

GOOD NEWS

January
2019

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

As this new year begins, our congregation has taken a bold new step - one that promises to lead to an expanded ministry to families with young children. But it's going to take the help and support of many people in our Lord of Life family in order to sustain this bold decision.

Over a month ago, Deb Bergstrom our Spiritual Gifts coordinator, resigned. For years, our congregation has known of our deep need to expand our children's ministry staffing. In November, Deb's resignation caused our church council to embark on a time of discernment. At the December meeting, the council decided to seek other ways to sustain our volunteer ministry in order to redirect our financial resources. We intend to move forward with our goal of hiring a children's ministry coordinator.

We're excited about what new ministry can happen - with and among the families of small children in our congregation.

But at the same time, we also -together - need to commit to sustaining our volunteer corp in a completely different way

In the past we've been able to rely on a Spiritual Gifts Coordinator to make last minute adjustments. Leaning on the Spiritual Gifts coordinator to recruit others when someone doesn't show up for a position, or decides to make other plans late in the week. Setting up communion, ushering, distributing communion, will be challenging to pull off without a spiritual gifts coordinator. But its certainly something we **can** do! There are plenty of congregations who operate without a spiritual gifts coordinator and if we all keep in mind that we're stepping up for the sake of the children, I believe we will be successful.

Layne Danielson has agreed to head up the effort to rethink volunteerism. He will be organizing the volunteer corp. He, or someone on his behalf, will be contacting you. Please respond favorably, as you are led by the spirit, when that contact is made. Our children need you too. They are our greatest treasure. We must have high quality programming and support for them within our church.

And finally, one sure way you can support this effort, is to pray for Layne, the rest of the council, and the entire congregation as we move forward into this new time. They are exciting times for an exciting new year!

Blessings,

Pastor Steven J. Rye

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9a Worship 30 10a Fellowship	6a Women's AA 31	New Year's Day - Church Office 1 Closed 7a Baxter Area Kiwanis 9a Book Discussion 6:30p Legacy Chorale	10a Faithful Mothers 2 5:15p Wednesday Night Supper 6p Worship 7p 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation-Mentors 7p 9th Grade Confirmation 7p Choir Rehearsal	9a Lord of Life Quilters 3 10a Men's Fellowship	6:30a Men's Breakfast 4 1p Those Older Folders 7p Friday Family & Friends Al-Anon	9a Pray & Ponder Women's Breakfast 5 7p Lots of Love Open AA
9a Worship 6 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11a Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen Ministry 11:30a Fellowship 5:30p Middle School Youth Group	6a Grapevine Gal's Women's AA 7 9a SAIL Program	7a Baxter Area Kiwanis 8 1p Sarah Circle 1p Staff Meeting 6:30p Legacy Chorale 6:30p Team Meeting Night	9a SAIL Program 9 5:15p Wednesday Night Supper 6p Worship 7p 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 7p 9th Grade Confirmation 7p Choir Rehearsal	9a Lord of Life Quilters 10 10a Men's Fellowship	6:30a Men's Breakfast 11 1p Those Older Folders 7p Friday Family & Friends Al-Anon	4:30p Parent's Night Out 12 7p Lots of Love Open AA
9a Worship 13 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship	6a Grapevine Gal's Women's AA 14 9a SAIL Program 6:30p Pinetree Patchworkers	7a Baxter Area Kiwanis 15 9a Book Discussion 1p Staff Meeting 6:30p Legacy Chorale	9a SAIL Program 16 10a Faithful Mothers 11:30a L.O.L.L.Y. 5:15p Wednesday Night Supper 6p Worship 7p 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 7p 9th Grade Confirmation 7p Choir Rehearsal	9a Lord of Life Quilters 17 10a Men's Fellowship	6:30a Men's Breakfast 18 1p Those Older Folders 7p Friday Family & Friends Al-Anon	7p Lots of Love Open AA 19
9a Worship 20 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship 5:30p Middle School Youth Group	6a Grapevine Gal's Women's AA 21 9a SAIL Program	7a Baxter Area Kiwanis 22 1p Staff Meeting 6:30p Legacy Chorale	9a SAIL Program 23 5:15p Wednesday Night Supper 6p Worship 7p 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 7p 9th Grade Confirmation 7p Choir Rehearsal 7p New Member Orientation 101	9a Lord of Life Quilters 24 10a Men's Fellowship	6:30a Men's Breakfast 25 1p Those Older Folders 7p Friday Family & Friends Al-Anon	7p Lots of Love Open AA 26
9a Worship 27 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 11:30a Fellowship	6a Grapevine Gal's Women's AA 28 9a SAIL Program	7a Baxter Area Kiwanis 29 1p Staff Meeting 6:30p Legacy Chorale	9a SAIL Program 30 5:15p Wednesday Night Supper 6p Worship 7p 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 7p 9th Grade Confirmation 7p Choir Rehearsal	9a Lord of Life Quilters 31 10a Men's Fellowship	6:30a Men's Breakfast 1 1p Those Older Folders 7p Friday Family & Friends Al-Anon	9a Pray & Ponder Women's Breakfast 2 7p Lots of Love Open AA



An Evening with Author Kai Mark Nilsen

Come and meet the author of *Renew Your Life* on Sunday evening, January 27th!

