

# Good News

June  
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

## ***Pastor Steven Rye's Annual Report***

Paul writes; "we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." - Romans 5:3-5

Recently, I visited with a gentleman who wishes to join our congregation. We talked about where he had come from and his involvement there. Among other things, he had volunteered in an oncology department of a hospital. He reflected on his experience, "What I find so fascinating is the wide range of ways that people enter into their chemo treatment. Some with a great life spirit, others with deep dread and everything in between." Over my years in ministry, I have found this to be so true. Those with a great life spirit tend to be people who have GRATITUDE and a spirit of HOPE.

Where does one even begin to report on all that has taken place since our last Annual Meeting? This year has seemed like one big - long - treatment. Like many in treatment that I have been inspired by over the years, I find myself with a tremendous life spirit filled with gratitude and a spirit of hope.

First of all, I am so grateful for

my Lord of Life family. For so many people and their efforts through it all. I'm grateful for our new Communication Coordinator, Tyler Jensen, who filled a huge gap on our staff that opened up when Colleen left. He has quickly become an essential part of the team. I'm also grateful for the rest of the staff. There is a wonderful team spirit among us, they have tremendous servant-hearts, and as a congregation, we are blessed to have them. I'm grateful too for so many members who have stepped up in so many ways, from the quiet heroes who continue to financially support our congregation to those who have stepped up to ensure our vital ministry continues.

Despite the shutdown of so much of what we do, we were still able to hold Master Classes, First Communion, and Confirmation. We have been able to sustain the effort of putting out prayerLIFE@12:45 devotionals, Christmas Eve and Easter Kits. Other things that fill me with gratitude: The Advent lights and patio prayer station, Participating in the national COVID memorial, The spawning of a new ministry group: "Friends of Baxter Elementary," and recently our Mother's Day hymn sing.

As we move forward, I am HOPEFUL we will continue work to recalibrate and right-size our staff for growth and congregational vitality. We will leverage the skills of our new Communication Coordinator to communicate in this ever-more complicated world effectively.

Online and in-building programming and worship will continue and expand. We also need to provide thoughtful in-reach to current members.

I am hopeful we will steward our "COVID reset" well through examining our past practices in light of our new environment. We are discerning what will meet the needs of the un-churched or the de-churched and reclaiming a hunger for outreach. As more and more ministries come back online, we will be intentional about starting them off on the right foot - supported by our mission-oriented council.

Finally, I am HOPEFUL we will stay on a firm organizational footing. Then we will build upon the mission-oriented culture change taking place within the congregational and the council. I am hopeful we will remain fiscally sound through the cultivation of generosity.

How am I hopeful in these days after our "treatment"? Because, as Romans 3 tells us, "We live in the assurance that our hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Thank you for allowing the Holy Spirit to be a conduit for God's love poured out into the world! And thank you for your partnership in ministry!

Blessings!  
Pr. Steve

# Youth News

## **High School Summer Trips: Let the Adventures Begin!**

Whether its spending a week in Voyageurs National Park paddling a 35-foot canoe or gathering with churches from across the NE MN Synod at Camp Vermilion; adventure awaits our high school youth! After almost 2 years since our last summer trip experience our high schoolers are excited about the opportunities we have this year! As we embark on our trips I ask for your prayers for our group and the experiences and memories we will surely make! Can't wait to share stories with all of you when we return!



## **Summer Stretch Begins June 3rd!**

Thursdays in June and July upcoming 7th-9th graders at Lord of Life will be participating in our summer stretch program! You may see us throughout town as we enjoy serving throughout this community and enjoying time connecting with other ELCA churches throughout the Brainerd Lakes Area! If you see us don't hesitate to come say hi!

## **serveCAMP with Camp Onomia: Registrations Coming Soon!**

This month, registrations will open for our LOL serveCAMP happening in August! If you know of someone in grades 5th-8th this program is for them! This program has it all! From daycamp experiences led by Camp Onomia Staff to service projects in the community. All the while connecting with your friends and making some great memories this summer! Continue to check our website, social media pages and announcements for when the registration opens!

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 Orłowski



Lord of Life Church Council Regular Meeting Thursday, May 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Steve Schaitberger	Pam Caughey	Laura Campbell
Lori Rehnblom	Dan Tupy	Pastor Steven Rye
Pastor Erika Nilsen	Chris Adamson	Brian Orłowski

Guests Present (1): Anne Laechel  
Absent (2): Darcy Dwyer, Emmy Holcomb Smith

Devotions by Pr. Steven Rye

### Consent Agenda:

- To Adopt the 5/10/21 Agenda. (CC.2021.05.01)
- To APPROVE the April 2021 Council Meeting Minutes (CC.2021.05.02)
- To approve all future council meetings will be in person at Lord of Life Church, unless COVID status changes. (CC.2021.05.03)
- To Receive for audit the April 2021 Financial Report. (CC.2021.05.04)

Consent Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

### New Business:

- MOTION to approve reallocation of contributions to a 90/10 split (90% to General Fund/10% to Capital Fund) effective 7/1/2021. Motion by Pastor Steve; Second by Chris Adamson. All approved. (CC.2021.05.05)
- MOTION to approve the 2021 – 2022 budget as amended in the Budget Worksheet (See 2021- 2022BudgetWorksheet-r2021-05-10.pdf) for approval to the congregation. Motion by Steve Schaitberger; Seconded by Pam Caughey. All approved. (CC.2021.05.06)

Meeting Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

- Sunday, June 6, 2021 - Annual Congregational Meeting (Zoom)
- Thursday, June 17, 2021 6:00 pm – Council Meeting (In Person)

# Annual Meeting

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

June 6, 2021 - 11:00 A.M.

