

Good News

May
2022

Lord of Life
Lutheran
Church
(ELCA)

Worship
Sunday -
9:30 am
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@lodbaxter.
org

“Help us share our story” Tyler Jensen

It is hard to believe, but Lord of Life’s annual meeting is once again fast approaching us.

This year, the meeting will be in-person, on Sunday, June 5th, following worship. The meeting will be held in our Commons area.

There are many reasons why we have to come together each year for a Congregational meeting. We need to pass a budget, elect new Council members, and consider a variety of other issues facing our Church.

But it is also a time for reflection. We use the annual meeting, and the annual report which accompanies it, to look back at our ministries over the last year. We celebrate what we have accomplished, while looking forward and considering the tasks we still must take on.

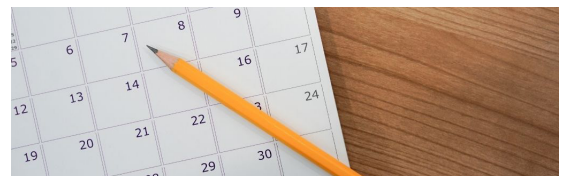
It is an opportunity to rejoice in the blessings the Lord has given our Faith Family, from baptisms and weddings, to new members and those who were recently confirmed. But, it is also a time to remember those who have gone on to the eternal dwelling place Jesus Christ has prepared for us.

If you would like to submit information for our annual report, please email it to tyler.jensen@lodbaxter.org, by Wednesday, May 18th.

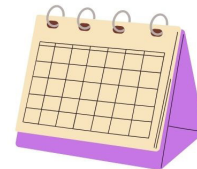
The annual report will be posted on our website, lodbaxter.org, and physical copies will be available at church on Sunday, May 29th.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to our office at (218) 828-9374.

May The Lord bless you and keep you,
Tyler Jensen



SAVE THE DATE!!!
Lord of Life's Annual
Meeting is Sunday,
June 5th, after church.



Lord of Life Annual Reports
available physically and at
lodbaxter.org; Sunday, May
29



Youth News

May has arrived and with it means it is time to shift seasons for youth programming at Lord of Life. We now transition from our school year programming to set our sights on summer programs! We have exciting programs for you and your families launching soon. Take a moment to read through this article to learn more and as we recap this past month in ministry!

School Year Program Wrap Up!

I want to thank the families at Lord of Life that participated in programming throughout the 2021-22 school year! It has been a blessing working with all of you from our Wednesday night programs and youth groups! I want to thank all the parents and adults who have volunteered their time and energy to assist with the various programs. Your commitment share who you are, your gifts, your knowledge and faith with the youth of this congregation has been a blessing! Thank you for all you have done!

Lord of Life Youth Rummage & Bake Sale May 13th & 14th

In just a couple of weeks Lord of Life will be hosting our largest youth fundraiser of the with proceeds going to our summer mission trip! You won't want to miss out on this event! We are currently looking for volunteers to help with the sale & set up! If you are interested please contact Tim Slinger Youth Director at Lord of Life. Starting Monday, May 9th we will be receiving donated items for our sale. As you are busy spring clean please consider donating gently used items that you no longer need to our sale. Please not old TV's or adult clothing. There will be an adult clothing giveaway the following week at church. Thank you to everyone who has helped in the past or donated items!

Day Camp with Camp Onomia@ LOL / Dates: June 28th-30th / Cost: \$45

A great experience with amazing counselors from Camp Onomia! Open to kids who have finished K-3rd grade during the 2021-22 school year! Experience a little bit of everything with this camp! Enjoy your favorite camp songs, games, Bible stories and so much more!

Summer Kids Choir "With One Voice" / Dates: June 13th and 14th / \$20 per person

Join elementary kids from area ELCA churches as you come together to learn, sing and grow! This choir will be directed by Stacy Erdal. Throughout the remainder of the summer, the choir will sing at our local ELCA churches on Sunday mornings. Registration Deadline is Wednesday, May 25.

serveCAMP @ LOL (Completed 4th-7th Grade) / Dates: June 26th-30th / Cost: \$125

This camp experience happens right in our backyard! Enjoy everything camp has to offer! Along with serving our local community, night games and an option to tent camp outback at church! You won't want to miss this week!

Summer Stretch (Completed 6th-8th) / Dates: Thursday's in June & July / Cost: \$75

This program is all about connecting us to our community in various ways! Let's connect with friends from LOL and area ELCA churches, while enjoying service projects, fun activities and a Twins game!

Important Calendar Dates:

- Lord of Life Youth Rummage & Bake Sale May 13th & 14th
- Deadline to register for Summer Stretch May 15th
- Senior Recognition @ Lord of Life May 18th & 22nd

Council Minutes

Present (9)

Tom Champion
Pr. Erika Nilsen
Kevin Olson
Brian Orłowski
Pr. Steve Rye

Donna Salli
Emmy Holcomb-Smith
Steve Schaitberger
Dan Tupy

Absent (2)

Pam Caughey
Karla Skwira

Guest (2)

Anne Laechel
Rick zumBrunnen

Meeting (held online via Zoom) called to order by President Tupy.
Devotions by Pr. Nilsen "Beyond".

