

# Good News

January  
2022

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

## A New Year Pastor Steven Rye

This is a new year on the calendar. Thus, it's a time for a fresh start. It's also halfway through our congregational program year that begins in July and runs through June. So it's also a time to look back at last year and take stock of all that has happened. It's also a time to look forward and to think about our goals and dreams for the future.

First of all, let's look back on this year. There is so much to celebrate. On staff, we talk about "dancing on the mountaintop" which is a way of saying that - having put forth a great effort to accomplish it - we're now celebrating the journey's completion.

We've celebrated many many things. Here I'll just share a couple. We began a new outreach ministry to college students to remind them of their home congregation and the importance of continuing in their spiritual journey. We're also dancing the gift that our newly trained Stephen Ministers are for the ministry of the congregation. And our Children's Christmas program was a great success.

Looking forward - one of the things we're dreaming about is a 4th-grade event or a program that will serve as a crossover into middle school. This is a reason to up our game when it comes to praying for a children's ministry coordinator. Hiring such a person will be critical in the development of that program.

We are also anticipating the focus of our ministry for the next couple of months to be the many "one another" passages in the Bible. Verses that speak about loving one another, caring for one another, praying for one another, admonishing one another. In these times especially, we are called to



come together emotionally and spiritually, even as we still need to take precautions physically.

Speaking of which, we are still under high Covid alert, but people ARE drifting back to church and our worship services are getting to feel full again both on Sunday morning and Wednesday night. Personally, I am dreaming about starting a second worship service on Sunday morning but as thinly stretched as our music community is these days that doesn't seem to be a possibility in the short term.

Finally, thank you for your partnership in ministry. We have been blessed to journey together as a congregation this past year and I am sure we will continue to seek God's blessings unfold in the coming year. I can't wait!

God Bless!  
Pr. Steve

# Youth News

## **January Youth Ministry Update**

Happy New Year Lord of Life! Wow, it is hard to believe that we have just launched into 2022! I guess the saying is true as you get older time goes faster and faster! I am grateful for the opportunity to launch into another year with all of you! I am excited to see where it might lead us! As many of you get this Newsletter families will be getting back into the routine again after Christmas break! I hope Christmas and New Year's was a blessing for you and your family! Here is some exciting program news for you to start off the new year!

## **Confirmation Classes Resume January 5th**

As we begin a new year our 7th & 8th grade students will be focusing on Luther's Small Catechism. Our 9th grade confirmation class will be focusing on Faith & Life topics! Class times will remain the same starting with worship at 6:30pm! Our first night back is a small group night for confirmation!

## **Club 56 Session #3: Health & Wellness Launches January 19th**

I know many people are thinking about health and wellness as we begin the new year! As Club 56 families let's take time to explore various Bible stories and connect it with our overall health and wellbeing! We are excited to gather back with all of you in January! If you know someone in 5th or 6th grade you are still able to sign up for our Club 56 program! Club 56 runs Wednesday nights from 5:30-6:30pm! For more information please contact Youth Director Tim Slinger

## **New High School Ministry: Lutheran High School Connect!**

We are excited to share the news of a brand-new ministry option for high school youth! In partnership with area ELCA Lutheran Churches we are launching Lutheran High School Connect! Happening twice in January & February on Monday afternoons! Looking for something to do right after school? Gather your friends and come check out Lutheran High School Connect hosted at First Lutheran in Brainerd! Connect with friends hang out and enjoy a Bible Study together! Here is a little more information regarding dates and times!

## **Lutheran High School Connect:**

Dates: Monday's January 10th & 24th February 7th & 21st

Time: 3:30pm-4:45pm

Location: First Lutheran Church Brainerd, MN

Address: 424 South 8th Street Brainerd, MN (Close to the high school)

## **January Important Calendar Dates:**

January 5th: Confirmation & Teen's Upstream Resume

January 9th: Middle School Youth Group

January 10th: Lutheran High School Connect

January 19th: Club 56 Session #3 Launches

January 22nd & 23rd: NOOMA Retreat (For 9th Grade Confirmation Students & Mentors ONLY)

January 24th: Lutheran High School Connect

Blessings as you begin the New Year! If you have any questions about Youth Ministry programming at Lord of Life, please don't hesitate to contact me! More information about programs can be found by visiting our social media pages or church website.

# Programming

## **LIFE GROUPS starting in January 2022**

*"I came that you may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

2020 and 2021 will go down in our history as two terribly difficult years! We have seen great division in community, in county, and even in church family. There maybe is not a more important time than now to work on and practice some basic building blocks of life together – so that we might all be able to fully claim the abundant life that Jesus offers. To that end, our Life Group theme this year is One Anothering. The scriptures invite us into meaningful, life giving relationships with one another and offer us tools for those relationships. This year we'll focus on a number of different biblical ways to be in relationship to One Another:

- Fellowship with One Another;
- Love One Another;
- Prayer for One Another;
- Care for One Another;
- Bear One Another's Burdens;
- Submit to One Another;
- Admonish One Another; and
- Spur One Another on Toward Love and Good deeds.

