

Good News

September
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.-Thu.
8:30am - 5pm

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

A Ministry for Everyone

I am writing this article just after I noted that singing the national anthem and saying a prayer at the upcoming Fishing Has No Boundaries event is on my schedule. It's a sign that the summer is over, and the fall programming season is about to begin. This is an event that I was recruited into by Pat Huhta when I first came to Baxter, and it is something that I have continued to enjoy being a part of. Children and adults of varying abilities can spend the day fishing on a lake, which is a great gift. And fun to watch.

When I think of Fishing Has No Boundaries, I think of two people: Vickie Borgstrom and Pat Huhta. Vicky is still heavily involved in the event, (she recruited me this year). Pat has gone to be with her beloved husband, Johnny. These women are leaders who gather community around ministry and invite people out of their normal lives into greater ministry. Fishing Has No Boundaries is just one of many, many ways they have done that over the years.

Throughout my career as a pastor, I have observed that the overall vitality of a congregation is directly related to the work of people who engage in that sort of work. People who gather others and bring them together in ministry. It doesn't have to be in grand ways. It can be as simple as showing up somewhere in our community to fill a need of another quietly. In our congregation, we have many. I would be foolish to try to go on and list them - I surely would leave someone out - but they lead bible studies, make sure that the grounds around our building are well-kept, see that we have a clothing giveaway, lead discussion



in confirmation groups, and so much more. Name a ministry at the church, and you can be sure it is dependent on a leader like Vickie and Pat.

As I said, I'd be foolish to mention them here - but in a past parish, one such leader had the given name of Alpha. Alpha Evans. And more than just a name, it was also a title within our congregation. She was an "Alpha." Many, many, ministries began because of the stirrings of the spirit within her - which she took the next step of acting on.

I challenge you, dear reader, to find something about which you feel the stirrings of the spirit. Scheme with a pastor or a staff member to make happen. Then, go out and gather others to join you. In this way, we expand the ministry of our congregation and bear witness to the love of Jesus to the world.

- Pastor Steven Rye

Youth Update

School Year Youth Programs Are Set To Launch!

The start of the school year means a new season in our program year is ready to launch. Have you checked out the exciting youth ministry programs we are offering throughout the school year? Here is a quick glimpse of ministry opportunities for your family that will be happening this fall!

Classes: Confirmation (students in 7th-9th grade) & Club 56 (students in 5th-6th grade)

Youth Groups: Teen's Upstream (High School) & Middle School Youth Group

Fun Events: Middle School Late Night Out & NE MN Synod All Youth Gathering

I want to invite you to take a moment to visit our website www.lolbaxter.org here you will find detailed information regarding programs listed above and links to register if needed. You can stay connected with us through our social media pages for future updates on youth ministry events and programs!

August Recap: serveCAMP / Day Camp

As the calendar turned to August we filled Lord of Life Lutheran Church with the sights and sounds of our annual serveCAMP & day camp. In partnership with Camp Onomia, campers were busy participating in the fun interactive worship, games and Bible study lead by amazing camp counselors. ServeCAMP participants were busy serving locally in a variety of ways. I want to give a special thank you to everyone who helped make this week happen. It takes numerous volunteers and service partners in the community who are willing to host our campers.

A Special Thanks To:

The Outreach Program of Brainerd

Common Goods

Bridges of Hope

Mid-Minnesota Women's Shelter

Operation Sandwich

Camp Onomia

Lord of Life Quilters

Lord of Life Faith Works Volunteers

Thank You For A Truly Amazing Summer!

As our summer has come to a close there are so many people that I would like to thank. Programs such as: Summer Stretch, serveCAMP, Day Camp, Our High School Mission Trip and VBS, cannot happen without the help of amazing volunteers. This summer alone at Lord of Life we had 75 volunteers who gave of their time and energy, gave leadership to, provided whatever was needed in order to help make these programs a success! We could not do it without your help and support! I also want to thank our community organizations and partners that partnered with us along the way!

Lastly, I am grateful for collaborative ministry that is happening within this community! Throughout the summer Lord of Life partnered with 7 area ELCA congregations in some way, from Summer Stretch to our high school mission trip to Idaho! Offering shared experiences that inspired a deeper and richer connection to Christ, our community and each other! Thank You!

Caring Friends

Are you interested in serving others?

The Caring Friends Group is a renewed initiative at our church focused on acts of service and love toward fellow members and others in need in our community. We are gathering names of people interested in being involved, and we hope to have a fully functioning group by September.

