

# Good News

September  
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

Greetings!

Before my leaving for sabbatical, I had provisional conversations with each of the missional council members to discuss what goal in their area I might think about while I was away. Now I need to circle back around to them and discuss further steps. I'd like to share them with you now, to give you a sense of one of things I did with my time away. (Thank you!)

It is important to note that these are \*very informal\* and meant simply to get us all thinking and moving in a positive direction on something as we have more conversation. Because at this stage they are just the fruit of my conversations with one other council member, these goals will probably be changed. Hopefully they will lead to a process in which some goal is affirmed.

At this stage, I don't want anyone to misunderstand these as fixed. I DO want them to foster conversation regarding what is the best way to deepen and enrich our connection to Christ, our community, and each other.

Here is what I have been thinking about on my sabbatical:

A possible "Mission Inward" goal that will deepen and enrich our connections to each other: On Sundays we would hold both a traditional AND a contemporary style worship service consistently each week that is high quality, deeply enriching.

A possible "Mission Outward" goal that will deepen and enrich our connections to our community: Promote the formation of small groups dedicated to a focused cause outside the congregation, and cre-



ate a culture of support and commitment to sustaining group vitality.

A possible "Mission Upward" goal that will deepen and enrich our connections to Christ: Fully flesh out a faith stepping stone ministry; equipping volunteers and igniting them for service.

A possible "Mission Ground" goal that will strengthen our churches ability to carry out all of our Inward, Outward, and Upward ministries: 3-year appx \$1.2 Million\*\* Capital Campaign [in 2023?] to realize more resources to create WOW Worship, then WOW Children's ministry; Parking Lot, and in the process, ignite a spirit of enthusiasm regarding what we can do together when we accomplish these things. The anticipated campaign size is based on the general rule of thumb that typical congregations can expect to achieve two times their annual budget spread out over three years. This would be subject to change based on a feasibility study prior to the campaign.

I hope you will partner with me in praying over these, talking about them, helping to discern the best path forward for our congregation.

Blessings!  
Steven Rye, Senior Pastor

# Youth Update

## **Summer Recap: Faith Formation & The Summer Sun:**

We had a great summer filled with all of the favorite faith formation activities, camps and trips here at Lord of Life. Thank you to all the families that participated! When I think about this past summer the word that comes to mind is together! Our summer programs gave us an opportunity to come together with friends here at church and within our faith community. We spent time enjoying the summer days having fun, exploring various Bible stories and serving others within our community and beyond! Just this past month we wrapped up our summer with a wonderful VBS, Citywide Youth Group and recapping our summer high school youth trip!

## **Summer Trip Recap: Synod Journey & Upper Peninsula of Michigan:**

To start off I want to thank the congregation for your continued support of the youth programs and our annual summer high school trip. This year we participated in the NE MN Synod Journey to Duluth, MN & Superior, WI and then traveled to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Here are a few highlights from our trip and what I will remember!

## **Faith Communities Coming Together:**

When we heard that the National youth gathering was cancelled. We joined together with Bethlehem Lutheran Church for our summer trip. The first half of our trip was gathering with high schoolers from across the NEMN Synod being apart of the Synod Journey. We all came together to engage in service activities, Bible studies, campus life as we stayed at UW Superior. I want to thank the congregation from Prince of Peace Lutheran in Marquette, Michigan and Pastor Alex for hosting us as we traveled to Michigan, allowing us to take over their church for a night for a place to sleep and unwind after a day of traveling. Thank you also to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, Michigan for hosting us in your tree houses and getting the chance to enjoy God's beautiful creation while staying there!

## **Worship:**

During the Synod Journey we gathered each day for worship in the University of Wisconsin - Superior auditorium. It was a blessing to worship together and have seven youth from Brainerd / Baxter who participated in the worship band. Lastly, I will not forget the worship held outdoors on our final night outside of the student union on campus. I wish you all could have been there. What a blessing it was!

Lastly, Thank you to our adult leaders on this year's trip Layne, Guy, Jen, Pastor Erika and Pastor Sarah! These experiences are not possible without all of you!

