

# Good News

August  
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

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, July 17, we had the chance to celebrate a summer of ministry with kids and teens at Lord of Life and the fabulous adults who helped make it all happen. It was a wonderful morning filled with images of kids and teens singing and playing and praying and serving and laughing and working and learning and worshipping and so much more throughout this summer!! We had a chance to bless our youth who would be attending our Synod Journey and discovering more deeply the boundless God we know in Jesus. We heard about the generosity of God who blesses God's people with gifts and talents and skills so that we can in turn be a blessing to the world. We thanked Ryan Larson and his mom, Jennifer, for tenderly caring for the littlest ones at Lord of Life in the nursery on Sunday mornings. How blessed are we as a body of Christ!!

But there are so many more thank you's to be spoken and celebrations to be had! I can't possibly name you all, but I want to take this moment to give thanks to God for our church staff.

Throughout the past 3 months, while Pastor Steve was on sabbatical, you wore countless more "hats" than you do typically. You each stepped up in such generous ways to make sure the building was cared for, ministry continued and office hours were covered. You took on extra duties and projects so that the congregation felt connected and well fed with God's word and through God's people. I thank God for you!

And then there are so many others who provided help, support, encouragement,



comfort, and care to me and to others!  
\*\* A heartfelt thanks to those who stepped up to do home communion visits. I love the way God has used this time to nurture this beautiful ministry. And the connections are so rich!

\*\*A deep and abiding thanks to those who offered to help in so many ways over the summer! Summer fellowship treats! Organizing books! Curating kids time curriculum! Fine tuning a new gluten-free communion bread recipe! Answering the phones! Igniting curious conversations! And so much more!

\*\*A HUGE thanks to Pastor Steve for modeling for us the importance of health and personal growth and taking his sabbatical time to step away from daily ministry to be immersed in something new. And thank you for coming back!!

I do regret that I wasn't always very good at asking for help. If I didn't take you up on your offer, I apologize. I need to learn to say YES more often to gracious offers of help.

For all it, mange tusen takk!

In God's boundless love,  
Pastor Erika

# Youth Update

In this month's youth ministry update the focus will be on recapping some of our wonderful summer ministries. You will also learn about important events happening in August! Thanks for taking a moment to read through this update!

## **Summer Stretch: Over 100 Youth Participated From 7 Area ELCA Churches!**

This year our theme verse was from Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Summer Stretch was active throughout the community, serving at the Arboretum, Confidence Learning Center, Baxter Parks & Rec, Common Goods, Adopt A Highway Clean Up. Each Thursday we served throughout the community and then enjoyed a fun activity in the Brainerd Lakes Area. Our last day was enjoying Minnesota Twins game with a walk off homerun in the 9th, what a great way to end!

## **serveCAMP / Day Camp With Camp Onomia:**

40 elementary and middle school youth spent time enjoying all that camp has to offer in their own church backyard. Together, they explored the theme of "Boundless: A God Beyond Measure." There was a lot of energy around church the final week in June! We enjoyed worship, Bible study and our favorite camp games led by camp staff. Our serveCAMP youth spent time serving throughout the community in a variety of ways. I want to thank community organizations partnering with us this year: Operation Sandwich, The Outreach Program of Brainerd, Common Goods, Alex and Brandon Center & Women's Shelter and our Lord of Life Quilters. So much happens during the serveCAMP week it is sometimes hard to put into words. A huge thank you goes out to our wonderful counselors, volunteers, and kids who made this week a huge success.

## **High School Summer Trip: Northeastern MN Synod Journey & Upper Peninsula of Michigan**

At the time of writing this newsletter we were busy preparing to leave on our high school summer trip! We have 23 youth & adults from Lord of Life participating this year. We look forward to recapping our trip with all of you soon! Our group will spend time connecting with churches from across the Northeastern MN Synod in Duluth, MN & Superior, WI. They will then travel to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and enjoy exploring and staying at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.

## **Citywide Youth Group: Monthly Summer Gatherings**

Once a month middle school and high school youth groups from area ELCA churches have been gathering for fun games, Bible study and to connect with each other. Coming up in August we have one more citywide youth group to close out the summer. See the important calendar dates below and mark your calendars you won't want to miss out!

