

Good News

May
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: 9-4
Fri: 9-12

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

Spring is here in more ways than one *Pastor Steven Rye*

As I write this, spring is in the air. The snow that blanketed our world recently left soon after. Though we live in Minnesota and need to be prepared for the possibility of snow yet to come until quite late into the spring, we live in the hope that even if it does, it won't last long. Summer is coming!

The weather this time of the year feels like a metaphor for our COVID time as well. We have endured a year-long winter and more. It has felt like a time of hibernation for many. We are sticking close to home and staying cautious.

I realize that is not true for everyone. Some have questioned the extent to which we have taken precautions against COVID. Some have felt that we have overreacted. "Take off the masks," proclaims a sign in my neighbor's yard. "Covid is a hoax!" Proclaims another sign. In my trips to stores and while driving by large crowds yesterday, it is clear that many in our community are rejecting the advice of health officials and are in agreement with my neighbor.

I am not an expert on the subject. I write this knowing that there is a great deal I don't understand. But I have to say that the politicization of this pandemic saddens me. It is a medical matter, and in my naive mind, I have wondered why we can't keep the conversation in the medical realm and not the world of politics. What I can tell you is that my hope is we can be a positive vaccination congregation. I realize that is wading into some controver-

sial waters, but I believe it is worth it.

Those who have studied pandemics say that our goal is a thing called "Herd Immunity." This is where enough people in the population are immune which impedes the spread of the disease. As of now, we don't know what level of immunity within our population will bring us herd immunity from COVID, but the estimates I have seen for other common diseases have ranged from 70% to 95%.

Right now, I believe the estimates of the levels of vaccination are at about 30%. If there is one thing that I think everyone is in agreement, it is that we want these Covid times behind us and herd immunity is what it will take.

Out of care for those around me, I have received the vaccine. It was a relatively symptom free experience for me. I did have a fever on the day after my second shot, but it didn't slow me down and in fact I ended up getting more housework done on that day than I had in a long time.

If you are questioning whether to get the shot, I would heartily encourage you to do so. Love comes in many forms and this can be a way to love and support the larger community. We do so, because our mission includes forming a deeper and richer connection to our community and each other in the name of Jesus Christ. Let us get the matter of Herd Immunity behind us to get on with that mission as soon as possible.

God Bless you wherever you are!
Pastor Steve

Youth News

Thank You: Confirmation Students & Families!

April 28th marked the last class for the 2020-21 confirmation program year! I want to thank you to all the families that have been a part of the program this past year! You have continued to engage in each class whether it be online or back in building. Thank you for your continued flexibility throughout this pandemic and engagement each with in our studies!

Teen's Upstream Continues Throughout May!

High school youth group will continue through the end of the school year! If you are in grades 9th-12th you are welcome to join us on Wednesday nights from 8-9pm for Teen's Upstream our high school youth group! As the weather warms up don't be surprised if we transition outside to enjoy a campfire some volleyball or 9-square as a group!



Citywide Lutheran Youth Group is BACK!!

Open to all 9th-12th Graders! Join us for our first event of the year happening at Lum Park on Sunday, May 2nd from 5-7:30pm! You won't want to miss out on a night filled with great friends, games, food, worship and so much more!

Youth Summer Program Update Registrations Are Now Open!

Calling all middle school families! Registrations are now open for two exciting programs happening this summer! Check our church website for further information and how to register for both our Summer Stretch and serveCAMP programs this year! Summer Stretch is the first program to launch for our 7th-9th graders starting on Thursday, June 3rd!

Save The Date: Lord of Life Senior Recognition May 12th & 16th!

It has been quiet the journey for this year's high school senior class. Soon they will be graduating and embarking on a new life journey! Join us in celebrating with each of our Lord of Life high school seniors and their families. As together we bless each of them as they begin the next chapter their lives

I hope everyone has a great month of May! If you have any questions about youth ministry programs happening at Lord of Life, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Blessings,
Tim Slinger
Youth Director

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, March 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Steve Schaitberger Darcy Dwyer Laura Campbell
Lori Rehnblom Dan Tupy Pastor Steven Rye

Guests Present (1): Anne Laechel, Tyler Jensen
Absent (2): Pastor Erika Nilsen, Emmy Holcomb Smith

Devotions by Pr. Steven Rye

Consent Agenda:

- To Adopt the 3/18/21 Agenda. (CC.2021.03.01)
 - To APPROVE the February 2021 Council Meeting Minutes (CC.2021.03.02)
 - To Receive for audit the February 2021 Financial Report. (CC.2021.03.03)
- Consent Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

New Business:

- MOTION to authorize a move to Phase III of the Smart Plan and empower the Smart Team to craft what that looks like to us. Motion by Pr. Steven Rye; Seconded by Steve Schaitberger. All approved. (CC.2021.03.04)

Meeting Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

- Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 6:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Sunday, June 6, 2021 - Annual Congregational Meeting

May Calendar

Lessons

May 2

Acts 8: 26-40
Psalm 22: 25-31
1 John 4: 7-21
John 15: 1-8

May 9

Acts 10: 44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5: 1-6
John 15: 9-17

May 16

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5: 9-13
John 17: 6-19

May 23

Acts 2: 1-21
Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b
Romans 8: 22-27
John 15: 26-27, 16:
4b-15

May 30

Isaiah 6: 1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8: 12-17
John 3: 1-17

Sunday, May 2

Worship, 9 a.m.
Race in America Series, 10:45 a.m.
Citywide Youth Group, 5 p.m.