Kai will be with us for an evening of connecting, learning and growing. We'll have a chance to hear directly

from him about the book, his own renewal and his hopes for both individuals and the church. Kai has a contagious, generous, inspiring spirit! Be watching the Good News Weekly and Facebook for the exact time of the event.



Happy New Year to all!

You will notice on your January Connection Cards a check box for Health and Wellness. Health and wellness are different.

Health is much more than physical ailments. It is also about emotional and social fitness, too!

We can't always choose the state of our health. High cholesterol and blood pressure are largely genetic. People are born with heart disease and a predisposition toward diabetes. Accidents cause injuries that last a lifetime. But wellness, on the other hand, is a choice.

We can choose to exercise regularly and to manage our health conditions (where possible). We can choose to quit smoking and to take our medications as prescribed. We can see a therapist when our mental state needs some assistance.

Wellness is a way for us to actively work toward better health. A way to take some control of our bodies and minds. Even though none of us will ever be in "perfect" health, making a conscious effort to improve our wellness can make us feel better — and ultimately cost us less money in healthcare costs down the line.

One important aspect of the Parish Nurse program is to assist people to achieve wellness. Monthly blood pressure checks will start in January. Look for a bulletin board with health topics including mental health education and information. Val Jones and I continue to offer the Stay Active in Life (S.A.I.L.) every Monday and Wednesday from 9 am - 10 am which is such a great ministry! I will be offering a Lenten Walk and other information on "moving". If you have any ideas or questions, let me know!

Blessings for 2019!

Deb Bergstrom BSN, RN

Prayers for Strength, Comfort and Healing for...

Kevin Hall, who is having back surgery on December 20, at Abbott Northwestern.

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.

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving for...

Mike and Colleen Bush and family are happy to welcome their first grandchild, Adelaide Rose Fisher to the world! Born on December 15.

Our members & family in the Military:

Eric Nelson, James Nelson, Aaron Sopelle, Ben Correll



Mabel JoAnn Swanson

November 11, 2018

Parents:
Luke & Annah Swanson



Eloise Jane Frank

November 24, 2018

Parents: William & Kiley Frank

Sibling: William

Renew Your Life

Starting on Wednesday, January 9th and Sunday, January 13th, we 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.

1. Jan. 9/13 – Energy Depletion and the Renewable Energy of the Holy Spirit

Key verse: Colossians 1:29

Today we face three cultural distortions: The overwhelming pace of life, the mentality that everything can be fixed quickly, and the seduction of more. During our worship together, we will explore how we can discover the wellspring of God's energy by acknowledging the presence of the Spirit in our lives and in our world.

2. Jan. 16/20 – The Energy of Grace

Key verses: Matthew 11:28-30

What are our images of God? And how do our images of God affect the way that we see the world, others, and our own lives? During our worship together, we will discover the gift of having new eyes to see.

3. Jan 23/27 – The Energy of Possibility

Key verses: John 8:1-11

What hopes shape and give meaning to our lives? And what life resources give us strength and the courage to act? During our worship together, we will explore how we might change our perceptions about ourselves and open up new possibilities for creative life change.

4. Jan. 30/Feb. 3 – The Energy of Paradox

Key verse: Romans 12:15

What life circumstances have forced us to wrestle with the paradox of light and darkness? With what unwanted gifts have we been blessed? During our worship together, we will explore how accepting the crosses and contradictions of our lives can open up a channel for the redeeming power of God's love.

5. Feb. 6/10 – The Energy of the Natural World

Key verses: John 15:1-11

How can we allow the beauty of creation to inspire us? How can we honor our interconnectedness with the natural world through the choices we make each day? During our worship together, we will examine the practices of noticing, noticing what we notice, and acting on what we notice in our world.

6. Feb. 13/17 – The Energy of Relationships

Key verses: John 15:12-17

How does affirming that all people are created in the image of God affect how we see and treat them? What keeps us from desiring and therefore developing deeper relationships? During our worship together, we will explore the concept of "We, not Me, in Creation," and how we can "Do Deep" avoiding the danger of being confined to a single-story line.

7. Feb. 20/24 – The Energy of Fruitful Work

Key verse: Ephesians 2:8

What are we here for at this time? What in our lives brings us joy? During our worship together, we will explore the fruit of fruitful work, how that relates to money, and where a fruit-filled life will take us next.

