

# Good News

November  
2021

Lord of Life  
Lutheran  
Church  
(ELCA)

Worship  
Sunday - 9am  
Wednesday -  
6:30 pm

Ministers  
The Lord of Life  
Faith Family

Pastors  
Steven J. Rye  
Erika Nilsen

Office Hours  
Mon.-Fri.  
8:30am - 5pm

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

## Freedom and Thankfulness Pastor Steven Rye

Dear Friends,

It's my 30th anniversary, and my wife Suzanne and I are on a trip to Ashland, Wisconsin, to celebrate. So far, our journey reminds me of our honeymoon, which we took on Lake Michigan. We had lots of views of a big lake, the weather cold, the trees then and now were vibrant and a delight to the eye. Unlike back then, on our drive over to Ashland, we did see a couple of other lovebirds. A pair of Swans were swimming in one lake, and loons were swimming together in another. Those visuals especially made me thankful for the companionship Suzanne and I have shared over these last three decades of our lives.

Thankfulness is a theme inextricably tied to November. So, it seems, are stewardship campaigns in the church. They, too, are tied to November. During this month, we will focus on the theme: Live Free. Throughout this month, you're going to hear council members and staff reflect on how various ministries in our congregation either free us from something or free us to something. Still, either way, we are thankful for the freedom that we have in Jesus Christ.

Speaking of freedom. One of the things I have learned along my life's journey is the freedom that comes with marriage. Before being married, I would have thought of marriage as something that bound me. Being bound to one woman



would have seemed to be the opposite of freedom. And it is true, and I am bound because of my relationship with my wife, Suzanne. But being married to Suzanne has also freed me. It freed me from relating to attractive people in any way other than a friend, free from the mating game that used to be a part of those relationships in my early twenties. And so my marriage is a gift. A gift that extends far beyond my marriage.

The same is true for our faith. When we commit our hearts to Christ, we can finally be free of the spiritual searching that would otherwise possess us and our lives. During November, freedom is the greatest thing for us all to be thankful for. May we return again and again throughout November to a feeling of gratitude for the freedom that we do enjoy.

- Pastor Steven Rye

# Youth News

## **Confirmation: Old, New, For You**

It has been a great couple of months for confirmation so far. Students continue to explore New Testament stories while connecting with our theme for the year, Old, New & For You! Thank you to families and the congregation to be willing to try something new on Wednesday nights for worship and with a brand-new worship time at 6:30pm! I have heard some great feedback from families about the change so far!

## **9th Grade Confirmation Mentor Program: Would You Consider Being a Mentor?**

Our 9th grade families are busy lining up confirmation mentors for this year! We are excited to be bringing back this program since we paused it last year during the pandemic. Each year we have a few families that are unable to find a mentor for their child and ask for our help in matching them up with someone that we know in our congregation. Would you consider being a mentor for a 9th grade confirmation student? Mentors will participate in special events, engage periodically in class and check in with their mentee throughout the year! If this is something that you might be interested in please contact [tim@lolbaxter.org](mailto:tim@lolbaxter.org).

## **Club 56: Session #2 Begins November 10th**

Wednesday night's full of great food and faith conversations around the dinner table at church! That is what our 5th & 6th grade families have been experiencing at our Club 56 program this year! If you have a 5th or 6th grader you are invited to join us Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30pm at Lord of Life. Don't worry about dinner that night we have you covered with a great meal at church for the whole family. Session #2 kicks off on November 10th! Session #2 will include high schoolers who will be helping to lead parts of the night with your child as we explore the topic of peer ministry together! To learn more or to register please visit our website. [www.lolbaxter.org](http://www.lolbaxter.org)

## **Teen's Upstream High School Youth Group Wednesday Nights**

Youth group is off and running on Wednesday nights from 8-9pm at Lord of Life. Open to all 9th-12th graders no registration necessary. Gather with your friends to take a break midweek together. Enjoy connecting, playing games and exploring various Bible stories or life topics together!

## **Synod Journey & National Youth Gathering**

We are excited to announce that we have a great group of 20 youth/adult leaders who will be attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN through the NE MN Synod Journey. We are excited to be sharing with all of you soon about this amazing trip happening this summer!

