

Good News

July
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

The Power Of Music

The lights in sconces on walls and in the chandelier above dimmed, then cut off completely. The Sanctuary was now lit by a sea of candles, each a small, but intense glow in the dark of the December night. Then, all began to sing:

"Silent Night, Holy Night. All is calm, All is Bright. Round Yon Virgin Mother and Child. Holy Infant so tender and mild..."

Christmas Eve Services at my grandparents' Church in New Ulm, Minn. are some of my earliest memories of worship.

Our family would finish a Christmas Eve party at my Aunt and Uncle's before making our way to the church, greeting numerous extended family, before finally sitting down in the same pews our family had been in for decades.

I cannot share with you thoughts on those Christmas sermons or tell you which exact Bible verses were read, but I can tell you how it sounded.

How the noise was almost deafening as everyone sang "Joy to The World," accompanied by the massive pipe organ at the front of the Sanctuary! or how beautiful "Away in the Manger" was.

Music has the power to tell us the Word of God, and also serve as a way for the Holy Spirit to shape our response to the Word.

Fast forward a number of years, and my family was once again in that old, familiar church. Only this time, we were there to say goodbye to my Grandmother, Alice.

She had passed away while she and my Grandpa were visiting family right before Thanksgiving. That year, as we tried to pick up the pieces after her sudden death, I thought to myself that there was not much to be thankful for.

But her funeral changed that.

By the time she had passed away, the Church Choir Alice had spent many years singing in had disbanded. But for her funeral, as many members as could still perform came back to send her off with one of her favorite songs.

"And He walks with me and He talks with me. And He tells me that I am His own..."

Looking back, at that funeral I had much to be thankful for. This included all the people who used their musical gifts to comfort my family. Even more importantly though, as this song, "In The Garden" tells us, God has called us His own, and through Him we have eternal life in Heaven.

As I write this, another musician is on my mind. On June 27, we laid to rest Jacob Borgstrom. Jacob's skill and passion for music awed me everytime I heard him perform here at Lord of Life.

As we prepared for the funeral, there was a lot of reflecting on his music. One of the songs I found was his "Christmas Hallelujah" from this past Christmas Eve.

"Well I know You came to rescue me. This baby boy would grow to be, a man who'd one day die for you and me...Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah."

I give thanks to God for Jacob's life and how he used his gifts to testify to the love God has for him and all of us. Please join me in keeping his family and all who loved him in your prayers.

This summer, Pastor Steve plans to continue to explore the power of music during his sermons. I am excited to hear him dive deeper into the messages behind these hymns and songs and I think you will too.

I look forward to hearing you in worship,
Tyler Jensen
Communications and Volunteer Coordinator

Youth Update

Summer Stretch: Serving Locally... Collaborating... Growing Together

We have two weeks remaining in our summer stretch program this year! Thank you to everyone who has participated. Together Lord of Life joined with seven ELCA congregations from across the Brainerd lakes Area and over 75 middle school youth! It was a blessing each week to serve our community in a variety of ways, explore weekly Bible studies and enjoy fun activities!

High School Summer Trip To Idaho Servant Adventures:

The time has arrived for our annual high school mission trip! We are excited to be traveling out to Idaho Servant Adventures this year. Our trip is July 14th-23rd. While we are away we ask for your prayers for our group and all of the congregations that are joining together for this experience! We look forward to sharing stories and pictures with you when we return!

Summer Youth Group Opportunities:

Missing out on youth group from the school year! Did you know that we have monthly youth group events in collaboration with the area ELCA congregations! Don't miss out on these opportunities! Youth groups are open to all 5th-12th graders and yes you can bring your friends! There is no registration required to participate.

Next ELCA Summer Youth Group:

Tuesday, July 25th

Location: Trinity Lutheran Church Brainerd, MN

Times: Middle School 5:30-7pm High School 7:00pm-8:30pm

Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Summer Programs

At the end of July and into August there are multiple summer ministry programs that are in need of adult volunteers! There are many different ways in which we could use your time, talents and gifts to provide quality summer programming. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the programs listed below please contact the church!

What Programs Can I Help With:

serveCAMP July 30th-August 3rd

VBS August 13th-16th

What Could Volunteering Look Like For You?

Below is a short list of volunteer options. A detailed list of volunteer needs will be posted at the church. Please contact us if you are interested or want to know more!

- Leader For VBS Stations
- Help with set up of stations / decorating for VBS
- Adult Leaders / transportation help for serveCAMP service sites (Typically in the mornings. Except of Monday August 1st which is in the afternoon.)
- Host Families for our counselors who could provide an evening meal & shower opportunities for our camp counselors
- Those willing to help provide / prepare a meal for serveCAMP campers / counselors during the week.



Council Minutes

Minutes from May 25th Meeting

Present: Pr. Steven Rye, Pr. Erika Nilsen, Kurt Porter, Andy Isackson, Greg Bennett, Jolene Parks, Karla Skwira, Erica Dolven-Kolle, and Brian Orlovski

Absent: Jessamyn Foley and Josh Freelove

Guest: Anne Laechel

Meeting called to order by President Kurt Porter at 6:05 p.m.

