be ready for that happy time when it comes, with all the volunteer worship positions filled.

At this writing, here is the list of positions:

**Hospitality Positions:**

- Head Ushers
- Assistant Ushers
- Welcomers/Greeters

**Tech Support Positions:**

- Slide Advancers
- Sound Technicians
- Technical Assistants
- Video Assistants

**Worship Support Positions:**

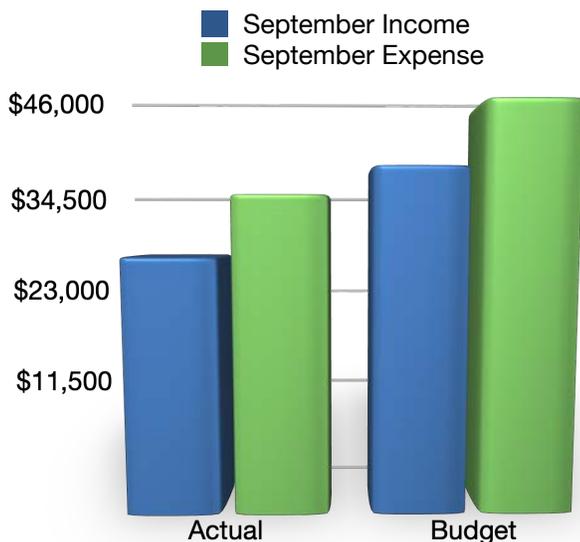
- Cleaning Crew
- Communion Assistants
- Communion Set Up/Clean Up
- Readers

Volunteers are placed on a team that rotates to serve generally one Sunday per month. Each team member will be notified of their upcoming service date and position with an automated message. The message will ask for a response of pending, accept, or decline.

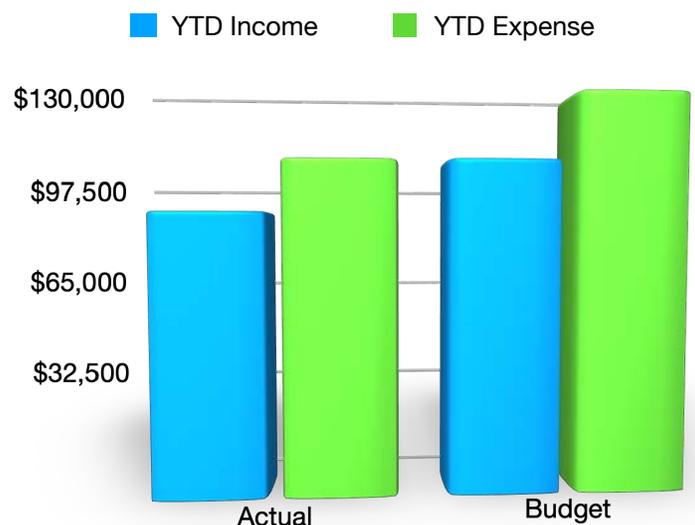
If you have questions and/or would like to volunteer, please contact Lolly Kalinoski at [lollykadlec@hotmail.com](mailto:lollykadlec@hotmail.com) or call the church office, 218-828-9374.

Every one of Lord of Life's faith-family members anticipates with joy the eventual ability to once again congregate and worship God in our beautiful church building. Imagine the smiles, the gratitude to be together, the laughter of kids of all ages, and all other sights and sounds of gathering that we all miss so much! Surely God will provide us with the ability to worship together again!

**September 2020 General Fund**



**July 2020-September 2020 YTD - General Fund**



## SUNDAY READINGS

### November 1 - All Saints Sunday

Micah 3:5-12 - Judgment upon corrupt rulers  
Psalm 43 - Send out your light and truth, that they  
may lead me. (Ps. 43:3)  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 - The apostle's teaching  
accepted as God's word  
Matthew 23:1-12 - All who humble themselves will  
be exalted

### November 8th - 22nd Sunday in Pentecost

Amos 5:18-24 - Let justice roll down like waters  
Psalm 70 - You are my helper and my deliverer; O  
Lord, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - The promise of the  
resurrection  
Matthew 25:1-13 - The story of the wise and foolish  
bridesmaids

