

Good News

July
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.
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Dear Friends,

With the summer solstice freshly behind us, summer has officially begun. And with summer comes a bit more freedom, more time to gather with family and friends, and more opportunities to enjoy God's world. And oh how we have longed for this freedom – for this reality – for this chance at new life after the limitations and challenges of this past year. We're ready for abundant life! And at the same time – I have often heard people express some fears around losing the "reflective" life they have had over the past year and how even with the limitations of this past year there was still an experience of abundance and maybe an even richer experience of the abundant life that Christ came to bring.

Indeed. For some – this past Covid year was an excruciating time of loss and lacking. For others it was rich time of gain and gratitude.

So – now as we celebrate our "Independence" from the virus and step into an

almost "post-Covid" life - I wonder, how will you claim the promise and gift that Jesus came to give? What will abundant life look like for you this summer?

I imagine it will be a complex balance of more and less. Maybe more time connecting with family and friends. More time out and about in community. More time enjoying God's creation. More travel. More experiences.

But it's important to remember that abundant life is not just for us – it's for everyone. And so maybe there also needs to be less of certain things. Less material consumption. Less waste. Less use of fossil fuels. Less focus on self.

Maybe abundance isn't about stuff and experiences and time – maybe it's also about our hearts and minds. Might the abundant life look like more openness and less opinions. More love and less hate. More grace and less greed. More joy and less judgement. More honesty and less deceit. More care and less corruption.

More faith and less fear.

As we worship together each week (in person or online), I believe we put ourselves in a position to discover just what Jesus meant when he said that he came that we might have life and have it abundantly. As we spend time in prayer and scripture, faith sharing and growing, we put ourselves in a position to discover the abundant life Jesus has for us. As we step outside and immerse ourselves in God's creation – we discover more and more what abundant life looks like.

May your summer be blessed with abundance – an abundance of God's grace and love and may you discover that that's really all you need.

Peace,
Pastor Erika

July Calendar

Lessons

July 4

Ezekiel 2: 1-5
Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12: 2-10
Mark 6: 1-13

July 11

Amos 7: 7-15
Psalm 85: 8-13
Ephesians 1: 3-14
Mark 6: 14-29

July 18

Jeremiah 23: 1-6
Psalm 23
Ephesians 2: 11-22
Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

July 25

2 Kings 4: 42-44
Psalm 145: 10-18
Ephesians 3: 14-21
John 6: 1-21

Thursday, July 1

Summer Stretch, 9 a.m.
Men's Fellowship, 9 a.m.

Sunday, July 4

Worship, 9 a.m.

Monday, July 5

Church Office is closed.
Stephen Leader Meeting, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 6

Stephen Ministry Training, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 7

Worship, 6 p.m.
Race in MN Planning Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 8

Summer Stretch, 9 a.m.
Men's Fellowship, 9 a.m.

Friday, July 9

Red Cross Blood Drive, 9 a.m.

Sunday, July 11

Worship, 9 a.m.

Monday, July 12

Stephen Ministry Education, 4:30 p.m.
Pinetree Patchworkers, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, July 13

Stephen Ministry Training, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 14

Worship, 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 15

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

Deadline for August Newsletter. Please submit news to tyler.jensen@lolbaxter.org.

Sunday, July 18

Worship, 9 a.m.

Monday, July 19

Stephen Leader Meeting, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 20

Stephen Ministry Training, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 21

Worship, 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 22

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

Sunday, July 25

Worship, 9 a.m.

Monday, July 26

Stephen Ministry Education, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 27

Stephen Ministry Training, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 28

Worship, 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 29

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

Ministry

Groups and Events

- Men's Fellowship - An opportunity for men to meet at Church and study the Bible. Takes place at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays.
- Summer Stretch - A youth group that spends time growing in faith and helping out in the community. The children in this group partner with youth from other ELCA churches in the Brainerd Lakes Area.
- Summer Day Camp - Youth involved in the ServeCamp program and Camp Onomia will be partnering to provide a summer day camp for children going into first through fifth grade, Aug. 2-5. More details will be posted on our website and emailed to families in the near future.
- 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 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 to take a week during the summer to ensure the plants outside Lord of Life are watered. Please contact Tyler for more information.
- We're looking for people who are interested in filming a prayerLIFE devotional. This is a chance to help people develop their understanding of the Bible or share what you are praying for.

Prayer Concerns

- Les, Kathy and the rest of the Hall family as Les is in hospice.
- The family of Bugs Schmidt, who passed away June 6th.
- The family of Elaine Schultz, who passed away June 22nd.
- The people in Miami, Florida, who were affected by the condominium collapse, June 24th.
- 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
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Worship Director

Jennifer Person
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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;
- The numerous people who attended our Spring Property Work Day, June 5th. With their efforts, along with the crew that replaced soffits and fascias on the Church that week, projects that have been on the to-do-list for years were finished and our property was greatly improved.
- 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.