Devotions by Pastor Steven Rye.

Introductions

Consent Agenda

- Adoption of May 25, 2023 Agenda (CC.2023.05.01)
 - Approval of April 27, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes (CC.2023.05.02)
 - Approval of April 2023 Financial Report (CC.2023.05.03)
 - Motion to Authorize Treasurer Greg Bennett to sign the Authorization for Automatic Payments for Mission Investment Fund Loans form to autopay our monthly mortgage. (CC.2023.05.04)
- Motion by Greg Bennett to approve the consent agenda; Second by Jolene Parks. All ayes.

Discussion and approved to maintain the council meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Continuing Resolution (C13.06A23)

The members of the Executive Committee shall serve as the Personnel Committee of the congregation. All references to the Personnel Committee in the Personnel Handbook and any governing documents of the congregation will be understood to refer to the Executive Committee. When acting as the Personnel Committee, the Vice President will normally chair the meeting. Motion by Greg Bennett; Second by Karla Skwira – All ayes. (CC.2023.05.05)

Barrett Estate Property

Pr. Steven Rye has conversed with Good Samaritan Society and should the congregation vote to approve listing Lord of Life's land for sale, they would list their adjacent land at the same time. A proposal will be created in preparation for that congregational meeting, with the agenda to include authorizing the Church Council to act on the congregations behalf regarding the Barrett Estate.

Review of the 5-year plan decisions from the January Council Retreat

- Develop Mortgage Strategy
- Increase Volunteerism at Lord of Life in four areas:
 - Local
 - World
 - Members
 - Internal/Church
- Develop and Maintain a 5-year comprehensive plan in the following areas:
 - Staffing
 - Worship

Council Continued

- Programming
- Youth Ministry
- Increase the Number of Worship Opportunities to our Members
- Right-size Staff & Salaries to Current Needs
- Implement Family Stepping Stones Ministry
- Implement Inter-generational Life Experiences

Plans are moving forward to launch a second, contemporary worship service in the fall.

Discussion of Financial Report

Overall giving is steady. The checking account balance is up over previous years, but this is due in large part to the \$60k we have received in designated gifts toward the Parking Lot Fund.

Next regular Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with closing prayer led by Pr. Erika Nilsen at 8:00 p.m.

Member Milestones

June Baptisms!

- Callen Kae Hermanson, daughter of Kale and Elizabeth Hermanson, was baptized on June 4.
- Avery Jean Kempf, daughter of Alexander and Megan Kempf, was baptized on June 18.

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!

Community Events

Lakes Area Music Festival

The Thalea String Quartet will be performing Friday, July 14th at 6:30 pm, at Brainerd's Mississippi Landing Amphitheatre. For more information visit www.LakesAreaMusic.org.

Brainerd Area Friends of Concordia Corn Feed

This event for friends of Concordia, alumni and students will be held Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 5:30 pm at Roundhouse Brewery in Nisswa. Barbecue, corn and water is provided, please bring a dish to share. Please RSVP by emailing layneandhelene@msn.com or call (218) 851-0933.

Calendar

Saturday, July 1

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, July 2

Worship, 9:30 am

LOL at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen, 11 am

Tuesday, July 4

Independence Day, Church Office Closed

Wednesday, July 5

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am

Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, July 6

Quilters, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Friday, July 7

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 am

Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, July 8

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, July 9

Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 9:30 am

Micah Group Book Discussion, 11 am

Tuesday, July 11

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

Wednesday, July 12

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am

Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 6:30 pm

Thursday, July 13

Quilters, 9 am

Summer Stretch, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Parkinson's Support Group, 12:30 pm

New Member Conversation, 6:30 pm

Friday, July 14

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, July 15

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, July 16

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

New Member Conversation, 4 pm

Tuesday, July 18

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Wednesday, July 19

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am

Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, July 20

Quilters, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Friday, July 21

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, July 22

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, July 23

Worship, 9:30 am

Micah Group Book Discussion, 11 am

Tuesday, July 25

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Middle School City Youth Group, 5:30

pm

High School City Youth Group, 7 pm

Wednesday, July 26

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am

Worship, 6:30 pm

Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm

Thursday, July 27

Quilters, 9 am

Summer Stretch, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Friday, July 28