### November 15th - 23rd Sunday in Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 - The day of the Lord  
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 - So teach us to number  
our days that we may apply our hearts to  
wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 - Be alert for the day of the  
Lord  
Matthew 25:14-30 - The story of the slaves  
entrusted with talents

### November 22 - Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 - God will shepherd Israel  
Psalm 95:1-7a - We are the people of God's pasture  
and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)  
Ephesians 1:15-23 - The reign of Christ  
Matthew 25:31-46 - The coming of the Son of Man;  
the separation of sheep and goats

### November 29 - First Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9 - Prayer that God would come with  
power and compassion  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 - Let your face shine upon us,  
and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 - Gifts of grace sustain those  
who wait for the end  
Mark 13:24-37 - The sudden coming of the Son of  
Man

## SAIL CLASS



The Stay Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) Class restarted on October 19 after a 7 month COVID hiatus. We are now meeting virtually through Zoom. We are excited to be back exercising together, even if it's on a video screen! SAIL is a strength, balance, and fitness program for adults 65 and older. Performing exercises routinely that improve strength, balance, and fitness is the single most important activity adults can do to stay active and reduce their risk of falling. The class meets from 9:00am-10:00am Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. For more information, please contact class leaders, Deb Bergstrom at 701-678-4053, or Valerie Jones at 218-330-0682.

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

"Because I do not know any medicine for grief but to let ourselves grieve."- from "The Cure for Sorrow" by Jan Richardson.

Have you noticed that grief is personal, lonely, edgy and filled with many emotions? If you have suffered a loss in the last year or in the past that you are struggling with, we want to invite you to consider attending our Grief Support Group. Support groups can help you cope with your loss. It can be added even if you are receiving professional counseling, making new friends and helping with loneliness, and these are only a few of the benefits. Please know that what you share is confidential. The group is non-judgmental and you go at your own pace. Our group will be meeting weekly every Monday at 5:30 PM starting November 9, 2020, until December 21, 2020. We will be meeting at Lord of Life Church. You must wear a mask. We will socially distance and use CDC guidelines. The class and materials are at no cost.

Please contact Deb Bergstrom at 701-678-4053 or [deb.bergstrom@lolbaxter.org](mailto:deb.bergstrom@lolbaxter.org)  
Please consider joining us, and please contact Deb if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Deb Bergstrom RN  
Parish Nurse  
Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
6190 Fairview Road  
Baxter, MN 56425  
218-828-9374

## Thank You Council Members!

Thank you to our outgoing Council Members: Cindy Swenson, Pat Huhta, Layne Danielson, Sarah Nesheim; our incoming council members: Pam Caughey, Emerson Holcomb-Smith, Brian Orlowski & Steve Schaitberger; and continuing Council members: Chris Adamson, Laura Campbell, Darcy Dwyer, Lori Rehnblom and Dan Tupy.



Lord of Life Congregational meeting was held  
October 4, 2020 via ZOOM.

### New Council Members

**President** - Dan Tupy

**Vice President** - Steve Schaitberger

**Secretary** - Laura Campbell

**Treasurer** - Chris Adamson

**Youth Council Member** - Emmy Holcomb-Smith

**Mission Upward** - Darcy Dwyer

**Mission Inward** - Pam Caughey

**Mission Outward** - Lori Rehnblom

**Mission Ground** - Brian Orlowski

### MISSION SUPPORT TEAM

Our stewardship campaign this year again is "Journey to Generosity: Imagine the Possibilities." This theme seems even more appropriate in 2020, a year that none of us could imagine would cause so many changes in our daily lives, as well as so much confusion and uncertainty. In spite of these uncertain times, the members of our Lord of Life family have continued to support our church in so many ways! Your financial gifts and acts of service have enabled our church's mission to continue.

New video equipment was purchased to enable Sunday services to continue on-line and outdoors. Daily devotions have been offered on Facebook and YouTube since the beginning of the pandemic. Youth activities, book discussions, and team meetings have continued via Zoom. Just recently, faithful members of the Property Team replaced the worn soffit and fascia on our church building. None of this would have been possible without your continued, generous support.

