

# Good News

October  
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

*“Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness, to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.”*

So goes one of the verses to an oldy-but-goody hymn of the church, “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” I love this verse because it lifts up the rhythm of the creation – the song that it sings – the way in which nature bears witness to God’s faithfulness and invites us to do the same. And now as the leaves are starting to change color and soon will begin to fall, as the ground is only weeks away from being frozen and hard pressed, as the cool of the morning will soon sting our cheeks, I wonder, do we trust that God is indeed faithful in and through each and every season of our lives? Are we able to bear witness to God’s faithfulness in the same way as the very creation around us?

During Vacation Bible School in August, our kids planted milkweed seeds in a newly developed/hoped for pollinator garden in the backyard of the church. Those seeds had been earlier placed in dirt by our high school students on their summer trip – as they learned about the importance of discipleship that cares for the earth and works to restore it. We prayed over those seeds – and they will need those extra prayers, because ideally, milkweed seeds are supposed to be planted NOW – in the fall – just before the ground freezes. In fact – those milkweed seeds NEED the cold of the ground and the dark quiet of winter in order to fully come alive.

It’s striking to me now, the complexity and beauty of faith that is shared and passed on in the planting of a milkweed seed. It bears witness to a God who is



at work in the dark – when it looks like there’s no possibility for growth or new life or anything good to come from it all. Then marvelously, miraculously, come spring, there’s growth – and those seeds that have been stratified in the cold – break forth in blossom and gift us and the whole creation with hope.

It takes a lot of trust and faith to put those seeds in the ground. It takes a lot of trust and faith sometimes to put down the things that we’re carrying around – the longings that we hold onto in desperate hope for fulfillment – the dreams we cling to – the loved ones we can’t bear to let go of. And yet, might this season be about just that – letting go, laying down our burdens, entrusting them to God’s care and the fertile soil of God’s heart and knowing that there – in the dark – something new will begin to grow.

Blessings to you in this season of your life. May it bear manifold witness to God’s great faithfulness, mercy and love.

In peace,

Pastor Erika

# Youth Update

## **Confirmation Update & Affirmation of Baptism Service**

Our 7th-9th grade confirmation program is busy focusing on the Old Testament, Catechism and Faith Life Topics this year! This month our students will have the opportunity to help set up for the Fall Clothing Giveaway and help with service projects around the church! On Sunday, October 30th we will hold our Affirmation of Baptism Service for our 10th grade confirmation class. It is an exciting time for many of our Lord of Life families and congregation. Towards the end of the month, we will be displaying the confirmation projects. We hope you take a moment to stop in and see them.

## **Club 56: 5th & 6th Grade Wednesday Night Program**

Club 56 is underway with our first four week session of the year! Our students are busy learning how to navigate through their Bibles and exploring various well known Bible stories together! There is still time if you know someone who is in 5th/6th grade who might be interested in joining this class let us know!

## **Youth Groups: Teen's Upstream & Middle School Youth Group**

Inviting all middle school and high school to join our youth groups happening each month! Our high school youth group meets weekly on Wednesday nights from 8pm-9pm. Our middle school youth group meets once a month on a Sunday evenings from 5:30pm-7pm! No registration required. You are welcome to join us anytime you can!

## **Events Happening and Registration Deadlines Approaching**

- Middle School Late Night Out @ First Lutheran Church in Brainerd (5th-8th Grade)

Date: Thursday, October 6th Time: 5pm-11pm

Have a blast gathering with friends from area ELCA churches, staying up late, and growing in faith together! **Registration deadline is Sunday, October 2nd Cost: \$10 per person**

- NE MN Synod All Youth Gathering @ Cragun's Resort (6th-12th Grade)

Date: November 19th-20th

Join hundreds of youth and adults from across the NE MN Synod for an amazing faith retreat close to home. This has it all! A keynote speaker, action packed games, hotel life, worship, learning clusters and so much more. **Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 5th Cost: \$85 per person**

To register for events or learn more about youth ministry programs offered at Lord of Life Lutheran Church please visit our website at [www.lolbaxter.org](http://www.lolbaxter.org) or contact Tim Slinger Youth Director.

# Council Minutes

## Lord of Life Church Council Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 6 pm

**Present:** Greg Bennett, Josh Freelove, Pr. Erika Nilsen, Kevin Olson, Donna Salli, Steve Schaitberger, Kurt Porter, Jolene Parks, Brian Orłowski, Donna Salli, Karla Skwira, and Pr. Steve Rye  
**Guest:** Anne Laechel

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Schaitberger.

**Devotions** by Pr. Rye, Wholeness Wheel.

### **Consent Agenda:**

- Adoption of August 2022 Agenda (CC.2022.08.01)
- Approval of July 2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes (CC.2022.08.02)
- Approval of July 2022 Financial Report (CC.2022.08.03)
- God's Work, Our Hands Day set for September 25, 2022.

