

Good News

April
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

*"At Easter we celebrate the opening of the year!
The stone of winter rolls away, admitting air and light.
We have survived the dark days and are free to be diverted!
And as we open our hearts and eyes afresh, our wings unfold and carry us to the things in store:
new choices – new changes – new horizons – faces waiting to be known - hands waiting to be held –
first smiles – first words – first glimpses at potential -
hope emerges everywhere.
Some of us simply begin, while others begin again, or try again or just try and give their best.
Once the shadows fall behind us, everything is possible."*

These beautiful words come from the opening of Call the Midwife, Season 11, Episode 1.

I have never watched this PBS show before, but as I was facing an 8 hour flight back over the Atlantic after visiting my daughter Mari in Spain, I knew I needed to get lost in something – so that I didn't get lost in the sadness of missing of her, or the weight of the piles that awaited me on my desk when I returned, or the burden of the bills that didn't get paid before we left.

So I started watching! Oddly, the only season available on my Delta flight was season 11. So that's where I started. And Season 11 starts with Easter. What a wonderful place to start – when everything is possible and hope emerges everywhere.

As followers of Jesus, we know that Easter comes only after the darkness of denial, betrayal and death have wielded their power and their presence. As followers of Jesus, we know that Easter comes after we've walked through the valley of the shadow, the grip of the grave, the stench of sin. As followers of Jesus, we know that Easter comes after we've waited and wondered and wandered.



As followers of Jesus, we know that Easter comes!

And as I finished watching almost the whole of Season 11, thankful that I got lost in these wonderful characters and stories, I found myself wondering if this Easter we might simply get lost! Might we get lost in hope – or as the beautiful last line of the hymn "Love Divine, All Love's Excelling" puts it, "lost in wonder, love and praise?" Might we get lost in all of the hope and possibility and wonder of resurrection – and not just for 1 day, but for the whole of the Easter season, or maybe even for the whole of our lives?

As followers of Jesus we know that the promise of Easter is the hope that God is at work in and through all that we experience in life.

As followers of Jesus we know that the promise of Easter is the wonder that new life is possible in the most unlikely of places and spaces.

As followers of Jesus we know that the promise of Easter is that the power of love will always and ultimately infuse the world – rolling away stones, transforming hearts, renewing the creation.

May we get lost in such promises and live in such possibility and may hope emerge everywhere!

A Blessed Easter to you,
Pastor Erika

Youth Update

First Communion on Maundy Thursday!

Join us at Lord of Life as we enter into Holy Week together! Our 5th graders and parents have been busy learning about the sacrament of Holy Communion together. We look forward to their first communion during our Maundy Thursday service!

Wednesday Night Programing:

We are entering into our last full month of Wednesday night programing for the school year! A special thank you to our 9th grade confirmation mentors as they met weekly with our 9th grade class during the season of Lent! Our focus for this past month was on the life of Jesus! We will continue that focus into April as well!

Club 56 concluded its final 4-week session last month which focused on the season of Lent! Thank you to the 5th & 6th grade families who participated in Club 56 this year! Together classes focused on learning more about the Bible, Jesus, mental health & wellbeing and the season of Lent!

Teen's Upstream continues to work 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.

Summer Programming Update:

Spring just started and here we are getting you excited and ready for the summer! It will be here before you know it! In April registrations will launch and you will receive more information about our summer youth programs! Here are just a couple to put on your calendar! Stay tuned for more updates!

Summer Stretch Thursdays in June & July

This program is open to those entering 7th-9th grade in the 2023-24 school year! Here we will gather weekly from June 8th- July 13th on Thursdays from 9am-4pm! This program has it all! Enjoy connecting with your friends for volunteer servant events in the morning, Bible study and afternoon fun activities throughout the Brainerd Lakes Area! We will also enjoy a Minnesota Twins game at Target Field!

serveCAMP in partnership with Camp Onomia July 30th-August 3rd

Open to those entering 5th-8th grade in the 2023-24 school year! This is an at home mission trip experience paired with everything you love about summer camp! You will get the opportunity to volunteer throughout the community at various service sites. Enjoy daily Bible study and camp style worship and games! Lastly join us each night for campfire, night games and tent camping at church with your friends! You won't want to miss this!