On behalf of the Mission Support Team, I would like to say "thank you" for your generous support of Lord of Life! With your continuing, faithful support, the mission of Lord of Life will thrive far beyond the time of this pandemic. May you experience the joys of generosity that God wants for each of us as we navigate through these unfamiliar, uncharted times.

Valerie Jones, Chair, Mission Support Team





## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### KIDS TIME – ONLINE! [geared for K-4<sup>th</sup> gr]

This is a weekly offering in partnership with Luther Crest Bible Camp. You will hear a Bible story, learn a camp song, watch a skit and be invited to think about God's word with your family!! Videos are posted every Sunday morning on our church website [www.lolbaxter.org](http://www.lolbaxter.org)

### STORIES FOR CHANGE [geared towards 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders]

Looking for a meaningful children's story to help your kids think about diversity and justice and what it looks like to be God's people in the world? There are 16 Read-a-Loud stories each followed by a conversation between Guy Kelm and Pastor Erika lifting up different themes and always closing with a prayer for wisdom and understanding and hope. Go to the church website [www.lolbaxter.org](http://www.lolbaxter.org)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE BIBLES HAVE BEGUN!

Bibles were distributed to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade families starting the week of Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Classes are Thursday evenings from 6:30pm- 7:30pm – October 29, November 5, November 12. We meet on ZOOM for 3 weeks unpacking with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and parents the joy of God's Word.



### November Youth Ministry Update:

The question of where to begin enters my mind as I work to write this youth ministry update to all of you. I know it has been awhile since we have been able to get a full newsletter to all of you. In that time, there have been many changes and also many beginnings when it comes to the ministry that is happening at Lord of Life. That holds true when taking a look at the youth ministry programs that are happening today! In this article, I will lift up the youth programs which are happening currently at Lord of Life. Although the programs have all started, know that your family is still welcome to register and join us if you are able. Here is a look at what is happening this month:

### Affirmation of Baptism Service

On November 1st, 2020 @10:30am we will hold the affirmation of baptism service for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation class and their families. These students are coming to the end of their confirmation journey, and we are excited to celebrate this faith milestone with all of them. I want to thank all of you for supporting this class during their confirmation journey. Check back next month for a picture from the service!



Please keep these young people in your prayers:

Josh Albright, Emma Balsley, Emily Bastian, Bella Bennett, Keegan Davidge, Hannah Drietz, Allie Dwyer, Emily Ehlert, Micah Halbersma, Gavin Hoelzel, Chase Koop, Drew Larson, Brody Lund, Sam Mattson, Sophie Mattson, Gretchen Paysse, Cally Robertson, Tyler Stoen, Anna Tupy, Keaton Walkowiak

### 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation: Deeply Rooted in a Boundless God

This year for confirmation we are using the NEMN Synod resource that is being put together. This resource is being used in many different ways in churches across our Synod. We are excited to explore the theme and creed from "Deeply Rooted in a Boundless God" with our students. Confirmation meets on Wednesday nights from 7pm-8pm. Currently we are meeting online for class via Zoom. We are hopeful that sometime throughout this year we can meet in-person when it is safe to do so.

## NEW Club 56: "Conversations Around the Dinner Table"

This program offered for our 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders has seen the biggest change due to Covid-19. The focus of this program is on intentional faith conversations around the dinner table as a family. We know this year with Covid-19 we are unable to offer a Wednesday night meal. With that we decided to offer this program during the dinner hour from 5pm-6pm on Wednesday nights. It has been fun connecting with families on Zoom, introducing the Bible story & topic of discussion and then sending them on their way to enjoy dinner! Families can sign up to purchase Papa Murphy's pizzas at a discounted price, which are then delivered by the church staff to their homes!

## Teen's Upstream: Wednesday Night Fall Campfires!

Our high school youth group has been meeting outside around the campfire ring at church on Wednesday nights! This has been a great way to connect in-person but also staying safe while we can be outside this fall. It is a time to connect with one another and explore more about our faith together! You must be registered ahead of time with a participation waiver signed.

