

Good News

February
2023

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
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org

A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it!

Years ago there was a Scandinavian gift store in Nisswa called Nordic Living. I LOVED taking breaks from work and wandering through that beautiful store – unable to afford much – but delighting in the simplicity and beauty of design. One of my most treasured possessions from that store is a wood-cut star that hangs in the window of our entry way – warming the night – sharing the light – a welcome to all.

A maker of these stars says this about these warm lights that are traditionally hung in a window to welcome visitors during the dark Scandinavian winters.

“The glow was a sign to weary travelers that your home was to be visited. Now in modern times, these lights fill the windows of homes throughout

Nordic countries not only during the holiday season but year round as well.”

These winter months, along with what at times seems to be a terribly heavy reality we live in, can be awfully tough. I think we all feel weary of the worry, weary of the grey sky, weary of the cold and dark.

I recently spent some time at Forestview Middle School in our community – a school that has been hit hard by grief



and loss and the overwhelming weight of mental health concerns in our young people. As I walked the halls, though weary, I saw light shining in and through each and every adult – letting their students know that they were a safe place to rest – a safe place to land for the time being. And I watched them be lights for each other too – with words of encouragement and hopeful hugs – a warm welcome to the weary.

This is our call too – to be a warm welcome for the weary – to be a light in the darkness – to be a safe place to land. And we can be a light to others – because Jesus is the light of the world and gives us the power to share that light with others – to let that light of hope and love shine through us.

In small but significant ways – the light of the creation is growing all around us – daily, minutes of sunlight are being added to our days – and thanks be to God for that. Yet with or without the growing light of the creation – we know we can count on the one true light – to always shine – welcome and warm our weary souls.

Shine Bright!
Pastor Erika



Youth Update

Brainerd Lakes Area Confirmation Welcomes Joy Hensel February 1st!

For the second time this year area ELCA congregations will gather their confirmation classes and parents for a special night! First Lutheran Church in Brainerd will be hosting this class with guest speaker Joy Hensel from the NEMN Synod. Joy is the Synod Minister for Mental Health and Wellness. We look forward to gathering with hundreds of confirmation families from across the area to engage in a night focused on mental health and wellbeing! It is a blessing to have a synod which supports this important ministry!

Lakes Area ELCA High School Breakfast Tuesday February 14th @Trinity!

Lord of Life high school youth here is a great way to kick start your day before school! Join us at Trinity Lutheran Church on Tuesday, February 14th from 7:15am-7:45am! Connect with your friends from area ELCA youth groups and enjoy a pancake breakfast together! Open to youth in grades 9th-12th! You do not need to register for this event. If you know you are planning to attend it would be great to know ahead of time for food prep purposes.

Club 56 Session #3 Focus Mental Health & Wellbeing

Two more weeks remain of Club 56 session #3 as our 5th and 6th graders have been busy studying about Mental Health & Wellbeing. To kick off this session our class enjoyed a fun night outside at Lord of Life being introduced to the game of Kubb thanks to Pastor Steve! The weather was perfect outside under the lights at church. A little hot cocoa and conversation was a great way to start off this session! If you know a 5th or 6th grader who would like to join this class you are always welcome. The final two classes in this session are February 1st & 8th.

Teen's Upstream

Open To: 9th - 12th Graders

Meeting Time: 8-9pm Wednesday's

If you are in 9th-12th grade you are welcome to join our weekly high school youth group on Wednesday nights. Each week you will spend time connecting with your friends, playing games and exploring more about who you are and your faith! We meet in the Sonshine room at Lord of Life and new students are always welcome!

Middle School Youth Group

Open To: 5th - 8th Graders

Date: February 26th 5:30-7pm

Join us monthly for our middle school youth group gathering at Lord of Life! Each month you will enjoy a new focus or theme along with some of the favorite youth group games and snacks! Invite your friends and mark calendars for the last Sunday in February to join us!

Summer High School Trip Update!

We have a great group registered to go to Idaho Servant Adventures this year! A huge thanks goes out to our congregation who continues to support and uplift these important summer trip experiences! We look forward to sharing more about this trip with all of you in the future!