## **School Year Programs Launching This Fall:**

Our school year programs launch this month! Take a moment to visit our website [www.lolbaxter.org](http://www.lolbaxter.org) and our social media pages to learn about all the ways your family can be involved this school year. We have faith formation events, youth groups and classes scheduled throughout the year. Registration is now open for confirmation classes (7th-9th grade students) and Club 56 (5th-6th grade students). If you have any questions about programming please contact us!

## **Important Date: September 14th Confirmation Orientation & High School Youth Group Launch!**

# Council Minutes

## Lord of Life Church Council Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 6 pm

**Present:** Greg Bennett, Josh Freelove, Pr. Erika Nilsen, Kevin Olson, Donna Salli, Steve Schaitberger, Kurt Porter, and Jolene Parks

**Absent:** Brian Orlovski, Donna Salli, Karla Skwira, and Pr. Steve Rye (on sabbatical)

**Guest:** Anne Laechel

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Schaitberger.

Devotions by Pr. Nilsen. Ephesians 3:14-21

### Consent Agenda:

- Adoption of July 2022 Agenda (CC.2022.07.01)
- Approval of June 2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes (CC.2022.07.02)
- Approval of June 2022 Financial Report (CC.2022.07.03)

Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner from Bethlehem Lutheran gave a presentation and invitation to participate in the NE Minnesota Lay Leader Network Yearly Intensive series that begins Oct 1, 2022. Discussion followed of possibilities to support any attendees from Lord of Life.

Schaitberger reported 12K raised by special end-of-fiscal-year ask toward shortfall from previous fiscal year budget (which ended June 30, 2022).

Schaitberger noted Generosity Team would like to know if any financial priorities have changed. Discussion followed of main priorities being budget shortfall and parking lot repair. Parking lot matching funds offer of 30K should be pursued and may lead to additional matching funds. Aerial view of parking lot viewed and donation by numbered "chunks" suggested. Also remaining furnace originally installed in 1994 mentioned and roof storm damage (being evaluated by insurance company).

Discussion of keeping conversation going of what congregation is passionate about. Are music and children/youth ministries still at top of list like previous congregational survey? Should the question be asked again? How? Discussion included having multiple messages, perhaps two Wednesday/two Sunday sessions in the fall along with e-mail messaging.

No LOL groups have offered to run food booth at Viking Festival August 13, as suggested by Bob Nelson at June council meeting.

Laechel reported 'Faith Works' woodworking shop question of who is specifically responsible for shop safety is undetermined yet.

Pr. Nilsen reported two meetings have taken place so far regarding Barrett property. Property Group is looking for recommendations from council. Discussion included having realtor do comparable price (vs. certified appraisal), setting of bottom acceptable offer, market is currently good for sellers. Other discussion: what are City of Baxter/Sylvan Township plans in adjacent area, original plan was to sell property with proceeds towards mortgage. Pr. Nilsen to report discussion back to property group and have Pr. Rye review discussions.

**Directional Council Updates:**

Parks (Inward): Tyler Jensen is checking on chartering bus to State Fair for Saturday, August 27. Invitation could be extended to Trinity/First Lutheran/Bethlehem. Trip given council approval as a LOL activity for advertisement and insurance purposes.

Freelove (Youth Rep.): Report of NE Synod retreat. Projects included helping Lutheran Social Services in Duluth, beach cleanup on Park Point, working at a farm, planting milkweed for pollinators. Also good speakers, music, hiking at Jay Cooke State Park.

Porter (V.P.): Personnel employee handbook is being reviewed.

Pr. Nilsen reported Music Director Kennedy Niska has started. Area churches have been working together, upcoming joint worship service/food/kubb tournament being planned. Two Eagle Scout projects started, Council approval given for possible fundraiser for gagaball court. Following September dates set:

- Rally Sunday, Sept. 11
- Confirmation Orientation, Sept 14
- God’s Work, Our Hands, Sept 25

Thank you to Anne and Tyler for their help during Pr. Rye’s sabbatical and to the Council for their work, looking forward to welcoming Pr. Rye back.