## **August Important Calendar Dates:**

August 24th Middle School: Back To School Bash @ Trinity Lutheran 5 pm - 8 pm

August 31st High School: Back To School Bash @ Lord of Life 5 pm - 8 pm

August 16th -31st 10th Grade Confirmation Interviews & Sharing of Faith Projects

\*\*\* The middle of August Fall Programming Registration Will Open!!! \*\*\*

# Council Minutes

## Lord of Life Church Council Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 6 p.m.

Present: Greg Bennett, Karla Skwira, Pr. Erika Nilsen, Kevin Olson, Donna Salli, Steve Schaitberger, Brian Orlovski, Jolene Parks, and Josh Freelove  
Absent: Kurt Porter, Pr. Steve Rye (on sabbatical)  
Guest: Anne Laechel

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Schaitberger.  
Devotions by Pr. Nilsen. Acts 2/Pentecost/God making all things new.

### Consent Agenda:

- Adoption of 6/23/22 Agenda (CC.2022.06.01)
- Approval of May 2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes (CC.2022.06.02)
- May 2022 Financial Report (CC.2022.06.03)

Introductions of new and returning council members. Schaitberger reviewed council bylaws, council member roles and discussed shifting out of pandemic mode of last two years into long-range planning and focusing on LOL's mission. Discussion followed of ways LOL mission is being fulfilled: ServeCamp, small groups, Micah group, sandwich program, etc. Also LOL groups are in process of assessing their purpose through evaluations.

Bob Nelson, President of local Sons of Norway, stopped in from concurrent meeting in Commons with lefse/hotdog samples. Is looking for group from LOL to fundraise at Viking Festival in Brainerd, August 14, 2022.

MOTION to appoint Greg Bennett as Treasurer. Motion by Freelove, second by Salli, all ayes (CC2022.06.04).

MOTION to authorize in the carrying out of their duties, Council President Steve E. Schaitberger and Council Treasurer Greg L. Bennett, as signers of checks and other financial instruments at First Western Bank, and to remove Dan Tupy and Tom Campion from the authorized signer list. Motion by Parks, second by Freelove, all ayes (CC.2022.06.05).

Annual meeting recap discussion. Good review of previous year and budget discussion. Bottom line: expenses outweigh income presently. Budget process has been collaborative. Need for increased generosity, funding and volunteering for children's ministry. Council needs to determine what are current areas that congregation is passionate about (i.e. youth, music, etc.) through listening and surveys.

Other discussion included putting Pr. Nilsen's visual presentation on LOL website, possible gathering of directional groups/leaders to discuss mission, using CCB as tool for communication.

### Directional Council Updates

Salli (Outward): Pat Dickson/Micah Group has collected canned goods for donation. Val Jones reports SAIL exercise class is continuing online.

Skwira (Upward): Children's Ministry volunteers are stretched thin and tired.

Orlowski (Grounds): Initial phase of fluorescent to LED lighting switch-out completed. Insurance company will be evaluating recent windstorm damage. 'Faith Works' woodworking waiver of liability and assumption of risk discussed. MOTION to approve waiver and workshop pending approval in writing from Church Mutual Insurance Co. Motion by Orlowski, second by Freeloove. After further discussion, motion tabled until resolution of additional questions:

- When will the building be open?
- Who will supervise?
- Responsibility for checking equipment?
- Has own insurance company reviewed?

