

Good News

May
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

Ken Campbell died on Friday (March 10th). One of the last reflections I had with him during one of my last visits when he was lucid, was about a walk I took on the beach. There was another visit in which I sang some hymns and prayed over him, and anointed him. On that last visit - all he could say was "sure" when I asked him if I could sing a few hymns for him. And so I did. But during the one before that, we had a good conversation.

Now that Ken is gone, I'd like to share it with you too.

I had come back from the east coast. I had spent time walking on the sands of Myrtle Beach. On that walk - I was thinking about Ken. Thinking about his request, "Teach me how to die." I was also reflecting on another parishioner who had just passed away. Eldo. The guy always wore a Navy cap at our Men's fellowship. He treasured that cap. He treasured the brotherhood that the cap represented. It seemed very fitting that if I couldn't be there with him and his family, I would be by the sea.

On my walk on the beach, it struck me that most of our lives are spent walking on shifting sands. Represented by the loose sand high on the beach to my left. Those that are far away from the ocean. But then there is this zone - which is much closer to the ocean waves; The recent action of the water has turned that area into solid - almost concrete-like smoothness. And generally speaking, that's where people prefer to walk. The footing is much firmer there. It's also where fresh discoveries are made of shells washed up on the shore.

Shells in themselves are worth reflecting on. They are the remains of what was once alive but now are dead. Each shell is a unique legacy. Each one is different. Each one speaks to the uniqueness of the creature who constructed it. And it has to be said that some are more beautiful than others. Some are worth picking up and taking home. Others, not so much.



Isn't that the way it is with our lives? We all leave a legacy. We can't help but leave something behind. Some seem worth holding onto by the living .. treasuring ... valuing. But, if we're being honest, I've had funerals, too, where it is just awkward. Because there isn't a lot to say about them. They were unique - for sure. They lived their life the way they wanted to. But now that they're gone. The rest of us who are, as yet, still living can walk on and barely give their particular life a second thought.

Speaking of walking - back to the topic of the beach. Can we use the ocean's depths as a metaphor for death? Don't waves make a great metaphor for death? Always present - incessantly claiming - then receding for a time, but always returning. They have been there since the very beginning of the world.

And the loose powdery sand high on the beach. Can that serve as a metaphor for the part of our lives lived when we think we are far away from death? There, the sands are ever-shifting. The walking is less grounded. In some sense, it is more difficult and takes a lot more work. Made so by wondering what path to take. The possibilities and directions we may take are seemingly endless, including the possibility of leaving the beach altogether. Placing ourselves far from the eternal crashing of the waves. For the moment anyway.

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Youth Update

School Year Programs Coming To An End!

It never ceases to amaze me just how fast the school year can go! Here are a few dates to keep in mind as our school year programming comes to an end!

Last Night of Confirmation Class: Wednesday, May 10th BBQ celebration at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Together with area ELCA confirmation classes.

Teen's Upstream: Will continue through the end of the school year on Wednesday nights!

Our final night will be Wednesday, May 31st! All 9th-12th graders are welcome to join us on Wednesday nights from 8-9pm! When the weather is nice plan to be outside!

Senior Recognition: Wednesday, May 17th & Sunday, May 21st

If you have a graduating high school senior, please make sure you have filled out the online information form and sent in your pictures for the senior slide show. If you need the form or have questions please contact Tim Slinger. We invite the congregation to join us for worship either Wednesday, May 17th or Sunday May 21st as we celebrate with our 2023 high school graduates!

Upcoming Fundraisers For The High School Summer Trip!

May 7th Pancake Breakfast! Following the 9:30am Worship Service
Join us for Pancakes with all the toppings and sausage following the worship service on Sunday, May 7th! Enjoy not having to worry about a meal on Sunday morning! Free Will Donation!

Spring Rummage Sale Happening May 12th & 13th

In just a couple weeks Lord of Life will be hosting our annual spring rummage sale! Proceeds will go to support high school youth going on the summer mission trip to Idaho Servant Adventures this year! For those who are familiar with this event it is a large scale rummage sale with various items. Mark your calendars today and help us spread the word about the upcoming sale!

Accepting Donations for The Rummage Sale Starting Sunday, May 7th!

Do you have items in your house that are gently used and would like to gift to a new home. Consider donating items for our sale. We collect lots of items just not old TV's or electronics. Also we are In need of volunteers to help with set up the week of May 7th and the dates of the sale. If you are available to help please contact Tim Slinger Youth Director.

