

# Good News

June  
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

## *Lessons Learned in Creation*

Like many of you, I am currently basking in the Creation as the seasons change from freezing cold to sunny and warm.

Recently, I stood on Whipple Beach in Baxter and just took time to observe the sunset. The sky was colored orange and pink, and the light brilliantly shone off the water. In that moment, I understood how God could look on the sun and the stars, evening and morning at the beginning of creation and say, "Yep, this will do just fine."

While I was filming this beautiful sight, something flew through the frame. I figured since there was still plenty of time before the sun officially set, I could take a few minutes to look for what it was.

Turning, I found a Ring-Billed Gull sitting on top of one of the park buildings.

If you don't recognize this bird by its name, you may know it instead by its loud, screechy call, or you've probably seen hordes of them in fast-food parking lots, looking for those fries you dropped. In fact, these birds are known for hanging around landfills as one of their favorite places to get a meal.

Not really the same majestic image conjured up by that sunset, is it?

Still, as I observed the gull peering down from its perch above Whipple Beach, I couldn't help but look through the zoomed in shot of it on my camera as it groomed its white and grey feathers. And at that time I thought I could see how God looked at the first Ring-Billed Gull he ever made and say, "Yep, this too will do just fine."

This thought has been reinforced after doing some followup research on the gulls. I learned these gulls are, according to the American Bird Conservancy, "Model Parents." Two gulls will typically mate for life, find an area safe to raise their young alongside other gulls and



work together to ensure their chicks are fed, safe, and grow.

Having seen pictures, I can assure you that is a much more flattering image for these birds.

Once again, God taught me wonderful lessons through spending time in the Creation. The first is to look for the good in all things. The second is to not take one look at something and think you can judge it entirely.

And maybe one of the reasons I did not like looking at those gulls in the parking lots of fast food or hovering around landfills is that it drew attention to some unattractive human behaviors, namely littering and waste in general.

Still, just like with those birds, we are not defined solely by our mistakes. I hope that God has a plan for all of us that involves us making some positive difference in the world. And, I like to think that just like all the other creations He has made, when God looked at us when we were born He said, "Yep, this too will do just fine."

I hope you all have a wonderful summer,  
Tyler Jensen  
Communications and Volunteer Coordinator

# Youth Update

## **School Year Programming Comes To A Close:**

For the past nine months families have been gathering together on Wednesday nights for a variety of youth programs! As the school year has come to a close we take a break from these programs and shift to our summer ministry opportunities! I want to thank everyone who was involved in some way this year! A special thanks goes out to all the adult leaders, confirmation small group guides and confirmation mentors. We could not provide this style of programming without our committed volunteers to help out each and every week! Thank you!

## **Celebrating Our 2023 High School Graduates:**

On Wednesday, May 17th and Sunday, May 21st we gathered at Lord of Life to celebrate with this year's 2023 high school graduates! We had 22 graduating seniors this year from Lord of Life. Each graduate was presented and wrapped in a quilt which was made by the Lord of Life quilters. Each quilt shared a story and was made uniquely for each graduating senior. It is our hope that they feel the love and support from this congregation as they begin the next chapter in their lives! If you would like to view the worship service which includes a senior slide show with pictures, please visit our social media pages or YouTube channel.

## **Annual Youth Rummage Sale: Thank You!!!**

The second weekend in May, Lord of Life hosted the annual youth rummage sale for the community. For those of you who maybe stopped by or are familiar with this sale it is a large one! This is the largest fundraiser that the youth have throughout the year, with proceeds supporting the summer youth mission trip! I want to thank all of the volunteers who gave of their time and energy throughout the week of May 7th-13th. Thank you to the congregation and community that provided donations for the sale! This year was a great success! If you helped to provide tables or clothing racks they are available to be picked up!

## **Summer Stretch Launches June 8th:**

Throughout June and July you may see youth from Lord of Life and area ELCA congregations serving throughout the community on Thursdays! 7th-9th graders from Lord of Life will gather for service projects partnering with local organizations! If you see us within the community come say hi! We would love to share with you what we are doing for the day and throughout the summer!

## **DayCamp & serveCAMP Registration Deadline: Wednesday June, 14th**

The week of July 30th- August 3rd Camp Onomia counselors will be with us helping to lead our annual Day Camp and serveCAMP! There is still time to register! Go to our website or contact us for more information!

## **ELCA Summer Youth Group: Tuesday, June 26th**

Inviting middle school and high school youth from across the Brainerd Lakes Area for our monthly youth group! We will be meeting monthly at Trinity Lutheran Church. Middle school youth group is from 5:30 - 7 pm and high school is 7 - 8:30pm. No registration required.