I invite you to prayerfully consider joining a 10:10 LifeGroup in the coming year. These life groups will commit to meeting 10 times and consisting of no more than 10 individuals. How often and where your 10:10 LifeGroup meets will be up to your group to decide.

These themes will also be our preaching themes for January and February so that as a faith family we might all practice One Anothering in a more intentional way this coming year – and build an ever stronger foundation for our life together in Christ.

Interested? Visit [lolbaxter.org](http://lolbaxter.org) and click the button to register. Or, you can sign up in the building with Tyler Jensen.

## **Pray and Ponder**

2022 is here! Along with the anticipation and excitement of the beginning of a new year, this month will also bring a new beginning for Pray & Ponder. All Lord of Life women are invited to gather one Saturday morning a month from at 9:00 a.m. for food, fellowship, and sharing. I plan to return to using Rob Bell's Nooma series as the basis for our discussion. The format for the morning will remain the same - breakfast, video, discussion, closing. Meeting dates will be:

- January 8th
- February 5th
- March 5th
- April 2nd
- May 7th

Contact Wendy Adamson, [wendyadamson@ymail.com](mailto:wendyadamson@ymail.com), with any questions. I truly look forward to gathering again.

God's peace,  
Wendy

## **LoL Staff**

### **Senior Pastor**

Steven Rye  
[steven.rye@lolbaxter.org](mailto:steven.rye@lolbaxter.org)

### **Associate Pastor**

Erika Nilsen  
[erika.nilsen@lolbaxter.org](mailto:erika.nilsen@lolbaxter.org)

### **Operations Manager**

Anne Laechel  
[anne@lolbaxter.org](mailto:anne@lolbaxter.org)

### **Youth Director**

Tim Slinger  
[tim@lolbaxter.org](mailto:tim@lolbaxter.org)

### **Communications**

#### **Coordinator**

Tyler Jensen  
[tyler.jensen@lolbaxter.org](mailto:tyler.jensen@lolbaxter.org)

#### **Custodians**

Paul and Karen  
Erickson

# Christmas 2021

Thank you all for joining us for our Christmas Eve services! It was wonderful to see so many people come together to celebrate the birth of Christ. We would especially like to thank everyone who volunteered to pull our three services off.

**Ushers:** Bruce and Sandy Jensen, Tim Slinger, Colleen Bush, Kyle Bush, Kayla Bush, Darrell Pedersen, Mary and Ted Anderson;

**Readers:** Deb Bergstrom, Paul Springstead;

**Sound and Video:** Brian and Tyler Schaitberger, Michael Jentsch, Jason Feigums, Mike Bush; and

**Musicians:** The EveryDaySonDay Band (Brian Wallace, Mike Owen, Jon Belanger, Jeff Johnson), The Upstream Band (Josh Freelove, Sam Mattson, Anna Tupy, Emily Ehlert, Alice and Jessica Balsley, Rob Freelove), Jim Grimes, Julia and Jamie Wallace, Bob Nelson, Preston Owen, Linda Erickson, Bruce Tollefson, Steve Schaitberger, Jennifer Pedersen

We would also like to thank everyone who made donations toward the poinsettias and other sanctuary decorations.

- Barbara Schlieck-Coffman, in memory of loved ones;
- Roger Spreeman, in memory of Rosemary, Brian and Caryn;
- Cheryl Plouffe and Gil Williams, in memory of Don Plouffe and Mary Williams;
- Rick and Jeannine zumBrunnen, in memory of their parents;
- Ted and Connie Toensing, in memory of friends and family who passed away in 2021;
- Jerry and Deb Bergstrom, in memory of loved ones;
- Mike and Judy Bialka, in memory of Harvey Gunderson and Judy Bialka (Mike's Sister);
- John Stephenson, in memory of Marilyn;
- Sid and Brenda Johnson, in memory of Brenda's sisters Joyce and Bonnie;
- Paul and Sally Jacobson, in honor of Peter and Cristina's marriage;
- Darlene Christensen, in memory of Lyle and Cheryl Christensen, Ross Sr., Ruby, Ross Jr., Richard and Gene Dickey, Luca Markman and in honor of her family;
- Steve and Valerie Jones, in honor of all healthcare workers;
- Eric and Julie Douidge Family, in memory of Edward Douidge Jr.;
- Carol and Dick Rodseth;
- Jennifer and Darrel Pedersen, in memory of Chawly and Olga Pedersen and in honor of George and Dorothy McCorison;
- Mary and Ted Anderson, in memory of those gone before them;
- Tim, Lisa, Derek, Lucas, and Ella Hoglin, in memory of Grandma Schultz;
- John and Joanne Wolf, in honor of Greta and Bennet;
- **The Bruce and Sandy Jensen family, in memory of Fran and Dwight Jensen and Alice Gluth;**
- **The Vagts Family, in memory of Tim Vagts;**
- Dorothy Schmidt;
- The family of Edwin Swenson, in memory of Edwin (Ed) Swenson;
- Rebecca Beckerleg, in memory of Mark Beckerleg;
- John and Wendy VanMoer, in honor of their family and in memory of Vic and Mary VanMoer and Jack and Pearl Vroman;
- Michele Albright, in memory of her Grandma, Lois Berge; and
- The Elden & Wendy Rueger Family, in memory of their parents, Ron & Bev Kemmet, Ginger Nordin, and Gary Nordin.