Connect With Us!

Interested in being a part of upcoming youth ministry events, youth groups or classes let us know! We would love to hear from you and get you connected with what is happening each month!

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 NRSV

The following is information about the parenting series referenced in our January article, and the book study that will follow. These are the Micah Group events February 26 through June 11.

As noted in January's article, the parenting presentations with luncheons following and the books for the book study are free through a grant from FREC (Facilitating Racial Equality Collaborative). Please see the FREC flyer next to the Micah Group calendar on Lord of Life's entry bulletin board. Parenting sessions and book study will all be held in Fellowship Hall at 11 am.

PARENTING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (for parents, grandparents and caregivers)

February 26, Session 1

Antiracism and Parenting: Exploring Key Concepts and Making Authentic Connections

March 12, Session 2

How Can I Talk with my Child about Racism and Other Social Injustices?

March 26, Session 3

Your Anti-Racist Tool Kit: Strategies and Activities to Engage with your Family and Community
Sessions will include time for questions and discussion.

Luncheon will be served in Fellowship Hall after the presentation.

Sessions and luncheon are free for those who participate on-site at Lord of Life.

Presenters:

Leah Persky, PhD, CLFE< MSW, LICSW, Manager of Family Life Education and Addiction and Recovery Services at Jewish Family and Children's Services of Minneapolis. Leah is a certified family life educator through the National Council on Family Relations. Her PhD in political science focused on gender, health, and policy making. Wellbeing is central to her work, and she believes it is an essential support component for families and caregivers to address the root causes of injustice.

Natalie Quiring-Oleson, also of JFCS, has ten years of experience working with children and families to improve their mental health. Her BA is in psychology and her masters degree in social work. She is especially concerned about social and racial justice.

To further the discussion and tool kit building, a three session book discussion will be held on April 23, May 21, and June 11, in Fellowship Hall at 11 am. The book to be discussed is Dr. Traci Baxley's Social Justice Parenting. Books are free* for Lord of Life members.

Contact Lolly Kalinoski for your copy (lollykadlec@hotmail.com) after March 1, 2023.

The series will be held on Zoom for groups only in order for more people to participate

To sign up your group, please email Pat Dickson at otherpeoplecount.period@gmail.com

The Library is Open

Thank you the people who helped to sort, catalog, and arrange books in our two library areas—Room 7 and the Commons. And thanks, also, to all who gave the free books on narthex tables a new home.

Both areas have books for adults and children, and the Commons has books for upper elementary youth. Many of those are good reads for adults as well.

The Room 7 collection includes Bibles and Bible study aids as well as fiction and non-fiction books on spiritual growth and on help for getting through difficult times. Room 7 also has a white cabinet labeled “Electronic Media.”

The Commons collection includes fiction and non-fiction books about who our neighbors are across the world and in our own communities and about the pain caused by injustice. It also includes books that teach us how better to talk with each other and our neighbors about injustice and ways that change can be fostered and justice increased as we live into the commandment to love our neighbors. Hard copies of the Social Statements of the ELCA are shelved here in two binders.

In each area, there is a portion of a shelf labeled “check out books here.” Included at those sites are master lists of books shelved there and a booklet with instructions on how to record your checkout selection and how to return it.

Pens are also available in Lord of Life mugs. Books are arranged alphabetically by author. The Room 7 book checkout list can be used for electronic media as well.

Each library area has room for growth. Boxes are provided for your donation of books read and no longer wanted on home shelves. Also, if there is a book you would like to recommend for purchase for the library, please let the library group know.

A picture, it has been said, is worth a thousand words. A good book can paint hundreds of pictures.....

