

Good News

March
2021

Lord of Life
Lutheran
Church
(ELCA)

Worship
Sunday - 9am
Wednesday -
6pm

Ministers
The Lord of Life
Faith Family

Pastors
Steven J. Rye
Erika Nilsen

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs: 9-5
Fri: 12-4

Contact Info
(218) 828-9374
office@lolbaxter.
org

Time Capsule Pr. Steven Rye

This last week I opened a time capsule of sorts. Pastor Erika and I have a set of three-ring binders that match the church year's colors. The binders we use in worship change with the season. With the start of Lent, I began to use the purple binder. A binder I hadn't used in almost a year. What I found there, in an instant, took me back to the last in-building worship service we had on March 15, 2020. The order of worship and my sermon had been in my office throughout this entire year. The folder has been like a little time capsule. To be opened up again at the start of this season of Lent.

As I recall the events leading up to that day, we had received word that community spread had begun within Minnesota the previous week. We read health bulletins intended to give guidance to houses of worship regarding the transmission of the virus. It was the start of a deep dive into a subject we all know a lot more about now.

At the time, we were anticipating that the Governor would issue a lockdown for the entire state - which I believe he did in the following day or two. I remember thinking to myself, "Do you think this could stretch out to two months?" Oh, were those naive days or what?

I'm proud of how Pastor Erika, our staff, and church council have sought to maintain our overall mission focus and vitality through it all. I am proud of



how our staff has never wavered in its passion for deepening and enriching our connection to Christ, our community, and Each other. I well up with emotion as I think about the many ways our congregation members have expressed their love for God and one another. We are loving Up, Loving Out, and Loving In as we say - to match our mission statement.

In its support of congregations throughout the church, our churchwide organization has lifted characteristics of vital congregations everywhere. Vital congregations are about these three things: (1) Strengthening their relationship with God, (2) Nurturing relationships, and (3) Maintaining a strong presence in the community. Within our congregation, I have lifted the following goals: (1) Keeping people engaged with the congregation and its mission. (2) Stewarding well our COVID reset, and (3) Staying on solid footing. In the months ahead, I will be exploring our congregational goals in light of this vision of congregational vitality that the ELCA has put before us. I thank you for your part in keeping Lord of Life a vital place. I hope to be in conversation with you more. Stay tuned.

- Pastor Steve

Youth News

7th-9th Grade Confirmation Update:

February brought a transition for our confirmation program. Beginning on February 3rd our confirmation class was offered both in building and online for families. It's hard to describe the excitement that was felt that first Wednesday we could gather safely in building! We have learned a lot this past month and want to thank everyone who has helped make this a possibility, from the volunteers to the families involved in the program!



First Communion Class

This year's First Communion Class for fifth graders will be on Zoom, March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Topics will include how Holy Communion is performed and how communion bread is made. Links to the class are available on our calendar

Teen's Upstream:

We are currently meeting Wednesday nights from 8pm-9pm in the Sonshine room at church for our high school youth group. Take a break midweek with friends for some fun games, faith conversations and digging into different Bible stories together. If you are currently in 9th-12th grade you are welcome to join us!

Summer Program Updates Coming This Month!

We have been in the midst of planning summer programming options at Lord of Life! We look forward to sharing some details regarding options for you and your families! Soon the temperatures will be warming up and it is time to think about spring and summer opportunities! Continue to check in with our church website, social media pages and email communication for updates.

Club 56: Lenten Focus for Our Final Session!

We are launching into our last 4-week session for Club 56 this year! Our topic for this month will be Lent! We will focus in on some of the stories leading up to and a part of Holy Week & Easter. It has been a great year connecting with families with this new format of meeting around the dinner table! We look forward to connecting with all of you this month! Our first class of session 4 starts on March 3rd!

Important Calendar Dates:

- Wednesday March 25th Last Class for Club 56
- Wednesday March 31st No Wednesday Night Programming (Holy Week)
- Easter Sunday April 4th

If you have any questions regarding the information listed above or youth ministry programs being offered at Lord of Life, please contact Tim Slinger. Wishing good health and a great month ahead for all of you!

Council News

Council Members

President - Dan Tupy
Vice President - Steve Schaitberger
Secretary - Laura Campbell
Treasurer - Chris Adamson
Council Representative - Emmy Holcomb-Smith
Mission Upward - Darcy Dwyer
Mission Inward - Pam Caughey
Mission Outward - Lori Rehnblom
Mission Ground - Brian Orlowski



Lord of Life Church Council Regular Meeting Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Steve Schaitberger Darcy Dwyer Laura Campbell
Lori Rehnblom Dan Tupy Pastor Erika Nilsen
Pastor Steven Rye Emmy Holcomb Smith
Guests Present (1): Absent (3):
Anne Laechel, Chris Adamson, Brian Orlowski, Pam Caughey

Devotions by Pr. Erika Nilsen

Consent Agenda:

- To Adopt the 2/18/21 Agenda. (CC.2021.02.01)
- To APPROVE the January 2021 Council Meeting Minutes (CC.2021.02.02)
- To Receive for audit the January 2021 Financial Report. (CC.2021.02.03) Consent Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