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, July 29

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, July 30

Worship, 9:30 am

ServeCAMP, 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

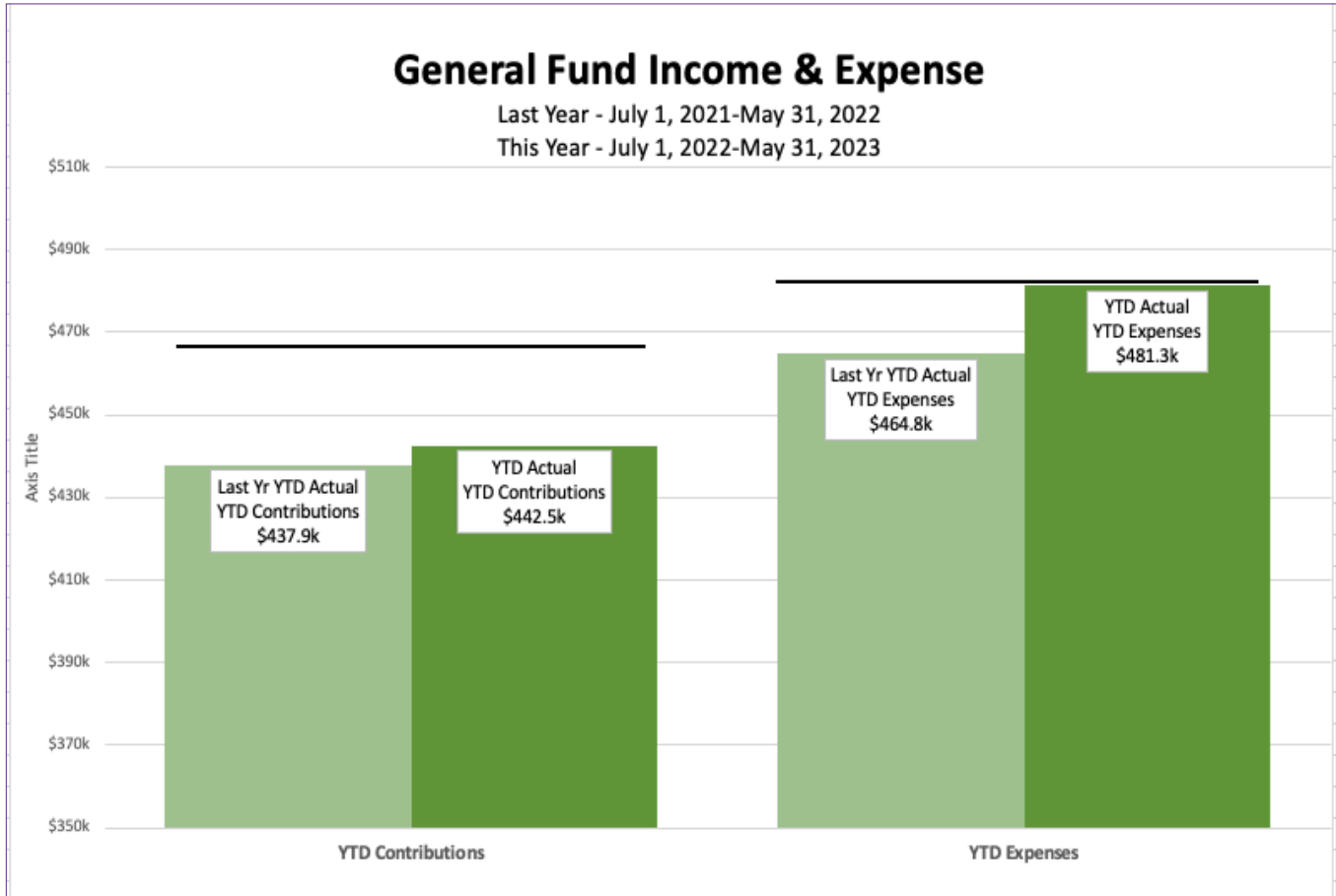
Erickson

Music Coordinator

Kennedy Niska

kennedy@lolbaxter.org

Financials



Worship Volunteers



Scripture Reading

July 2: Mark Jungclaus
July 9: Paul Springstead
July 16: Carol Rodseth
July 23: Deb Bergstrom
July 30: Val Jones



Fellowship Treats

July 2: Tyler Jensen
July 9: VACANT
July 16: VACANT
July 23: VACANT
July 30: VACANT



Ushers

July 2: VACANT
July 9: Pauline Tischman
July 16: Ted Anderson and Verdell Bose
July 23: Ted Anderson
July 30: Bruce and Sandy Jensen



Musicians

July 2: Jennifer Person
July 9: Koreann Martin
July 16: Jennifer Person
July 23: Jennifer Person
July 30: Koreann Martin



Communion Serving

July 2: VACANT
July 9: Val Jones, Wendy Adamson
July 16: Jeannine zumBrunnen
July 23: Deb Bergstrom
July 30: VACANT



Greeters

July 2: VACANT
July 9: Linda Hansen and Mary Ann Majerle
July 16: Mary Anderson and Jeannine zumBrunnen
July 23: Mary Anderson and Mary Ann Majerle
July 30: Mary Ann Majerle

God's Work, Our Hands

Signups for God's Work, Our Hands is now live! On Sunday, September 10th, we will go out into the community to do work at organizations that make a big difference. This year the three organizations we are partnering with are:

- The Alex and Brandon Center Child Safety Center;
- The Northland Arboretum; and
- The Bridge on 7th Warming Shelter.

At the Alex and Brandon Center and the Northland Arboretum we will be doing work outdoors such as gardening, painting, and other yard work. At the Bridge on 7th, we will help staff prepare the shelter for their opening for the season.

You can sign up for God's Work, Our Hands at lolbaxter.org, in the Narthex at Lord of Life, or by calling the office at (218) 828-9374. When you sign up, please let us know if you would like a God's Work, Our Hands t-shirt, and if you would like to stay for a meal afterward.