

# GOOD NEWS

December  
2018

Lord of Life  
Lutheran  
Church  
(ELCA)

## Worship Schedule

Sunday 9:00 am  
& 10:30 am  
Wednesday 6:00 pm

## Office Hours

Monday-Friday  
9:00 am-12 pm  
1:00 pm-3 pm

## Ministers

The Lord of Life  
Family of Faith

## Pastors

Steven J. Rye  
Erika R. Nilsen

## Contact Info

Phone:218-828-9374

Email:

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[www.lolbaxter.org](http://www.lolbaxter.org)

## The Power of Ritual

As a child, I have holy, sometimes hurtful, often hilarious memories of time together gathered around our family table, lighting candles, saying prayers, sharing scripture, and singing songs during Advent. Each week we would light an additional candle marking the movement of time and the coming of Jesus. We tried to have Advent devotions every night from the first Sunday of Advent through Christmas Eve. Some weeks were better than others. Sometimes all 7 of us (I'm the youngest of 5 children) would be seated around the table. Sometimes there would just be a few of us. One year, my brother Per was in treatment for drug and alcohol addiction during Advent so his place remained empty. Sometimes it was such a peaceful, quiet blessing in the evening and I could feel God's presence in our home. Sometimes we would fight, like only siblings can fight, about who gets to light the candles and who gets to blow them out and who gets to read the Bible verse and who gets to pray at the end. Sometimes we would spend the whole devotion running our fingers through the tops of the candle flames, trying to not get burned. But in all times, no matter who was there or how chaotic it was, there was a blessing to gathering, to remembering what this time of year is all about and just sitting in the presence of one another and God.

I'm almost 50 now and more than ever do I see a need for such time and ritual with my own family and in my own life and maybe most especially in the lives of young, EXTREMELY busy families. We are woefully lacking in wonder, in quiet and in connection – with God and one another. Our lives and calendars are full.

So I invite you, this Advent season, to take time to gather, to be, to sit and light a candle each day and reflect on the blessing of the God we call Emmanuel which means "God With Us." It may just be the best gift of Advent.

With you,

Pastor Erika

### **How to do an Advent Devotion:**

1. Light a candle (if you are able to before Advent begins make an advent wreath with four candles. Light a new/additional candle each week and see the light grow!)
2. Share your Highs and Lows from the day.
3. Share an Advent reading (daily devotions for families and adults will be available at church).
4. Pray
5. Share a blessing (making the sign of cross on foreheads and saying, "You are a beloved child of God" or "Let your light shine" or a blessing of your own making!!)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>9a</b> Worship <span style="float:right">25</span> <b>10a</b> Fellowship <b>10:30a</b> Worship <b>11:30a</b> Fellowship <b>7p</b> District Band Rehearsal	<b>6a</b> Women's AA <span style="float:right">26</span> <b>9a</b> SAIL Program	<b>7a</b> Baxter Area Kiwanis <span style="float:right">27</span> <b>1p</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:30p</b> Legacy Chorale	<b>9a</b> SAIL Program <span style="float:right">28</span> <b>5:15p</b> Wednesday Night Supper <b>6p</b> Worship <b>7p</b> 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation <b>7p</b> 9th Grade Confirmation <b>7p</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>9a</b> Lord of Life Quilters <span style="float:right">29</span> <b>10a</b> Men's Fellowship	<b>6:30a</b> Men's Breakfast <span style="float:right">30</span> <b>1p</b> Those Older Folders <b>7p</b> Friday Family & Friends Al-Anon	<b>1p</b> BHS Girl's Swim Team Event <span style="float:right">1</span> <b>7p</b> Lots of Love Open AA
<b>9a</b> Worship <span style="float:right">2</span> <b>10a</b> Fellowship <b>10:30a</b> Prayer Chain Inservice <b>10:30a</b> Worship <b>11a</b> Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen Ministry <b>11:30a</b> Fellowship <b>5:30p</b> Middle School Youth Group	<b>6a</b> Women's AA <span style="float:right">3</span> <b>9a</b> SAIL Program	<b>7a</b> Baxter Area Kiwanis <span style="float:right">4</span> <b>9a</b> Book Discussion <b>1p</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:30p</b> Legacy Chorale <b>6:30p</b> Team Meeting Night	<b>9a</b> SAIL Program <span style="float:right">5</span> <b>10a</b> Faithful Mothers <b>5:15p</b> Wednesday Night Supper <b>6p</b> Worship <b>7p</b> 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation <b>7p</b> 9th Grade Confirmation <b>7p</b> Choir Rehearsal <b>7p</b> Prayer Chain Inservice	<b>9a</b> Lord of Life Quilters <span style="float:right">6</span> <b>10a</b> Men's Fellowship	<b>6:30a</b> Men's Breakfast <span style="float:right">7</span> <b>1p</b> Those Older Folders <b>7p</b> Friday Family & Friends Al-Anon	<b>9a</b> Pray & Ponder Women's Breakfast <span style="float:right">8</span> <b>11a</b> Decorating for Advent/Christmas <b>7p</b> Lots of Love Open AA
<b>9a</b> Worship <span style="float:right">9</span> <b>10a</b> Fellowship <b>10:30a</b> Worship <b>11:30a</b> Fellowship <b>5:30p</b> Middle School Youth Group	<b>6a</b> Women's AA <span style="float:right">10</span> <b>9a</b> SAIL Program <b>6:30p</b> Pinetree Patchworkers	<b>7a</b> Baxter Area Kiwanis <span style="float:right">11</span> <b>1p</b> Sarah Circle <b>1p</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:30p</b> Legacy Chorale <b>7p</b> New Member Orientation 101	<b>9a</b> SAIL Program <span style="float:right">12</span> <b>5:15p</b> Wednesday Night Supper <b>6p</b> Worship <b>7p</b> 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation <b>7p</b> 9th Grade Confirmation <b>7p</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>9a</b> Lord of Life Quilters <span style="float:right">13</span> <b>10a</b> Men's Fellowship	<b>6:30a</b> Men's Breakfast <span style="float:right">14</span> <b>1p</b> Those Older Folders <b>7p</b> Friday Family & Friends Al-Anon	<b>7p</b> Lots of Love Open AA <span style="float:right">15</span>
<b>9a</b> Worship <span style="float:right">16</span> <b>10a</b> Fellowship <b>10:30a</b> Worship <b>11:30a</b> Fellowship <b>5:30p</b> Middle School Youth Group	<b>6a</b> Women's AA <span style="float:right">17</span> <b>9a</b> SAIL Program	<b>7a</b> Baxter Area Kiwanis <span style="float:right">18</span> <b>9a</b> Book Discussion <b>1p</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:30p</b> Legacy Chorale	<b>9a</b> SAIL Program <span style="float:right">19</span> <b>10a</b> Faithful Mothers <b>11:30a</b> L.O.L.L.Y. <b>5:15p</b> Wednesday Night Supper <b>6p</b> Worship <b>7p</b> 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation <b>7p</b> 9th Grade Confirmation <b>7p</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>9a</b> Lord of Life Quilters <span style="float:right">20</span> <b>10a</b> Men's Fellowship	<b>6:30a</b> Men's Breakfast <span style="float:right">21</span> <b>1p</b> Those Older Folders <b>7p</b> Friday Family & Friends Al-Anon	<b>7p</b> Lots of Love Open AA <span style="float:right">22</span>
<b>9a</b> Worship <span style="float:right">23</span> <b>10a</b> Fellowship <b>10:30a</b> Worship <b>11:30a</b> Fellowship	<b>6a</b> Women's AA <span style="float:right">24</span> <b>3p</b> Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship <b>5p</b> Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship <b>9p</b> Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	Christmas - Church Office Closed <span style="float:right">25</span>	Church Office Closed <span style="float:right">26</span> <b>9a</b> SAIL Program	<b>9a</b> Lord of Life Quilters <span style="float:right">27</span> <b>10a</b> Men's Fellowship	<b>6:30a</b> Men's Breakfast <span style="float:right">28</span> <b>1p</b> Those Older Folders <b>7p</b> Friday Family & Friends Al-Anon	<b>7p</b> Lots of Love Open AA <span style="float:right">29</span>
<b>9a</b> Worship <span style="float:right">30</span> <b>10a</b> Fellowship	<b>6a</b> Women's AA <span style="float:right">31</span>	New Year's Day - Church Office Closed <span style="float:right">1</span> <b>7a</b> Baxter Area Kiwanis <b>9a</b> Book Discussion <b>6:30p</b> Legacy Chorale	<b>10a</b> Faithful Mothers <span style="float:right">2</span> <b>5:15p</b> Wednesday Night Supper <b>6p</b> Worship <b>7p</b> 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation-Mentors <b>7p</b> 9th Grade Confirmation <b>7p</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>9a</b> Lord of Life Quilters <span style="float:right">3</span> <b>10a</b> Men's Fellowship	<b>6:30a</b> Men's Breakfast <span style="float:right">4</span> <b>1p</b> Those Older Folders <b>7p</b> Friday Family & Friends Al-Anon	<b>9a</b> Pray & Ponder Women's Breakfast <span style="float:right">5</span> <b>7p</b> Lots of Love Open AA