## **Important Calendar Updates:**

November 10th Club 56 Session #2 Launches

November 24th No Wednesday Night Programming (Thanksgiving Break)

Christmas Decor' & Bake Sale: Saturday, November 20th from 9 am to 3 pm.

# Old! New! For You!

This is our new overarching theme for Confirmation Ministry! These themes give shape to a three year cycle of curriculum - focusing on the OLD Testament, the NEW Testament and Luther's Small Catechism where he famously lifts up and focuses on the words FOR YOU!



Within each lesson, these themes also give shape to our teaching and reflecting. We take time to learn the OLD story from the Bible or the Catechism. We reflect on NEW ways that Jesus helps us think about them or NEW ways in which the world invites us to connect with the stories. And then we always take time to wonder about what this all means FOR YOU - for our individual lives and our lives lived in community.

Thanks to the wonderful work of Thursday Jacobsen, we have this graphic to help us focus this year. Thursday was one of our Serve-Camp Counselors from Camp Onomia this summer. They brought a beautiful spirit of service and God's love to our kids. Thursday has great gifts for ministry and now lives in the twin cities and is discerning God's call on their life.

We are grateful for Thursday's passion to share and help shape the faith of young people and the church!

## LoL Staff

### Senior Pastor

Steven Rye  
steven.rye@lodbaxter.org

### Associate Pastor

Erika Nilsen  
erika.nilsen@lodbaxter.org

### Operations Manager

Anne Laechel  
anne@lodbaxter.org

### Youth Director

Tim Slinger  
tim@lodbaxter.org

### Communications

#### Coordinator

Tyler Jensen  
tyler.jensen@lodbaxter.org

#### Custodians

Paul and Karen  
Erickson

# Fall Property Day

We would like to thank everyone who came to support Lord of Life at our Fall Property Work Day, October 30th. With your help, we were able to get our work to prepare the Church and grounds for winter done in less than three hours! If you would like to participate in a future work day, please stay tuned for an announcement about our Spring Property Work Day.



# Special Programs

## 3rd Grade Bible Class

Hey 3rd Graders and Parents – it's time to come together for a wonderful time of learning about God's word and its place in our lives. At the end of this class, students will be presented with their Bibles during our Sunday, November 21st service at 9 am. If you cannot attend this service Pastor Erika will visit you to offer a blessing.

We want to accomodate all families, we'll be offering both in-person and online options.

In person:

Sundays: November 7th and 14th from 10:15 am – 11:45 am

On ZOOM:

Mondays: November 1, 8, 15 from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

## Marriage Care

A recent article in the Star Tribune talked about the importance of “talking often” in order to keep your marriage healthy and thriving.

I also know that day to day life usually takes precedence in my conversations with my spouse and only rarely do we take the time to talk about deeper or more meaningful topics. I imagine we're not alone. So – I'd like to offer up a helpful tool. Through Prepare/Enrich – a wonderful resource we use when providing pre-marriage counseling and care, I received a pack of Conversation cards – lifting up hundreds of good questions covering 10 core relationship issues for couples to talk about on a regular basis for the sake a healthy marriage.

Each week a new conversation card will be posted online at lolbaxter.org or with a couple of questions so that you can “talk often” with your spouse and continue to care for gift that is your marriage.

## New Ministry to New College Kids

We're excited to share that we'll be sending off Advent Care Kits to our new class of college students this month. The first semester of college can be awfully stressful and overwhelming – so what better than to receive a kind note and couple of little gifts from your faith family!

In addition to a gift arriving in their mail box – we offer them the constant gift of prayer. So please take a moment to remember these young people in your prayers – some are in college, some taking a year off, some serving in the military – all in need of prayer and support.

Ella Berry, Elle Bruggeman, Kayla Bush, Kyle Bush, R. J. Campbell, Hayden Carlson, Maren Christiansen, Tristan Dawson, Griffin Decker, Mari Devine, Jackson Dwyer, Joe Figliuzzi, Simon Foss, Paul Freelove, Alex Gehrke, Madi Genz, AJ Gratke, Amber Heittola, Erin Hoelzel, Alison Kohout, Bailey Koop, Brandon Krall, Haden Kruse, Halle Kruse, Taisha Linder, Theo Lund, Ashley Marichalar, Ellie Mattson, Gabe Maurer, Nole Robertson, Tyler Schaitberger, Olivia Stirewalt, Kiarra Story, Gabby VanHorn, Macey Whitlock and Noelle Youngquist.