If you have any questions or want to know more about the youth ministry programs offered at Lord of Life, please visit our website at [www.lolbaxter.org](http://www.lolbaxter.org) or contact me at [tim@lolbaxter.org](mailto:tim@lolbaxter.org). Thank you for your continued support and I hope everyone stays health this fall!

Blessings,  
Tim Slinger, Youth Director

## Recommended Changes to Dedicated Funds

In an effort to simplify our finances, the Finance Team is recommending making certain changes with respect to our Dedicated Accounts. Many of these accounts have been inactive for over 5 years. The accounts recommended for transfer are being published for congregational review and comment. Please contact the Finance Team Chair, Darren Larson, at 218-851-8368 or [dwl\\_larson@msn.com](mailto:dwl_larson@msn.com) with any comments, questions, or concerns.

| <u>Account to Transfer</u>  | <u>Balance to Transfer</u>                             | <u>Recommended Transferee Account</u>   |
|---|--|---|
| Church Operations<br>9005 Barrett Estate<br>9035 Lay Conferences  | \$46,707.89<br>\$4.38                                  | 3000 Retained Contributions<br>3000 Retained Contributions  |
| Property<br>9070 Playground Equipment<br>9075 Sprinkler System<br>9080 Trees  | \$677.24<br>\$33.60<br>\$200.00                        | 9060 Long Term Repair & Maintenance<br>9060 Long Term Repair & Maintenance<br>9060 Long Term Repair & Maintenance                                       |
| Pastoral<br>9155 Kuleta Memorial<br>9160 Memorials Undesignated<br>9165 Military Family Support   | \$393.24<br>\$874.20<br>\$32.33                        | 3000 Retained Contributions<br>3000 Retained Contributions<br>3000 Retained Contributions   |
| Adult Faith Growth<br>9200 Adult Ministry<br>9210 ELCA Youth & Men's Ministry<br>9220 Fine Arts<br>9225 Friday Men's Breakfast<br>9235 Mens Retreat | \$383.12<br>\$365.72<br>\$258.77<br>\$34.69<br>\$26.41 | 3000 Retained Contributions<br>3000 Retained Contributions<br>3000 Retained Contributions<br>3000 Retained Contributions<br>3000 Retained Contributions |
| Children's Education<br>9295 Faith Chests   | \$55.00  | 3000 Retained Contributions   |
| Congregational Life<br>9405 Historian   | \$99.15  | 3000 Retained Contributions   |
| Worship<br>9430 Bibles<br>9435 Bibles - Large Print<br>9440 Digital Piano<br>9455 Christmas Safety Candle Holder                                    | \$149.02<br>\$207.92<br>\$300.00<br>\$87.89            | 3000 Retained Contributions<br>3000 Retained Contributions<br>3000 Retained Contributions<br>3000 Retained Contributions                                |
| <b>Total for selected dedicated accounts</b>  | <b>\$50,890.57</b>                                     |   |

## RACISM IN OUR CHURCH? NOT ME! NOT ME?

In Alborn, Minnesota, where I grew up, everybody I saw was white like me. In high school, I had the opportunity to meet Native American students who came from the other half of our consolidated school district, Brookston and the Fond du Lac Reservation. There at Albrook High School, I became friends with several Native students. One is married to my cousin. Another, after marriage, raised her family on the same land I grew up on. Her sister-in-law and Native husband raised their family in my old house. It wasn't until college that I met my first African American person and never really got acquainted with any Blacks. There were a handful of Blacks, beautiful people, mostly from African countries, at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. All forty years of my parish ministry have been spent in Northeastern Minnesota. The organist at my first call, Outing, Minnesota, was Black. She rocked! She and her husband moved to Emily from Chicago so that he could become a dentist serving in Aitkin, Minnesota. Not many African Americans or Native Americans have been a part of any church/community I have served.