## A Service for Grief and Hope Monday, December 17th at 6:30pm

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, we don't all feel hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses often feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time.

So let's gather together to provide a time and place of solace during this frenetic time surrounding the celebration of Christmas. Let's come together to seek healing and make room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion. Let's come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.

### Mission Trip Contribution Information

**NOTICE** – Funds designated toward a specific individual for a Lord of Life mission trip are now tax-deductible. In making a tax-deductible charitable contribution to Lord of Life's Mission Trip ministry, your gift becomes the sole property of Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Lord of Life has complete discretion and control over the donated funds and reserves the right to redirect funds designated for a specific individual toward other trip participants or other mission trips in general. Tax-deductible charitable contributions cannot be refunded. If you contribute funds toward Mission Trips and, for any reason, the designated individual does not participate in the trip or has exceeded their fundraising goal, the excess funds will be directed to other mission trip participants and/or future trips. Students may no longer "bank" money toward their own future trips.



### Christmas Caroling

Mark your calendars and join us for Christmas caroling after the 10:30 am worship service on December 9.



### Prayers for Strength, Comfort and Healing for...

**Becky Bennett**, who is undergoing chemo.

**Seth Pederson**, son-in-law of Bruce & Carol Femling, who has cancer of the liver and is having further tests done.

**Tonya, Rick & Renzen Caughey**, who lost their home in a house fire. Prayers for Rick who is recovering from injuries.

**David Schliek**, who has stage 4 cancer.

**Bruce Femling**, as he recovers from a single lung transplant.

### Our members & family in the Military:

Eric Nelson, James Nelson, Aaron Sopelle, Ben Correll



### Brooks Austin Farber Lange

November 11, 2018

Parents: Christopher & Ashlyn Lange

Sibling: Waylyn

### Prayer Chain In-service

Our next in-service will be Sunday, December 2 at 10:30 am or Wednesday, December 5 at 7:00 pm.

We require a commitment of each member to attend at least one prayer chain in-service during a 12-month period. It is the individual's responsibility to be sure they attend an in-service.

What is the Prayer Chain? To faithfully lift up in prayer the needs and concerns of our church family and our loved ones, remembering what Jesus told us.

*"Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:19-20:*

Successful accomplishment includes praying for new requests received via phone, email, or our web; praying for people who receive prayer shawls; and praying for the newly baptized. If you would like to join this group, please come to our next in-service.

# Join Us This Advent Season For The Gifts of Advent



A gift is given freely and offered in love. In the weeks before Christmas, we often race around finding just the right gifts for friends and family. The season of Advent is itself a gift—a time set apart to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. We give thanks for God’s gift to us in the baby of Bethlehem.

During the four weeks in Advent, on Wednesday and Sundays, we will highlight four aspects that become blessings and gifts in our lives: patience, speech and silence, hope and family.