New Business:

- MOTION to authorize the purchase the televisions and video switcher. Motion by Steve Schaitberger; Seconded by Darcy Dwyer. (CC.2021.02.04)
- MOTION by Pastor Steve to authorize up to \$6000 from the Video Ministry Fund (if the Video Ministry Fund is expended, any remaining funds would come from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund) for the purchase of 4 Samsung televisions with mounts, plus video switcher, and commercial warranties (as applicable) for the equipment purchased.
 - o Motion by Pastor Steve to substitute the above, more-detailed motion for the previous motion by Steve Schaitberger. Seconded by Pastor Erika. All approved. (CC.2021.02.05)
 - Substituted Motion seconded by Emmy Holcomb Smith. All approved. (CC.2021.02.06)

Meeting Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

- Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Sunday, June 6, 2021 - Annual Congregational Meeting

Of Note:

- Anne will setup and send a Doodle Poll for Council with date options for Council Retreat. Initial plan is that it will be an online retreat on two separate days, meeting 2 – 2.5 h each day.

March Calendar

Lessons

March 7

Exodus 20: 1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

John 2: 13-22

March 14

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107: 1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2: 1-10

John 3: 14-21

March 21

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Psalms 51: 1-12

Hebrews 5: 5-10

John 12: 20-33

March 28

(Palm Sunday)

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

Psalms 31: 9-16

Philippians 2: 5-11

Mark 14: 1--15:47

Monday, March 1

Stephen Leader Meeting

Grief Support Group 5:15 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2

Tuesday Bible Study 9 a.m.

Wednesday, March 3

Club 56, 5 p.m.

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.

7th-9th Grade Confirmation, 7 p.m.

Master Class, 7p.m.

Teen's Upstream, 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 4

Men's Fellowship, 10 a.m.

First Communion Class, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 7

Worship, 9 a.m.

Drive up Communion, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Book Group, 10:45 a.m.

Monday, March 8

Stephen Ministry Education, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 9

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, March 10

Club 56, 5 p.m.

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.

7th-9th Grade Confirmation, 7 p.m.

Master Class, 7 p.m.

Teen's Upstream, 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 11

Men's Fellowship, 10 a.m.

First Communion Class, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 14

Worship, 9 a.m.

Drive up Communion, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Book Group, 10:45 a.m.

Monday, March 15

Stephen Leader Meeting 3 p.m.

April Newsletter Article Deadline

(Send Submissions to tyler.jensen@lolbaxter.org)

Tuesday, March 16

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, March 17

Club 56, 5 p.m.

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.

7th-9th Grade Confirmation, 7 p.m.

Master Class, 7 p.m.

Teen's Upstream, 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 18

Men's Fellowship, 10 a.m.

Church Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

First Communion Class, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 21

Worship, 9 a.m.

Drive up Communion, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Book Group, 10:45 a.m.

Monday, March 22

Stephen Ministry Education, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 23

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, March 24

Club 56, 5 p.m.

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.

7th-9th Grade Confirmation, 7 p.m.

Master Class, 7 p.m.

Teen's Upstream, 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 25

Men's Fellowship, 10 a.m.

First Communion Class, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 28

Worship, 9 a.m.

Drive up Communion, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Book Group, 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday, March 31

Master Class, 7 p.m.

Ministry

Groups

- Men's Fellowship - An opportunity for men to meet via Zoom and study the Bible. Takes place at 10 a.m. on Thursdays.
- Sunday Morning Book Group - A group for people looking to read a variety of books and discuss it with others. Held at 10:45 a.m. on Sundays via Zoom.
- Master Class - A Wednesday evening Bible Study class aimed at helping people understand the mission of the Church and Scripture. Held Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. via Zoom.
- Stephen Ministry - A ministry that trains members to walk with those experiencing trauma, grief and more, to help them get through it. Contact Pastor Erika for more information. The newest class of Stephen Ministry training begins very soon, and all training will be conducted via Zoom.
- The Prayer Chain - Members of the Church who issue prayers to God for all those in need as soon as the prayer requests come in.
- Club 56 - A youth group for members of the congregation currently in the 5th and 6th grades. The group is currently meeting via Zoom, please contact Tim Slinger for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Lord of Life is always looking for more people to participate in services as readers, slide flippers and video and sound board operators. Please contact Tyler at the Church office if interested.
- We also are looking for people willing to shovel snow off the sidewalk at Church. Please call Tyler Jensen for more details.
- We're looking for people who feel a calling to provide support to canoeists and kayakers who are travelling down the Mississippi River. Please prayerfully consider whether you would be willing to help as you are available.

Prayer Concerns

- Les, Kathy and the rest of the Hall family as Les continues to undergo treatment for cancer.
- Phyllis Campbell who is recovering from a fall at Good Samaritan-Bethany.
- the students, teachers and staff of our area as they return to in-person learning.
- All those who are recovering from the recent winter storms in Texas.
- Those who have been distributing the Covid-19 vaccine.
- All others in our community who continue to be affected by COVID-19.