**MOTION** to take \$1000 from our Beyond Our Doors account and forward it to the Outreach Program of Brainerd for use in the food packing event on God's Work, Our Hands Day on September 25, 2022. Motion by Schaitberger, second by Salli, all ayes (CC.2022.08.04). Further discussion included possibly having outward groups look at guidelines and other potential opportunities for the Beyond our Doors account, noting all funds to be spent "beyond our doors".

Schaitberger thanked COVID mitigation SMART Team for past two years of work (Council will continue to monitor COVID situation). Date will be set by staff for thank you recognition at worship services.

Discussion of Hedgehog/Generosity presentations set for Sundays and Wednesdays in late October into November. Generosity Team looking at "Stewardship Stew" themes based on "live simply" from I Timothy. Possible dinner for Team Leaders prior to campaign start.

Orłowski reported roofing will be replaced through storm damage insurance (after \$2500 deductible). Final project particulars will need to be approved by council.

Barrett property update. Real estate comparison to be used instead of certified appraisal. Council feels sale of property still proper option to proceed. Preliminary discussions are ongoing regarding value and listing of property. Discussion of legality of market analysis vs. certified appraisal. Noted that congregational vote will be needed for final approval of buyer's offer.

Faith Works building discussed. Building is currently approved by council as "garage". Insurance underwriter and agent working on specifics.

### **Directional Council Updates:**

Salli (Outward): Val Jones reports SAIL exercise program still meeting via Zoom, averaging 23 participants. Bonnie Henningson reports 11 LOL volunteers worked on current Habitat for Humanity project over two days. Quilters have continued to meet through the summer. Have donated many quilts to families, organizations, etc. including 30 for LOL high school seniors. Micah Group moving into 'action' projects. Working on grant for future event.

Discussion of how donations to Micah Group may be made on LOL website. MOTION to include option of Micah Group fundraising on LOL online giving page or through Anne/LOL office. Motion by Schaitberger, second by Pr. Rye, all ayes (CC.2022.08.05).

MOTION to approve six groups as drop down listing for online giving on website:

General Fund	World Hunger
Capital Campaign/Building Fund	Parking Lot Fund
Micah Group	Friends of Our Schools

With possible addition of others after future discussion. Motion by Pr. Rye, second by Pr. Nilsen, all ayes. (CC2022.08.06).

Skwira (Upward): VBS successful.

Parks (Inward): State fair trip cancelled due to lack of participants.

Orlowski (Grounds): Interior temperatures and lighting is being discussed. Specific roles of council and property team regarding building/grounds being discussed.

Freelove (Youth): Two Synod Journey band members helped at VBS. Video of Synod trip was shared at worship services.

Pr. Rye: Continuing with one Sunday service (9:30 a.m.) best option at this time based on music program and current congregational volunteer participation. Water may be introduced back into baptism. Staff would like to test de-alcoholized wine from pouring chalice.

21 persons considering membership.

MOTION to accept seven new Members:

Bob Duerr	Sara Raimann
Janie Duerr	Debra Swirmicky
Jennifer Olson	Mark Swirmicky
Christopher Raimann	

Motion by Pr. Rye, second by Freelove, all ayes (CC2022.08.07).

Treasurer's Report by Bennett. Presently doing well.

Next regular Council meeting set for September 22, 2022, at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer led by Pr. Rye, 7:25 p.m.

Kevin Olson, Council Secretary

# Calendar

## **Sunday, October 2**

Choir Practice, 8:30 am  
Worship, 9:30 am  
Third Grade Bible Study Class, 10:45 am  
LOL at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, 11 am  
Micah Group Book Study, 11 am

## **Tuesday, October 4**

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am  
Property Team Meeting, 6:30 pm

## **Wednesday, October 5**

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Club 56, 7:15 pm  
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

## **Thursday, October 6**

Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am  
Martha Circle at Diamond Willow, 1 pm  
Middle School Late Night Out, 5 pm

## **Friday, October 7**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am  
Fall Clothing Giveaway, 9 am

## **Saturday, October 8**

NE MN Synod Walking Together, 8 am  
Clothing Giveaway, 9 am

## **Sunday, October 9**

Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 9:30 am  
Third Grade Bible Study Class, 10:45 am

## **Tuesday, October 11**

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am  
Sarah Circle, 1 pm  
Grief Support Group, 5 pm

## **Wednesday, October 12**

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Club 56, 7:15 pm  
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

## **Thursday, October 13**

Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am  
Stewardship Stew, 5:30 pm  
New Member Conversation, 6:30 pm