We believe that many people would like to get involved in helping others, but they may not know how to get started or may be afraid of being overwhelmed. Our staff is aware of many needs in our community, and we want to provide a way for people to connect with those needs and make a difference.

If you want to join the Caring Friends Group, please contact Tyler in the church office. You will be added to a group mailing list and receive communication about specific needs we are aware of. There is no obligation to help in any specific way, but we hope you will be willing to receive the information and consider how you can serve.

Some of the ways that you might be asked to help include:

- Providing rides to appointments or errands;
- Offering respite care for caregivers;
- Helping with yard work or household chores;
- Shopping for groceries or other necessities;
- Visiting people who are homebound or isolated;
- Writing letters or cards to people in need; and
- Volunteering at a local soup kitchen or homeless shelter.

No matter how you choose to serve, your kindness will make a difference in the life of someone in need. Thank you for your willingness to care for others!

How to get involved:

Contact Tyler in the church office to express your interest.

Receive communication about specific needs and consider how you can help.

There is no obligation to help in any specific way.

Your act of kindness will make a difference in the life of someone in need.

Micah Group

On Sunday, October 8th Lord of Life will celebrate Indigenous People's Sunday. It is an opportunity for our congregation to acknowledge and honor the rich cultural history of Indigenous Peoples throughout this country and recognize their valuable contributions to our community.

For many of us, we grew up learning the phrase "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue". We say he "discovered" America. The truth is that Indigenous Peoples had lived here for tens of thousands of years before his arrival. Unfortunately, European contact resulted in devastating loss of life, disruption of traditions and an enormous loss of lands for Indigenous peoples in the Americas. It is estimated that in the 130 years following first contact, Native America lost 95% of its population. *

For most of us that is an astonishing fact. As we reflect on history and the impact of Indigenous Peoples as a part of our lives and our community, you are invited to consider a land acknowledgement statement developed by a group called the ACEs Resiliency Coalition. It might be a springboard for further thought.

ACEs Resiliency Coalition Land Acknowledgement

"Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will; some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Truth and acknowledgement are critical to building mutual respect and connections across all barriers of heritage and difference.

We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Dakota and Ojibwe people. We pay respect to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the treaties made by the Tribal Nations that entitle non-native people to live and work on traditional Native lands. Consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration and settlement that bring us together here today. Please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all such public events."

**National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian*

Calendar

Friday, September 1

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

Saturday, September 2

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, September 3

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

Monday, September 4

Labor Day, Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 4

Tuesday Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Wednesday, September 6

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

Thursday, September 7

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

Friday, September 8

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

Saturday, September 9

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, September 10

Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 9:30 am
God's Work, Our Hands, 11 am

Tuesday, September 12

Tuesday Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am
Property Group Meeting, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, September 13

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Finance Team Meeting, 4 pm
Worship w/ Noisy Offering, 6:30 pm
Confirmation Orientation, 7:15 pm

Thursday, September 14

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

Friday, September 15

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

Saturday, September 16

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, September 17

Traditional Worship Service, 8:30 am
Ministry Fair, 9:30 am
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am
Rally Day Picnic, 11:30 am

Monday, September 18

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, September 19

Tuesday Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Wednesday, September 20

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, September 21

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

Friday, September 22

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

Saturday, September 23

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, September 24

Traditional Worship Service, 8:30 am
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am