# Micah Group

## Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race

I don't think I ever said anything nasty to a person of color. But I know that many people of color hear evil things spoken to them all the time.

I believe that people of color are every bit as good as me, a white Scandinavian American. But I know that many in my world think people of color are somehow less worthy members of society.

I believe that people of color deserve equity – justice, fair play, impartiality – a chance to catch up after generations, even centuries of experiencing injustice and persecution.

We can't change the past - slavery, Jim Crow laws, lynchings, stolen Indigenous land, broken treaties, plagues, massacres, Indian boarding schools . . . But, we, I can make a difference today and on into the future. Jesus confirmed that the greatest and second greatest commandments are "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart . . . soul . . . strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27) The Preamble to the Declaration of Independence says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." I believe that both scripture and constitution call for me to speak out for justice.

Therefore, I would love to invite you to join Lolly Kalinoski and I as we lead a five-week book study on "Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race," by Debby Irving. The study will meet on 2nd and 4th Sundays, beginning January 9, 10:15 a.m. The group will meet at Lord of Life and also enable people to participate remotely via Zoom. Free books are available first come first served or you can order online. The first session will be an introductory discussion and the following sessions will dig into the text. Come once and see what you think. This study is being sponsored by the Micah Group which has been gradually forming at Lord of Life.

How much do you know about racism? This study will be a chance for us to learn a little more about the world we all share. It may also be a chance to learn how to love the neighbor of color in some very real ways. Please call the church office, 218-828-9374, to enroll in this study, secure a book or receive a Zoom number if needed.

Darrell J. Pedersen

# January Calendar

## **Sunday, January 2**

Worship, 9 am

## **Monday, January 3**

New Year's Day Observed, Church Office is closed.

## **Tuesday, January 4**

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 am

## **Wednesday, January 5**

Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30 pm  
Worship and Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Master Class, 7:30 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

## **Thursday, January 6**

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

## **Friday, January 7**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Saturday, January 8**

Pray and Ponder, 9 am

## **Sunday, January 9**

Worship, 9 am  
Micah Group, 10:30 am

## **Tuesday, January 11**

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

## **Wednesday, January 12**

Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30 pm  
Worship and Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Master Class, 7:30 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

## **Thursday, January 13**

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

## **Friday, January 14**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am  
Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 am

## **Sunday, January 16**

Worship, 9 am  
Micah Group, 10:30 am

## **Monday, January 17**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Church Office is closed.

## **Tuesday, January 18**

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 am

## **Wednesday, January 19**

Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30 pm  
Worship and Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Master Class, 7:30 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

## **Thursday, January 20**

Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am  
Church Council, 6 pm

## **Friday, January 21**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, January 23**

Worship, 9 am  
Micah Group, 10:30 am

## **Wednesday, January 26**

Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30 pm  
Worship and Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Master Class, 7:30 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

## **Thursday, January 27**

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

## **Friday, January 28**

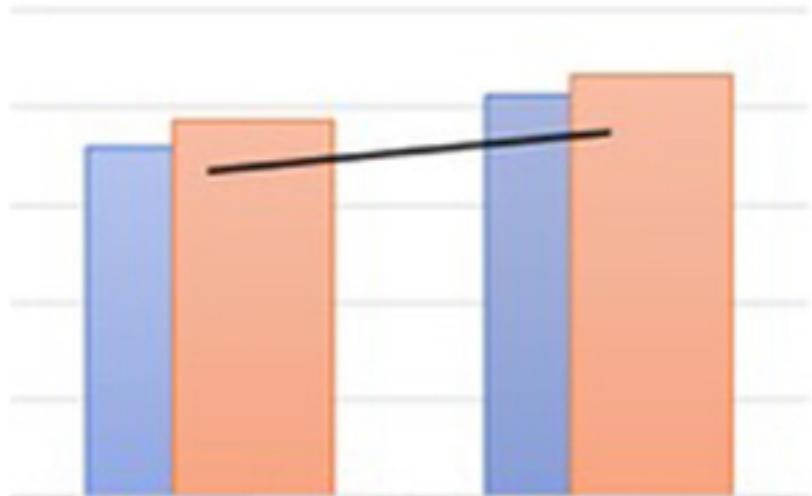
Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, January 30**

Worship, 9 am

# Financials

## General Fund Contributions



	YTD Contributions	YTD Expenses
2021 Actual	\$179,754.78	\$205,972.82
2021 Budget	\$193,270.96	\$216,509.87
2019-20 Actual Avg	\$167,256.76	\$187,238.79

# 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.
- Sarah Circle - This group for women meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m.
- 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. The group will be hosting a history presentation by Keith Peterson in-person and via Zoom on Sunday, January 16.
- Martha Circle - A time for women of Lord of Life to participate in fellowship and Bible studies. The group meets the first Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.