

Good News

March
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
office@lolbaxter.
org

Seeds

First, I will openly admit that I'm a pitiful gardener. I have tried at times. When I served as pastor in a rural Iowa community - I had a large garden in the back, but it was located in a place that wasn't very suited for a garden. A large tree cut down on the sunlight that arrived there.

But I know some very good gardeners. I have some friends who are straw bail gardeners and we have talked endlessly about preparing the bails. Loading them with soil on top. Setting up the watering system. And the fences around the outside. And my last partner in ministry was an avid gardener. It seemed as if every sermon and every devotion contained an update on what he was doing in the garden, how the crops were faring, and his offer to share some of the bounties at the right season.



From my partner in ministry, I know we are in the middle of seed catalog season. That's when the seed catalogs arrive in the mail and stir the hearts of those who truly garden with visions of what type and hybrid of seed might be chosen to plant in the next growing season. The challenge



is to look ahead and ponder whether this year will be dry or wet. Start early or late. End early or late. Each prediction brings with it a set of decisions to be made.

Seeds.

They amaze me. They are not what they once were. Namely a part of a parent plant. Nor are they what they will become. There is a certain sense of: Not yet - that accompanies a seed. They contain a magnificent and delicious promise of what can be if the conditions are right if there is enough water and sunshine and nutrients and warmth.

This Lent we are exploring what can be. We are taking some time to explore the call of God and how that call might change us - how we might become good fruit (or vegetables!) in our God's garden. I hope you'll join us on Sunday mornings to explore. And also - to keep the faith. Summer is coming! God is good! Peace be with you!

Steven Rye, Pastor

Youth Update

Is it spring yet? At the time of writing this March newsletter we are preparing for a week of snow in February! But we know this will not last and March gives us glimpses of Spring! Here are a few glimpses into what is happening in the world of youth ministry at Lord of Life!

Wednesday Night Programing

We are in the midst of the season of Lent! Our Wednesday night focus for the Lenten season is, "The Life of Jesus"! During the season of Lent our 7th & 8th grade class will meet in small group and our 9th graders will meet weekly with their faith mentor! Thank you to those who have stepped up to help out with our program!

Club 56 will be focusing in on the, "Fruits of The Spirit" during their 4-week session in March!

If you know of someone in 5th or 6th grade who would like to join the class from 7:15 - 8 pm on Wednesday nights please let us know!

Teen's Upstream is working through the book, "3 Big Questions That Shape Your Future" by Kara Powell, Kristel Acevedo and Brad M. Griffin.

This book focuses in on three big themes: Our identity, sense of belonging and purpose in life. All 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us on Wednesday nights from 8 - 9 pm!

Special Youth Ministry Events

Lakes Area ELCA High School Breakfast Tuesday, March 7th @Trinity Lutheran Church

Start your day with a delicious pancake breakfast and connecting with your friends from area ELCA youth groups. Open to all 9th-12th graders join us Tuesday, March 7th from 7:15am-7:45am at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Middle School Youth Group @Lord of Life Sunday, March 26th

Open to all 5th-8th graders join us for engaging Bible study, connecting with friends, games and your favorite snacks. Depending on weather we maybe outside to enjoy the start of spring! No registration required for this event.

9th Grade Confirmation Retreat @Camp Onomia March 25th-26th

We are excited to gather Lord of Life 9th grade families at Camp Onomia in Onamia, MN for a weekend retreat! This retreat is the lead up to the Affirmation of Baptism Service! Families will spend time in fellowship together, learning about final steps in the confirmation journey and enjoy all camp has to offer!

Mark Your Calendars: Middle School Late Night Out April 14th @First Lutheran Brainerd

Lakes Area ELCA churches are bringing their middle school youth together for another late night out experience. Hosted at First Lutheran in Brainerd, have a blast staying up late and growing in faith together! Cost is \$10 per person! More information will be coming as the event gets closer!

Summer Programming Updates Coming Soon:

Stay connected to church communication channels to learn more about ways you can be involved or support upcoming summer ministry opportunities!

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

This month we are presenting an opportunity we found to learn about Ojibwe language and culture on TikTok:

What started as a social media platform that confused most adults has become a go-to place for information on and connection around a wide array of interests and topics. TikTok isn't just for teens anymore. By following video creators you like, you can cultivate a stream of short (generally less than a minute long) videos that interest you. If you would like to watch a tutorial before downloading the app, go to YouTube and search for "How To Use TikTok! (Complete Beginners Guide) (2023)."