Calendar

Wednesday, February 1

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, February 2

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Martha Circle (At Diamond Willow), 1 pm
Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm

Friday, February 3

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, February 4

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, February 5

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

Wednesday, February 8

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, February 9

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
New Member Conversation, 4 pm

Friday, February 10

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, February 11

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, February 12

Choir Practice, 8:30 am
Worship, 9:30 am
Choir Practice, 10:45 am
Micah Group Book Discussion, 11 am

Tuesday, February 14

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

Wednesday, February 15

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Fellowship Supper, 5:30 pm
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, February 16

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

Friday, February 17

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, February 18

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, February 19

Worship, 9:30 am

Monday, February 20

March Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, February 21

Shrove Tuesday Meal, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, February 22

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Ash Wednesday Worship, 12 pm
Ash Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, February 23

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

Friday, February 24

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, February 25

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, February 26

Choir Practice, 8:30 am
Worship, 9:30 am
Micah Group Forum, 11 am
Middle School Youth Group, 5:30 pm

LoL Staff

Senior Pastor

Steven Rye
steve@lolbaxter.org

Associate Pastor

Erika Nilsen
erika.nilsen@
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Operations Manager

Anne Laechel
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Youth Director

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Communications

Coordinator

Tyler Jensen
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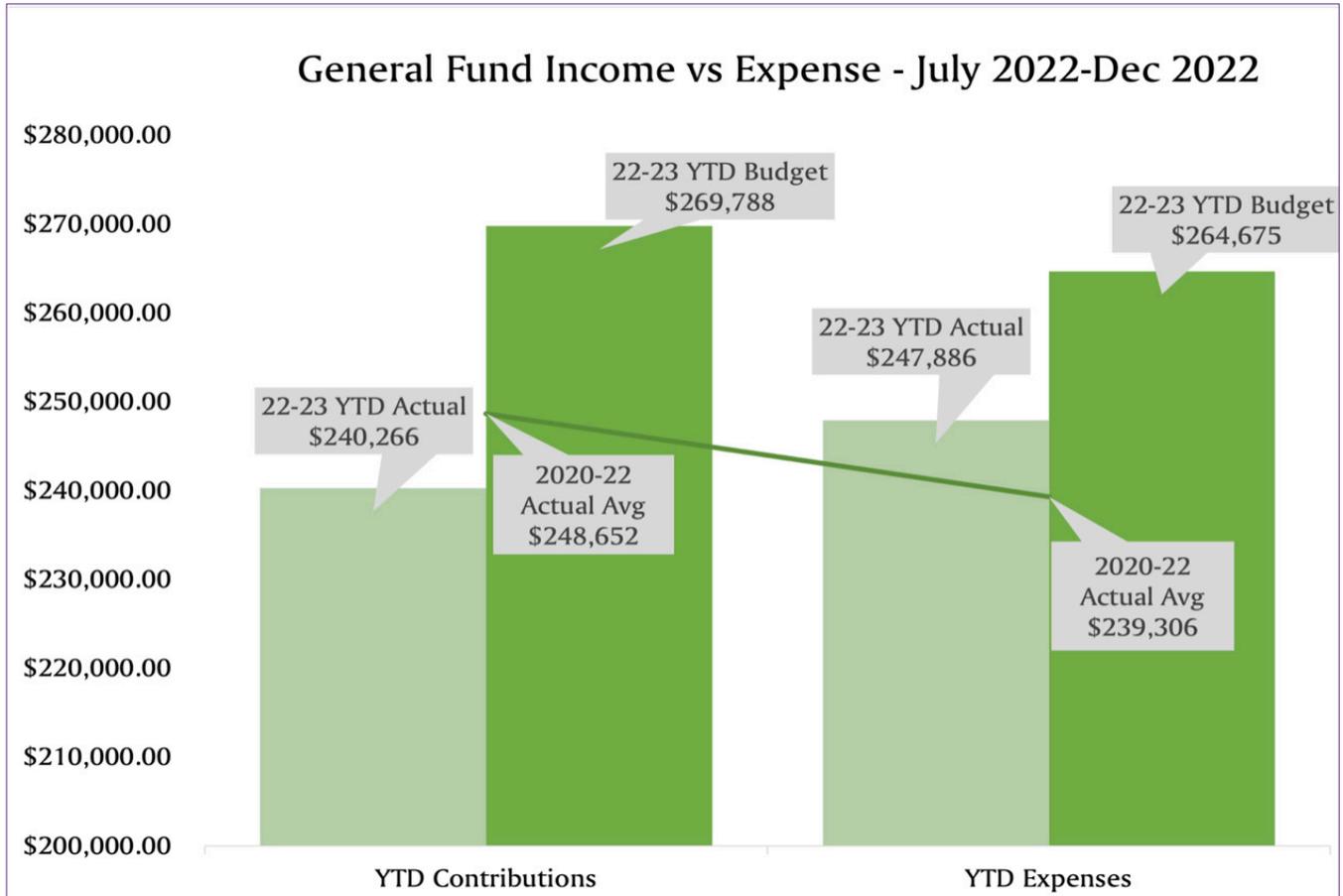
Custodians

