

Good News

August
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., Tue., Thurs.
8:30am - 5pm

Wed.
11am - 5pm

Contact Info
(218) 828-9374
office@lolbaxter.
org

*O God, you have called your servants
to ventures of which
we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.*

*Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that Your hand is leading us,
and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

My nephew/godson graduated from high school this summer and when I finally had a chance to see him and celebrate with him in July, when our whole family gathered at my parents' home in Des Moines for a family reunion, I shared this prayer with him. It seems so fitting for one who is just embarking on a new adventure – unsure of what the future will bring – and not always so sure about who is with him on the journey. Oh God, please be the hand that leads him . . .

At the same time, the prayer was embraced by my mom and dad, who, at 84 and 85 are at a very different juncture on their life journey than their grandson who is 18. Yet, they too, are facing a rather unknown future that feels peppered with perils and difficult paths to walk. Their bodies are aging fast, their mobility is shifting, their ability is lessening. Oh God, please give them good courage . . .

And for my siblings and I, I could see us each clinging to the words of this prayer our own lives – all of us in middle age – with changing circumstances with work and children and “where do we want to live when we retire” and “will there ever be enough money to retire” and “will our adult children be ok” and “what will aging parents demand of us?” Oh God, please give us faith when we cannot see our way through...

It made me realize just how often I have prayed this prayer. This prayer has accompanied me for much of my life in ministry and I



have often leaned into it and upon it – especially when I was scared or overwhelmed and when I could not even come up with the words to pray.

I wonder – what do you lean into and upon when you are scared and overwhelmed and unsure of what the future will bring? What is the prayer of your heart? Where do you find solace and strength amidst the perils and winding paths and darker moments of life?

One of the reasons I love to gather for worship each and every week is that I am once again reminded and assured that yes, this venture of life is complex and unknown and mysterious and gorgeous and tender and wild and surprising and painful and delightful and it is a venture to which we have all been called and have the privilege of walking together in all of its wondering and bewilderment. And for the journey God's love is supporting us and God's hand is leading us and in that we can be confident!

On we go! Together!
In Christ,
Pastor Erika

Youth Update

As I sit down to write the August newsletter, we are in the midst of our summer busy season programmatically. We are preparing to leave on our high school summer mission trip to Idaho. Summer Stretch has just wrapped up for the year and we are busy preparing for serveCAMP happening at the start of this month! Thank you to everyone who has supported these summer programs in many different ways! Here is some highlights from this past month and a look ahead to this month.

Summer Stretch: Thank You Participants & Volunteers

That's a wrap! Thank you to all the middle schoolers who participated from Lord of Life and area ELCA congregations! It was another great year of summer stretch! For six-weeks our group meet to serve within the community and enjoy some fun activities in the afternoon. Here is where Lord of Life served this year!

- **The Northland Arboretum**
- **Confidence Learning Center**
- **The Center**
- **Salem West Donation Center**
- **The Outreach Program of Brainerd Lakes: We packed 5,400 meals!**
- **Twins Game: No Service Project, but the Twins won 7-0!**

High School Summer Mission Trip With Idaho Servant Adventures!

As I write this we are two days away from leaving on our 10-day summer mission trip. We look forward to sharing with you highlights from our trip later this month! There is six area ELCA congregations that are partnering together for this summer trip! Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year in making this trip possible!

serveCAMP: July 30th- August 3rd

If you stop by church the first week in August you will be met with the sights and sounds of our annual serveCAMP! You may be greeted with the following: Camp style worship, camp games, wonderful counselors for Camp Onomia, our church backyard filled with tents! You may see us throughout the community serving in a variety of ways! We have over 20 middle school youth participating in camp this year! We ask for your prayers for a great week of camp! Look for pictures and stories to come!

August Youth Ministry Happenings: Mark Your Calendar!

- serveCAMP: Sunday July 30th- Thursday, August 3rd
- Middle School ELCA Summer Youth Group: Tuesday, August 22nd 5:30pm-7:00pm
at Trinity Lutheran Church
- High School ELCA Summer Youth Group: Tuesday, August 22nd 7:00pm-8:30pm
at Trinity Lutheran Church

For more information on upcoming events or programs listed above please contact us! You can visit www.lolbaxter.org or follow our social media pages for updates!

Life Groups

Would you consider answering the call to join a **LIFEgroup** starting in October?

John 10:10 reads, “I came that you may have LIFE and have it abundantly.” We know that in Christ, we are promised a life that is deep and rich and that we can encounter any circumstance that comes our way with trust and hope. We also know that the LIFE that Christ has in mind for us – the abundant life he speaks of in this simple verse is more fully experienced in the community – while walking alongside others!

LIFEgroups consist of no more than ten adults covenanting to connect eight times beginning in October. LIFEgroups will spend time together in fellowship, in reflection on a chapter or a topic, and a time of prayer. The time you spend together in your LIFEgroup will be time committed to deepening and enriching your fellow members, the community around you, and Christ. In order to help ensure the vitality of each group, one member from your group will be asked to attend an organizational meeting on Sunday, October 1.