An Ojibwe Minnesotan, Giiwedini, is a popular TikTok creator who uses the platform to teach viewers about his culture and share his perspectives. He has over 491,000 followers who have learned about everything from the Ojibwe moon calendar to indigenous mythology of Lake Superior, one short video at a time. His videos are both entertaining and educational. To find him on TikTok, search for @giiwedini-dizhinikaaz.

Parenting for Social Justice

This opportunity started the end of February, but it's not too late to join in!!

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 the Fellowship Hall after the presentation.

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. Well-being 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. She has a BA in psychology and an MSW. 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.

These will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. The book to be discussed is Dr. Traci Baxley's Social Justice Parenting. Books are free to Lord of Life members. Contact Lolly Kalinoski for your copy. (lollykadlec@hotmail.com) after March 1st.

Programming

Lenten Holy Listening - Sunday evenings @ 7 pm

Throughout the season of Lent, you are invited to gather in the sanctuary to experience, together, the power of Holy Listening.

Using a spiritual practice called VOCARE - we'll listen for, discern and embrace our various callings so that we can more intentionally live life on purpose for the common good. Through guided reflection on personal life experiences via the lenses of values, openness, call, attentiveness, regrets, and experiences of God's presence, the vocare practice nourishes discernment of three primary questions.

Who am I called to be?
What am I called to do?
Why am I here?

This will be a quiet time and space, free of distractions, in order to allow ample time for reflection, prayer and listening. This practice will nourish you amid the unfinished stuff of life, in the space between no longer and not yet.

“Teach Me How to Die” - Sunday, March 26th following worship

After Ken Campbell was diagnosed with terminal cancer and moved into Bethany nursing home, one his requests to his pastors was this, “Will you teach me how to die?”

Certainly, no one really likes to think about their death. Yet one of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves and our loved ones is a conversation about dying - from funeral planning, to visions of how we would want our final days to go if we could choose, to what needs to be personally said and done so that we can die well.

Because it is vulnerable and scary and maybe utterly overwhelming, what if we started to have the conversation together?

Come together on Sunday, March 26th following worship to learn from Lisa Woog – a certified Death Doula (yes – it is a thing!) and gain some resources, tools and courage to talk about your dying in a way that blesses your living.

Calendar

Wednesday, March 1

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, March 2

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm
First Communion Class, 6:30 pm

Friday, March 3

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

Sunday, March 5

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

Wednesday, March 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, March 9

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Martha Circle (At Diamond Willow), 1 pm
New Member Conversation, 6:30 pm
First Communion Class, 6:30 pm

Friday, March 10

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

Sunday, March 12

Choir Practice, 8:30 am
Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 9:30 am
Choir Practice, 10:45 am
Micah Group Parenting Series, 11 am

Tuesday, March 14

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

Wednesday, March 15

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

Thursday, March 16

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

Friday, March 17

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

Sunday, March 19

Worship, 9:30 am

Monday, March 20

March Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, March 21

Shrove Tuesday Meal, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, March 22

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, March 23

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

Friday, March 24

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

Sunday, March 26

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

Tuesday, March 28

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

Wednesday, March 29

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, March 30

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
First Communion Class, 6:30 pm

Friday, March 31

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

LoL Staff

Senior Pastor

Steven Rye
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Associate Pastor

Erika Nilsen
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Operations Manager