LoL Staff

Senior Pastor

Steven Rye
steven.rye@lolbaxter.org

Associate Pastor

Erika Nilsen
erika.nilsen@lolbaxter.org

Operations Manager

Anne Laechel
anne@lolbaxter.org

Youth Director

Tim Slinger
tim@lolbaxter.org

Worship Director

Jennifer Person
jennifer.person@lolbaxter.org

Choir Director

Sarah Aamot
sarah-lundin@hotmail.com

Communications

Coordinator

Tyler Jensen
tyler.jensen@lolbaxter.org

Custodians

Paul and Karen
Erickson

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

March 1 - Mason Kruse
March 2 - Kobe Ahonen, Tim Cook, Addy Helmrichs, Evan Nelson, Bev Owen
March 3 - Evan Heittola, Marilyn Kraemer
March 4 - Gary Dirlam, Amber Heittola, Nicole Lasher-Filas
March 5 - William Frank, Rob Freelove, Claire Nybeck, Paul Rud, Trevor Wangsness
March 6 - Erin Van Hon, Levi Szazama
March 7 - Blair Benson, Joe Bisek, Jan Walters
March 8 - Shelby Fitch, Lucy Houde, Jan Sheets, Colton Stout, JP Whalen, John Zemke
March 9 - Trevor Christenson, Lindsey Jensen, John Larson
March 10 - Becky Beckerleg, Sarah Borchert, Boone Fromm, Doug Schultz, Karla Skwira, Jerry Westphal
March 11 - Ken Campbell, Jase Erikson, Deb Koop, AJ Felix, Glorya Narveson, Mark Parrish, Olivia Stirewalt, Ryan Weihemuller
March 12 - Sayali Blowers, Kelly Jo Mogensen, Rachel Stoen, Mandy Wangsness, Jean Weizenegger
March 13 - Keith Binggeli, Lizz Coonfield, Emilee Freed, Emily Isackson, Sid Johnson, August Johnson- Ding, Kate Smith, Tina Smude
March 14 - Jessica Haapajoki, Keenan Hodge
March 15 - Tanner Heinlen
March 16 - Jody Blowers, Sharon Freelove, Conith Mackner
March 17 - Jacob Blong, Teresa Lund, Rachel Monasmith, Curtis Nelson, Craig West
March 18 - Linda Bylander, R. J. Campbell, Anabelle Holcomb-Smith, Jake Meyer, Eli McConkey

March 19 - Wade Haapajoki, Kathi Lind, Seth Szazama, Erica Swenson
March 20 - Bob Nelsen, Isla Porter, William Porter, Luther Skwira
March 21 - Connie Fordyce, Gary Krall, Margie Young
March 22 - Paula Mangan
March 23 - Darren Larson
March 24 - Sydney Foss, David Johnson, Megan Marlatt, Saydie Olson
March 25 - Darlene Blake, Diane Flesher, Jackie Sliver, Cally Robertson, Christopher Rud
March 26 - Russell Heittola, Diane Hoglin, Jordan Peterson, Brandon Thompson
March 27 - Atlie Danielson, Joshua Hukriede, Brenda Jentsch, Tammy Stellmach
March 28 - Dean Clink, Hanson Devine, Kim Larson, Kelsey Pape, Kaden Schilling
March 29 - Joseph Anderson, Christine Cox, Tray Lofstrom, Erik Speer, Avery Vagts
March 30 - Raegan Coonfield, Rory Peterson, Tony Smith
March 31 - Leesha Bisek, Jim Jackson



Anniversaries

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

Married 25 years or more

Married 50 years or more

Additional FYI



Thank You's

We would like to take this time to thank members of the congregation for some of the work done at the Church!

- All the volunteers who have helped make our services happen during this pandemic. These include, but are not limited to, the musicians who provide music, our sound and video teams, those who offer to read scripture and our volunteers who greet the Congregation and help set up for Holy Communion.
- Second Harvest Food Bank sent a letter thanking the Men's Fellowship Group for its donation to their program.
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America would like to thank our Congregation for a donation to ELCA World Hunger, which does work to address causes of hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries.
- Everyone who donated to the video ministry fund. Thanks to these generous contributions, Lord of Life is able to purchase four TV monitors for the Sanctuary and Commons.

2021 Pre-Marriage Retreat

Every year, Lord of Life encourages couples who are planning to get married in the coming year to participate in a marriage retreat. This is a cooperative venture between: Cross Lake Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church in Brainerd, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brainerd, Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa, and Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Baxter.



This retreat is a 3-day long event for couples who are invited to consider their commitment to each other — and what it takes to create a happy and healthy relationship for the long-term, led by local counselor Jen Ellie. Time is also set aside for individual couple conversation and reflection.

A key reason for providing this retreat is that when combined with the individual counselling that pastor's provide, it fulfills the states requirements for the number of hours required to get a discount on marriage licenses.

This year, because of COVID concerns the retreat will take place on Zoom, and is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of April 16th-18th. Potential attendees should schedule time on Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday. We anticipate spreading out the sessions in two hour blocks over those three days.

Couples who are interested in signing up should visit the Lord of Life website lolbaxter.org during the month of March and April to sign up. Costs for the retreat is \$125 per couple.

Church Finances