8. Feb. 27/ March 3 – The Energy of Rest and Conclusion

Key verse: Hebrews 4:9

What does renewing rest look like for us? What might we intentionally do to renew our bodies, minds, and spirits? During our worship together, we will explore the healthy relationship between work and rest, and how a daily, weekly, and life-long rhythm of sabbath can renew our bodies, minds and spirits.



Teen's Upstream Christmas:

If someone says "you can't" to this group they might just find a way. With hearing the news that they might not be able to do the traditional Christmas program, our Teen's Upstream youth were determined to have a program and share the message of Christmas with everyone. Through creative brainstorming around a kitchen table late at night, to countless hours practicing for the performances, our kids put on a masterpiece. I hope all of you were able to see this original production of "A Very Merry Teen's Upstream Christmas". A huge thank you needs to go out to Guy Kelm for his hours of hard work putting all

of this together. We were blessed to have both a children's program and high school program this year. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in making this day happen!



Confirmation "The Christmas Star Program":

Special thanks goes out to Brian Wallace for inviting our 7th & 8th grade confirmation classes to the Forestview Planetarium on December 7th for the "Christmas Star" program. Our students got to see firsthand the new system that the planetarium has and watch a program based on the Christmas star and what the night sky may have looked like when Jesus was born. This was a fun night over the Advent season as we waited for Christmas to arrive!

Confirmation Salvation Army Bell Ringing:

If you were out shopping the night of December 12th you may have seen our 7th & 8th grade small groups out bell ringing at various stores in the Brainerd Lakes Area. Through smiles, songs and dance our kids had fun spreading Christmas cheer to the community. See the attached photos of our groups at work!



MSYG & Church Council Enjoy a Meal Together:

If you have stopped by church on Sunday nights before you may have seen our Middle School Youth Group in action. In December, the church council met one Sunday night and invited the youth group to join them for a delicious pizza meal! Around the table youth and council members got to know one another and share stories of what they cherish most about the Christmas season. Thank you, Church Council, for inviting us in and we look forward to hosting you for a four-square game in the near future!

5th & 6th graders LutherCrest Winter Retreat:

On February 8th, LutherCrest is offering a weekend retreat for 3rd through 6th graders. If you are a 5th & 6th grader who enjoys games, crafts, hanging out with friends and having a sleep over away from home, come check out this winter retreat! Sign-ups are due Wednesday, Jan. 30th! Please pick up a sign-up sheet at the welcome desk on our website or at Tim's office.

Upcoming Important Calendar Dates:

- January 2nd Small Group Leader & Mentor Night (No Confirmation Class)
- January 6th Pancake Breakfast
- January 9th Mental Health Conversation Confirmation
- January 12th Parent's Night Out - 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- Feb. 8th - 10th Winter Retreat LutherCrest





Cast:

Elle Bruggeman	Kayla Bush
Kyle Bush	Kaysie Carlson
Renzen Caughey	Atlie Danielson
Tennyson Kelm	Sarah Nesheim
Zach Olds	Hannah Paysse
Max Wheeler	Justin Youngquist

Director: Guy Kelm

Tech: Keith Bingelli

Written by members of the Teens
Upstream Senior High Youth Group

The Friendly Beasts

Children's Chorus

CJ Burton	Frankie Burton	Beckett Campbell
Emma Campbell	Zoe Cervantez	Addy Doud
Irelyn Doud	Landyn Doud	Andrew Ehlert
Kate Ehlert	William Feigum	Sam Freelove
Emerson Gehrke	Ava Grams	Everett Grams
Arah Halbersma	Kai Halbersma	Gus Hanske
Levi Hanske	Ella Hoglin	Lucas Hoglin
Greta Isackson	Elle Kempf	Emmett Kempf
Greta King	Nora King	Hannah Larson
Ryan Larson	Kinley Leonard	Presley Leonard
Kinsley Malchow	Dekker Mithun	Hennisey Mithun
Taryn Mithun	Isla Porter	Will Porter
Claire Rangen	Grace Rangen	Nora Rangen
Amelia Sjostrom	Rhett Sjostrom	Avery Skwira
Quinn Skwira	Attly Speer	

Cast:

Grandpa Howie:	Howard Bahn	Mary:	Taylor Schmeck
Joseph:	Levi Aadland	Angel:	Amelia Sjostrom
Shepherd:	Lucas Hoglin	Donkey:	Taryn Mithun
Cow:	Ryan Larson	Sheep:	Rhett Sjostrom
Dove:	Kai Halbersma		

Adult Leaders:

Guy Kelm	Pam Cook	Anne Freelove
Kate Porter	Cheryl Plouffe	Sarah Speer



Announcing Short Course Confronting Death: A Christian Approach to the End of Life

"You and I sooner or later are going to experience what comes to all people, we are going to experience dying. But there is a difference between us and the world—the world looks away from that fact and tries to hide it as much as possible—but we as faithful people have the power and ability to look death straight in the eye and understand it."