Anne Laechel
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Youth Director

Tim Slinger
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Communications

Coordinator

Tyler Jensen
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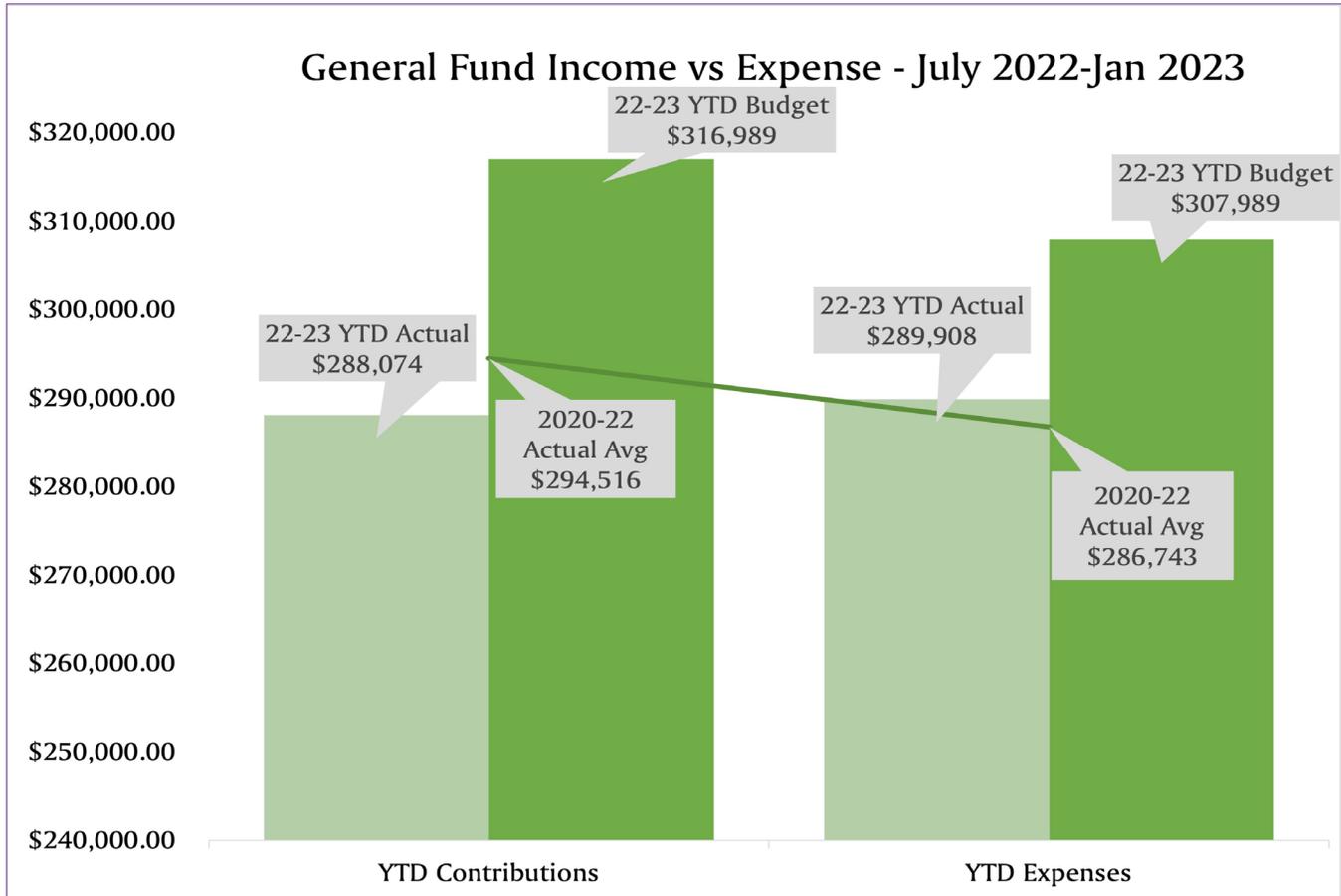
Custodians

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 go further.

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

March 5: VACANT
March 12: VACANT
March 19: VACANT
March 26: VACANT



Fellowship Treats

March 5: Youth Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
March 12: Ruth Nelson
March 19: Mary O'Boyle and Sharon Johnson
March 26: Bobbie Fredstrom



Ushers

March 5: VACANT
March 12: VACANT
March 19: VACANT
March 26: VACANT



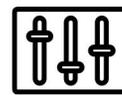
Musicians

March 5: Koreann Martin
March 12: Lord of Life Choir, Jennifer Person
March 19: Koreann Martin
March 26: Lord of Life Choir, Jennifer Person



Communion Serving

March 5: Karen Erickson, Lydia Kraemer, Tammy Stellmach
March 12: Judy Bialka
March 19: Patty Wallace, Julie Johnson
March 26: Wendy Adamson, Julie Johnson



Sound Booth

March 5: VACANT
March 12: VACANT
March 19: VACANT
March 26: VACANT



Kids Time

March 5: VACANT
March 12: VACANT
March 19: VACANT
March 26: VACANT

Keep in mind

• Holy Week is fast approaching! We will begin with Passion Sunday on April 2 at 9:30 am, where we will look at the story of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, and his arrest and Crucifixion. There will be Noon and 6:30 pm services for both Maundy Thursday, April 6, and Good Friday, April 7. Finally, on Easter Sunday, April 9, we will celebrate that Christ has risen with services at 7, 9, and 10:30 am.

• 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.

• Kids Time Kids! March is MN Food Share Month – as a special focus for you and your families throughout the season of Lent – we invite you to bring in an offering of non-perishable food items every Sunday in March. Thanks, in advance, for this gift of love!