Wednesday, September 27

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, September 28

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

Friday, September 29

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

Saturday, September 30

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

LoL Staff

Senior Pastor

Steven Rye
steven@lolbaxter.org

Associate Pastor

Erika Nilsen
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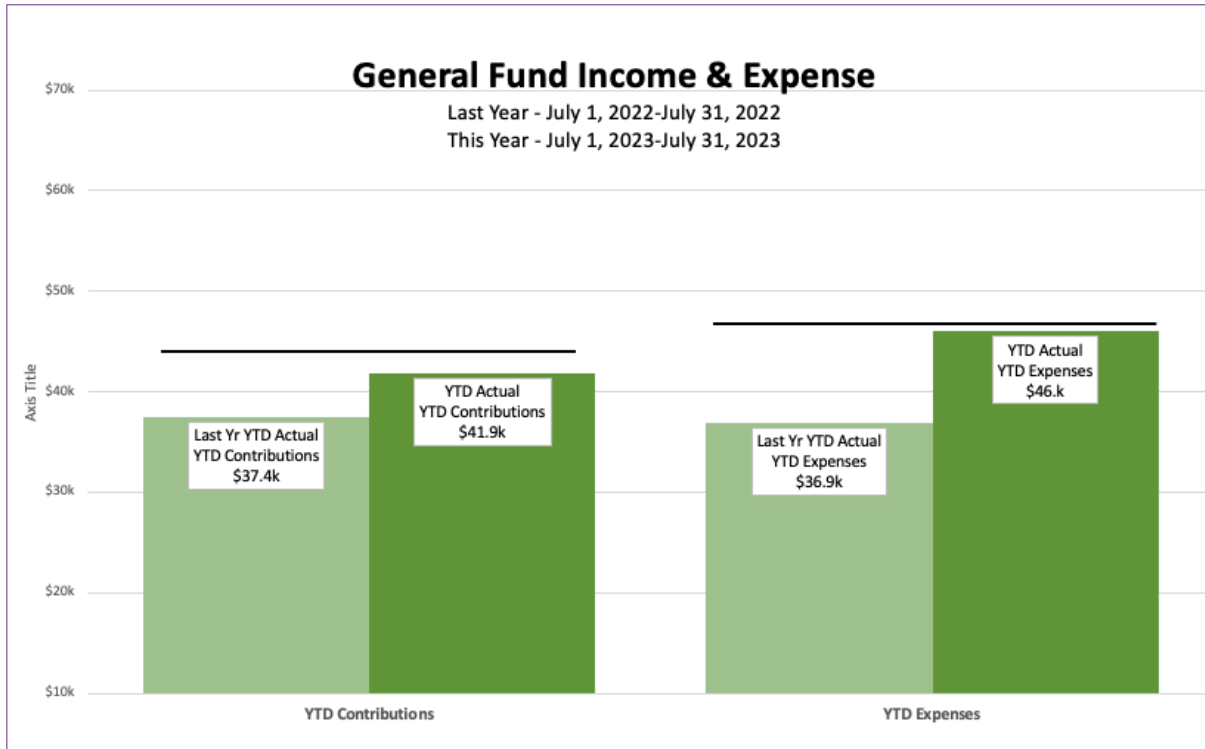
Custodians

Paul and Karen
Erickson

Music Coordinator

Kennedy Niska
kennedy@lolbaxter.org

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.



Worship in September

This month will see an incredible amount of activity on Sundays! First and foremost is that starting September 17th, we will be returning to offering two Sunday worship services.

The first will be at 8:30 am and feature a traditional worship service order, taken from the red ELW hymnals. Our first traditional service will feature the Lord of Life Choir! To fully immerse ourselves in that traditional feeling, we will be rolling out paper bulletins for this service. These include the service's readings, prayer concerns for the week, a table of contents for the service, and more.

With this, we will need volunteers to help fold bulletins each week. Please let Tyler know if you can help fold on Thursday afternoons.

The 10:30 am services will be more contemporary, using newer Christian music while also doing new takes on old favorites. One thing that will change with this service is that we will hand out prayer cards as you enter, and invite you to list things we should pray for during the service.

In between these two services will be a Community Hour. Here you can relax and enjoy a time of fellowship with one another or attend an educational event. We invite those coming to the traditional service to stay later and those coming to the contemporary service to come early and share this time.

On September 17th, our first Community Hour is a ministry fair, where you can learn more about the different ministries and groups here at Lord of Life. Future Community Hours will include Bible Studies, theological discussions, recreational events and more.

Our first community hour on Sunday, September 17th will be a time to learn more about the different ministries at Lord of Life during our annual Ministry Fair. Following the 10:30 am service, we invite everyone to enjoy a fun picnic to celebrate Rally Sunday.

Our final Sunday with just one service is September 10. Following this service we will celebrate the ELCA event God's Work, Our Hands. Here we will be the hands and feet of Jesus, volunteering at three sites around the community.

Our sites for this year are The Bridge on 7th Warming Shelter, The Alex and Brandon Child Safety Center, and the Northland Arboretum.

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 lodbaxter.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 to stay for a meal afterward.

Children's Ministry

3rd Grade Bible Class for kids and parents!

Monday evenings in October! 10/2,10/9,10/16,10/23

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Bibles will be giving out in worship on Wednesday, November 1st at 6:30 pm

Or Sunday, November 5th at 8:30 am or 10:30 am

Register at lolbaxter.org

Fall Kids Time

During each of our worship services on Sunday mornings, 8:30 am and 10:30 am, there will be a 20 minute lesson specifically for kids ages 3 through 4th grade where they have a chance to leave the sanctuary and learn a Bible story in a way that connects with them and nourishes their faith in God.