1. Call to order-President Dan Tupy
2. Opening prayer and celebrations-Pastor Erika
3. Review and approve the special rules/procedures of the remote meeting
4. Attendance
5. Certification of quorum (30 voting members required)-Secretary Laura Campbell
6. Adoption of Agenda (Verbal Vote)-President Dan Tupy
7. Minutes of Congregational Meeting - October 4, 2020-Secretary Laura Campbell
8. Presentation and Discussion of Annual Reports-President Dan Tupy
9. Presentation of Budget for July 2021 to June 2022-Treasurer Chris Adamson
  - a. Motion to adopt, discussion, and approval (Verbal Vote)-President Dan Tupy
10. Nominating Committee Report
  - a. Voting on Council members, Nominating Committee & Financial Review Committee (Verbal Vote)-President Dan Tupy
11. Other business
12. Motion to Adjourn-President Dan Tupy
13. Closing Prayer-Pastor Steve

## Meeting Information

Online (Audio & Video):

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82458826878?pwd=Vnl1TXlGSXZWS2paSlIdTM2YzQX-ZOZz09>

Meeting ID: 824 5882 6878

Passcode: 128088

Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Check-in will begin at 10:30 a.m. All individuals will first be placed in a digital waiting room and admitted to the meeting after confirmation of connection to Lord of Life. Please join the meeting with both your first and last name(s) in the name field.

# Synod Assembly

The ELCA's Northeastern Minnesota Synod's annual assembly was held Friday, April 30 - Saturday, May 1 online. Salem Lutheran Church in Hermantown hosted the physical aspects of the Assembly.

Lord of Life's representatives included Jim and Teresa Kingsley and Sarah Meier, the Synod Assembly Representatives, while Pastors Steve and Erika also attended.

The ELCA's Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton delivered the keynote address, where she recognized work being done in the Synod. These included the work being done by the Together Here / Anti-Racism Team to build relationships with Native American communities. The Northeastern Minnesota Synod is neighbors with five federally recognized tribal reservations.

Bishop Eaton also touched on the partnership with Lutheran Social Service (LSS). The organization's services impact 1 out of 50 people in the United States. She also spoke about the ELCA Covid Relief Fund, which has provided extra financial help to ministries throughout the Church, including Lutheran Outdoor Ministry, which partners with our Synod.

The Assembly passed the 2022 Budget totalling about \$1.17 million, up from \$1.16 million in 2020.

In three ballots, Sanna Berdahl was elected Youth/Young Adult voting member. Micah Johnson was elected as the alternate.

LSS presented the Servant of Christ Award to First Lutheran, Kenwood Lutheran and Lutheran Church of the Good Sheperd all of Duluth, for their work sewing more than 4,000 face masks to help with the pandemic.

The 2022 Synod Assembly will be held April 29 - May 1, 2022 at Cragun's Resort here in the Brainerd Lakes Area.

# June Calendar

## Lessons

### June 6

1 Samuel 8:4-11,  
16-20

Psalm 138

2 Corinthians 4:13--5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

### June 13

1 Samuel 15:34--16:13  
Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5:6-10,  
14-17

Mark 4:26-34

### June 20

1 Samuel 17: 32-49  
Psalm 9:9-20

2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
Mark 4 35-41

### June 27

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27  
Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
John 5:21-43

### Tuesday, June 1

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 a.m.  
Stephen Ministry Training, 1:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 2

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.  
Master Class, 7 p.m.

### Thursday, June 3

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

### Saturday, June 5

Spring Property Work Day, 9 a.m.

### Sunday, June 6

Worship, 9 a.m.  
Annual Congregation Meeting, 11 a.m.

### Monday, June 7

Stephen Leader Meeting, 3 p.m.

### Tuesday, June 8

Stephen Ministry Training, 1:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 9

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.  
Master Class, 7 p.m.

### Thursday, June 10

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

### Sunday, June 13

Worship, 9 a.m.

### Monday, June 14

Stephen Ministers Education and Supervision, 4:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, June 15

Stephen Leader Meeting, 3 p.m.

Deadline for July Newsletter. Please submit news to [tyler.jensen@lolbaxter.org](mailto:tyler.jensen@lolbaxter.org).

### Wednesday, June 16

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.  
Master Class, 7 p.m.

### Thursday, June 17

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.  
Church Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

### Sunday, June 20

Worship, 9 a.m.

### Monday, June 21

Stephen Leaders Meeting, 3 p.m.

### Tuesday, June 22

Stephen Ministry Training, 1:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 23

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.  
Master Class, 7 p.m.

### Thursday, June 24

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

### Sunday, June 27

Worship, 9 a.m.  
Joining our Faith Family Conversation, 4 p.m.

### Monday, June 28

Stephen Ministers Education and Supervision, 4:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, June 29

Stephen Ministry Training, 1:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, June 30

Wednesday Worship, 6 p.m.  
Master Class, 7 p.m.

# Ministry

## Groups

- Men's Fellowship - An opportunity for men to meet at Church 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.
- 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. at Church.
- 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.

## 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.
- 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 enters hospice.
- Phyllis Campbell who is recovering at Good Samaritan-Bethany.
- Both our nation and the wider world as we continue to see conflict and violence between God's people.
- Those who have been distributing the Covid-19 vaccine.
- All others in our community who have been 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

# 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;
- Sharon Johnson for coming in to clean the Church's kitchen and get it ship shape as we open back up;
- Pam and Ed Braland for taking the time to plant flowers outside the main entrance to the Church; 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.