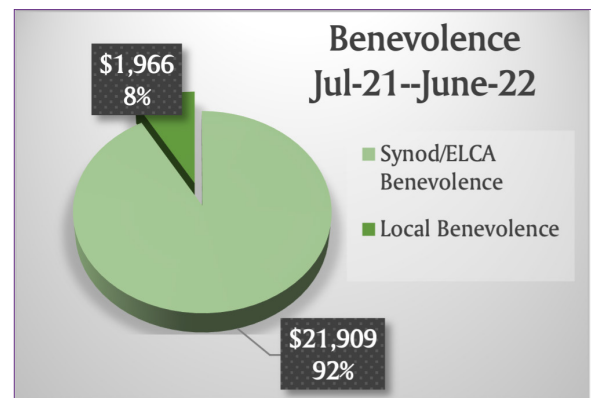
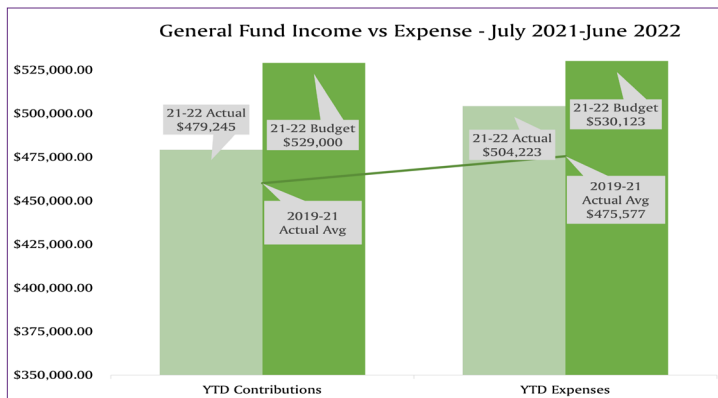
Pr. Nilsen reported Deb Bergstrom and Tonya Caughey working on re-launching Parish Nurse program.

Schaitberger reported Music Director Kennedy Niska has been hired. Barrett property group will hold meeting July 29.

Next regular Council meeting set for Thursday, July 28, 2022, 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer led by Pr. Nilsen, 7:35 pm.

# Financials



<b>Capital Campaign</b>			
<b>YTD Credits</b>	\$79,677.66	<b>YTD Credits Last Year</b>	\$75,684.96
<b>YTD Debits</b>	\$69,648.00	<b>YTD Debits Last Year</b>	\$69,648.00
<b>Balance Due</b>	\$659,364.73	<b>Current Rate</b>	3.875%
<b>Loan Maturity</b>	June 2034	5 yr Adj Sec Loan (2018-2023)	

# Calendar

## **Tuesday, August 2**

Property Team Meeting, 6:30 pm

## **Wednesday, August 3**

Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm

## **Thursday, August 4**

Quilters, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm

## **Friday, August 5**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, August 7**

Worship, 9:30 am

LOL at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, 11 am

## **Monday, August 8**

Pinetree Patchworkers, 6 pm

## **Tuesday, August 9**

Minnesota State Primary Election

## **Wednesday, August 10**

ELCA Outdoor Worship at Gregory Park, 5:30 pm

## **Thursday, August 11**

Quilters, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Becoming a Member Meeting, 6:30 pm

## **Friday, August 12**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Saturday, August 13**

Camp Knutson Quilt Auction, 9:30 am

## **Sunday, August 14**

Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 9:30 am

Vacation Bible School, 5:30 pm

## **Monday, August 15**

Vacation Bible School, 5:30 pm

August Newsletter Deadline

## **Tuesday, August 16**

Vacation Bible School, 5:30 pm

## **Wednesday, August 17**

Micah Group Book Discussion, 5:15 pm

Vacation Bible School, 5:30 pm

Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm

Thru the Bible in an Hour, 7:30 pm

## **Thursday, August 18**

Quilters, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

## **Friday, August 19**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, August 21**

Worship, 9:30 am

Becoming a Member Meeting, 4 pm

## **Wednesday, August 24**

Citywide Lutheran Youth Group, 5 pm

Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm

## **Thursday, August 25**

Quilters, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

## **Friday, August 26**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Saturday, August 27**

Bus Trip to the MN State Fair, 8 am

## **Sunday, August 28**

Worship w/ Kindergarten Blessing, 9:30 am

## **Wednesday, August 31**

Citywide Lutheran Youth Group, 5 pm

Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm

# Micah Group

Have you noticed that Micah Group does not have “vacation” on our calendar? Rather, as we have now passed our second birthday, work and offerings have grown.

Doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly are a large portion of our daily bread. Why would we take a vacation from our own nourishment!

Listed below are Micah Group events for August and September. Other opportunities, as we are made aware of them, will be shared through the various publicity platforms available at LOL: CCB, Facebook, Good News Weekly and Monthly, pastoral announcements, calendars on the entry bulletin boards, on the shelf of the Welcome Center in the narthex, and in the Brainerd Daily Dispatch Faith News section.

For all Micah Group events held at Lord of Life, child care is now available, with advance sign-up required. Age-appropriate stories and activities are offered. Please contact Judy Bialka, (218) 821-3446 to sign up your children.