Have You Registered For Our Summer Youth Programs?

There is something for everyone! Whether you are looking for one time youth group events or summer programs to help keep your kids busy this summer. Check out these opportunities

Summer Stretch: Summer program in June & July for those entering 7th-9th grade

serveCAMP: Week long program for those entering 5th-8th grade

Day Camp: 3-Day camp experience at Lord of Life for completed kindergarten - 3rd grade

ELCA Summer Youth Group:

Once a month youth group with area ELCA churches 5th-12th graders

To learn more about these programs or to register please visit our website at www.lolbaxter.org

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

As we leave the Easter celebrations behind us, we are reminded that Jesus' message of love and hope does not end with the holiday. As mentioned last month, the Micah Group is moving forward with opportunities to continue to learn, discuss and practice that message of love and justice by presenting a series of three book discussions on [Social Justice Parenting: How to Raise Compassionate Kids in an Unjust World](#). These will take place after our Sunday worship (11 a.m.) on April 23rd, May 7th and June 4th. Books are free. And even if you haven't had time to do all the reading, please feel free to join the discussion. Erica Dolven-Kolle and Tony Maurer will lead the discussion.

If you are interested in finding out more about Micah, please feel free to subscribe to our weekly newsletter The Micah Group Word. You can learn more about activities and opportunities to make our community a little bit better place. Contact Pat at otherpeoplecount.period@gmail.com to get on the list.

Sarah Circle

The Sarah Circle meets the second Tuesday of each month September through May. We meet in the LOL Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m. for coffee and treats followed by Bible Study. Our study is "Sixteen Bible Studies for your Small Group." It has been a new adventure and very enjoyable in every way! If you have any questions, please call Brenda at 218-831-9725.

Council Minutes

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

Present (8)

Greg Bennett

Pr. Erika Nilsen

Kevin Olson

Jolene Parks

Kurt Porter

Pr. Steve Rye

Donna Salli

Steve Schaitberger

Karla Skwira

Brian Orlowski

Josh Freelove

Guest (1)

Anne Laechel

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

Devotions by Pr. Rye. I Corinthians 12 and 13.

Discussion of removing Thrivent funds reallocation item from March Consent Agenda until further explanation.

Consent Agenda:

- Adoption of March 23, 2023 Agenda (CC.2023.03.01)
- Approval of February 2023 Regular Council Meeting minutes (CC.2023.03.02)
- Approval of February 2023 Financial Report (CC.2023.03.03)

Consent Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

Thrivent dollars reallocation discussed. MOTION to close current Thrivent Members Directed Funds account and transfer balance to Computers account until the Council shall designate a different fund. Motion by Bennett, second by Salli, all ayes (CC2023.03.04).

Annual meeting scheduling discussed. New fiscal year starts July 1. Factors of attendance, budget readiness, Barrett property proposal readiness discussed. May 21, 2023 at 10:45 a.m. selected for annual meeting. Additional pre-planning meetings set for Wednesdays, April 5 and April 12, 2023, 6-8 p.m.

Bennett, Porter and Schaitberger will gather information/fair market analysis of Barrett property and research possible adjacent property owners' (Sanford) involvement.

General Council guidelines discussed. Are two year terms long enough to build cohesion? Is Council focusing on current 5-year strategic plan? Council plans to review some aspects of strategic plan at each meeting. Leadership update notes and agenda could be linked and sent out sufficiently prior to Council meeting for review.

Laechel announced LOL will be receiving Employee Retention Credit (ERC) from IRS program in the amount of \$71,000 for following COVID mitigation protocols over the past two years. MOTION to pay Congregational Consulting Services, Inc. of St. Cloud, MN fee of \$3500 for processing claim. Motion by Bennett, second by Pr. Rye, all ayes (CC2023.30.05). Thanks expressed by Council to Laechel and Bennett for researching obtaining credit and to LOL staff and congregation for following COVID mitiga-

Calendar

Tuesday, May 2

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 am

Wednesday, May 3

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, May 4

Quilters, 9 am
Stephen Leaders Meeting, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm
Worship Planning Meeting, 5 pm

Friday, May 5

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Marie Anderson Visitation, 1 pm
Marie Anderson Funeral, 2 pm
Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, May 6