## **Week 1-December 2: The Gift of Patience**

*Psalm 37:1-9; James 5:7-11; Mark 13:24-37*

Waiting is hard. We eagerly anticipate the desires of our hearts and want them to come soon. We wait for the first day of school or the first snowfall. We wait to see a loved one or to hear a doctor’s news. Just as the farmer waits for crops or the fig tree waits for summer, we are reminded to be patient until the coming of the Lord.

## **Week 2-December 9: The Gifts of Speech and Silence**

*Psalm 19; James 1:17-21; Luke 1:5-25, 57-66*

Encountering the angel of the Lord, Zechariah was struck speechless. His imposed silence became a time to reflect on the wonders of God. Like Zechariah, we are called at times to be silent and listen, at other times to shout with joy.

## **Week 3-December 16: The Gift of Hope**

*Psalm 33:13-22; Romans 8:18-25; Luke 1:67-79*

Hope is a word on which our future rests. We cannot know what will come, but with faith we place our hope in Christ. Like Zechariah, we hope for the tender mercy of our God, light in the midst of darkness and death, and the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins.

## **Week 4-December 23: The Gift of Family**

*Psalm 96; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 1:1-17*

The Gospel of Matthew begins with a family tree from Abraham to Jesus. Between the recitation of names, we also hear the story of God at work in our world from generation to generation. The Advent and Christmas seasons highlight the significance of family and friends in our lives. We witness Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, and the shepherds together tending their flocks. As God’s children, we become part of the family tree.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation  
October 28, 2018**

Ella Berry	Elle Bruggeman
Kayla Bush	Kyle Bush
R. J. Campbell	Hayden Carlson
Maren Christiansen	Tristan Dawson
Griffin Decker	Mari Devine
Jackson Dwyer	Joseph Figliuzzi
Simon Foss	Paul Freelove
Madison Genz	Erin Hoelzel
Alison Kohout	Bailey Koop
Brandon Krall	Haden Kruse
Halle Kruse	Taisha Linder
Theo Lund	Ashley Marichalar
Elizabeth Mattson	Nole Robertson
Tyler Schaitberger	Olivia Stirewalt
Kiarra Story	Gabriella VanHorn
Macey Whitlock	Noelle Youngquist



**Psalm 23 for the Brainerd Lakes Area**

Lord of Life has been offering a seven week course entitled, "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible." During one of the class sessions, we had the assignment of putting the 23rd Psalm into the context of Brainerd, Minnesota -2018. Here's what we came up with:

The Lord is my Fishing Guide  
He provides everything for my trip  
He takes me to the best lakes; with the best fishing  
He brings me to clear waters  
He gives me new strength  
He teaches me proper fishing techniques;  
to protect his reputation as a fishing guide

Even though I fish in highly dangerous weather  
I won't fear capsizing  
For you will steady my boat  
Your rod, reel & life vest will protect me

You prepare a shore lunch for me  
In front of the DNR  
You anoint my head with sunscreen  
And fill my cooler with beer

Surely limits and big fish will be in my livewell  
All the days of my life  
And I will stay in a Fly-in-Fishing Cabin  
My whole life long.

*How Lutherans Read the Bible Class October 29, 2018*

**Three Ways to Give this Christmas**

In this busy holiday season, there are 3 different ways to give to the local and international community. See the Narthex for more information about each option:

**ANGEL TREE:** Some little angels in our community need some extra help this year to make their holiday bright. Select a tag from the Angel tree and purchase any gift listed but also please include at least one clothing item. All unwrapped gifts need to be **dropped off at the Salvation Army at 208 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street by Friday December 7th**. Please have the unwrapped gifts include the Angle Tag and make sure the information on the tag is also on the gift.

**CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS TREE:** Please consider donating grocery and gas gift cards from area businesses. These gift cards are used for local families in need during the holiday season and throughout the year. Any denomination helps.

**ELCA GOOD GIFTS:** Give a gift that helps grow the church, fights hunger and transforms lives. Support the ELCA global mission to fight hunger by purchasing a gift of a chicken, cow, pig or more on behalf of a loved one. Your gift will support mission work in 83 countries and is tax-deductible. For more information see the display in the Narthex or visit [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts).

# Trunk or Treat



Trunk or Treat was held on Wednesday, October 31 from 5 pm to 7 pm in the west parking lot. It was great fun and a huge success with over 300 kids coming through. Plans are being made to have one again next year.



## This Month on Your Connection Cards

Every month we feature ministries that you can take part in and they can be found on your Connection Cards. Mark your Connection Cards or email the church office at [colleen@lolbaxter.org](mailto:colleen@lolbaxter.org) if you would like more information or be a part of this group.

**Thursday Men's Fellowship** - Meets on Thursdays at 10:00 am in the Commons at Lord of Life. Come for coffee, donuts, conversation and Bible study. For more information contact Ted Anderson 218-831-1372.

### God at the Movies

Join us in watching a movie and talking about it afterwards. Check your Connection Card and let us know you are interested. We will email you when a movie is picked and tell you the date and time. After the movie we will pick a meeting spot and discuss how we saw God in that movie.

### Sound & Light Technicians

Would you like to help out in the sound booth on Sundays and Wednesdays? Running sound and power point is easy to learn, and we will train you.

### Mens Breakfast

Join the Men's Breakfast every Friday at 6:30 am at Lord of Life for Bible study, fellowship, fun and food. For more information contact Ted Anderson at 218-831-1372.



**The Giving Tree** - Our giving tree is up and ready for your handmade scarves, hats and mittens. If you would like to help fill our tree, we have yarn available in the Narthex. If you are not a knitter and would like to

donate store bought scarves, hats and mittens, we will gladly take them. If you are a Teacher or if you know of someone that could use hats, mittens and scarves this winter, please take the item(s) off our Giving Tree and take the items to them or let them know about our Giving Tree at LOL.

**Wednesday Suppers** - Join us on Wednesdays at 5:15 pm for supper. December 5 will be a potluck; please bring a dish to pass. If you would like to bring a dessert or make a Wednesday supper, email the church office at [colleen@lolbaxter.org](mailto:colleen@lolbaxter.org). There will be no supper on Wednesday, December 26.