## **Wednesday, August 17, 4 – 5 pm, Fellowship Hall**

MG Core Leader Team meets to begin planning and staffing for 2023 events. All Micah Group members are invited!

## **Wednesday, August 17, 5:15 – 6:15 pm, Fellowship Hall.**

Book Discussion 3 of 3 on Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet. Thank you for bringing canned/dry goods to share.

## **Sunday, September 4, Lord of Life First Sunday serving at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen.**

Micah Group serves. Please contact Lolly Kalinoski and sign up to assist, (218) 829-8207.

## **Sunday, September 18, 11 – 12 noon, Fellowship Hall.**

Book Discussion 1 of 3: A Good Time for the Truth: Race in MN. Thank you for bringing canned/dry goods to share. Led by Michael Erickson and Lolly Kalinoski.

## **Monday – Tuesday, September 19 – 20. Cultivating Communities Summit sponsored by Region 5, Arrowwood Lodge, Baxter.**

Michael Erickson will present a breakout session September 20, at 11:20 am “Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. Today.” Go to [www.sowingroom.org](http://www.sowingroom.org) for schedule and registration. Cost is \$50. Scholarships are available through Region 5, and Micah Group is offering several. Please contact Pat if you wish to attend and need scholarship assistance, (720) 984-6260.

Come! Let us share our daily bread.

Pat Dickson, for Micah Group

# Announcements

## LAKE AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Meet Desiree and Family! Construction on their home has started. We here at LOL, as the hands and feet of Jesus, have the opportunity to help make their dream come true!

A parent's dream is to have the resources to properly raise children: a safe home; enough money to feed and clothe the kids; enough spare money to have fun things to share with kids; to watch them grow into thriving young adults.

For Desiree, that is all a dream. While things were on a good path forward with positive things in her life, one day all that came to a quick halt. 9 months after giving birth to her daughter, her second child, she had difficulty standing. This unexpected experience led to a 2 week stay at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd followed by a transfer for a 2 month stay at Rochester Mayo where she was diagnosed with breast cancer and a rare complication from this cancer. A month later, after surgical removal of the cancer and chemotherapy, her world changed to assisted living centers and specialized care...and a motorized chair. Her world was turned upside down.

A search for handicap adapted units in the Brainerd area, including St. Cloud, resulted in long waiting lists, ultimately leading Desiree to a unit in Brooklyn Center...all while her children lived with her mother in Brainerd. It's a daily burden for Desiree to not be there for her kids and to watch them grow up through video calls. But until she has a place to accommodate her needs locally, this is what they must do.

What Desiree most wants from a Habitat home in Brainerd is what any parent would want: to be reunited with her children and to be the one to raise her children. She is so thankful to her mother and blessed to have her step in but to hold her kids...every day...and to share with daily activities is what home means to her.

Desiree's home on Pine Street in Brainerd, just 4 blocks from her mother, is under construction as of July 2022!! What a reunion this promises to be when Desiree, with her children, make this their new home!

Contact the church office, Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity or Bonnie Henningson for more information on how you can get involved ... for an hour or two - or three or four! (Skills in building construction not required!)

### 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

##### Music Ministry

##### Coordinator

Kennedy Niska  
kennedy@lolbaxter.org

# Fun Opportunities!

- ELCA congregations in the Brainerd/Baxter area are coming together for a joint outdoor worship and fellowship opportunity Wednesday, August 10, at Gregory Park in Brainerd. The evening begins with dinner at 5:30 pm. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided, and guests are invited to bring a potluck dish to share. Guests are also asked to bring their own beverages and chair.

Following dinner, a worship service will start at 6:15 pm. During communion, attendees are invited to bring a donation of peanut butter, jelly, or a monetary gift for Operation Sandwich.

The evening will conclude with a time of fellowship and a kubb competition from 7 to 8 pm.

- New music director, Kennedy Niska, invites singers to participate in a pop-up summer choir at Sunday service on August 7. We will meet at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary to rehearse a simple anthem.

- Camp Knutson is hosting a quilt auction Saturday, August 13. The auction supports their work of providing camp activities for people with disabilities. Guests can tour the grounds and look at quilts starting at 9:30 am, with the auction to start at noon. More information is available at [www.lssmn.org/campknutson](http://www.lssmn.org/campknutson).