Consent Agenda:

- Adoption of 3/24/22 Agenda (CC.2022.03.01)
- Approval of February 2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes and February 22, 2022 Council Special Meeting minutes (CC.2022.03.02)
- February 2022 Financial Report
- Worship times of 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. on Easter.
- Approve budget for 2022 Synod Journey and Michigan trip by high school students.

Campion gave financial report. Generosity Team and Finance Team working on solutions to address some on-going erosion of church's financial position.

New Business

Orłowski joined by Rick zumBrunnen from Property Team to discuss energy/environmental assessment conducted by Crow Wing Power. Suggestions included setback thermostats and changing fluorescent lighting to LED lighting. Volunteer labor of electric work to replace fixtures has been offered. Payback periods range from immediate to about 10 years. CW Power estimates electric rates to rise 10%/year over next three years. Not turning all lights on at once (i.e. Wed. nights) could reduce peak demand that determines kilowatt/hour cost. Discussion of number of lamps/fixtures. Possible 'Buy a Light Fixture' possible in future. MOTION to replace 58 fluorescent light fixtures with LED fixtures. Motion by Orłowski, second by Olson, all ayes. (CC. 2022.03.03)

Support for Eastern Europe fundraiser through Lutheran World Relief discussed. MOTION to authorize/empower Mission Outward council representative to approve special fundraisers if one has not been done in the previous four months. Motion by Pr. Rye, second by Schaitberger, all ayes. (CC.2022.03.04)

MOTION to set 2022 Annual Meeting for June 5, 2022. Motion by Pr. Rye, second by Pr. Nilsen, all ayes (CC.2022.03.05)

Budgeting timeline discussed. Ad hoc team (including representatives from personnel, property, generosity, finance, treasurer, operations manager, etc.) to review. Tupy will meet with Pr. Rye and Pr. Nilsen to set meeting date.

Council Minutes

Rally Sunday scheduled for Sept. 11, 2022. Groups encouraged to have information tables, council will be host. God's Work, Our Hands moved to Sept 25, 2022 to avoid conflicting with Rally Sunday.

Old Business

Homework for council members: complete and return Self-Analysis Document by April 10, 2022 for use in defining council member positions.

Nominating committee work progressing.

MOTION to approve and adopt new Policies Document and rescind previous and unaccounted for policies. Motion by Pr. Nilsen, second by Salli, all ayes. (CC.2022.03.06)

Barrett property discernment group has been forming. Group to explore possible uses of property, timing of sale if so recommended. Meeting will be scheduled by Pr. Rye, Council invited.

Directional Council Updates

Salli (Outward): Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen restarting. Micah Group sponsoring meeting at United Church of Christ. Bonnie Henningson reported \$45,000 donation from Thrivent to Habitat for Humanity, 30 volunteers are on LOL Habitat volunteer list, summer 2022 fundraising campaign being planned.

Holcomb-Smith (Youth): Fundraising in progress for Synod Journey and Michigan trip.

Schaitberger (V.P., Personnel): Music director position interview scheduled for Sunday, 3/27/22.

Pr. Rye: Pouring chalice option for communion being researched, recommended by ELCA for hygiene and medical reasons.

Pr. Nilsen: Nursery attendant/ staffing options being looked into.

Next regular Council meeting set for Thursday, April 21, 2022, 6 p.m. via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer, 8:00 p.m.

Kevin Olson, Secretary.

Calendar

Sunday, May 1

Worship, 9:30 am
Micah Group Presentation, 11 am

Tuesday, May 3

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

Wednesday, May 4

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, May 5

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

Friday, May 6

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Saturday, May 7

Pray and Ponder, 9 am

Sunday, May 8

Worship, 9:30 am

Tuesday, May 10

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

Wednesday, May 11

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, May 12

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Friday, May 13

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Rummage Sale, 8 am

Saturday, May 14

Rummage Sale, 8 am

Sunday, May 15

Worship, 9:30 am

Tuesday, May 17

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 am
June Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, May 18

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Senior Recognition Service, 6:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 7:30 pm

Thursday, May 19

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Friday, May 20

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Spring Clothing Giveaway, 9:30 am