**Would you like to help shovel our sidewalks?** We are looking for volunteers to help with snow shoveling this winter. Volunteers will take a one week slot and shovel the sidewalks twice a day if it snows. If you would like to help with this, please email Colleen at [colleen@lolbaxter.org](mailto:colleen@lolbaxter.org).

**Men** - Mark Your Calendars - The Men's Retreat will be held on February 22-23 at First Lutheran Church in Brainerd.

**Bad Weather Closings** - If we are closing the church due to bad weather, information will be found on our Facebook page and the front page of our website.

**Gifts Encouraged for the Seminarian Scholarship Fund** - We have a generous member who has agreed to match all donations given to the Seminarian Scholarship Fund up to \$1,000. You can double your gift by sending it in at this time. Donations will be used to support any child of this congregation who goes on to attend seminary with the intention of serving as a rostered minister in the church.

**LOLLY (Lots of Living Left Yet)** - Will meet on Wednesday, December 19, at 11:30 am for a potluck lunch in Fellowship Hall. For more information call either Pat Huhta 218-330-3447 or Mary Anderson 218-330-6171.

Greetings,

Christ's blessing to you to have a blessed Christmas! Please take time to read the poem in the next column called "How the Great Guest Came", as this is what Stephen Ministry is! Please keep praying for our Stephen Ministry!

Lolly and Deb

## How the Great Guest Came

by Edwin Markham

*It happened one day at the year's white end —  
Two neighbors called in on their old-time friend  
And they found the shop, so meager and mean,  
Made gay with a hundred boughs of green.*

*Conrad was stitching with face ashine,  
But suddenly stopped as he twitched a twine:*

*"Old friends, good news! At dawn today,  
As the cocks were scaring the night away,*

*The Lord appeared in a dream to me,  
And said, 'I am coming your Guest to be!'*

*So I've been busy with feet astir,  
Strewing the floor with branches of fir.*

*The wall is washed and the shelf is shined,  
And over the rafter the holly twined.*

*He comes today, and the table is spread  
With milk and honey and wheaten bread."*

*His friends went home; and his face grew still  
As he watched for the shadow across the sill.*

*He lived all the moments o'er and o'er,  
When the Lord should enter the lowly door —*

*The knock, the call, the latch pulled up,  
The lighted face, the offered cup.*

*He would wash the feet where the spikes had been,  
He would kiss the hands where the nails went in,*

*And then at the last would sit with Him  
And break the bread as the day grew dim.*

*While the cobbler mused there passed his pane  
A beggar drenched by the driving rain.*

*He called him in from the stony street  
And gave him shoes for his bruised feet.*

*The beggar went and there came a crone,  
Her face with wrinkles of sorrow sown.*

*A bundle of faggots bowed her back,  
And she was spent with the wrench and rack.*

*He gave her his loaf and steadied her load  
As she took her way on the weary road.*

*Then to his door came a little child,  
Lost and afraid in the world so wild,  
In the big, dark world. Catching it up,  
He gave it the milk in the waiting cup,  
And led it home to its mother's arms,  
Out of the reach of the world's alarms.*

*The day went down in the crimson west  
And with it the hope of the blessed Guest,  
And Conrad sighed as the world turned gray:*

*"Why is it, Lord, that your feet delay?  
Did you forget that this was the day?"*

*Then soft in the silence a Voice he heard:  
"Lift up your heart, for I have kept my word.  
Three times I came to your friendly door;  
Three times my shadow was on your floor.  
I was the beggar with the bruised feet;  
I was the woman you gave to eat;  
I was the child on the homeless street!"*

## RENEW YOUR LIFE

Often times we come crawling into the new year – emotionally spent from holiday gatherings, physically weary from the full calendars, stomachs full, and houses overwhelmed with stuff.

Which is maybe exactly why we make new years' resolutions for healthier diets and more exercise and increased prayer time – our bodies, our minds and our souls are crying out to be renewed.

This year at Lord of Life we want you to not only commit to a healthier diet in the new year – we want to help you commit to a renewed relationship with God and to practice tapping into God's spirit – the greatest renewable energy source we have!

Starting on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Steve and I will be offering a preaching series based on the book "Renew Your Life – Discovering the Wellspring of God's Energy" by Kai Nilsen. Each week we will focus on a different kind of energy that comes to us from our loving God and how we might draw from that energy for renewed life.

Along with preaching, we will be inviting the congregation into conversation each week. This may take the shape of weekly small groups that will meet in homes for 8 weeks, or conversation tables following worship each week.

If you'd like to purchase a copy of the book or as an ebook you may do so on Amazon or at <https://www.ivpress.com/Search?q=renew+your+life>

And start thinking about who you might like to journey with as you explore the renewing of your life. We will be forming small groups of 8-12 that will ideally commit to meeting weekly for 8 weeks.

I'm really looking forward to discovering together the wellspring of God's energy and what it will mean for our lives!

Peace,

Pastor Erika



December greetings!

I wanted to drop a few hints of how to stay healthy for the holidays so you can enjoy this season.

1. Don't sit down all day! We know every Christmas special under the sun will be showing on the TV, but don't sit on the sofa all day! Encourage the whole family to get out for a walk at some point – ideally, after dinner to aid digestion. The more activity, the better, so take along any new outdoor gifts, like bikes, scooters, footballs or Frisbees, or play old-fashioned games.

2. Don't give yourself a Christmas stuffing! Recent research suggests that we consume around 3,000 calories in our [Christmas dinner](#) – more than the entire recommended daily intake for a grown man! This huge feast not only contributes to weight gain but also to indigestion and heartburn – not to mention lethargy for the rest of the day, reducing the chances of you burning much of it off. Instead of gorging yourself on Christmas dinner, eat a normal-sized meal and then take a 20-minute break to see if you are still hungry (it takes this long for the brain to register that the stomach is full). The chances are, you'll realize you've had enough.

3. Do something for others: It is hard to avoid the consumerism that has overtaken Christmas! So, try to do something nice for someone, maybe shovel their walk, bring them some food or even just smile and say something nice. Being kind does wonders for our brains and hearts!