## **Friday, October 14**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, October 16**

Worship, 9:30 am  
Third Grade Bible Study Class, 10:45 am  
Micah Group Book Discussion, 11 am  
Cantata Rehearsal, 7 pm

## **Tuesday, October 18**

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am  
Grief Support Group, 5 pm  
**NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

## **Wednesday, October 19**

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
Worship, 6:30 pm  
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm

## **Thursday, October 20**

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

## **Friday, October 21**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Sunday, October 23**

Worship, 9:30 am  
Stewardship Stew, 11 am  
Cantata Rehearsal, 7 pm

## **Tuesday, October 25**

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am  
Grief Support Group, 5 pm

## **Wednesday, October 26**

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

## **Thursday, October 27**

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

## **Friday, October 28**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

## **Saturday, October 29**

Property Work Day, 8 am

## **Sunday, October 30**

Worship, 9:30 am  
Confirmation Worship Service, 11 am  
Middle School Youth Group, 5:30 pm  
Cantata Rehearsal, 7 pm

# 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

# Fall Stewardship Campaign

*“Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have.” —  
Philippians 4:11*

Many North Americans are on a continuous quest to live more simply. For decades, we have created tools and technology to make our lives easier. Today, some efforts to live simply try to counter our complex, consumer-focused lifestyle: growing and eating simpler foods from personal gardens, building micro-sized living quarters, and looking for ways to reduce our carbon footprints.

Even so, naming that we are on this quest says something about our day-to-day lives of privilege. Our jobs, relationships, and social activities are often demanding. Simply finding rest is a luxury: Sabbath rest seems like an impossibility. Our efforts to do, be, and have the best leave us tired and unsatisfied. If there is a simple life, where is it?

Paul’s words in Philippians give us an important clue: “I have learned to be content with whatever I have.” (Phil 4:11). That kind of contentment is countercultural and not easily embraced by human nature. Perhaps we may take comfort that even for Paul, finding contentment was learned behavior.

During our Stewardship Campaign this fall, we at Lord of Life will be exploring the following themes:

**Live Simply: Follow Jesus**

**Live Simply: Face the Truth**

**Live Simply: Act Together**

**Live Simply: Share Enough**

We also invite you to attend one of our Stewardship Stew Meal events to engage in a discussion of the mission and ministry of our congregation. Following a meal aimed at the Church Council and group leaders on October 13th, any member of the congregation is invited to a meal on any of the following dates:

**Sunday, October 23rd**

**Tuesday, November 1**

**Wednesday, November 2nd or 9th - TBA \*\***

We know that Paul’s contentment came from his life in Christ. One of the simplest—and at the same time most comprehensive—descriptions of Christian stewardship is that it is “everything we do after we say we believe.” We are in the second year of a four-year series based on I Timothy 6:18-19: “Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way, they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” Living more simply involves reclaiming Christian discipleship as our priority, including stewarding our resources faithfully and giving generously. We hope this time can help us all let go of the excess clutter and take hold of the life that is truly life, ready to receive and give all that God has in store for you and your mission and ministry.

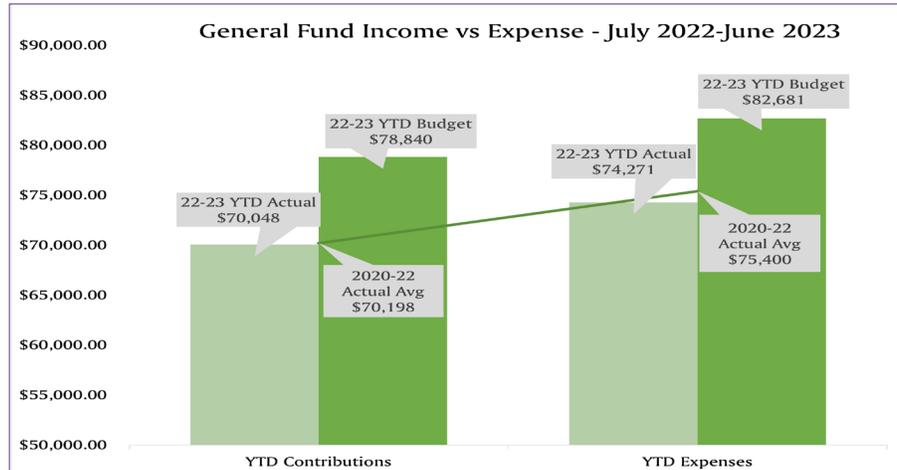
*—Adapted from an article by Marcia Shetler, Executive Director/CEO of Ecumenical Stewardship Center*

# Financial Report

## 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.



## Capital Campaign - August 31, 2022

<b>YTD Credits</b>	\$10,198.64	<b>YTD Credits Last Year</b>	\$10,837.77
<b>YTD Debits</b>	\$11,608.00	<b>YTD Debits Last Year</b>	\$11,608.00
<b>Balance Due</b>	\$652,081.34	<b>Current Rate</b>	3.875%
<b>Loan Maturity</b>	June 2034	5 yr Adj Sec Loan (2018-2023)	

# Thank You's

- Lord of Life would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's God's Work, Our Hands day of service. With your help, we were able to get a lot of painting done at Camp Confidence, clear tons of brush from a veteran's home, and bag more than 5,000 meals for people in our community and around the world at the Outreach Program.