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, May 7

Worship, 9:30 am
Pancake Breakfast, 10:45 am
Micah Group Book Discussion, 11 am
LOL at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, 11 am
Holy Listening Session, 7 pm

Tuesday, May 9

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

Wednesday, May 10

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

Thursday, May 11

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Martha Circle, 1 pm

Friday, May 12

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Youth Rummage Sale, 8 am to 5 pm
Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, May 13

Youth Rummage Sale, 8 am to 2 pm
Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, May 14

Choir Practice, 8:15 am
Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 9:30 am
Holy Listening Session, 7 pm

Tuesday, May 16

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 am

Wednesday, May 17

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

Thursday, May 18

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

Friday, May 19

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

Saturday, May 20

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, May 21

Worship w/ Senior Recognition, 9:30 am
Congregation Annual Meeting, 10:45 am
New Member Conversation, 4 pm
Holy Listening Session, 7 pm

Wednesday, May 24

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

Thursday, May 25

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

Friday, May 26

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

Saturday, May 27

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, May 28

Worship, 9:30 am

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day, Church Office is Closed

Wednesday, May 31

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

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.

tion protocols.

Discussion of future financial priorities. ADA/handicap doors probably to be included into parking lot campaign. Financial priorities planning draft reviewed and noted for further discussion.

Directional Council Updates

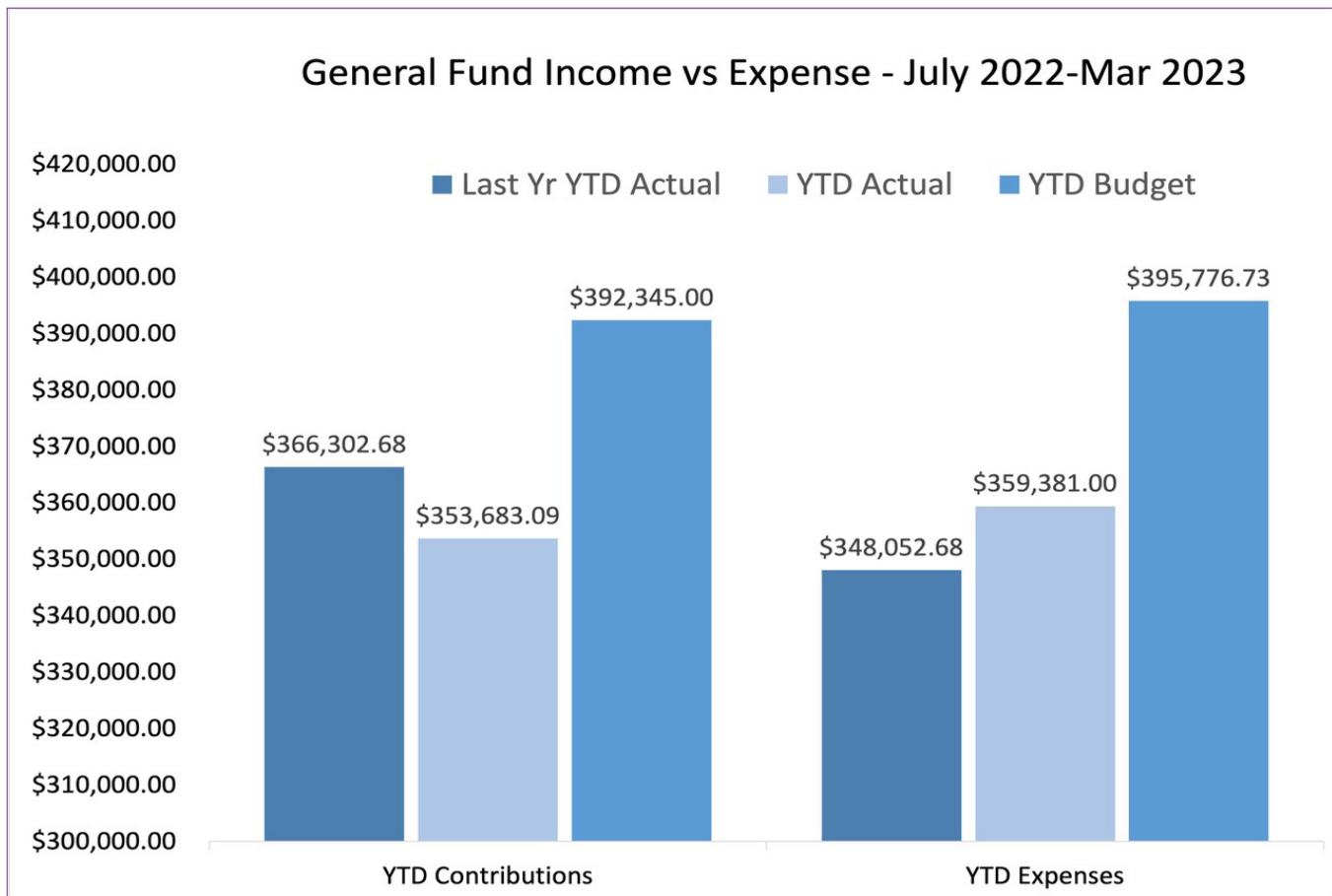
Salli (Outward): Hauters (missionaries serving in Brazil) in area until late May, looking at scheduling Sunday and Wednesday presentations. Micah Group parenting class going well. Habitat for Humanity will have more information on possible fund-raising presentations in April. Quilters now quilting for Lutheran World Relief. LOL members have been volunteering at homeless shelter. Pr. Rye noted Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen continues to need LOL volunteers on first Sunday of each month.