I remember my high school history classes. I majored in history in college, University of Minnesota – Duluth. Lots of history at seminary too. I know how the people of North America were treated by the Europeans who claimed, settled and conquered their lands. A long history of promises broken, suffering inflicted, lies and stealing of territory, culture, religion and life. I also learned about how the African American people brought here in the hold of slave ships were treated, 400 years ago and since seen as sub-human for the almighty dollar. I believe that things have gotten much better here. However, George Floyd and so many other Black/minority folks killed, without hearing or trial, over minor offenses, or no offense at all, says we have a long way to go. The Pandemic has also clearly revealed the vast disparities in education, health care, wages, home ownership, etc. between old white guys like me and so many minority people. I grew up with every chance and blessing for “success” in life. Not so with many people of color. How could my beloved Minnesota rank in the bottom two or three states regarding the gap between white and non-white learning outcomes?

I am so hopeful/prayerful that God, for the good of all people, will bring about major change from all of the tragic and painful things that we have in 2020 together witnessed, experienced and realized to be true.

Here's something that I can do. Be open. Learn more. Speak out. **“Dear Church – A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.”** Sunday mornings, 10:45 a.m., I will be leading, with help from Lolly Kalinoski, a study/discussion on this book written by a Black Lutheran pastor, Lenny Duncan. He addresses racism in our country and in our church. He discovered the grace of God on his first visit to the Lord's Table in an ELCA church. He believes that the ELCA is well-positioned to contribute to a more just, humane and grace-filled future for our country. What do you think? Willing to take a risk? Willing to have a healthy, respectful, caring conversation with some of your fellow Lord of Life faith family members on how God may be moving to bring about good in these dark days? We may not always agree, but we can still love each other and God will bless us. Please join us.

Dear Church can be ordered from either Amazon or [fortresspress.com](http://fortresspress.com). We will welcome anyone who would like to join at any point in the course of the book study. To join, please call, text, or email Lolly Kalinoski at 218-829-8207, [lollykadlec@hotmail.com](mailto:lollykadlec@hotmail.com) and you will be given the Zoom ID number for the meeting.

Darrell J. Pedersen

# Lord of Life Lutheran Ministry Opportunities

## Connecting to Christ

**Women's Bible Study** - Women's Bible Study will continue to meet on Zoom this Fall. We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 am for an hour. We are currently in the midst of a study of the book of James through Nov. 18. We welcome any new comers who would like to join us. We will start a new study "Christ in the Psalms" November 18th. While many of us have turned to the Psalms for comfort, direction and assurance to God's care, this study focuses on the psalms that predict Christ – His coming, His work, His lordship and His reign as King of kings.

We will break for Thanksgiving week (Nov. 25) and then continue for two Wednesdays (Dec. 2 and 9). After this, we will have a Christmas break until the end of the year and then resume in January.

The cost of the study will be around \$7.50 which includes shipping. Even if you are not able to attend the Zoom meetings, I'd be happy to order a book for you that you can study on your own. It provides a perfect prelude to Christmas. Also, if you know of anyone who would like to join us for the first time, please let me know and I will contact them.

Please contact Carol at 218-838-4396 or email [Rodseth@charter.net](mailto:Rodseth@charter.net).

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** continues to meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month. At this time we are meeting online using Zoom. A phone-in option is available as well. We decided to do something different starting this month. We will be discussing the book "God in You...Releasing the Power of the Holy Spirit in Your Life", by David Jeremiah. If you would like to join us or have any questions, please call Claire Rud at 218-330-5420.

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

## Prayer Chain Ministry

During the 8+ months that the world has been dealing with COVID-19, the committed folks of Lord of Life's Prayer Chain Ministry have quietly and faithfully continued their mission of praying behind the scenes when a prayer request email is received. In Matthew 18:19-20 Jesus says, "Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." This is surely true even during a pandemic, when we pray together via technology!

The mission of the Prayer Chain Ministry is to faithfully lift up in prayer the needs and concerns of our church family and our loved ones. There are a few requirements that all Prayer Chain members agree to when they join our team:

- Commitment to quickly respond with prayer to prayer requests as they come in. Each member prays as soon as possible and in her/his own style of prayer.
- Commitment to strict confidentiality.
- Commitment to attend at least one Prayer Chain in-service meeting per year. These meetings have been held in the church, and there have been six possible meetings to attend spread throughout the year.

