

Good News

February
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

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“One Anothering” Pastor Erika Nilsen

Dear friends,
We now find ourselves in the month of February – which for many feels like the darkest, longest part of the winter with the brightness of the holidays long in our rear view mirror and signs of spring have not yet emerged. And though the month is a bit shorter than all the others, time seems to slow down in the cold and grey of this month. But here’s an antidote! What a wonderful time to continue to immerse ourselves in the practical skills of “One Anothering.”

“One Anothering” is one way to think about the walk we’ve been called to take as part of the beloved community of Christ. As Father Richard Rohr says, “There’s no other form for the Christian Life except the common one.”

Understanding that we are inextricably connected to one another as disciples of Jesus Christ we put into practice the very things that promote and lift up our common life together.

Throughout January we focused on fellowshiping with one another, loving one another, praying for one another, caring for one another, and bearing one another’s burdens... I’m encouraged as many of you are connecting with a small group to grow in and work on these practices. I’m delighted when I hear word that meaningful “One Anothering” conversation is happening around the family table at meal time. I’m thankful as I watch you



“one another” so beautifully.

This month we dive into encouraging one another, submitting to one another, admonishing one another and spurring one another on to deeds of love and mercy. I must admit that when I first looked at the table of contents in the ‘One Anothering’ book by Richard Meyer that we are using for our preaching and LIFEgroup series right now – and saw the themes of “submitting to one another” and “admonishing one another” I bristled a bit. Yet – deeply convinced that we are called into community – these are skills that are critical for moving forward together.

Theologian Joseph Piper says, and I agree, that the “Natural habitat for truth is in interpersonal relationships.” So – may we all have the courage to be honest with ourselves and others as we continue to explore what it means to be in community with One Another!

God’s peace in the bleak mid-winter,
Pastor Erika

Youth News

Confirmation:

Since the start of the year our confirmation program has been on two different class tracts. Our 7th & 8th graders are busy focusing in on Luther's Small Catechism and our 9th grader are exploring faith life topics with Pastor Erika. If you have been able to join us for Wednesday worship we have been focusing in on the Lord's Prayer and will launch into learning about the Apostles Creed this month! I want to thank Keith Peterson for his presentation on behalf of the Micah group to our confirmation students & parents on January 26th!

Teen's Upstream: Wednesday Nights 8pm-9pm:

All 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us Wednesday night for high school youth group! This month our youth group continues to dive into the themes and discussion guides from our Sunday morning sermon series on "One Anothering". Take a break midweek enjoy connecting with friends, games and great conversation!

NEW Lutheran High School Connect:

A huge thank you to those from Lord of Life who have tried out new after school ministry this past month! In partnership with area ELCA Lutheran Churches we have launched Lutheran High School Connect! 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: February 7th & 28th

Time: 3:30pm-4:45pm

Location: First Lutheran Church Brainerd, MN

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

Club 56: Session #3 Health & Wellness:

Last month we were blessed to welcome author Charles Butenhoff at Lord of Life to meet with our Club 56 Families. Thank you Charles for taking the time to meet with our class. Share about the inspiration for your book and read it to our families. Throughout this session we have been using this book to guide discussion and our Bible study together! Focusing on the positive traits lifted up in the book, trust, patience, courage, integrity, humility and gratitude.

February Important Calendar Dates:

February 6th Middle School Youth Group

February 7th Lutheran High School Connect

February 16th Mentor Night (9th Grade Confirmation ONLY)

February 23rd Confirmation Parent Night

February 28th Lutheran High School Connect

Children's Ministry

Kids Time Lessons:

Every Sunday morning there is an opportunity for kids to grow in their connection to Christ, the world and one another. Our Kids Time teachings are following the One Another preaching themes! We're grateful for Val Rangen who curated the curriculum and for a number of volunteers that are sharing love and faith with our kids. If you'd like to be a Kids Time Leader, please reach out to Pastor Erika - erika@lodbaxter.org!

First Communion Classes:

5th Graders and their parents should save the dates of all Thursdays in March, except for March 17, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm.