Skwira (Upward): Possible grant for ADA doors being researched. Accessibility Team is preparing survey regarding accessibility for all at LOL. Bennett will check into additional grant possibilities (i.e. through government programs).

Parks (Inward): Pat Dickson working on on-going library maintenance plan. ALICE safety planning discussed. Should a plan for action/follow-up be written up? Tabled for further thought/decision in April. Laechel reported new Aplos software transition almost completed.

Next regular Council meeting set for Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer led by Pr. Rye, 7:35 p.m.



Worship Volunteers



Scripture Reading

May 7: Irene Christofferson
May 14: Val Jones
May 21: Halbersma Family
May 28: Mark Jungclaus



Fellowship Treats

May 7: Youth Pancake Breakfast
May 14: Darlene Christensen
May 21: Pam Caughey
May 28: Maxine Sanders



Ushers

May 7: Jack Christofferson and Verdell Bose
May 14: Darrell Pedersen and Steve Jones
May 21: Thor and Julie Johnson
May 28: Stan Kalinoski and Ted Anderson



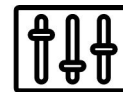
Musicians

May 7: Koreann Martin
May 14: Lord of Life Choir, Jennifer Person
May 21: Jennifer Person
May 28: VACANT



Communion Serving

May 7: Claire Rud, Karen Erickson
May 14: Jeannine zumBrunnen, Val Jones, Judy Bialka
May 21: Wendy Adamson
May 28: Patty Wallace



Sound Booth

May 7: Jason Feigum
May 14: VACANT
May 21: VACANT
May 28: VACANT



Greeters

May 7: Sid and Brenda Johnson
May 14: Irv and Rony Tollefson
May 21: Rick and Jeannine zumBrunnen
May 28: Darlene Christiansen and EJ Gehrke



Kids Time

May 7: Joe Erickson, Erika Dolven-Koll
May 14: VACANT
May 21: VACANT
May 28: VACANT

Pastor Steve Cont.

Having served as a pastor for many years, it seems to me that there is a wonderful sense of clarity and firm-footedness that one gets when one walks close to those waves. For those fortunate enough to understand the waves are close, usually, the understanding is borne by some diagnosis but it needn't be. One can—at any stage in life—take a reflective walk near the waves. And when you do...there is a certain clarity - a firm-footedness that living life can take on. At those points, no longer is one planning a trip to, say, South Dakota that one ****could**** take. With all the questions that go with it about which hotel to stay at and which sight/site to see, where to eat? Instead, life narrows to that thin band of sand between what was once the life we considered normal... and the incessant crashing of the waves that remind us of our mortality and the eventuality that we will be claimed. But not...just...yet!

In those moments - if we are given the grace to live in them - we walk. It's a great place to remember those who have gone before and reflect on the community we will soon join, to be at peace in a way that is hard to explain. Over the years, I have sat by the bedside of those who will soon die like Ken. The word I would use to describe that place isn't negative. Far from it. It takes on the character of being a holy place. As holy as the experience, I have in walking between the surf and the dry, powdery sand far away from the shore. It is, most of all, a place to reflect on our unique part in the cosmic expanse of time and a place to appreciate what a gift it is to have the ability to experience it.