

# Good News

June  
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@lolbaxter.  
org

## Deeply Rooted in the Boundless God

**Pastor Erika Nilsen**

In the summer of 2020 – still reeling from the impact of the first wave of Covid deaths, concerns, and crisis, etc . . . AND trying to make sense of racial injustice, protests, and community chaos that erupted after George Floyd’s murder, a couple of adults and young people from our synod got together and wondered out loud about what young people in particular, but really all of us, needed to hear at that moment. What did we need to believe? What did we need to cling to? What would give us hope? A series of 9 belief statements were distilled through the process and those statements created a new Creed. Now – don’t be nervous – no one is eliminating any of the churches Creedal statements that have formed and shaped and grounded faith for centuries. But this seemed like a very new time with a new need – what evolved was this. . .

**I am  
Created by an Ever Present Loving  
God  
Deeply Rooted in Jesus Christ  
Equipped to be Resilient Amidst  
Change  
Grounded in Community  
Nourished by the Living God  
Free to Struggle, Grow and Expand  
Compelled to Reach Out to Others  
Renewed in Hope Everyday.**



year, Tim Slinger and I invited our confirmation students to think deeply about these 9 belief statements, sink deeply into their truth, and live deeply knowing that even, and most especially, during this challenging time of life, they were rooted in a Boundless God.

Kevin Olson, who is a member of Lord of Life and a wonderful artist, created an image to go with each statement.

During the months of June and July, I will be preaching through these belief statements so that we might all think, sink, and live deeply into their truth. You’ll be invited to ponder the image that accompanies each statement as a way of entering into prayer and contemplation. I also hope the images will draw you out into God’s boundless creation where you can experience and feel deep roots, rich soil, old growth, rocky paths, nourishing rain, warming sun, budding and blooming life.

In Jesus, we are deeply rooted in a boundless God. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Erika

Throughout the 2020-2021 program

# Youth News

## **Congratulations Class of 2022!**

We gathered at Lord of Life on May 18th & 22nd, to celebrate the class of 2022 graduating high school seniors! It was a blessing to be together and we wish you well as you begin this next chapter in your life! Thank you congregation for supporting this class throughout the years and we can't wait to see what is next for all of them!

## **Annual Youth Rummage Sale Was A Success! THANK YOU!**

First off I cannot thank everyone enough who worked hard to make this sale a success. From our numerous volunteers, to those who donated items or participated in the sale, THANK YOU! This year brought new experiences and challenges at times as I was under the weather for the sale portion. But people stepped up, supported this fundraiser and these gifts will bless our summer mission trip ministry!

## **Summer Programs Happening @ Lord of Life This Month!**

### **Summer Kids Choir "With One Voice" Dates: June 13th-14th & Sunday's This Summer!**

We are excited for our upcoming summer kids choir in partnership with area ELCA churches. This choir will start with a 2-day choir camp experience and then they will travel throughout the summer on Sunday mornings! We are excited to host them for our worship service on Sunday, June 19th! Hope to see you there!

### **Citywide ELCA Youth Group Event Date: June 15th @ Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

Inviting all middle school and high school youth to our first citywide youth group event of the summer! Join us with your friends from area ELCA churches for fun games, food and Bible study! Middle school youth group runs 6pm-7:30pm and high school youth group is from 7:30-9pm! We hope to see you there!

### **serveCAMP @ LOL (Completed 4th-7th Grade) Dates: June 26th-30th**

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! We are currently working on lining up volunteers who could help from food service (helping with breakfast & lunch) to helping lead a small group at a service site. If you are interested in helping out this year please contact the church!

### **Day Camp with Camp Onomia @ LOL Dates: June 28th-30th**

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 Stretch (Completed 6th-8th) Dates: Thursday's in June & July**

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! If you see our group out in the community don't hesitate to stop by and say hi!

# Council Minutes

## Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Baxter MN Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, April 21, 2022

### Present (9)

Tom Campion  
Pam Caughey  
Pr. Erika Nilsen  
Brian Orłowski  
Pr. Steve Rye

Donna Salli  
Steve Schaitberger  
Karla Skwira  
Dan Tupy

### Absent (2)

Emerson Holcomb-Smith  
Kevin Olson

### Guest (1)

Anne Laechel

Meeting (held online via Zoom) was called to order at 6:06 pm. by President Tupy.