Monday, May 3

Stephen Leader Meeting, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, May 4

Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 9 a.m.
Lectionary Text Study, 1 p.m.
Stephen Minister Training, 1:30 p.m.
Grief Support Group, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 5

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.
Master Class, 7 p.m.
Teen's Upstream, 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 6

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 9

Worship, 9 a.m.
Race in America Series, 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday, May 11

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 a.m.
Lectionary Text Study, 1 p.m.
Stephen Minister Training, 1:30 p.m.
Grief Support Group, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 12

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.
Master Class, 7 p.m.
Teen's Upstream, 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 13

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 16

Worship, 9 a.m.
Race in America Series, 10:45 a.m.

Monday, May 17

Stephen Leader Meeting, 3 p.m.
Deadline for June Newsletter. Please submit news to tyler.jensen@lolbaxter.org.

Tuesday, May 18

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 a.m.
Lectionary Text Study, 1 p.m.
Stephen Minister Training, 1:30 p.m.
Grief Support Group, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.
Master Class, 7 p.m.
Teen's Upstream, 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 20

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 23

Worship, 9 a.m.
Race in America Series, 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday, May 25

Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 9 a.m.
Lectionary Text Study, 1 p.m.
Stephen Minister Training, 1:30 p.m.
Grief Support Group, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 26

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.
Master Class, 7 p.m.
Teen's Upstream, 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 27

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 30

Worship, 9 a.m.

Ministry

Groups

- Men's Fellowship - An opportunity for men to meet with friends and study the Bible. Takes place at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays at the Church.
- 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. The group is currently joining with the "Race in America" history series.
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study - A Bible Study session for those looking to spend time with other members of the Church while reading Scripture. The group meets Tuesdays at 9 a.m. on 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 began in April.
- 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.

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 are looking for people with a passion for Children's Ministry to join the planning team. Contact Pastor Erika for more information.
- Believe it or not, summer is approaching and we need people to volunteer to water plants and/or mow Lord of Life's lawn. Please contact Tyler at the office to find out how to sign up for a shift.

Prayer Concerns

- Les, Kathy and the rest of the Hall family as Les continues to undergo treatment for cancer;
- Christian missionaries and others in Myanmar as the country experiences violence from its government;
- Those who have been distributing the Covid-19 vaccine;
- All others in our community who continue to be affected by COVID-19; and
- All of the senior students at Lord of Life and in our community as they prepare to graduate and enter into the next stage of their lives.

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

May 1 - Rony Tollefson

May 2 - James Einarson, Jace Engelmann, Nate Engelmann, Noah Ruzynski, Alli Quincer

May 3 - Becky Bennett, Cindy Brichacek, Hakon Haapajoki, Shannon Paysse, Stephanie Peterson

May 4 - Wendy Adamson, Micky Busch, Camille Harmer, Reyna Knipple, Niki Wheeler

May 5 - Etta Danielson, Paul Freeloove, Owen Nelson, Jenny Thompson, Brienna Wyatt

May 6 - Jackson Callian

May 7 - Bella Bennett, Mackenzie Davidge, Patty Sura, Dan Shire

May 8 - Kale Koop

May 9 - Josh Fordyce, Gus Hanske, Isla Jones, Macey Whitlock

May 10 - Katie Morris, Irelyn Doud, Cole Hames, Hawk Hawkins, Sandy Olson, McKenna Westphal

May 11 - Janice Gapinski, Jake Hodge, Ella Hoglin

May 12 - Laura Campbell, Korbin Christenson, Beckett Flaten, Lisa Metzler, Landen Stoen, Eli Sundquist

May 13 - Josh Anderson, Jolene Fromm, Adam Jensen, Alexa Jensen, Joseph Laber, Brenna Ryan, Patrick Ryan, Wes Powers

May 14 - Chris Adamson, Toni Hukriede, Larry Lundblad

May 15 - Jim Agre, Len Flesher, Melissa Grover, Megan Hensel, Grace Kulzer, Marie Kulzer, Patrick Mangan, Jenna Meyer, Matt Patrick, Mark Robideaux

May 16 - Jackson Hames, Grace Larson, Gavin Vagts

May 17 - Krista Anderson, Alex Bauer, Heidi Hahn, Parker Sundquist

May 18 - Tonya Caughey, Summer Nichols, Will Schultz, Jon Stolski

May 19 - Micah Halbersma, Amelia Sjostrom, Nick Wheeler

May 20 - Dawn Buckwalter, Jason Feigum, Katie Getty, Dorthea Lindquist, Loretta Lindquist, Gus Lund, Jared Winter

May 21 - Grace Balsley, Stephanie Ithivongkham

May 22 - Brooke Nybeck

May 23 - Mike Blowers, Michael Foley, Kylee Mogensen, Aleatha Knopf, Maggie Schilling, Greg Swenson, Bradley Wadsten