Signup begins on September 17th - Rally Sunday.

We suggest one of these books for your group:

Whisper - How to Hear the Voice of God by Mark Batterson - Here's a description taken from the Amazon page: **“Many people have a tough time believing God still speaks. Sure, in ancient times and mysterious ways, God spoke to His people, but is He still speaking now? Mark Batterson certainly believes so. And he wants to introduce you to the seven love languages of God, each of them unique and entirely divine. Some of them you might suspect, but others will surprise you. By learning to tune in to and decipher each language, you'll be able to hear His guidance in simple and life-altering choices. God actively speaks through Scripture, Desires, Doors, Dreams, People, Promptings, and Pain. Batterson gives you the tools you need to unlock each of these languages. God's whisper can answer your burning questions, calm your deepest fears, and fulfill your loftiest dreams. Discover how simple it is to hear God's voice in every aspect of your life! He's speaking; make sure you know how to listen!”**

The Four Things That Matter Most by Ira Brock - Amazon depicts the book this way: **“This beautiful book, full of wisdom and warmth, teaches us how to protect and preserve our most valuable possessions—the relationships with those we love. It shows that the things that matter aren't 'things,' and how to empower your life in the right direction.”** —Dr. Stephen R. Covey, author of **The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People**

Questions God Asks Us, by Trevor Hudson - This book contains 10 biblical stories where God asks the biblical characters questions. Again, from Amazon: **“Transformation comes from questions, not answers. We often look to the Bible as the book of answers. How often, though, do we consider the challenging questions God asks? Hudson notes that Jesus was asked 183 questions in the Gospels but directly only answered three. The Creator teaches us as we teach children when they struggle with schoolwork: You learn more by doing than by being fed an absolute answer. In Questions God Asks Us, we're encouraged to focus on the quest rather than a resolution. Such an approach leads to deeper dialogue and intimacy with the divine. This is a critical turning point in our journey with God—as it was for the author.**

Micah Group

On August 20th at 11:00 a.m. (after our regular church service) we will have the opportunity to hear Destiny Brown do a presentation entitled Changing the Narrative. This is open to the entire congregation and presented by the Micah Group.

Talking about mental health and suicide can be an uncomfortable and uncertain topic that brings up different feelings, beliefs, and attitudes for everyone. Changing the Narrative is an interactive conversation that empowers participants to change their perceptions of mental health towards hope and resilience.

The goal is to know that help is available, suicide can be preventable, and healing is possible. The presentation covers the eight dimensions of wellness, group discussion about mental health, why it matters and how to talk about it, as well as touching on suicide prevention and resources available.

This session is to engage participants to think about their own mental health, as well as helping to change the narrative on mental health within the community.

Participants will:

- Understand the importance of language surrounding Mental Health and Suicide;
- Reflect on Eight Dimensions of Wellness;
- Identify risk and protective factors;
- Feel empowered to respond to someone in distress; and
- Discuss feelings, beliefs, and attitudes while talking about Mental Health and Suicide.

Destiny Tinnes (Brown) has worked in the mental health field for over five years. She works for Northern Pines Mental Health Center as the North Central MN Suicide Prevention Regional Coordinator. She is an advocate for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Destiny is a suicide loss survivor with a passion for suicide prevention, as well as working with law enforcement regarding suicide prevention/intervention.



Calendar

Tuesday, August 1

ServeCAMP
Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am
Day Camp, 9:30 am

Wednesday, August 2

ServeCAMP
Day Camp, 9:30 am
Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, August 3

ServeCAMP
Quilters, 9 am
Day Camp, 9:30 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Friday, August 4

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

Saturday, August 5

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, August 6

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

Tuesday, August 8

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Wednesday, August 9

ServeCAMP
Day Camp, 9:30 am
Joint ELCA Service at Lyman White Park, 5:30 pm

Thursday, August 10

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
New Member Conversation, 4 pm
Worship Planning Meeting, 5 pm

Friday, August 11

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

Saturday, August 12

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, August 13

Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 9:30 am
Micah Group Book Discussion, 11 am
Vacation Bible School

Monday, August 14

Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, August 15

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am
Vacation Bible School

Wednesday, August 16

Worship w/ Vacation Bible School, 9:30 am

Thursday, August 17

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Micah Group / Justice Table, 2:30 pm