Devotions by Pr. Steve (At Lord of Life, what examples have you seen recently of a deepened or enriched connection to Christ, Our Community and Each Other)

### Consent Agenda

- Approval of the March 2022 Council Minutes (CC2022.04.01)
- Adoption of the April 21, 2022 Agenda (CC2022.04.02)
- Approve the following as new members – Pending their completion of Membership Conversation, Form completion and Public Affirmation of Faith (CC2022.04.03)

Pat Dickson, Erica Dolven-Kolle, Joseph Erickson, Catherine Grubb, Jeff Grubb,  
Chad Parkin, Meghan Parkin, Shane Riffle, Lindsey Riffle, Sawyer Riffle, Nicole Teigen

- Funeral Policy Update: MOTION: To add to the suggested donation section of the funeral policy “If two or more pastors officiate/preach, our guidelines would be to give a donation of \$100-\$150 to Lutheran World Relief” (CC2022.04.04)
- To set the salary for nursery attendants at \$12.00 per hour. (CC2022.04.05)

### Mission Upward – Karla Skwira

- Pr. Erika discussed plans to expand the current children’s milestone ministry to include other life milestones, such as becoming empty nesters and retirement.
- Pr. Steve introduced his “Sabbatical Musings” which he invites council members to think about while he is gone on sabbatical.
- Laura Campbell has agreed to serve as our new Cradle Roll Coordinator. Cradle Roll ministry may include a monthly faith formation mailing to new parents.
- Publicity has been sent out regarding summer child and youth activities.

### Mission Outward – Donna Salli

- Donna gave updates on Prayer Shawl, Blood Drive, Circle of Welcome (Afghan Refugee program) and Habitat for Humanity projects.
- Several groups have completed or are working on the Group Self-Analysis form.
- Ukraine Crisis offering was received and a check for nearly \$5,000 has been sent off to Lutheran World Relief. Additional donations will be accepted.
- Sally Jacobsen would like to do a Temple Talk regarding the Circle of Welcome program. The

# Council Minutes

church office will contact Sally to schedule this talk.

## **Mission Inward – Pam Caughey**

- Discussion regarding developing a Privacy Policy and default privacy settings for the Church Community Builder (CCB) Membership database. Motion from Pr. Steve and second from Pam Caughey to refer this to the Personnel Committee for discussion on what settings to use in CCB. Motion carried. (CC2022.04.06)
- Discussion regarding returning to two worship services in the fall of 2022.
- Motion by Pr. Steve and second from Donna Salli to purchase 3 pewter pouring chalices for communion, using funds from the Thrivent Member Directed Funds dedicated account. Motion carried. (CC2022.04.07)
- Music Coordination – A candidate for the Choir Director and Coordination position has been interviewed and an offer has been extended but not yet accepted.
- Worship planning meeting on May 19th will determine if summer worship schedule continues at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday or reverts back to 9:00 a.m.

## **Mission Ground – Brian Orlowski**

- Some of the new LED lighting has been installed.
- Faithworks building group has been working on liability paperwork for their wood working space.
- Budget planning meeting for 2022-2023 fiscal year is planned for next week.
- Barrett Property Discernment group has begun meeting and have asked about the forest management plan restrictions/future City land use.
- Parking Lot campaign planning has begun, including discussion regarding a matching gift.

## **Pastor's Reports – Pr. Steve Rye and Pr. Erika Nilsen**

- Musings regarding creation and building of relationships with Christ and each other via LIFEgroups.
- Home Communion distribution has been arranged for this summer, with 13 volunteers bringing communion to homebound individuals.
- Plans are forming for a new Stephen Ministry training in Spring 2023.

## **Financial Report – Tom Campion**

- Giving is up slightly over last year, however expenses are also up slightly.

Next regular Council Meeting will be Thursday, May 12th, 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary (due to the Rummage Sale)

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer, 7:52 p.m.