Summer Trip Fundraising Update: May Youth Rummage Sale

As you are spring cleaning around the house do not forget about our upcoming youth rummage sale at Lord of Life. Mark your calendars the sale will be Friday, May 12th & Saturday May 13th! We will begin collecting donations starting on Sunday, May 7th! Please do not bring items early we have no place to store them leading up to the sale! Help us spread the word to your neighbors and friends! We are always looking for volunteers during the set up week and also during the sale. If you are willing or able to help out please contact Tim Slinger Youth Director! Donations will go to support our high school youth traveling to Idaho Servant Adventures in July!

Mark Your Calendars: Friday, April 14th is Middle School Late Night Out at First Lutheran Church Brainerd, MN! Open to 5th-8th graders cost is \$10 and registration is now open! Please visit our website for

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

Parenting is hard.

For many of us, it is the hardest thing we do. Sometimes it feels like we are just trying to survive; from work, to meal planning, doctor and dentist appointments and extracurriculars -it is hard to imagine putting any more on our plates. Yet, we all want to raise children who will be able to meet the challenges of this world. Although, I have only been parenting 6 short years; there have been many challenging topics we have had to address; global pandemic, racial injustices, war, gun violence and sexual assault. None of these topics are easy, but preparing our children is so important. I welcome you to join our book discussion of Social Justice Parenting by Dr. Traci Baxley. Dr. Baxley's book is welcoming, honest and full of insight in how to raise kids who are confident in themselves and empathic to the needs of others around them.

Dr. Baxley states "your political views don't matter. Social justice parenting is about nurturing your child's natural curiosities and empathy to foster a family lifestyle of kindness."

Please join us as we discuss the wonderful insights of Dr. Baxley and gain confidence in guiding our children to lead compassionate and socially conscience lives.

Please reach out with any questions

Erica Dolven-Kolle.

ericabdk@gmail.com

The three session 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. Social Justice Parenting books are free to Lord of Life members. Contact Lolly Kalinoski for your copy. (lollykadlec@hotmail.com)

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.

Council Minutes

Lord of Life Church Council Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 23, 2023

Present (8)

Greg Bennett
Josh Freelove
Pr. Erika Nilsen
Kevin Olson
Brian Orłowski
Jolene Parks

Kurt Porter
Pr. Steve Rye
Donna Salli
Steve Schaitberger
Karla Skwira

Absent (0)

Guest (1)

Anne Laechel

Meeting (held online via Zoom) called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Schaitberger.

Devotions by Pr Nilsen. Looking at what's unfinished in our lives in this 'in-between' time we live in. Laechel explained new Aplos software being used to compile Summary version of the financial report.

Consent Agenda:

- Adoption of February 23, 2023 Agenda (CC.2023.02.07)
- Approval of January 2023 Regular Council Meeting (held February 5, 2023) minutes (CC.2023.02.08)
- Approval of January 2023 Financial Report (CC.2023.02.09)

Consent Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

Directional Council Updates

Salli (Outward): Quilters' Group will have blessing of the quilts on Palm Sunday, they are continuing to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Bonnie Henningson reports a "Women Build" house is planned for summer 2023, would like to do a fundraiser for the project, Salli will check on details. Lutheran World Relief offering will be taken March 5 for recent Turkey/Syria earthquake help. Gary and Sherry Hauter, missionaries serving in Brazil will be presenting update on Palm Sunday. Sail Exercise class is going well. Micah Group's core leadership team has grown to ten people, group is working with other groups in area, parenting class is starting.

Discussion of canned goods offering/food drive to be held during Sunday children's messages in March.

Skwira (Upward): Lenten devotions will be available during Lent. First Communion class starting. ServCamp planning started.