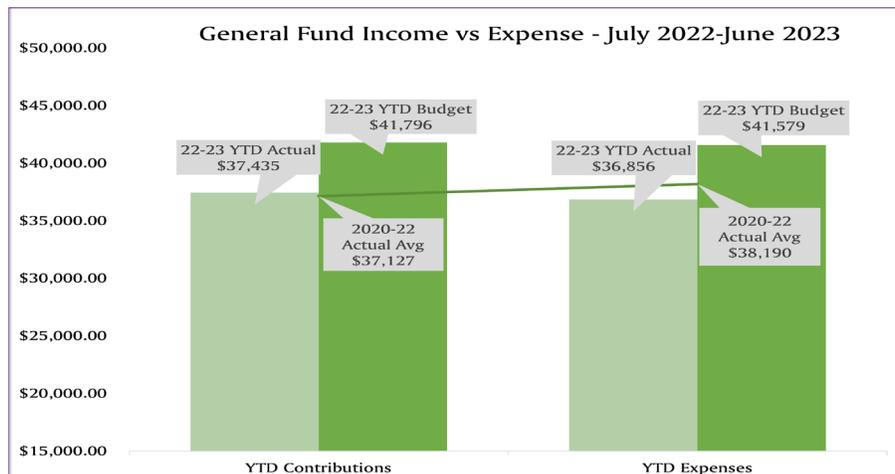
Next regular Council meeting set for Thursday, August 25, 2022, 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with closing prayer by Pr. Nilsen, followed by the Lord’s Prayer, 7:50 p.m.

**Financial Report:**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Lord of Life every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Lord of Life Lutheran custom shopping link is <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1677843>

Please note that you will not receive a tax receipt for donations made via this program, as all donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation.



<b>Capital Campaign</b>			
<b>YTD Credits</b>	\$5,288.41	<b>YTD Credits Last Year</b>	\$4,178.68
<b>YTD Debits</b>	\$5,804.00	<b>YTD Debits Last Year</b>	\$5,804.00
<b>Balance Due</b>	\$655,729.59	<b>Current Rate</b>	3.875%
<b>Loan Maturity</b>	June 2034	5 yr Adj Sec Loan (2018-2023)	

# Calendar

## **Thursday, September 1**

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

## **Friday, September 2**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, September 4**

Worship, 9:30 am  
LOL at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, 11 am

## **Monday, September 5**

Labor Day, Church Office Closed

## **Tuesday, September 6**

Property Team Meeting, 6:30 pm

## **Wednesday, September 7**

Worship, 6:30 pm

## **Thursday, September 8**

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

## **Friday, September 9**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, September 11**

Rally Sunday  
Choir Practice, 8:30 am  
Worship, 9:30 am  
Picnic and Ministry Fair, 11 am

## **Tuesday, September 13**

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

## **Wednesday, September 14**

Worship, 6:30 pm  
Confirmation Orientation, 7:15 pm  
Teens Upstream, 8 pm

## **Thursday, September 15**

Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am  
**OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

## **Friday, September 16**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, September 18**

Worship, 9:30 am  
Micah Group Book Discussion, 11 am

## **Wednesday, September 21**

Worship, 6:30 pm  
Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Teens Upstream, 8 pm

## **Thursday, September 22**

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

## **Friday, September 23**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, September 25**

Confirmation Retreat  
God's Work, Our Hands  
Worship, 9:30 am  
Micah Group Book Study, 11 am

## **Wednesday, September 28**

Worship, 6:30 pm  
Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Teens Upstream, 8 pm

## **Thursday, September 29**

Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am  
Music and Worship Planning Meeting, 5 pm

## **Friday, September 30**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

# Children's Ministry

Are you interested in helping our younger members grow in faith?

Sign up with Pastor Erika to lead Kids Time during Sunday Services.