Anne Laechel, Recording Secretary

# Calendar

## **Wednesday, June 1**

Worship, 6:30 pm

## **Thursday, June 2**

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Martha Circle, 1 pm

Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm

## **Friday, June 3**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, June 5**

Worship, 9:30 am

Congregational Meeting, 11 am

## **Tuesday, June 7**

Property Team Meeting, 6:30 pm

## **Wednesday, June 8**

Spring Property Work Day, 10:30 am

Worship, 6:30 pm

## **Thursday, June 9**

Summer Stretch, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

## **Friday, June 10**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, June 12**

Worship, 9:30 am

## **Monday, June 13**

Children's Choir Day Camp, 3 pm

## **Tuesday, June 14**

Children's Choir Day Camp, 3 pm

Synod Journey Trip Gathering, 7 pm

## **Wednesday, June 15**

Micah Group Book Discussion, 5:15 pm

Worship, 6:30 pm

**July Newsletter Deadline**

## **Thursday, June 16**

Summer Stretch, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

## **Friday, June 17**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, June 19**

Worship, 9:30 am

## **Wednesday, June 22**

Worship, 6:30 pm

## **Thursday, June 23**

Summer Stretch, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

## **Friday, June 24**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, June 26**

Worship, 9:30 am

serveCAMP, 7 pm

## **Monday, June 27**

serveCAMP, All Day

## **Tuesday, June 28**

serveCAMP, All Day

## **Wednesday, June 29**

serveCAMP, All Day

Micah Group Story Circle, 5:15 pm

Worship, 6:30 pm

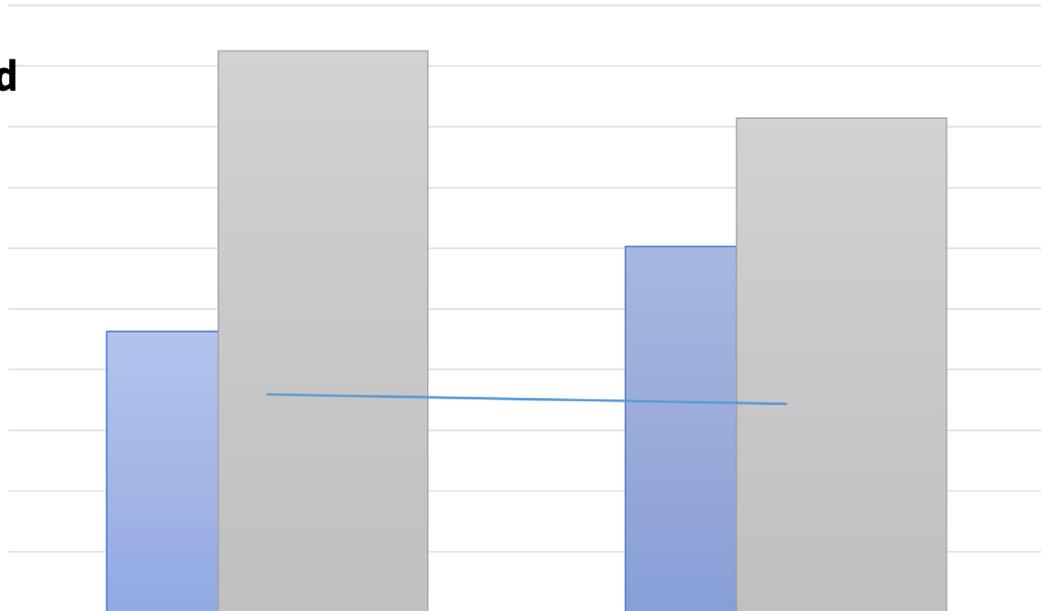
## **Thursday, June 30**

serveCAMP, All Day

Summer Stretch, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

## 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](http://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.*

# Volunteer Opportunities



**Please consider signing up to take a mowing shift this summer**



**Consider joining our Soup Kitchen team, first Sunday of the month.**

**Sign up at the "Ask Table"**



**Join us for a Property Work Day.  
Wednesday, June 8 at  
10:30 am.**



## 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.