# November Calendar

## Lessons

### November 7

Isaiah 25: 6-9  
Psalm 24  
Revelations 21: 1-6  
John 11: 32-44

### November 14

1 Samuel 1: 4-20  
Psalm 16  
Hebrews 10: 11-25  
Mark 13: 1-8

### November 21

2 Samuel 23: 1-7  
Psalm 132: 1-18  
Revelations 1: 4-8  
John 18: 33-37

### November 28

Jeremiah 33: 14-16  
Psalm 25: 1-10  
1 Thessalonians  
3:9-13  
Luke 21: 25-36

### Tuesday, November 2

Grief Support Group, 4:30 pm

### Wednesday, November 3

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
Supper, 5:30 pm  
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

### Thursday, November 4

Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am  
Martha Circle, 1 pm

### Friday, November 5

Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am

### Sunday, November 7

Worship, 9 am

### Tuesday, November 9

Sarah Circle, 1 pm  
Tuesday Bible Study, 2 pm  
Grief Support Group, 4:30 pm  
New Member Conversation, 7 pm

### Wednesday, November 10

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
Supper and Club 56, 5:30 pm  
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

### Thursday, November 11

Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

### Friday, November 12

Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am

### Sunday, November 14

Worship, 9 am

### Monday, November 15

December Newsletter Article Deadline  
(Send Submissions to tyler.  
jensen@lolbaxter.org)

### Tuesday, November 16

Bible Study, 2 pm  
Grief Support Group, 4:30 pm

### Wednesday, November 17

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
Supper and Club 56, 5:30 pm  
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

### Thursday, November 18

Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

### Friday, November 19

Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am

### Saturday, November 20

Christmas Decor and Bake Sale, 9 am

### Sunday, November 21

Worship, 9 am

### Tuesday, November 23

Grief Support Group, 4:30 pm

### Wednesday, November 24

Thanksgiving Worship, 12 pm  
Thanksgiving Worship, 6:30 pm

### Sunday, November 28

Worship, 9 am

### Tuesday, November 30

Grief Support Group, 4:30 pm

# How to Volunteer

If you would like to get involved here at Lord of Life as a volunteer, we would love to have you! Signing up for volunteer positions that suit your needs and interests can be done in three easy steps and you can control when and how you would like to serve.

## **Step 1: Let us know!**

We are always looking for more people to be a part of our volunteer community here at Lord of Life! If you are interested in being a part of it somehow, we would love to hear from you. Once we know you are interested, we can get you into the volunteer pool.

## **Step 2: Look for our email or text!**

Once you are added to the volunteer pool, we'll start sending you requests to serve. These will come in the form of an email OR a text from 1 (833) 439-8850 and say something about you having a new serving opportunity. Click on the link in the message.

## **Step 3: Accept or Decline!**

You will be taken to LOLConnect, where your open requests are listed. Pick one and accept or decline it. If you want, you can let us know why this doesn't work for you or find another person in the pool to make the shift. This step is very important as it allows us as a Church to know who will be at a service to help us make Lord of Life the best it can be.

When you are on that webpage, you can also let us know if you want to only serve with your family, what days or weeks work for you and when you will be unavailable. We are confident the LOLConnect system will make the volunteer process smoother and more enjoyable for you.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering here at Lord of Life! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Tyler Jensen at the Church Office.

# Groups

- Men's Fellowship - An opportunity for men to meet to discuss the Bible and other religious topics, while enjoying coffee, donuts and fellowship. This group meets every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in the Commons.
- Men's Breakfast - This group meets Friday mornings at 7 a.m. for breakfast, Bible studies, and fellowship
- 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.
- 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.
- Sarah Circle - A Bible Study and fellowship opportunity for women. The group meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday Women's Bible - A Bible Study opportunity for women each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.
- The Micah Group - A team of Lord of Life members and others, who are working to address racial issues in our community and world.