Join us for Kids Time Sundays at worship during the sermon



Mark your calendars: 3rd Grade Bible Class Sundays, Oct. 2, 9, and 16 at 10:45 am, right after worship



Jesus Loves me,  
this I know

# Readings for September

## **Sunday, September 4th:**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 - *Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

Psalm 1 - *They are like trees planted by streams of water.*

Philemon 1-21 - *While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.*

Luke 14: 25-33 - *Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

## **Sunday, September 11th:**

Exodus 32:7-14 - *While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

Psalm 51:1-10 - *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.*

1 Timothy 1:12-17 - *The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

Luke 15:1-10 - *Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.*

## **Sunday, September 18th:**

Amos 8:4-7 - *Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.*

Psalm 113 - *The Lord lifts up the poor from the ashes.*

1 Timothy 2:1-7 - *The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

Luke 16:1-13 - *Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

## **Sunday, September 25th:**

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 - *The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.*

Psalm 146 - *The Lord gives justice to those who are oppressed.*

1 Timothy 6:6-19 - *Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.*

Luke 16:19-31 - *Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is "lifted up" and the rich one is "sent away empty." Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.*

# Thank You's

- Lord of Life would like to thank all our volunteers who helped make Vacation Bible School possible this year. Their gifts of time and talents made an enormous difference in the lives of almost 50 children in our community;
- Beck Barber sent a thank you to the Lord of Life Quilters for the quilt they made him when he was a high school senior last year. Barber said it is cool to have a quilt he can bring with him to college to remember Lord of Life.
- ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response sent Lord of Life a thank you for a donation of \$700;
- Lutheran World Relief sent a thank you to Lord of Life for a gift of \$683 to provide emergency assistance to people in the Ukraine, and to send quilts and care kits to people in need;

# Sunday Worship Volunteers for September



## Scripture Reading

September 4: Val Jones  
September 11: VACANT  
September 18: Paul Springstead  
September 25: VACANT



## Fellowship Treats

September 4: VACANT  
September 11: VACANT  
September 18: VACANT  
September 25: VACANT



## Ushers

September 4: Verdell Bose and one more needed  
September 11: VACANT  
September 18: John Wolf and one more needed  
September 25: VACANT



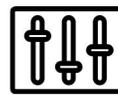
## Musicians

September 4: VACANT  
September 11: Lord of Life Choir  
September 18: VACANT  
September 25: Everyday SonDay Band



## Communion Serving

September 4: VACANT  
September 11: VACANT  
September 18: VACANT  
September 25: VACANT



## Sound Booth

September 4: VACANT  
September 11: VACANT  
September 18: VACANT  
September 25: VACANT



## Communion Setup

September 4: VACANT  
September 11: VACANT  
September 18: VACANT  
September 25: VACANT



## Kids Time

September 4: VACANT  
September 11: VACANT  
September 18: VACANT  
September 25: VACANT

# Micah Group

The March for Our Lives was held on June 11th to call attention to the issue of gun violence in our country. A nation-wide movement, Brainerd was one of the sites of the protest. I chose to attend, a personal choice on my part and not as any official representative of the Micah Group.

It was a lovely warm Saturday morning. People were friendly, smiling and there was a sense of shared commitment and responsibility. It was exhilarating to feel a part of a group seeking to change our nation's policies to ensure safer schools, streets, homes. The group started at Gregory Park and moved down to the intersection of 6th and Washington. Signs were everywhere and the chant ringing out was DO SOMETHING NOW. Passersby had a variety of reactions. Many greeted us with a honk and a smile. Some certainly did not. But all points of view were greeted with a thumbs up and a smile. We share this country and we need to find civil and peaceful ways to express our views and seek compromise and change.

I chose to march that day because it was an issue I am personally passionate about. So what are your issues? What do you care about that promotes safety, justice, equity, a better environment, kindness or compassion? How are you trying to live your faith and make the world a better place? Micah 6:8 says: *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.*

That chant keeps echoing in my head. Do Something Now. I am still trying to figure out what exactly that something is that God is asking of me. What is your "something"?