Needless to say, we have not been able to meet together as a team during the time of the pandemic. For now, instead of an in-service, the current members will receive an emailed reminder of their commitments and an invitation to share via email favorite readings, prayers, songs, or devotions that are carrying and inspiring them through this challenging time.

If you've considered joining this needed and rewarding opportunity to serve God and our congregation, now might be the best time! Please email Lolly Kalinoski at [lollykadlec@hotmail.com](mailto:lollykadlec@hotmail.com) if you have questions or if you'd like to join.



## **Connecting to Each Other**

**Those Older Folders** - The Older Folders are ready to help out in any way there is a need regarding any clerical or office work that should be completed. Last month a few of our group got a chance to help with a mailing to the members of Lord of Life. We do not meet as a group yet, but we will take our work home to complete. We are eager to help in any way possible. Call for more information. Bobbie Fredstrom 829-8638.

## **Connecting to our Community**

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** - Just a reminder that our Lord of Life Prayer Shawl Ministry is alive and well. We have continued to bless people with our shawls during COVID. We are in need of additional shawls and Baptism blankets. If you have already made some and would like to have them picked up, or if you would like someone to receive a shawl, please call Brenda Johnson (218-831-9725) or Jeannine zumBrunnen (218-343-0964). Thanks for your thoughtfulness!

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

Lord of Life's Stephen Ministry has now been thriving for 1-1/2 years. Thanks to our generous and caring Stephen Ministers, it has become a powerful, confidential, caregiving tool to help our congregation live out Lord of Life's mission statement – To inspire a deeper and richer connection to Christ, our community, and each other. Even more, it helps us to fulfill Jesus' command to love one another and bear each others' burdens.

Stephen Ministry is an all-volunteer program based on distinctively Christian caring. In addition to giving the care receivers a compassionate listening ear, Stephen Ministers are trained to offer biblical encouragement, therefore helping the care receivers, as well as themselves, to grow in faith. Stephen Ministry also provides assistance to our pastors in their demanding caregiving responsibilities to congregational members in need of support. One very important goal of Stephen Ministry at Lord of Life is that no one will need to walk alone through life's tougher challenges.

Currently, Lord of Life has five faithful and faith-filled Stephen Ministers who have continued even in this time of COVID to meet one-on-one with their care receivers. Their meetings sometimes take place in person, while observing social-distancing protocols, and sometimes via phone-calls. Each Stephen Minister is linked with only one care receiver at a time for as long as the caring relationship is needed. Additionally, the team of Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders meets twice a month (now via Zoom) for peer-group supervision and continuing education.

Lord of Life does have a need for more trained and commissioned Stephen Ministers, but because of the uncertainties related to the pandemic, at this time we do not have a new training course scheduled. We certainly hope to be able to offer a new course in 2021, the earlier in the year, the better! The course involves 50 hours of in-person intense training. The trainees meet weekly for 2-1/2 hours over approximately 4 months. We currently have a few folks who are interested in being trained. If YOU have questions or are interested in becoming one of Lord of Life's Stephen Ministers, please call or email one of the Stephen Ministry Leaders, listed below:

Deb Bergstrom (701)678-4053 [deb.bergstrom@lodbaxter.org](mailto:deb.bergstrom@lodbaxter.org)

Lolly Kalinoski (218)829-8207 [lollykadlec@hotmail.com](mailto:lollykadlec@hotmail.com)

Pr. Erika Nilsen (218)828-9734 [erika.nilsen@lodbaxter.org](mailto:erika.nilsen@lodbaxter.org)

Pr. Steven Rye (218)828-9734 [steven.rye@lodbaxter.org](mailto:steven.rye@lodbaxter.org)

Also, as always, we ask for your prayer support as we seek to provide Christian caregiving for all in need of support. Thank you in advance for your prayers!

Submitted by Lolly Kalinoski



6190 Fairview Rd  
Baxter, MN 56425-8285

For updated information on any Lord of Life events,  
check out our website:  
<http://www.lolbaxter.org>

The **Good News** is published monthly. Articles for the  
December Newsletter are due November 18.



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

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