Parks (Inward): Libraries (Commons and Room 7) have had some activity, looking at library maintenance ideas.

Orłowski (Grounds): . Some ice dam work was done with steam melting. Discussion of remedies for snow build up against building wall causing possible leakage and remedies for diverting snow/ice that forms near east side sanctuary exit.

Freelove (Youth): Pancake breakfast fundraiser after service for summer 2023 youth trip. Teens Upstream burned palms for future Ash Wednesday service.

Calendar

Saturday, April 1

Funeral of Eldo Schmidt
Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, April 2

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

Monday, April 3

Grief Support Group, 1:30 pm

Wednesday, April 5

Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm

Thursday, April 6

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Maundy Thursday Worship, 12 pm
Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:30 pm

Friday, April 7

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Good Friday Worship, 12 pm
Good Friday Worship, 6:30 pm
Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Sunday, April 9

Easter Worship, 7 am
Choir Practice, 8:30 am
Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 9 am
Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 10:30 am

Monday, April 10

Grief Support Group, 1:30 pm

Tuesday, April 11

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

Wednesday, April 12

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Finance Team Meeting, 4 pm
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm
Teens Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, April 13

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Martha Circle, 1 pm
New Member Conversation, 6:30 pm

Friday, April 14

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

Sunday, April 16

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am
Micah Group Parenting Series, 11 am
Prayer Chain Team Meeting, 11 am

Monday, April 17

Grief Support Group, 1:30 pm
May Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, April 19

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

Thursday, April 20

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Micah Group Interface Group, 10 am

Friday, April 21

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

Sunday, April 23

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am
Micah Group Book Study, 11 am

Wednesday, April 26

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

Thursday, April 27

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

Friday, April 28

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

Sunday, April 30

Choir Practice, 8:15 am
Worship, 9:30 am
Prayer Chain Meeting, 10:45 am

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 Coordinator

Kennedy Niska
kennedy@lolbaxter.org

Financials and Council cont.

Discussion followed: Confirmation Retreat being planned for confirmands and parents. Confirmation may be moved from end of October (Reformation Sunday) to spring (spring of 9th grade year vs. fall of 10th grade year). Currently being discussed with parents.

Pr. Nilsen: Lent at Lord of Life will offer opportunities for reflection and prayer.

Pr. Rye: Planning to attend two upcoming continuing education opportunities. Pastors, Youth Director, and Operations Manager are having quarterly planning sessions.