Paul and Karen
Erickson

Music Coordinator

Kennedy Niska
kennedy@lolbaxter.org

Financial Report



Lord of Life switching online giving vendors

Lord of Life is going to a different vendor for processing our online donations. We are switching from PushPay to Aplos Pay. This move will be incredibly beneficial for Lord of Life as Aplos does not charge an annual fee, and its fees for each transaction are less. Put simply, with this move your donations to our ministries goes further.

Until the end of February, we will have both systems going to allow people to set up their giving on Aplos and end any recurring giving through PushPay. Online giving makes up 50 percent of Lord of Life's donations, so it is critical to our ministries that you switch over.

To set up a recurring gift through Aplos, you can go to lolbaxter.org and click on the red "Give to LOL" button. This will take you to the giving site where you can either set up a gift through your credit/debit card, or by logging into your online banking site directly through Aplos.

If you require any assistance setting up your new online giving, or canceling your PushPay giving, please feel free to call the Church Office at (218) 828-9374. You can also email our Operations Manager Anne Laechel at anne@lolbaxter.org.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministries!

Worship Volunteers



Scripture Reading

Feb. 5: Paul Springstead
Feb. 12: VACANT
Feb. 19: VACANT
Feb. 26: VACANT



Fellowship Treats

Feb. 5: Jeannine zumBrunnen
Feb. 12: Kate Porter
Feb. 19: Tyler Jensen
Feb. 26: Stacy Halbersma



Ushers

Feb. 5: Ted and Mary Anderson
Feb. 12: VACANT
Feb. 19: VACANT
Feb. 26: VACANT



Musicians

Feb. 5: Sarah Aamot, Rachel Delaney
Feb. 12: Lord of Life Choir
Feb. 19: VACANT
Feb. 26: VACANT



Communion Serving

Feb. 5: Wendy Adamson
Feb. 12: Karen Erickson
Feb. 19: Patty Wallace
Feb. 26: Judy Bialka



Sound Booth

Feb. 5: Mike Bush
Feb. 12: VACANT
Feb. 19: VACANT
Feb. 26: VACANT



Kids Time

Feb. 5: VACANT
Feb. 12: VACANT
Feb. 19: VACANT
Feb. 26: VACANT

Mark Your Calendars

- Pastor Steve and Pastor Erika will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on Tuesday, February 21, from 5:30 - 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Shrove Tuesday is the final day before Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, and pancakes are a traditional meal as they used up butter and other ingredients traditionally given up during the season.
- 5th Graders and Parents! You are invited to gather for 4 weeks of preparation before receiving your first communion. These classes will be held Thursday evenings in March, from 6:30-7:30pm. We'll gather to learn, share, and wonder together about the gift of God's sacrament and the blessing of holy communion. The dates for the classes are March, 2, 9, 24 and 31!
- February 22nd is Ash Wednesday and the start of the 40 days of Lent. We will have two services on Ash Wednesday, one at noon and the second at 6:30 pm. During Lent, we are partnering with Trinity and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches for joint services on Wednesdays at 11 am at Bethlehem Lutheran in Brainerd. The series will conclude with a Good Friday Service on April 7 at 11 am. The services will feature dramatic presentations of those from The Bible who were touched by Jesus' ministry. There will be a lunch following the service. Please RSVP by the Monday before each service if you plan to attend the lunch. You can RSVP by calling (218) 829-3330.