4. If your Christmas duties include cooking the dinner, you won't be delighted to hear that according to the Food Standards Agency, December is one of the most common months for people to get food poisoning. To minimize the risks, don't leave food out all day. Put out small amounts at a time, so that what is on the table has just been cooked or just come out of the fridge. Ideally, try to use any leftovers within 48 hours or freeze them. As for the turkey, always defrost it in the fridge, allowing 10 to 12 hours per kilo and do not wash the bird, as this can spread bacteria around, which will be destroyed by cooking anyway.

5. Engage your brain! Instead of switching off in front of the TV, keep your mind active by playing games like Trivial Pursuit or Charades. This is also a great way of getting everyone together.

Remember: Jesus is the reason for the season! Wishing you all a very merry Christmas!

Deb Bergstrom BSN, RN  
Parish Nurse



## Youth Ministry Update: December

There is a lot that has happened over this last month and a lot to look forward to. I hope you take a moment to get caught up on all that is happening with the youth ministry programs!

### November Recap:

At our Confirmation parent night, we had a great conversation around social media. Focusing in on how we use it, establishing healthy habits and

learning more about the influence it has on our lives and faith. We also had a fun service event where students went shopping for Operation Christmas Child and packed shoeboxes to be sent all around the world.



### Middle School Youth Gathering

Twenty 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Lord of Life descended upon Cragun's along with hundreds of youth from across Northeastern Minnesota. Our theme focused on the Holy Sacraments of Communion and Baptism. This was an action-packed event and one that I know our kids will never forget!

**NOOMA Retreat:** 9<sup>th</sup> graders and their mentors enjoyed a night working through the Rob Bell NOOMA series of videos and discussions. This event was a time for students to dig deeper into their

faith, the world around them and have self-reflection time. Don't forget about the fun games and spending the night at the church. An event I'm sure they won't forget!



**Mission Trip:** The high school 2019 summer mission trip has been booked to the Adirondack Mountains, New York. The trip is filling up fast and I look forward to sharing more about the trip in the coming months.

## This Month What's Happening



**The Annual Teen's Upstream Christmas Program:** Join us Wednesday, December 12 & Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. You won't want to miss it. Come support the youth of our congregation to see and hear some amazing talent!

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation:** December 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> we will be out in the community for Confirmation class. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be going to Forestview Middle School to the Planetarium for the "Christmas Star" Program. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, you may see our small groups around town as we are out ringing bells for the Salvation Army. If you see us, come and say hi!

### Mark Your Calendar:

No Confirmation Class December 26<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Break)



# Caring Friends Lefse Making!

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Lefse Project at Lord of Life. We had 21 people helping on Friday, November 16, and 17 people on Saturday, November 17.

Thank you to everyone who supported this project by buying the lefse. We had fun rolling lefse as the flour was flying!

The money raised will be used to assist individuals and families in need.

Caring Friends of Lord of Life





Our church work day was Saturday, October 27. We had a great day for completing the fall landscape and clean-up around the church. Thank you to everyone that helped.

Dear Lord of Life,

Greetings from Luther Crest! Thank you for your continued partnership. Your gift of \$154 directly impacts the lives of many.

Camp these days is bustling with fall and winter retreat activities and our annual Christmas Bake Sale! Preparations for Summer 2019 are being made as well. We are already starting to get summer registrations as of November 1st.

In addition, we recently launched the Rise Up Campaign to remove our debts from our cabin, dining hall, chapel and green space projects and to see Luther Crest on a strong foundation once again.

Your Partner in Ministry,

David Holtz  
Executive Director

**Thank you from Social Concerns/Missions Team-**

Thank you for the generous donations of both food and time in support of preparing and delivering the Thanksgiving Food Baskets for area families. The outpouring of Lord of Life's congregational support for the community is a true help to those in need.

Thank you so much for the kind and loving thoughts at the passing of our mom. Thank you for providing support and food and comfort for her funeral.

*The family of Rose Hanson*

**3rd Grade Bibles**

Congratulations to our 3rd Graders who received Bibles on Sunday, October 28.

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Avery Coonfield | Hakon Haapajoki |
| Kai Halbersma   | Nolan Jendro    |
| Landon Lofstrom | Beckett Miller  |
| Taryn Mithun    | Raegan Norquist |
| Rhett Sjostrom  | Rylie Strus     |



Date	Sunday 9 am	Sunday 10:30 am
December	Ushers	Ushers
2	Hawk Hawkinson Ted Anderson	Josh Anderson Josh Freelove
9	Verdell Bose Steve Drietz	Ed Braland Pam Braland
16	Lisa Hoglin Tim Hoglin	Dianne McClelland Les McClelland
23	need help	need help
30	need help	need help