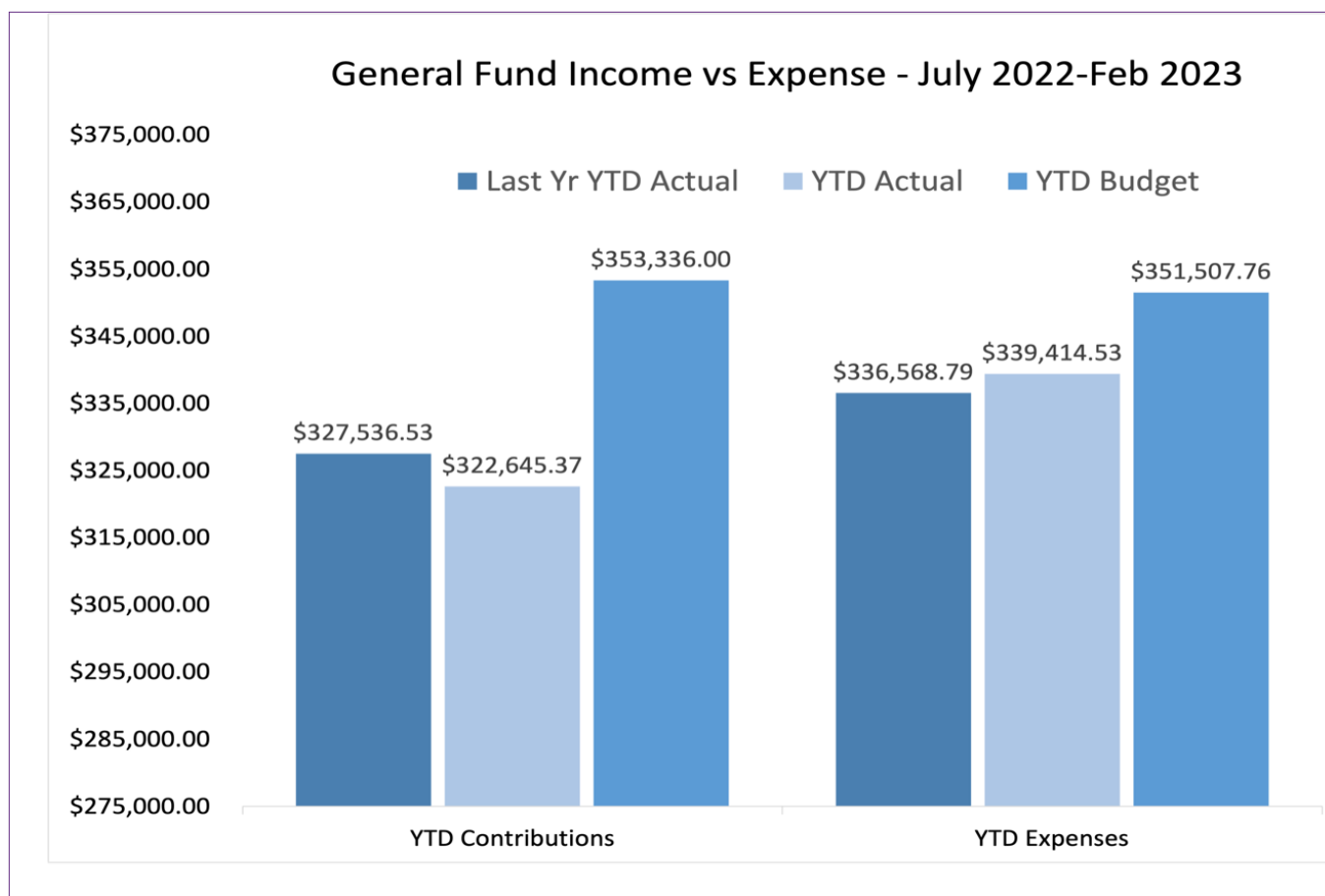
Bennett gave Treasurer's Report. New software working well. Budget on track.

Annual meeting scheduling discussed. Tentatively scheduled for June, final date to be set at March Council meeting.

Next regular Council meeting set for Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with closing prayer by Pr. Rye, 7:10 p.m.

Kevin Olson, Council Secretary



Worship Volunteers



Scripture Reading

April 2: Irene Christofferson

April 16: VACANT

April 23: Mark Jungclaus

April 30: VACANT



Fellowship Treats

April 2: Darlene Christensen

April 16: Natalie Sauter

April 23: Sue Beck

April 30: Terry Bahn



Ushers

April 2: Verdell Bose and Larry Lundblad

April 16: Thor and Julie Johnson

April 23: Stan Kalinoski, Ted and Mary Anderson

April 30: VACANT



Musicians

April 2: Koreann Martin

April 16: Jennifer Person

April 23: Koreann Martin

April 30: Jennifer Person



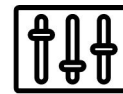
Communion Serving

April 2: Claire Rud, Connie Fordyce,
Tammy Stellmach

April 16: VACANT

April 23: VACANT

April 30: Lydia Kraemer



Sound Booth

April 2: VACANT

April 16: VACANT

April 23: VACANT

April 30: VACANT



Kids Time

April 2: Joe Erickson and Erica Dolven-Kolle

April 16: VACANT

April 23: Michelle Malchow

April 30: VACANT

Holy Week Services

Holy Week Services

Passion Sunday, April 2, 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 12 and 6:30 pm

Good Friday, April 7, 12 and 6:30 pm



**Easter Day, April 9
7, 9, and 10:30 am**