Friday, August 18

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

Saturday, August 19

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, August 20

Worship, 9:30 am
MG "Changing the Narrative", 11 am

Tuesday, August 22

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

Wednesday, August 23

Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, August 24

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

Friday, August 25

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

Saturday, August 26

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, August 27

Worship, 9:30 am

Tuesday, August 29

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Wednesday, August 30

Worship, 6:30 pm

LoL Staff

Senior Pastor

Steven Rye
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Associate Pastor

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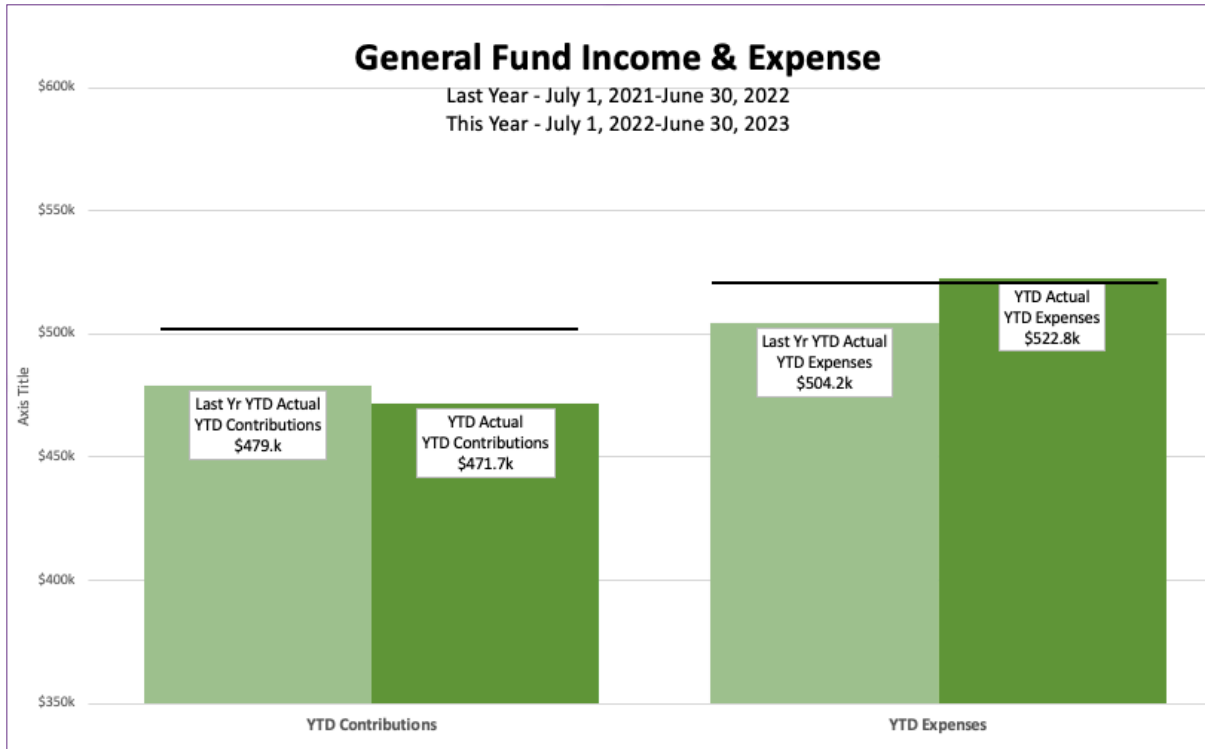
Custodians

Paul and Karen
Erickson

Music Coordinator

Kennedy Niska
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Financials



Please Consider a Gift to
the Capital Campaign

Contributions vs. Payments

Contributions to the Capital Campaign made up only 90% of what was owed for our mortgage, resulting in a shortfall of \$7k over the past 12 months.



Stephen Ministry

Over the last 5 years that Stephen Ministry has been providing care for LOL's members who are going through difficult life challenges, and also training and equipping other LOL members to walk alongside these folks in their struggles ... have you caught yourself saying, "Someday...?"

Might NOW be that "someday" for you?

Are you praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Are you willing to trust and jump into a grace-filled service to others and deep experience for yourself?

Would you like to know more about the nuts and bolts, hows and whys of Stephen Ministry?

A new training course will begin in September, 2023.

We, the Stephen Ministry Leaders at LOL, will be happy to answer your questions and help you discern whether now is the time for you to consider becoming a trained Stephen Minister. Please contact Tyler Jensen at 218-828-9374 to set up an appointment with any of the leaders, listed below, or contact any of us for a phone discussion.

Please also pray that LOL's Stephen Ministry be guided by the Holy Spirit as we seek to "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

Pr. Erika Nilsen (218) 828-9374 erika.nilsen@lolbaxter.org

Pr. Steve Rye (218) 828-9374 steve.rye@lolbaxter.org

Julie Johnson (651) 274-9223 whitebearjohnson@gmail.com

Lolly Kalinoski (218) 829-8207 lollykadlec@hotmail.com

MORTGAGE

Balance Due

\$620.2k

Interest Rate

4.875%

New Worship Times

We're so excited that it is time for us to go back to two Sunday worship services each week! Starting September 17th, we will have a traditional style worship service at 8:30 am, and a contemporary service at 10:30 am. Our vision is that the hour in between the ending of the first service and the start of the second service will be a time for programming for children and adults. Please indicate on your connection cards any services you would like more information about, you may select more than one.