## **Vacation Bible School**

Save The Date - Evening VBS for ages 3 - 4th grade.  
August 13 - 16. The theme for this year is "Pets Unleashed  
- Where Jesus Cares Fur You"



# 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*

“It takes a village....” That’s a phrase we hear often. And it does take a village to meet many of our community’s needs. One of those many needs is the lack of decent, affordable housing. There is a coalition in the Brainerd area that is attempting to meet some of that need. The My Neighbor to Love Coalition has come together to create housing and supportive services to ultimately meet the needs of from 18-36 people. Construction has started on Phase I of this plan. Creekside Community will have four small 400 sf studio apartments. Born of the belief that all people deserve safe, affordable housing, Vicky Kinney has led the efforts to get this project off the ground.

What can you do to help? Financial support is definitely welcome. This project does not involve using any state or federal funds. But there are other ways to help. There is a need for folks with experience sheetrocking. Other projects include laying flooring, painting and landscaping and they are willing to teach! Later, there will be opportunities to volunteer to be a supportive friend of the people who will be the first occupants.

These are the seeds that help combat homelessness and poverty. This is the way to be part of a village that cares for its own. The area lost the New Pathways Program for families in 2019. A warming shelter to help during the winter months has helped fill one gap. But there is much more to do if we are going to find permanent solutions.

Vicky Kinney will be coming to Lord of Life to provide more information on this new, exciting venture in our community. Plan on staying to listen to her speak about Creekside Community and My Neighbor to Love on June 25th after our Sunday church service. Want to help sooner? Contact Vicky at [vicky@mntlc.org](mailto:vicky@mntlc.org)

Let’s be that village who lifts people up and cares for its own.



# Member Milestones

## **Congratulations to our graduating seniors!**

Josh Albright, Emma Balsley, Emily Bastian, Isabella Bennett, Cayden Brown, Keegan Davidge, Hannah Sophia Drietz, Allie Dwyer, Emily Ehlert, Christopher Gratke, Micah Halbersma, Gavin Hoelzel, Chase Koop, Drew Larson, Brody Alan Lund, Samuel Mattson, Sophia Mattson, Gretchen Paysse, Cally Robertson, Tyler Stoen, Anna Tupy, Keaton Walkowiak



## **May Baptisms!**

- Aria Ann Cervantez, daughter of Paul and Deb, was baptized on May 7.
- Rhett Stewart Christofferson, son of Blake Christofferson and Kelsey Kunde was baptized on May 14.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world!

# Calendar

## **Thursday, June 1**

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

## **Friday, June 2**

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

## **Saturday, June 3**

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

## **Sunday, June 4**

Micah Group Book Discussion, 8:15 am  
Worship, 9:30 am  
LOL at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, 11 am  
New Member Conversation, 4 pm

## **Tuesday, June 6**

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

## **Wednesday, June 7**

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

## **Thursday, June 8**

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

## **Friday, June 9**

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

## **Saturday, June 10**

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

## **Sunday, June 11**

Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 9:30 am

## **Tuesday, June 13**

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am  
Sarah Circle, 1 pm

## **Wednesday, June 14**

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 6:30 pm

## **Thursday, June 15**

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

## **Friday, June 16**

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

## **Saturday, June 17**

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

## **Sunday, June 18**

Worship, 9:30 am

## **Tuesday, June 20**

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

## **Wednesday, June 21**

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

## **Thursday, June 22**

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

## **Friday, June 23**

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

## **Saturday, June 24**

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

## **Sunday, June 25**

Worship, 9:30 am  
My Neighbor To Love Forum, 11 am

## **Tuesday, June 27**

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am  
Middle School City Youth Group, 5:30 pm  
High School City Youth Group, 7 pm