Luther Crest Summer Camp:

It's time to start planning for summer camp! Luther Crest near Alexandria has opened early registration for its sessions. Early Bird registration must be completed by Monday, February 14.

There are many reasons for children to go to summer camps like Luther Crest. First, it is a place to make new friends, learn from mentors and connect with many others in a faith-filled community.

Second, it gives children the opportunity gain new experiences and grow as people. Summer Camp is a place where kids can stretch their wings and get away from Mom and Dad for a bit, try something, and then learn from how it succeeds or fails.

Last, but certainly not least, it is an amazing, fun-filled experience that will make memories staying with children for the rest of their lives. Coordinating with other Lord of Life families on which weeks to go camping is a great way to develop connections with someone you may know. Or, meeting new people from different communities is also an amazing experience.

For more information, including a full listing of what programs are available during which weeks, please visit luthercrest.org.

LoL Staff

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Paul and Karen
Erickson

Generosity Campaign

Hello Friends,

This past summer and fall, we came to you with the goal of increasing giving at Lord of Life by \$60,000 over the course of a year. As a reminder, this was to sustain increased staffing costs of a full-time Communications and Volunteer Coordinator, keeping a Children's Ministry Coordinator in the budget, and maintaining the staff wages that were increased in 2020, the first cost of living adjustment at Lord of Life in many years.

Today, we are at just under the halfway point of our goal. Thanks to the generosity of a number of our members, we have increased giving by \$27,000 so far. We are incredibly grateful for those of you who answered our call to increase your family's contribution by 50 cents a day, or \$15 a month. In fact, a number of you well exceeded that.

But, we still have a ways to go. If you have not already done so, please consider increasing your giving to Lord of Life. The funding you give allows us to maintain staff that can support missions for our Congregation and the community at large. Starting this month, we will be showing you a number of specific examples of this.

We are optimistic that we can climb this mountain together, but there is still a ways to go. We ask for your continued support, and your feedback on how you think we are doing. Please do not ever hesitate to reach out to one of our staff or pastors if you have questions or comments. Together, we can live up to our mission of inspiring deeper connections to Christ, our community and each other.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
Lord of Life Lutheran Church of Baxter

Micah Group

Micah Group Update

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8

The Micah Group recently convened a new five session book discussion based on Debby Irving's "Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race." Two sessions were held in January, but anyone is welcome to join at any time. The next sessions will be February 13, 27 and March 13th. Books are available at the church.

We are also doing a series of special presentations through May. Forty people attended the first session by Keith Peterson on Slavery before the Civil War, which was very well received. Upcoming events will be at 10:30 am on Sundays. Grab a cup of coffee and join us in the fellowship hall or on Zoom. You can request a Zoom link from lollykadlec@hotmail.com

March 6: Tony Mauer will talk about growing up in the '90's and look at what is happening currently in the quest for racial justice.

March 27: Greg Swenson will focus on Reconstruction, Jim Crow and the Great Migration.

The community is also doing great things. The Brainerd Public Library is offering an opportunity to listen and visit with Anton Treuer on March 9th at noon. He will be discussing his book Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask. The library will have more information closer to the event.

Step by step we are trying to find new ways to learn, to understand, to be open and to seek God's wisdom for our world. Our events are open to everyone, and we'd love to have you join us.

God's Peace,
Micah Group

February Calendar

Lessons

February 6

*"Encourage ONE
Another"*

Thessalonians 5: 11-23

February 13

*"Submit to ONE
Another"*

Ephesians 4:25-5:2,21

February 20

*"Admonish ONE
Another"*

Colossians 3:12-17

February 27

*"Spur ONE Another
toward love and good
deeds"*

Hebrews 10:19-25

Tuesday, February 1

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 am
Property Team, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 2

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Club 56, 5:30 pm
Supper, 5:30 pm
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, February 3

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

Friday, February 4

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Saturday, February 5

Pray and Ponder, 9 am

Sunday, February 6

Worship, 9 am

Monday, February 7

Lutheran High School Connect,
3:30 pm

Tuesday, February 8

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

Wednesday, February 9

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Club 56, 5:30 pm
Supper, 5:30 pm
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, February 10