Coming this spring, we will be offering the short course: *"Confronting Death: A Christian Approach to the End of Life with Walter Wangerin, Jr."* Coming from his own experiences of living with life-threatening cancer for the last two plus years, Walter Wangerin speaks directly from the heart in this poignant and instructional new series. He speaks about how cancer has changed his life and how his faith has sustained and prepared him to face death itself.

But *Confronting Death* is not for the Christian idealist; it is for every Christian, as we learn how to be different from the world by learning to look forward to the world to come without dismissing our responsibilities here and now. This compelling teaching explains how Christ is victorious over death. Drawing from his own recent experience with cancer, Wangerin explores:

- Discovering serious illness
- Caring for the one who is not sick
- How do we handle the pain
- Confronting the dying itself

Walter Wangerin, Jr., is the award-winning author of thirty-five books, including the best-selling *The Book of God*; the National Book Award-winning *The Book of the Dun Cow*; and, most recently, *am My Grandpa's Enkelin*, a children's book. He has also been featured in several other DVD's including *Growing Together: Building a Marriage that Lasts*, *The Lord's Prayer: Entering into God's Country* and *The Four Acts of Prayer*. Wangerin holds the Jochum Chair at Valparaiso University.

The same sessions will be offered on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings to accommodate schedules for those who have to work during the day or who don't want to go out in the evening. Choose either evening or morning to attend..or "mix and match" week-to-week if that is more convenient. Dates and times coming soon.



A Trip to the Holy Land

During the later part of January, I will be taking a trip to the Holy Land. (No, not Norway...Israel)

While I'm there, I'll see the following sites: The Church of Holy Sepulchre, the Haram al Sharif/ Temple Mount with views of the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosque. In Bethlehem, a walking tour of the Old City including Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity, the Efrat Israeli Settlement, and the Deheisheh Refugee camp. While in Beit Sahour we will see Shepherds' Field. When traveling through the Jordan Valley to reach the Sea of Galilee, I will see a first century "Jesus Boat", visit an Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House at Capernaum. In Tabgha we will visit the Church of Multiplication, the Chapel of the Primacy, and the Church of the Beatitudes.

Needless to say, I'm very excited about this pilgrimage. I'm hoping this will prepare me to lead a congregational group there in the coming year.

Please look for an event that will be scheduled upon my return about the trip and how you can join me in visiting many of the locations that God's great story of salvation took place. Oh, and pray for me while I'm away!

God Bless!

Pastor Steve



Thank you worship team for decorating and getting us ready for the Advent/Christmas season.

Barrett Property Update

Lord of Life received a tremendous gift of land from members of the Barrett family, who named Lord of Life in their will. Along with the Good Samaritan Society, which was also named in their will, Lord of Life sold most of the property to create the Mississippi River Overlook Park. Lord of Life kept 35 acres of land and immediately put it up for sale as soon as it became the legal owner in December 2006. The hoped-for buyer was a developer of single family homes who was expected to pay a significant sum for this prime property. As many of you recall, the real estate crisis began in 2006, and because of the crisis and the ensuing Great Recession, real estate development came to a sudden stop, and Lord of Life could not sell the property. Over the years, there has been occasional interest in the property, but the church has never received an offer.

The county currently estimates the property value at \$151,900, and this has steadily increased from well under a \$100,000 during the recession. Periodically, we check with knowledgeable Realtors about its market value. According to them, there are no developers in Baxter who are buying land for single family home development right now. The market for single family lots is saturated, as many are still being forfeited for back taxes, including lots in the development just next to the Barrett property. Although it may take several years, it is hopeful that the land will steadily increase in value due to market conditions, the new elementary school to the north, and the city possibly adding hundreds of acres of new land to the Mississippi River Overlook Park. We are hopeful that this should eventually make the location very desirable for homes. Right now, the only likely buyer of the property would be someone hoping to get a good deal as a real estate speculator, or someone looking to build a few homes on large tracks.

Normally, churches sell assets they are given as soon as possible. Lord of Life tried to do this over a decade ago, but the market had crashed. Periodically, the church council discusses what to do with the property, and to date, the decision has been to hold it until the market recovers. In the meantime, the church has sought to reduce its costs, including recently filing for 2c managed forest tax status, which reduces its property taxes by 35% (current taxes are \$1540/year). Further, the church is considering selective logging on the property in order to clean it up, allow new growth, and help in its eventual sale.

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Paul S. Jacobsen
Jacobsen Law, PLC



The verb definition of *care* is to feel concern or interest; attach importance to something. A Stephen Minister shows a high sense of caring for another person and through the Stephen Ministry(SM) training can learn how to do this better and also learn to have a deeper caring for themselves. You will learn feelings: Yours, Mine and Ours, The Art of Listening and Christian Care

giving. You will learn how to handle grief, confidentiality and even how to relate to the care receiver over the telephone!