# Sunday Worship Volunteers for October



## Scripture Reading

**October 2:** VACANT  
**October 9:** Mark Jungclaus  
**October 16:** VACANT  
**October 23:** VACANT  
**October 30:** VACANT



## Ushers

**October 2:** Verdell Bose and Tim Slinger  
**October 9:** Verdell Bose  
**October 16:** John Wolf  
**October 23:** Ted and Mary Anderson  
**October 30:** VACANT



## Communion Serving

**October 2:** VACANT  
**October 9:** VACANT  
**October 16:**  
**October 23:** VACANT  
**October 30:** VACANT



## Communion Setup

**October 2:** VACANT  
**October 9:** VACANT  
**October 16:**  
**October 23:** VACANT  
**October 30:** VACANT



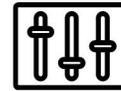
## Fellowship Treats

**October 2:** Jeanne King  
**October 9:** Deb Bergstrom  
**October 16:** Terri Bahn  
**October 23:** Pam Beaulieu  
**October 30:** Bobbi Fredstrom



## Musicians

**October 2:** Lord of Life Choir, Jennifer Person  
**October 9:** VACANT  
**October 16:** EverydaySonDay Band  
**October 23:** VACANT  
**October 30:** Lord of Life Choir, Jennifer Person



## Sound Booth

**October 2:** VACANT  
**October 9:** VACANT  
**October 16:** VACANT  
**October 23:** VACANT  
**October 30:** VACANT



## Kids Time

**October 2:** Jeanne King  
**October 9:** VACANT  
**October 16:** VACANT  
**October 23:** VACANT  
**October 30:** VACANT

# Micah Group

*"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*

I have a little postcard that hangs on my refrigerator that says It is Not Enough to Be Compassionate. You Must Act. On the first Sunday in September (Labor Day weekend) some people in our congregation did just that. They rolled up their sleeves and cooked dinner at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen for 33 people in need. Lord of Life members do this on the first Sunday of every month. Micah Group has committed to being responsible for at least two of those Sundays. A little chili-mac hotdish and a few sides go a long way toward saying that we are part of a community and will put our faith into action by acts both big and small.

Here are some events that are coming up in the next month:

## **October: Free Clothing Giveaway**

- Please bring any items BEFORE the giveaway starts. Clothing may be dropped off after church on Sunday October 2nd between 8:30 and noon or Monday 10/3 through Wednesday 10/5 from 9:00 to 3:00.

- The Giveaway will be Friday and Saturday October 7 and 8th from 9:00 to 3:00.

## **Book Discussion: A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota continues on:**

- 11:00 on October 2nd and 16th after our Sunday Service. Anyone is welcome to join. Or you may Zoom into the discussion with the following:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85059993255?pwd=U0V3ZnNYL21rdkk2WlJ1N0tzVEVldz09>

Meeting ID: 850 5999 3255

Passcode: 545789

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,85059993255# US (Washington DC)

+13092053325,,85059993255# US

Micah Leadership and Planning Meeting is scheduled for October 16th at 12:30 after the book discussion. Again, anyone is welcome to join this meeting.

Sue Beck

Micah Group member

# 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.

• **Cantata** - Our new Music Coordinator, Kennedy Niska, is inviting all music lovers to prepare for the Christmas Season, and musical performances to go with it. The group will rehearse on Sundays at 7 pm, starting Oct. 16.

## LoL Staff

### Senior Pastor

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

### Associate Pastor

Erika Nilsen  
[erika.nilsen@lolbaxter.org](mailto:erika.nilsen@lolbaxter.org)

### Operations Manager

Anne Laechel  
[anne@lolbaxter.org](mailto:anne@lolbaxter.org)

### Youth Director

Tim Slinger  
[tim@lolbaxter.org](mailto:tim@lolbaxter.org)

### Communications

#### Coordinator

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

#### Custodians

Paul and Karen  
Erickson

### Music Coordinator

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

# Mark Your Calendars

- Anyone interested in participating in an enrichment event put on by the NE MN Synod is invited to an event on October 8th, 2022 at Our Saviour Lutheran Church entitled: Walking in Stories of Ministry; The Cost is \$25 and you may register at <http://www.nemnsynod.org>. We already have a group of four people from Lord of Life going and they would love for you to join them.

- 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.