## **Wednesday, June 28**

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

## **Thursday, June 29**

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

## **Friday, June 30**

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

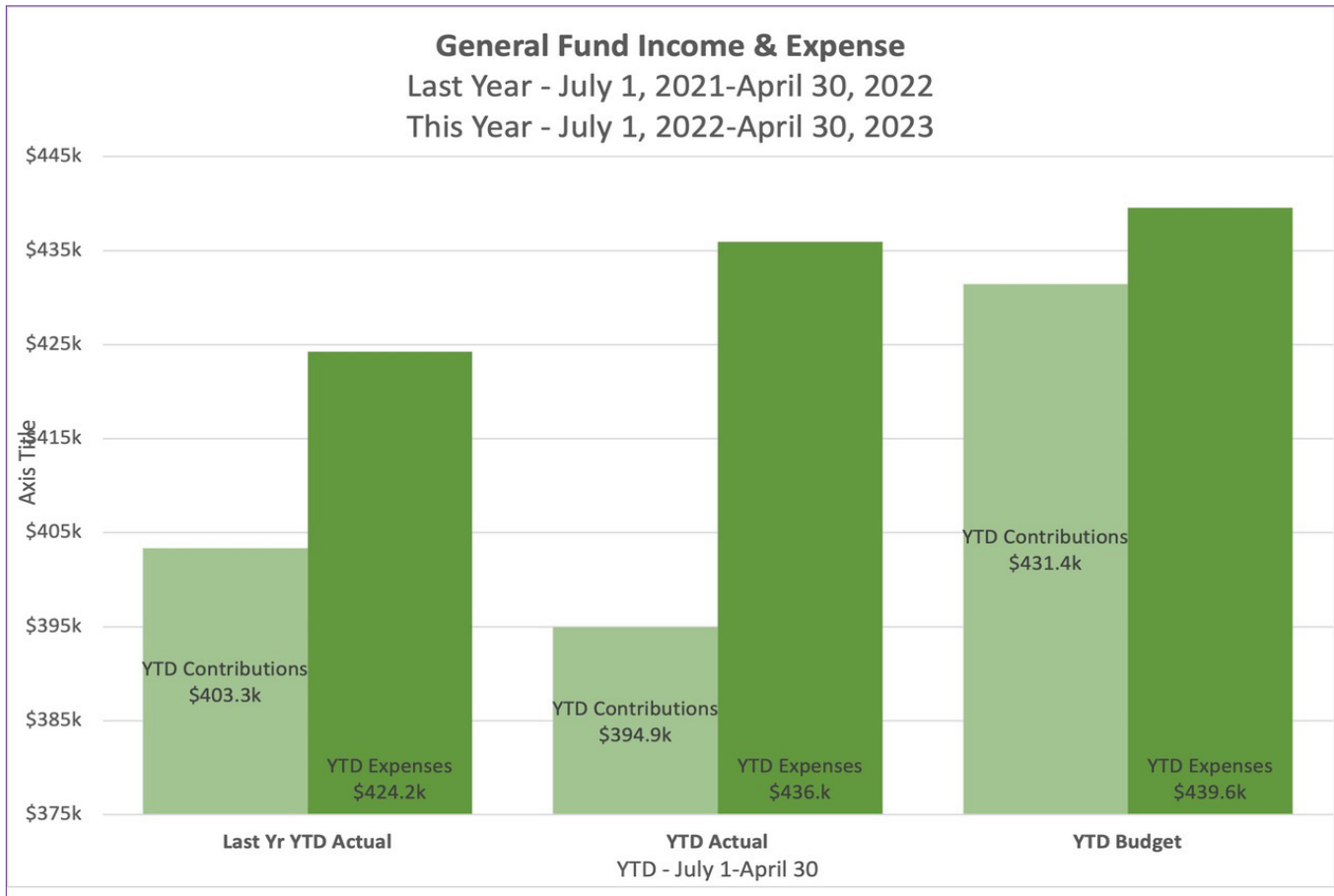
### **Custodians**

Paul and Karen  
Erickson

### **Music Coordinator**

Kennedy Niska  
kennedy@lolbaxter.org

# Financials



# Worship Volunteers



## Scripture Reading

**June 4:** Irene Christofferson

**June 11:** Val Jones

**June 18:** Mark Jungclaus

**June 25:** VACANT



## Fellowship Treats

**June 4:** Pam Beaulieu

**June 11:** Pam Caughey

**June 18:** Ginny Orlowski

**June 25:** Pauline Tischman



## Ushers

**June 4:** Jack Christofferson and Larry Lundblad

**June 11:** Steve Jones and Darrell Pedersen

**June 18:** Thor and Julie Johnson

**June 25:** Ted Anderson and Stan Kalinoski



## Musicians

**June 4:** Teresa Kingsley

**June 11:** VACANT

**June 18:** Jennifer Person

**June 25:** Koreann Martin



## Communion Serving

**June 4:** Claire Rud, Tammy Stellmach

**June 11:** Val Jones

**June 18:** VACANT

**June 25:** VACANT



## Greeters

**June 4:** Sid and Brenda Johnson

**June 11:** Irv and Rony Tollefson

**June 18:** Rick and Jeannine zumBrunner

**June 25:** Darlene Christensen and EJ Gehrke

# Master Class Bible Study

Pastor Steve's Master Class Bible Study, which meets Wednesdays at 7:30 pm on Zoom, has completed its study of the Old Testament and is now moving onto the New.

If you have considered joining this in-depth study of the Bible, now is a great time to jump in. Upcoming classes include:

June 21 - Lesson 34 - I Thessalonians & Philemon

June 28 - Lesson 35 - Philippians

July 5 - Lesson 36 - I Corinthians

July 12 - Lesson 37 - II Corinthians

July 19 - Lesson 38 - Galatians

July 26 - Lesson 39 - Romans

If you would like to join the group, please email [steven.rye@lolbaxter.org](mailto:steven.rye@lolbaxter.org).