Stephen Ministry is care vs cure- we provide the care and God provides the cure. Henri Nouwen also says: "Care is not cure: true care allows us to be comfortable with weakness. Care expresses and expands our compassion, understood as suffering with others and Care draws us into profound mutuality, both in shared vulnerability and shared gifts". Stephen Ministry at LOL cares about its congregation and community! If you have any questions or would like to explore being a Stephen Minister please talk to our Pastors, Lolly or me.

Yours in Christ,

Lolly and Deb

Nuts and Bolts and a Few Loose Screws

Tools for Your Congregational Toolbox

- **SATURDAY, MARCH 16th 2019**
- **1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**
- **Zion Lutheran Church**
- **1000 Washington Avenue**
- **Cloquet, Minnesota**

Who should attend?

- People of all ages who want to learn about what is going on with new and ongoing initiatives in our synod.

Workshops will include:

- Together Here
- Partnership Examples for Doing Ministry Together
- Welcome LGBTQIA+Accompaniment Team
- We Promise: Why Faith Formation Matters
- Leading Respectful Conversations
- Twin Ports Peace Not Walls
- Managing Times of Transition in the Call Process

SCHEDULE

- 12:30 pm** Registration and Hospitality
- 1:00 pm** Opening Presentation by Bishop Aitken
- 2:00 pm** Workshop Session 1
- 3:00 pm** Workshop Session 2
- 3:55 pm** Sending

Workshop sessions are 45 minutes.

THIS EVENT IS FREE, but
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
to be able to plan for
materials and refreshments.

See the link below to register....

REGISTER AT: <https://nutsandbolts2019nemnsynod.eventbrite.com>



This event is sponsored by the:
Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA
www.nemnsynod.org
218.724.4424



Nuts and Bolts and a Few Loose Screws

Workshops to fill your toolbox

Why Church? What is the purpose and nature of the Church and what are we supposed to do? What new initiatives or tools would be handy for you as congregational leaders in your context? If you have ever asked any one of these questions, you may want to register for the Nuts & Bolts and a Few Loose Screws Workshops which will provide some helpful tips, tools along with great conversation and wonderful networking.

Bishop Tom will open the afternoon with a brief presentation on the Nature and Purpose of the Church from a biblical and constitutional perspective.

Together we will learn and share about the exciting new initiatives taking place throughout the Synod! Bring a group of people of all ages from your congregation to come along with you! You will have the opportunity to choose/attend two different workshops. They include:

- **Together Here** - Building relationships and increased understanding with our Native American Brothers and Sisters through accompaniment, education about Treaty Rights, the Blanket Exercise; and, in response to The Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery.
- **Partnership Examples for Doing Ministry Together** - What will the church look like in the future? How do we remain focused on what God calls us to when we're worried about declining membership, dwindling financial resources, and a need of clear missional direction? Some congregations have found new life by exploring ministry partnerships with neighbors through sharing resources, staff and a common sense of purpose. How is partnership being explored in our synod? What might be worth trying in your context? Come and see how God might be urging your congregation with new imagination and potential.
- **Welcome LGBTQIA+ Accompaniment Team** - Team members include volunteers from throughout the synod who have received training via Proclaim and Reconciling Works in order to facilitate conversation for congregations in Call Process who are open and interested in interviewing and potentially calling an LGBTQIA+ Candidate.
- **We Promise: Why Faith Formation Matters** - Baptism is at the heart of our theology. Have you stopped to consider the hefty promises the congregation makes to those cute little babies...or youth...or adults? How might you deepen your mission to nurture faith with all ages, and the young people in your congregation?
- **Leading Respectful Conversations** - Whether it is a decision needing to be made about the color of the sanctuary carpeting, Pipeline 3 or mining projects, what tools are available for leaders wanting to learn how to lead and facilitate those difficult conversations in a respectful manner both in and outside our congregations.
- **Twin Ports Peace Not Walls** - Can there ever be peace in the Middle East? Come and learn about Peace Not Walls regarding the ELCA's relationship with Palestine and Israel. What can we do as individuals or congregations to work for justice and peace?
- **Managing Times of Transitions in the Call Process** - Why utilize the model of having a transition team and a Call Committee? What is included in the Letter of Call and can it be changed? What needs to be taken care of when a rostered leader leaves and what must be done before a new rostered leader is called? Can we just "do it on our own?"

Meet our New Members
New Member Sunday was December 16, 2018



Mike Bush

Moved to Brainerd in August of 2015.

Hobbies include: watching his kids play sports, fishing and golfing in his spare time.



Carolyn Devine

Moved from Salem Oregon.