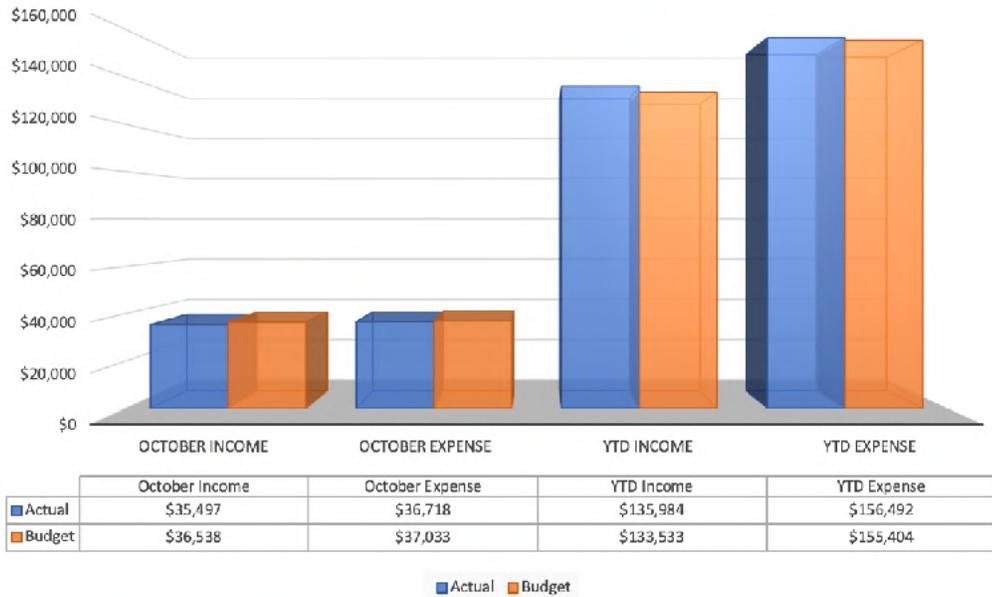


Date	Sunday 9 am	Sunday 10:30
December	Scripture Reader	Scripture Reader
2	Brenda Johnson	Andy Holmes
9	Carol Rodseth	Jane Peterson
16	Valerie Jones	Michelle Albright
23	need help	need help
30	need help	need help
December	Fellowship/Treats	Welcome Center
2	need help	
9	Michelle Blong	
16	Jeannine zumBrunnen Dianne McClelland	
23	need help	
30	need help	

Date	Sunday 9 am	Sunday 10:30 am
December	Communion Asst.	Communion Asst.
2	Irene Christofferson Jack Christofferson Marilyn Tuma Lori Rehnblom	Andy Holmes Paul Springstead Elaine Youngquist Mike Youngquist
9	Irene Christofferson Jack Christofferson Steve Jones Valerie Jones	Paul Jacobsen Sally Jacobsen Jane Peterson Patty Wallace
16	Char Berns Steve Jones Valarie Jones Marilyn Tuma	need help need help need help need help
23	need help need help need help	Kim Bell Lolly Kalinoski Anne Ness
30	need help need help need help	need help need help need help



## October 2018 General Fund Financial Report



### Lord of Life Church Council Meeting notes for Thursday, October 11, 2018

**To adopt** - September 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes (CC.2018.10.2)

#### Other Approved Motions:

Motion to accept the 10th Grade Confirmation Class: Ella J. Berry, Elle K. Bruggeman, Kayla M. Bush, Kyle L. Bush, Rodney J. Campbell, Hayden H. Carlson, Maren J. Christiansen, Tristan L. Dawson, Griffin J. Decker, Mari C. Devine, Jackson M. Dwyer, Joseph C. Figliuzzi, Simon J. Foss, Paul E. Freelove, Madison K. Genz, Erin R. Hoelzel, Alison J. Kohout, Bailey J. Koop, Brandon J. Krall, Haden M. Kruse, Halle R. Kruse, Taisha A. Linder, Theo J. Lund, Ashley B. Marichalar, Elizabeth M. Mattson, Nole M. Robertson, Tyler A. Schaitberger, Kiarra G. Story, Gabriella M. VanHorn, Macey A. Whitlock, Noelle M. Youngquist as new members on their ceremony date October 28, 2018 as presented by Pastor Erika Nilsen, motion seconded by Emilee Freed, all approved. (CC.2018.10.3)

Motion from Pastor Steve to accept the Finance Team's recommendation of Gold benefit package from PORTICO, Pastor Erika seconded the motion, all approved. (CC.2018.10.4)

September Financial report - Ann Smallman motioned to receive the report for audit, Emilee Freed seconded the motion, all approved. (CC.2018.10.5)

#### Year End Contributions Deadlines

**In Person:** 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 31, 2018  
**Via USPS:** Post-marked no later than December 31, 2018.  
**Online:** Must have an "approved" status by December 31, 2018  
**Stock:** If you wish to gift Stock to Lord of Life, please contact Anne Laechel for more information. Transfer of ownership must be completed by Monday, December 31, 2018 to be considered a 2018 gift. As the process can take 1-2 weeks, requests should be initiated by Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Any gift received or post-marked on or after January 1, 2019 will be credited to 2019.

#### Mutual Fund Donations

Thank you to those who have donated gifts of stock/mutual funds to Lord of Life via Stifel. When donating stock/mutual funds, please notify Anne Laechel ([anne@lolbaxter.org](mailto:anne@lolbaxter.org); 828-9374) of your gift so that we can watch for its arrival, process the sale and give you proper tax credit.

#### Council Members

**President** - Cindy Swenson

**Vice President** - Matt Feigum

**Secretary** - Beth Hensel

**Treasurer** - Scott Kraling

**Council Representative**

Sarah Nesheim

**Adult Faith Growth, Children's Education, Youth**

Emilee Freed

**Congregational Life, Worship, Stephen Ministry**

Pat Huhta

**Evangelism, Missions/Social Concerns**

Ann Smallman

**Finance, Mission Support/Stewardship, Property**

Layne Danielson



# Lord of Life Lutheran Ministry Opportunities

## **Connecting to Christ**

**Circle, Martha** - Meets the second Tuesday of the month off site at 7:00 p.m. (August-June) For more information contact Mary Anderson 330-6171 [maryteda@charter.net](mailto:maryteda@charter.net)

**Circle, Sarah** - Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. (Sept-May) at Lord of Life. For information contact Bugs Schmidt 829-3864 [shmidye@icloud.com](mailto:shmidye@icloud.com)

**Men's Breakfast** - Fridays, 6:30 a.m. at LOL for Bible study, fellowship, fun and food - Ted Anderson 218-831-1372

**Men's Fellowship** - Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. at LOL for Bible study, fellowship and fun - Ted Anderson 831-1372

**New Member Class** - For individuals and families interested in joining Lord of Life. Childcare is provided upon request. - Pastor Steve 828-9374 [steve@lolbaxter.org](mailto:steve@lolbaxter.org)

**Pray & Ponder Women's Breakfast** - A gathering of women on one Saturday each month, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. in the Commons. (Oct.-May). Experience great food, conversation, inspiration and prayer. Contact Wendy Adamson at [wendyadamson@ymail.com](mailto:wendyadamson@ymail.com)

**Prayer Chain** - Faithfully lift up in prayer the needs and concerns of our church family and their loved ones. Contact Lolly Kalinoski at 828-3699.