May 24 - Taylor Budnick, Kevin Hall, Diane Larson

May 25 - Sherry Dumpprope, Beth Hardinger, Ingrid Porter, Alyssa Silverness, Chelsi Wagner

May 26 - Charlotte Burmeister, Todd Holman, Cindy Peterson, Dinah Sundberg, Gabby Wentzel

May 27 - Lucille Nelson, Valerie Vandenberg, Joe VanDenBoom

May 28 - Tyler Blong, Tom Campion, Audrae Gruber, Shari Nelson

May 29 - Jake Caughey, Kaitlyn Fredrickson

May 30 - Pat Huhta, Darren Nelson, Nicole Pahl, Tom Patrick

May 31 - Ted Anderson, Tristan Brecht, David Devine, Brandy Felix, Shawna Reed, Dan Tupy

Anniversaries

May 1 - **Scott & Robbi Berry**

Corey & Amanda Myren

Doug Banks & Bonnie Shipman-Banks

May 2 - Erik & Sarah Speer

May 3 - **Erik & Julie Davidge**

May 4 - Kurt & Lori Hoelzel

May 5 - Ernie & Gail Bruckner

May 9 - Nelson & Shannon Paysse

May 10 - Kevin & Kim Larson

May 12 - **Charles & Bonnie Bahr**

Jerry & Deb Bergstrom

Larry & Karen Lundblad

May 13 - Joel & Stephanie Kingsley

May 14 - **Mike & Nadine Fraki**

May 15 - Darrin & Sherry Dumpprope

May 17 - John & Jennifer Larson

May 18 - Eric & Martha Jendro

May 21 - **Steve & Valerie Jones**

Marilyn & Keith Tuma

May 23 - **Bob & Pat Roettger**

May 27 - **Bart & Nicole Harmer**

Wade & Jessica Haapajoki

May 30 - Jeff & Cindy Peterson

Helping Others

NEW STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING CLASS SET TO BEGIN!

Please join us in prayers of thanksgiving for the six people who recently said YES to the invitation to be trained as new Stephen Ministers. Lord of Life's second training course began on April 13 via Zoom meetings, with the plan to continue meeting in person at church as soon as possible. The 50-hour course will continue with weekly 2-1/2-hour classes and will conclude in mid-August, at which time the trainees will be commissioned as fully trained Stephen Ministers.

The new trainees include Bryan Barrer, James Caughey, Bonnie Henningson, Anadell Johnson, Hal Leland, and Tim Slinger. We, the Stephen Ministry leaders and trainers, are grateful for the generous and faith-filled commitment of these six wonderful people, and we pledge, with the help of God, to do our best to prepare and equip them for the type of Christian service unique to Stephen Ministry.

We also want to recognize and thank the four first-trained Stephen Ministers who have been walking alongside their care receivers for almost two years, now, despite the many months of pandemic distancing. These four are Wendy Adamson, Pam Cook, Julie Johnson, and Gary Engelmann. Each of them continues to voluntarily serve in this ministry, although they have each already fulfilled their original 2-year service commitment.

We thank YOU, Lord of Life, for your prayer support for all involved in Lord of Life's Stephen Ministry! We thank God for the guidance and grace that enables us to offer Christian caregiving to folks who are undergoing stressful life challenges as the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus.

Deb Bergstrom, Lolly Kalinoski, Pr. Erika Nilsen, and Pr. Steve Rye



Habitat for Humanity

Get to know the Svoboda family...Mary, Travis and their 6 children (see April LOL Newsletter). The Svoboda family, alongside community volunteers, will start building their home in May!

Friends of Habitat for Humanity here at Lord of Life hope to raise \$5,000 for the Svoboda home. Generous donations are coming in from LOL members.....THANK YOU!!!

Please join Friends of Habitat for Humanity in this important local mission work!!

- Pray for the Svoboda Family and our Faith Build Volunteers
- Make a financial contribution
 - Go to Lord of Life's 'Giving' site <https://ppay.co/nYNSwJpD6E>
 - Pick up a Habitat donation envelope after church or from the box in front of the church
- Volunteer on a build day (no carpentry skills required)
- Volunteer to provide lunch for on-site workers

Please contact Bonnie for additional information or to get on our volunteer list:

Bonnie Henningson
LOL Friends of Habitat for Humanity
bonniebhenningson@gmail.com
218-851-9163

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. 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;
- We would especially like to thank those volunteers who spent part of Holy Week with us to provide six services in four days: Wendy Adamson, Bob Nelson, Keith Bingelli, Verdell Bose, Tyler and Steve Schaitberger, Hayden Carlson, Carol Rodseth, Michael Cranny, the Danielson Family, Dan Tupy, the Femling Family, Bruce and Sandy Jensen, Gail Brecht and Jim Kingsley;
- The people who came together to put up the four 75in TVs in the Sanctuary and Commons: Brian Orłowski, Ted Anderson, Bob Nelson and Bruce and Sandy Jensen; and
- All the members of our Congregation who donate their time, talents and treasure to help our make our ministries possible and do the good works God calls us to perform.