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

Friday, February 11

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Sunday, February 13

Worship, 9 am

Micah Group, 10:30 am

Tuesday, February 15

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 am
Driver Improvement Class, 5 pm
March Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, February 16

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Supper, 5:30 pm
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, February 17

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

Friday, February 18

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Sunday, February 20

Worship, 9 am
New Member Meeting, 4 pm

Monday, February 21

Lutheran High School Connect,
3:30 pm

Wednesday, February 23

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Supper, 5:30 pm
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, February 24

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

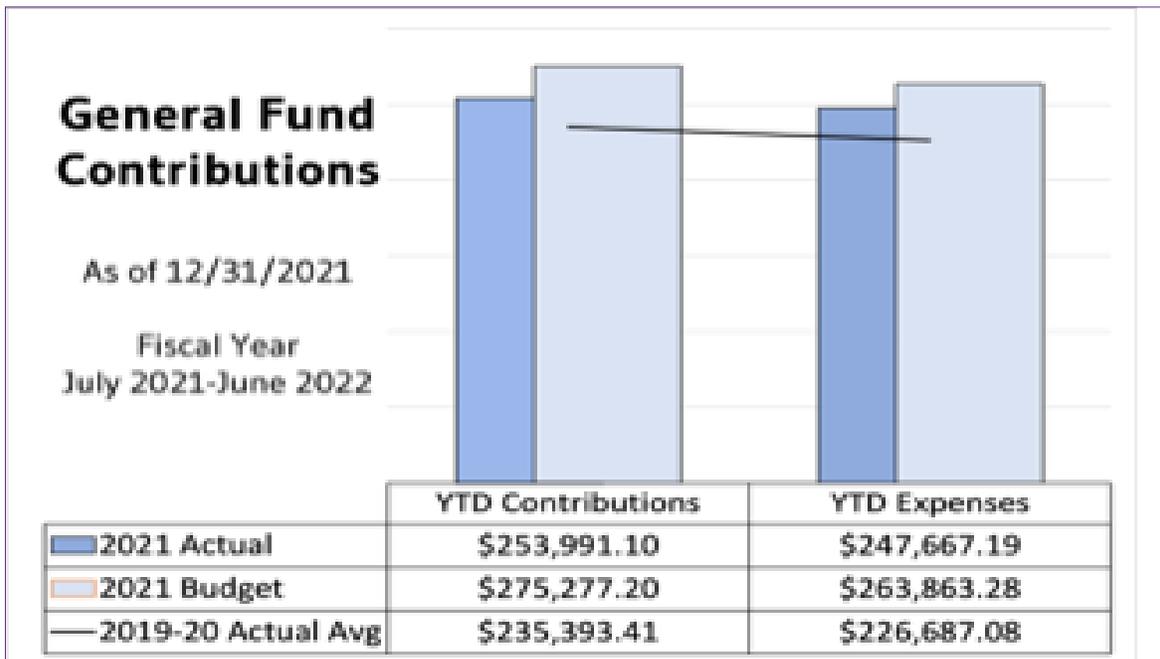
Friday, February 25

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Sunday, February 27

Worship, 9 am
*(New Members received into the
Congregation during Worship.)*
Winter Programming Fair, 8:30 am
ELCA Roundtable Worship, 5 pm

Financials



2021-2022 Capital Campaign

YTD Credits: \$39,262.18

Previous YTD Credits: \$45,710.15

Previous YTD Debits:
\$34,824.00

Mortgage Information

Balance as of 12/31/21: \$681,284.20

5-Year Adj Sec Loan (2018-2023)

Interest Rate: 3.875 %

Estimated Loan Maturity: June 2034

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 - The Sarah Circle meets the second Tuesday of each month for Bible Study and fellowship for women at Lord of Life.
- 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.
- Pray and Ponder - This program for women at Lord of Life meets one Saturday a month for breakfast and discussion based on the NOOMA video series.