## **Connecting to our Community**

### **Caring for Creation Workgroup**

We will meet from 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month. The Caring for Creation Workgroup on ecology and the environment is grounded in a biblical vision of God's intention for the healing and wholeness of creation. This group will meet to discuss ways to help take care of God's Creation. Contact Todd Holman with any questions at [tholman@tnc.org](mailto:tholman@tnc.org).

**Habitat for Humanity** - Scott Hall, (w) 828-8517- [scott.hall@lakesareahabitat.org](mailto:scott.hall@lakesareahabitat.org)

**LOL Quilters** - The LOL Quilters will meet Thursdays, from 9 am to 12 pm. Quilts are made for our graduating seniors, local charities and special requests. Thursdays are used for quilt designing, packaging into kits for LOL volunteers to sew into quilt tops, and also for tying and binding. Sewing experience is not required! If you have any questions you can contact Jan Hardesty at 218-828-1434.

**Prayer Shawl Group** - Meets 3 to 4 times a year. Anyone who is interested in this wonderful ministry is welcome to join our group. Please contact Jeannine zumBrunnen 829-2177- [zummyb@brainerd.net](mailto:zummyb@brainerd.net) or Brenda Johnson 831-9725- [brensid@brainerd.net](mailto:brensid@brainerd.net). Check our website at [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com) for more information.

**Soup Kitchen** - Serving meals at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen (923 Oak St., Brainerd), first Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. - To volunteer contact Nancy Smith (820-4273) or sign-up on the clipboard in the Narthex.

## **Connecting to Each Other**

**Sunday Evening Book Discussion Group** meets on alternating Sundays at 6:30 p.m. (Sept. - May). All book lovers are welcome. Contact: Jerry Kuehn at 218-820-8566.

**Monday Afternoon Book Group** will meet at 1:00 p.m. each Monday (Sept. - May). For more information contact Nancy Smith 820-4273.

**Tuesday Morning Book Group** This group meets on the 1st and the 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 9:00 a.m. and focuses on studying biblical books to expand our knowledge of the Bible and grow in faith. Contact Claire Rud at [paulclairerud@msn.com](mailto:paulclairerud@msn.com).

**Caring Friends Ministry** - Find out how to become a Caring Friend or to receive this ministry as you navigate life transitions. Meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Contact Jeannine zumBrunnen 829-2177 [zummyb@brainerd.net](mailto:zummyb@brainerd.net)

**LOL Ministry Teams** - Congregational Life, Children's Education, Adult Education, Evangelism, Finance, Property, Social Concerns, Stewardship, Worship, Youth - Pastor Erika 828-9374 [erika@lolbaxter.org](mailto:erika@lolbaxter.org)

**LOLLY (Lots of Living Left Yet)** - Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m.; ages 55+ (Sept-May). Call Mary Anderson at 330-6171 or Ted Anderson at [maryteda@charter.net](mailto:maryteda@charter.net) for more info.

**Pre-Marriage Retreat** - For couples preparing for the joys and struggles of married life. This is a pre-requisite for couples planning to be married at LOL. The next retreat is April 13, 2019. For more information, contact Anne in the church office at 828-9374 or [anne@lolbaxter.org](mailto:anne@lolbaxter.org)

**Wednesday Night Supper Prep & Serving** - Assist with cooking and serving of our Wednesday evening meal. (Sept.-May) Contact the church office at [www.lolbaxter.org](http://www.lolbaxter.org)

**Those Older Folders** - Our energetic group meets every Friday at 1:00 p.m. to fold bulletins for the Sunday services.

For updated information on the above events, check out our website: <http://www.lolbaxter.org>



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# Daily Prayers and Staff

The Scripture tells us to pray for each other (James 5:16). As a body we pray for our congregation, alphabetically rotating through our church family on an annual basis. Each week we will pray for specific Lord of Life families. Although you may not know each member of our congregation, our God listens to the prayers we bring on each other's behalf before his throne. Please make a commitment to include your brothers and sisters at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in your daily prayers.

## December 2-8

Ted & Mary Anderson	Kelly Budnick
Matt & Angela Feigum	Nicole & Bart Harmer
Sharon Johnson	Brandy & Mark Lindquist
Greg & Sandy Olson	Terry & Heidi Strus
Earle & Renee Woolley	

## December 9-15

Michael & Renae Barnaby	Kevin & Andrea Carlson
Chris & Shelly Ford	Ron & Beth Hensel
Josh & Libby Kempf	David & Michelle Malchow
Mike & Kara Patrick	Steve & Brenda Schaitberger
Greg & Cindy Swenson	

## December 16-22

Kim Bell	Jerad & Jamie Clough
Kaylee Freeman	Donna Hoffman
Tom Koop & Kris Harsh	Kelly Metz
Jeremy & Tami Pliscott	Bryan & Mandy Selisker
Jill Trtanj	

## December 23-29

Mike & Judy Bialka	John & Millie Davidson
Trent & Jennifer Grams	Matthew & Kaycee Houde
Jim & Debra Kron	Brad & Colleen Mulholland
Shane & Kayla Rauen	Chris & Jackie Sliver
Connor Vinge & Amber Richter	

## December 30-January 5

Cassy & Ryan Borgen	Andy & Darcy Dwyer
Julie & Chuck Halverson	Tricia Janousek
Jim & Kelly Larson	Matthew Nelson
Ryan & Marcia Rosenwald	Roger Spreeman
Jean & George Wegen	

## Lord of Life Office & Program Staff

<b>Ministry Operations Manager</b>	Anne Laechel <a href="mailto:anne@lolbaxter.org">anne@lolbaxter.org</a>
<b>Sr. Pastor's Ministry Assistant</b>	Colleen Bush <a href="mailto:colleen@lolbaxter.org">colleen@lolbaxter.org</a>
<b>Youth Director</b>	Tim Slinger <a href="mailto:tim@lolbaxter.org">tim@lolbaxter.org</a>
<b>Senior Choir Director</b>	Sarah Aamot <a href="mailto:sarah-lundin@hotmail.com">sarah-lundin@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Spiritual Gifts Coordinator/ Parish Nurse</b>	Deb Bergstrom <a href="mailto:deb@lolbaxter.org">deb@lolbaxter.org</a>
<b>Custodians</b>	Karen & Paul Erickson <a href="mailto:kde12112@gmail.com">kde12112@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pianist</b>	Jennifer Person <a href="mailto:jennifer.person@lolbaxter.org">jennifer.person@lolbaxter.org</a>
<b>Sunday Traditional Group Dir.</b>	Jennifer Person
<b>Wed Musician Coordinator</b>	Jennifer Person

And they went with haste  
and found **Mary**  
and **Joseph,**  
and **the baby**  
lying in a manger.