Hobbies include: Reading, walking her dog Charlie, enjoying music.



Sara Meier

Moved from Wisconsin in 1998.

Hobbies include gardening, cooking, baking, reading, being outdoors, just love to work in general.



John & Joann Wolf

Moved from Bryan, Ohio

Joann's hobbies include sewing, crocheting, reading, walking and music.

John's hobbies include fishing, golf, walking, volunteering and teaching.



3rd Annual NE MN Synod EcoFaith Summit

Saturday, March 30, 2019
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brainerd
9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Summit

Caring for creation is important to everything we do as church. The EcoFaith Summit will be a day of equipping congregations to initiate or enhance creation care teams. Learn how your church can integrate care of creation throughout all of your congregation's activities, including worship, education, congregational life, building and grounds, and community engagement.

The day will include a keynote presentation by Pastor David Carlson, D.Min., practical break-out sessions, and vibrant earth-honoring worship.

Registration opens February 1, 2019 - Full cost: \$15 per person, \$40 for a congregational group of three or more Early Bird Special (until March 15) \$10 individual, \$25 for a congregational group

More information and details on registration coming your way.



INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PARTNERS - TANZANIA

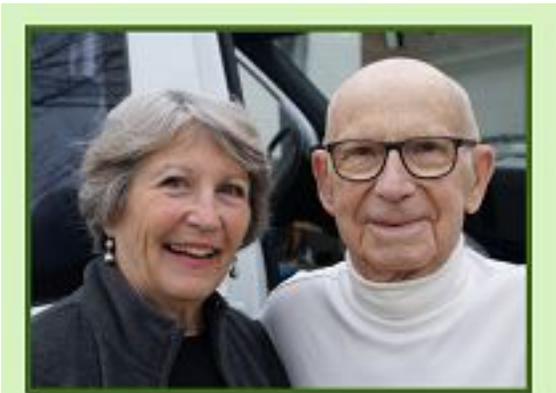
"Trust God and go to work!" This is the contagious rally cry of Paula and Dennis Lofstrom and their amazing work in Tanzania.

Through International Health Partners, they are embarking on building and running the first free standing pediatric hospital in Tanzania. They serve the Lord by offering excellent medical care, top rate medical instruction and a vision for a new day!

For the past 10 years - Lord of Life has been in a relationship of prayer and financial support with International Health Partners. Paula and Dennis were just visiting Lord of Life on December 12th - and their passion once again stirred the hearts of Lord of Life members.

Now it's time to seriously consider joining them in Tanzania to work, to serve, to pray, to play! If you are curious about a mission trip to Tanzania - come and learn more about International Health Partners and what would be involved in a mission trip.

Information Meeting coming up on Sunday, January 20. Time of meeting and more information coming soon.



This Month on Your Connection Cards Please mark the Connection Cards if you are interest in being a part of:

Worship Environmental Team - Would you like to be a part of creating a positive and attractive worship environment. You would tend to banner changes, seasonal decorations, prayer stations, and other means to augment the worship environment that contribute to make our worship vibrant and meaningful. Please check the Connection Cards.

Good Samaritan Bowling Team - Join Team LOL for the Good Samaritan Bowling Fundraiser, May 5 and 6th. Please mark your Connection Card if you are interested. We will need a team of 5 to 6 people.

Health & Wellness Council - The role of the Health & Wellness Council is to help our church community stay healthy and active by offering a variety of activities and information to our congregation. If you are interested in being a part of this group or getting more information, mark your Connections Cards.

First Communion Class - It's time to put First Communion Classes on your calendar! Our classes will be opportunities for parents and kids to learn together about the gift of Holy Communion, the significance of bread and wine and the blessing of being a part of a faith community. First Communion Class will be held at the end of March and into April. We'll celebrate First Communion on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday! Be on the look out for more information to come!

TRUST
yourself
TO THE
God
WHO MADE YOU

Pastoral Care

One aspect of Lord of Life's mission is to deepen and enrich our connection with our community. One way that we have historically carried out that ministry is by providing a pastoral presence in four different senior housing facilities. In surveying all the senior care facilities within the community, we discovered that Northern Lakes was underserved by protestant clergy while other facilities in the area were either well-served or even over-served (based on the lack of need demonstrated by residents). We have sought to correct that.

We will, in partnership with Lutheran Church of the Cross, provide communion services at Northern Lakes Care Center on the 1st Wednesday of each month. We will also seek other ways for our congregation to minister to (and be enriched by) the residents of this facility in Baxter. For example, Lord of Life will participate in a "Lunch with the Pastor" after the services six times a year. We have also chosen Northern Lakes as the facility to go Christmas Caroling in this year.

While it is assumed this ministry will continue into the indefinite future, we have set August 1st as the endpoint of our current commitment. As August 1st approaches, we will schedule a meeting to adapt, reaffirm, or discontinue this particular ministry arrangement.