Saturday, May 21

Spring Clothing Giveaway, 9 am

Sunday, May 22

Senior Recognition Service, 9:30 am
Micah Group Presentation, 11 am

Wednesday, May 25

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 7:30 pm

Thursday, May 26

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Friday, May 27

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

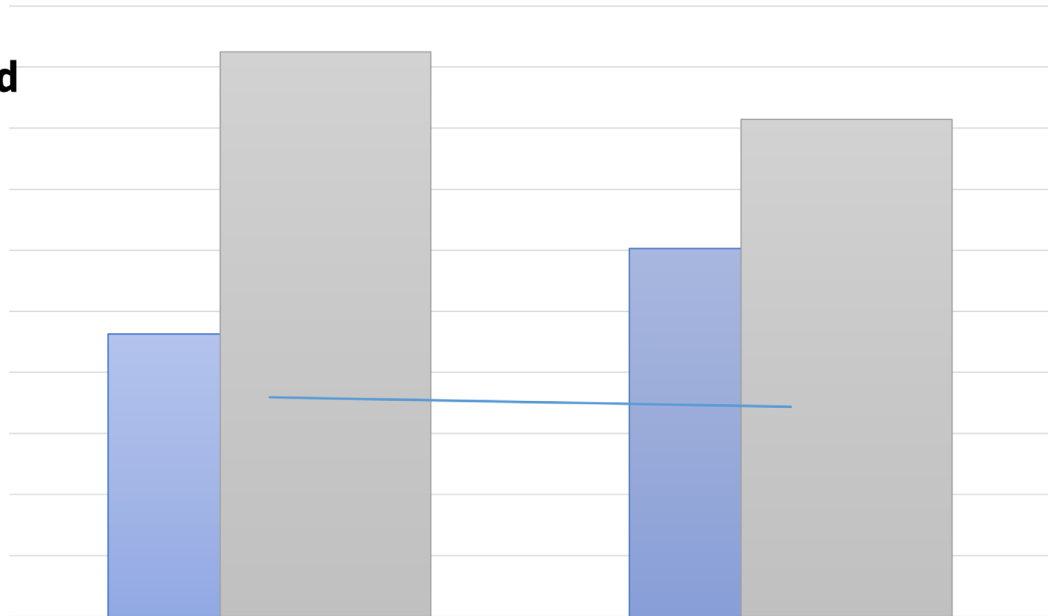
Sunday, May 29

Worship, 9:30 am

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day, Office Closed

General Fund Contributions and Expenses



	YTD Contributions	YTD Expenses
21-22 Actual	\$366,302.68	\$380,278.73
21-22 Budget	\$412,459.93	\$401,442.84
2019-21 Actual Avg	\$355,915.14	\$354,329.37

Participation in Thrivent Choice® & Thrivent Action Teams makes a difference!

Thrivent clients with membership – you have unique opportunities to help us spread the gospel through Worship, and provide educational and fun children’s and youth summer ministries. Consider making a personal donation, leading a Thrivent Action Team or directing Thrivent Choice Dollars®. Go to Thrivent.com/generosity to learn more.

Pentecost Sunday - June 5, 2022

I wish to give \$ _____ for Pentecost Red Geraniums.

Cost is \$7 per Geranium



Given by: _____

___ In memory of _____

___ In honor of _____

*Place your completed form and payment in the offering plate.
The Geraniums will be planted at Lord of Life after Pentecost Sunday.*

Micah Group

The Micah group has been active over the last few months, both with internal opportunities and external connections. A series of presentations have helped shine a light on our nation's history, much of which was not well-known. We will continue this series in May.

- **May 1st: Bob Brekken will present First Peoples: American Indians and American History**
- **May 22nd: Michael Erickson will present AAPI: Asian and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. today**

Both of these presentations will begin at 10:30 after the church service and are also available on Zoom. Grab a cookie and a second cup of coffee and join us in the sanctuary.

Building on Michael's presentation, we are also planning a book discussion over the summer months. *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford is a novel set in the 1940's and centers on the experiences of Japanese Americans swept into internment camps. The group will meet at the church on Wednesday night June 15th, July 22nd and August 17th at 5:15. Bring a bag supper and join in! Micah Group also recently joined the First Congregational Church for a forum on Our Anti-Racist Faith which was a community opportunity to discuss what our faith has to say on social justice issues. Several members of the ELCA Northeast Synod participated.

Our plans include development of learning opportunities for the children of our congregation alongside adult events. If you are interested in being a part of the planning or having your child involved, please contact Judy Bialka at mjtbialka@charter.net.

Discussing these issues can be difficult. Finding a path to understanding means listening and learning. Figuring out what our Lutheran faith asks of us is a challenge. But we are exhorted by Micah 6:8, reminding us of God's charge to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly. Here's a prayer for the journey:

Prayer for Openness

Jesus, you open us
to new life, new hope, new possibilities.
You conquer the way we
close up, close down, and close in.
Jesus, lover of us all,
open our hearts to feel your compassion
for people we would rather walk by;
open our ears to hear the cries of the suffering
deep inside where we cannot fail to be moved;
open our understanding to new ways of living
that do not diminish anyone;
open our eyes to see a vision of this world
as you would have it.
May these prayerful words on our lips
become the meditations of our hearts
as we live in ways that are acceptable to you
O God, our Rock and our Redeemer. (Carol Penner)
Micah Group Leadership Team

LoL Staff

Senior Pastor

Steven Rye
steve@lolbaxter.org

Associate Pastor

Erika Nilsen
erika.nilsen@lolbaxter.org

Operations Manager

Anne Laechel
anne@lolbaxter.org

Youth Director

Tim Slinger
tim@lolbaxter.org

Communications

Coordinator

Tyler Jensen
tyler.jensen@lolbaxter.org

Custodians

Paul and Karen
Erickson

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
- Martha Circle - This women's group meets the first Thursday of the month for fellowship and faith-based discussion.
- 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. On May 1, Micah Group is hosting a presentation on American Indians and American History and on May 22, one on Asian and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. today.
- 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.