### Newsletter Team

Editor: Colleen Bush. Please send all Newsletter articles to: [colleen@lolbaxter.org](mailto:colleen@lolbaxter.org)

The **Good News** is published monthly. Articles for the January Newsletter are due December 17.

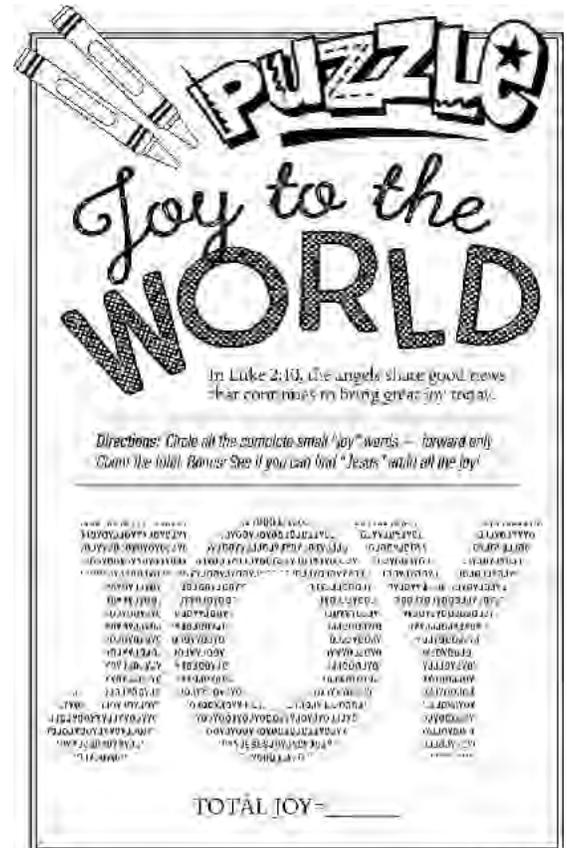


- 1 Blake Peterson
- 2 Hannah Larson, Dave Linder, Jared Senger, Trent Spreeman, Hannah Staehling
- 3 Emma Dewey, Leigha Sanow, Tyler Schaitberger
- 4 John Berns, Benjamin Johnson, Lexi McElfresh, Justin Youngquist, Mary Zeise
- 5 Macy Anderson, Marcie DeBoer, Charles Young
- 6 Howie Bahn
- 7 Helen Herbon, Zach Rude, Paul Springstead
- 8 Emmy Ehlert, Ella Helmricks, Lauren Hardinger
- 9 Emery Dumpprope, Connor Marichalar, Kristi Weideman
- 10 Dave Domeier, David Kelm, Tyler Stoen, Isaac Tupy
- 11 Ed Braland, Brittany Peterson, Kristofer Rye
- 12 Steve Kohls, Katy Jacobs, Gabe Maurer
- 13 Patti Baillif, Jessica Balsley, Katy Kelm, Karen Rubado, Logan Sazama
- 14 Pam Caughey, Rob Felix
- 15 Troy Bialka, Aubrey Mithun
- 17 Vincent Johnson-Ding, Hannah Paysse
- 18 Joey Clark, Cole Kunesh, Mike Owen
- 19 Travis Banks, Tia Bruggeman, Nan Farrington, Lori Fink, EJ Gehrke, Nicholas Holman, Jeff Johnson, Tammy Schultz
- 20 Kim Quincer
- 21 Stephanie Dorn, Mary Ann Majerle
- 22 Brandon Borgstrom, Jamie Daniels, Greta Isackson, Morgan Price
- 23 Kelsey Booth, Vickie Borgstrom, Brenda Johnson, Dan Larson, Xander Norquist, Dave Stengrim
- 25 Riley Anderson, Ted Anderson, Amy Foley, Carol Rodseth, Mark Workman
- 26 Gracie Kiffmeyer, Reilly Peterson, Taylor Schmeck
- 27 Tiffinni Dewey, Ellen Frank, Helen Landecker, Krista Mithun, Faelynn Mulholland, Kevin Peterson, Sarah Speer
- 28 Lori Hoelzel, Donna Peppel
- 29 Henrietta Erickson, Taytum Hanson
- 30 Gloria Gregersen, Shirley Hansen
- 31 Lorna Heidmann, Elle Kempf, Kiley Jendro

- 1 Tom & Sandie Youngblom
- 2 Brian & Janice Gapinski❖
- 4 Kevin & Jan Hall❖
- 11 Richard & Deb Koop❖
- Eric & Brooke Nybeck
- 13 Chuck & Ruth Nelson❖
- 14 Cliff & Maxine Sanders†
- 17 James & Christine Cox
- 19 Dan & Andy Holmes❖
- 20 Terry & Karen Hermanson❖
- 21 Jim & Tammie Benson
- Rod & Val Rangen❖
- 22 Jon & Mary Belanger❖
- 23 Tom Koop & Kris Harsh
- 26 Dan & Jenny Owens
- Jason & Darcy Walkowiak
- 27 Arlo & Gary Hill†
- Kevin & Joyce Olson❖
- 28 Charlie & Amy Campbell
- Steve & Ellen Frank❖
- 29 Kurt & Kate Porter
- 30 Chris & Amy Foley❖
- 31 Kirstin & Ben Nelson

❖=Celebrating 24-49 years!

†=Celebrating 50 years or more!





*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Services  
3 pm, 5 pm and 9 pm*

There will be no worship service on Wednesday, December 26.

We will have one morning worship service on  
Sunday, December 30 at 9 am.