Members of Lord of Life would be most welcome to join our pastors on the first Wednesdays of each month at 10:30am. Those who can provide special music, or have some other talent they are willing to share, would be especially welcome.

Dear Lord of Life,

On behalf of the Board and Staff of Kinship Partners, I want to thank you for your donating a quilt to our main fundraising event "Taste of the Lakes." Thanks in part to your generosity Kinship Partners raised over \$60,000 to benefit our work with children by "*Transforming our Community Through the Power of Mentoring.*" Thank you!

Sincerely,

Marilyn Holmwig
Executive Assistant

Men In Mission Retreat Saturday, Feb 23rd 2019, 8AM – 4:30PM, First Lutheran Church in Brainerd

We will have a "Pre-Retreat Hymn sing/PubFest" at First Lutheran and the Last Turn Saloon Friday, Feb 22nd from 7 pm - 9 pm. Our keynote speaker on Saturday is Rev. Dr. Mark Tranvik, Professor of Religion at Augsburg University. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Save the date and join us in February! More information to come.

Breakout Sessions will include:

- Tom Watson
(Lake stewardship & shoreline care)
- Deryl Ramey
(Leadership, Coaching & Mentoring)
- Jim Nelson (Estate Planning & Legacy Giving)

Lord of Life,

Thank you for being a drop off location for Coats for Kids! We couldn't do it without you!

Miranda and the Kinship Staff

Happy New Year!

Saying thank you is such a small way to express my appreciation to all of the worship assistants/volunteers who have supported me, been patient with me and have always been willing to step up to help! Going forward I am going to be concentrating on Parish Nursing and Stephen Ministry. Both of these are passions of mine and I am looking forward to being more attentive to both programs. Lord of Life is a very caring, friendly and Christ centered church and Jerry and I are so happy we found you!

Blessings,

Deb Bergstrom



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

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

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

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

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.

Habitat for Humanity - Scott Hall, (w) 828-8517- 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 or Brenda Johnson 831-9725- brensid@brainerd.net. Check our website at 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.

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

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

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 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

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

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.

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

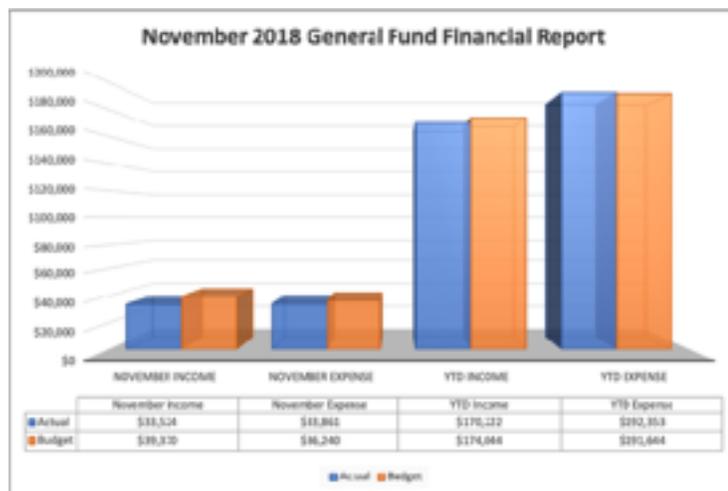
Pat Huhta

Evangelism, Missions/Social Concerns

Ann Smallman

Finance, Mission Support/Stewardship, Property

Layne Danielson



Lord of Life Office & Program Staff

Ministry Operations Manager Anne Laechel
anne@lolbaxter.org

Sr. Pastor's Ministry Assistant Colleen Bush
colleen@lolbaxter.org

Youth Director Tim Slinger
tim@lolbaxter.org

Senior Choir Director Sarah Aamot
sarah-lundin@hotmail.com

Spiritual Gifts Coordinator/

Parish Nurse Deb Bergstrom
deb@lolbaxter.org

Custodians Karen & Paul Erickson
kde12112@gmail.com

Pianist Jennifer Person
jennifer.person@lolbaxter.org

Sunday Traditional Group Dir. Jennifer Person

Wed Musician Coordinator Jennifer Person

Lord of Life Church Council Meeting notes for Thursday, November, 2018

TO ADOPT -October 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes (CC. 2018.11.2)

TO ACCEPT-Olivia N. Stirewalt from the 10th Grade Confirmation Class as a new member on the ceremony date of October 28, 2018, as presented by Pastor Erika Nilsen (CC.2018.11.3)

Other Approved Motions:

October Financial report. Emilee Freed motioned to receive the report for audit, Pat Huhta seconded the motion, all approved. (CC.2018.11.4)

To use Thrivent Member Directed Funds up to \$6,000.00 for flooring in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Steve presented the motion, Emilee Freed seconded the motion, all approved. (CC.2018.11.5)