- Sue Beck

Micah Group has several opportunities to listen, learn and do coming up:

**September 4:** Micah Group serves at the Soup Kitchen. Contact Lolly Kalinoski if interested.

**September 18:** A new book discussion starts: A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota, edited by Sun Yung Shin. 11 am to 12 pm in the Fellowship Hall, led by Michael Erickson and Lolly Kalinoski. Three sessions. (9/18, 10/2 and 10/16). Childcare is available. If needed, contact Judy Bialka

**September 19-20:** Cultivating Communities Summit. Planting the seeds of inclusive communities through connection, conversation and action. Sponsored by Region 5 at Arrowwood Lodge, Baxter. Go to [www.sowingroom.org](http://www.sowingroom.org). Michael Erickson from our Micah Group is one of the presenters.

**October 3-8:** Clothing Giveaway: prep and distribution

# Groups at Lord of Life

• **Men's Fellowship and Breakfast** - At Lord of Life, we have two opportunities for men to come together for fellowship, food, and deep discussions. Men's Fellowship meets Thursdays at 9:30 am in the Commons, while Men's Breakfast meets Fridays at 7 am in the Fellowship Hall.

• **Sarah and Martha Circles** - There are also plenty of opportunities for women to come together for fellowship and growing in faith here. Sarah Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Martha Circle meets the first Thursday of the month at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

• **Lord of Life Choir** - The Lord of Life Choir is back! Our choir performs one or two Sundays a month, with rehearsals held the hour before service. This is an excellent opportunity to share your musical talents. Contact Music Ministry Coordinator Kennedy Niska if interested.

• **Worship Environment Team** - This amazing team of volunteers use their talents to prepare our worship space and change its decorations throughout the year. Contact the Church Office at (218) 828-9374 if interested in joining this group.

• **Master Class Bible Study** - This Bible Study, led by Pastor Steve, takes a deep dive into the books of the Bible. The group meets Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm on Zoom. Email [steve@lolbaxter.org](mailto:steve@lolbaxter.org).

• **Friends of Habitat for Humanity** - These members of the Lord of Life Faith Family make a huge difference in the lives of people in the community. They partner with our Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity to fundraise and construct homes for those in need. The team is currently working on a home in Brainerd. If you are interested in joining this group, speak with Bonnie Henningson at (218) 851-9163.

• **Wednesday Women's Bible Study** - This Bible Study for women is starting back up for the season Wednesday, September 14, at 10:30 am on Zoom. The group will be taking a look at the Gospel of Luke. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Carol Rodseth at (218) 838-4396, or [rodseth@charter.net](mailto:rodseth@charter.net).

• **Lord of Life Quilters** - From students graduating high school, to members of our Congregation, and to people around the world in need of kindness, the Lord of Life Quilters have touched many people's hearts with countless beautiful quilts they've made over the years. All are welcome to join in making quilts Thursdays at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. Donations of material are always appreciated.

## LoL Staff

### Senior Pastor

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

### Associate Pastor

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### Operations Manager

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### Youth Director

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### Communications

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

#### Custodians

Paul and Karen  
Erickson

### Director of Music

Kennedy Niska  
[kennedy@lolbaxter.org](mailto:kennedy@lolbaxter.org)

# Mark Your Calendars

- Micah Group is organizing a Fall Clothing Giveaway, October 7-8 from 9 am to 3 pm. The giveaway will start be open to anyone who needs clothing. Setup for the event begins Monday, October 3 and run until Thursday, October 6. Please consider donating new or gently used clothes at this time. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Patricia Dickson.

- On Saturday, October 29, we will be having our annual Fall Property Work Day. This event is critical to preparing the church grounds for winter, and ensuring this gift God has given us is taken care of. If you are interested in helping with the work day, please email Tyler Jensen at [tyler@lolbaxter.org](mailto:tyler@lolbaxter.org).

- On Sunday, October 30, we will be celebrating with Lord of Life's newest class of Confirmands as they are confirmed as full members of the Church. In between our 9:30 am worship service and a special service for the Confirmands and their families at 11:15 am, the young confirmation graduates will be in the Commons talking about their projects.