January Birthdays

- 1 Lilja Behr, Keegan Kennedy
- 2 Keith Peterson, Joy Ruzich, Lexi Strus
- 3 Elsy Burton, Laura Halvorson, Hannah Hardinger, Terri Saxum, Brenda Schaitberger, Tom Schuster
- 4 Chris Halvorson, Ellie Nelson
- 5 Jerome Kretzman, Wayne Mueller, Ben Robertson
- 6 Keaira Vaughn
- 7 Beck Barber, Sam Freelove, Chris Gratke, Cliff Sanders
- 8 Randy Aldous, Adelyn Doud, Stan Kalinoski
- 9 Lynda Erickson, Neal Hofius, Stephanie Kingsley, Grady Mogensen, Kiarra Story, Patty Wallace
- 10 Tyler Aldous, David Bohlander, Perry Bunting, George Campbell, Glen Kraemer, Riley Monasmith
- 11 Alice Balsley, Emma Bauer, Robbi Berry, Alexander Paysse, Bryan Rude
- 12 Josh Albright, Alex Engelmann, Calvin Foss, Sam Mattson, Sophia Mattson
- 13 Andrea Carlson, Claire Owens, Grant Owens, Sawyer Peterson, Ceca Smude
- 14 Rod Kohout, Anne Laechel, Tim Sweet
- 15 C.B. Bylander, Ariana Huber, Dylan Knipple, Anna Quincer
- 16 Rose Bankers, Cora Clough, Ashlee Hauble, Tim Hoglin, Ricky Rude
- 17 Taisha Linder, Jane Peterson, Nole Robertson, Dorothy Schmidt, Mike Shogren, Ann Smallman, Renee Woolley
- 18 Kevin Burke, Nikki Stirewalt
- 19 Henry Kiffmeyer, Carolyn Reller
- 20 Dennis Lasher, Matt Rioux, Jenna Ruzich, Martha Spear
- 22 Ian Aadland, Randa Haug, Corry Lund
- 23 Kate Campion, Cristian Einarson, Mitchel Weideman, Beth Workman
- 24 Keith Ahonen, Evan Ithivongkham, Waylen Lange, Korey Peterson, Nancy Redshaw, Liz Stave
- 25 Bonnie Bahr, EJ Fordyce, Jan Hall, Kim Johnson, Cal Madison, Kelly McConkey, Kaidric Peterson, Lori Rehnblom, Bob Roettger, Kirsten Smith, Lauren Stolski, Joe Stolski
- 26 Janet Hudak, Lance Zemke
- 27 Julie Davidge
- 29 Diane Carnahan, Matt Feigum, Angie Krushe-Kort, Charlie Sheets
- 30 Morgan Anderson, Sam Bennett, Katie Campbell, Maren Christiansen, Luke Davidson
- 31 Aleah Bauer, Jim Kingsley, Jennifer Larson, Lisa Patrick

January Anniversaries

- 2 Jerome & Sherlynn Kretzman❖
- 3 Bob & Gina Nelsen❖
Dick & Lori Jensen
- 9 Brandon & Amy Borgstrom
- 11 Charlie & Jan Sheets❖
- 14 Mark & Becky Beckerleg❖
- 18 Joe & Carol VanDenBoom❖
- 19 Curtis & Briana Sanow
- 24 JP & Donna Whalen
- 26 Allen & Jessica Balsley
Daniel & Jolene Fromm
- 27 Erin & Chad Sietsema

❖=Celebrating 24-49 years!

†=Celebrating 50 years or more!

CONTACT THE CHURCH...

828-9374

- ❖ When you or a family member is hospitalized or will be hospitalized.
- ❖ When there is a birth or death in the family.
- ❖ When there is a crisis.
- ❖ When you change your address.
- ❖ When new neighbors move in near you and they are looking for a church home.
- ❖ When you have good news to share.
- ❖ When you have a suggestion to make or a comment to share.
- ❖ If you do not wish to receive our newsletter.
- ❖ If you have a college or post high-school young person no longer living at home.

Your pastors are available to walk with you in times of sadness and joy. Please contact the church office by phone at 828-9374 or email at office@lolbaxter.org.

The pastors can also be reached via email:

Pastor Steve: steve@lolbaxter.org

Pastor Erika: erika@lolbaxter.org

Newsletter Team

Editor: Colleen Bush. Please send all Newsletter articles to: colleen@lolbaxter.org

The **Good News** is published monthly. Articles for the February Newsletter are due January 21.

Reverse Advent Calendar



Sunday School and families of the congregation were encouraged to take a Cub Food box and put an item in it each day of Advent then donate the box of goodies to the food shelf or women's shelter during the Advent Season. We had a wonderful turnout and 34 boxes were taken and donated.

Thank you Cub Foods for donating the boxes for us to use!