

Good News

March
2022

Lord of Life
Lutheran
Church
(ELCA)

Worship
Sunday - 9am
Wednesday -
6:30 pm

Ministers
The Lord of Life
Faith Family

Pastors
Steven J. Rye
Erika Nilsen

Office Hours
Mon.-Fri.
8:30am - 5pm

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

“Lenten Round Robin” Pastor Steve Rye

Over the years, I have found that great blessings come to me personally and to my congregation when we look outside of our church and its concerns and connect with those in other congregations in our neighborhood, throughout the synod, and the whole world.

Lord of Life was born out of a cooperative spirit between the parishes in this area. This is unique among congregations and a real blessing for us. Often, you will hear of faith communities born out of some conflict or some struggle. Those who are angry take residence in the new church. This often has detrimental effects on the culture of the faith family.

Lord of Life was born out of a cooperative spirit and a feeling that with Baxter growing, there should be a Lutheran church in the city of Baxter. Lord of Life began with the blessing of all of the congregations in this area, and we ought to take every opportunity to celebrate that. One way we will continue to build ties between the congregations is through a round-robin preaching series held on Wednesday evenings in Lent.

A round-robin for those unfamiliar with the term is when pastors preach at different congregations in the area. Each week, the pastor moves from church to church so that throughout the course of the series, every congregation will experience a pastor from every other parish.

This year, we will be doing that with First Lutheran Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Church in Brainerd, and Bethel Lutheran Church in rural Brainerd. Each week a different



pastor from these congregations will come to Lord of Life on Wednesday night to preach about their particular sub-theme. The overall theme is “Boundless God.”

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America put much thought into this theme as it was preparing for the national youth gathering that was to be held this summer. Unfortunately, that youth gathering is canceled, but the theme is a good one, and we look forward to exploring it and benefiting from the work that went into the development of this overall theme. And the individual day themes that accompany it.

It is my hope with this new round-robin that you will experience the joy of variety as you'll get to hear different preachers come in each week; that we will strengthen our relationship with the congregations in the area; and that we will explore in unique ways and in ways that we couldn't just honor on our boundless God.

I hope you will join us during the Wednesdays in Lent.

- Pr. Steve

Youth News

Confirmation Program

We are into the season of Lent! This past month our confirmation program has been focused on the Apostles Creed and a variety of faith life topics. Now together we will journey through the season of Lent! Our 9th graders will meet weekly with their mentors. 7th & 8th graders will have a mix of small group classes along with parent nights.

Club 56 Final Session: Discipleship Practices

It is hard to believe that we are launching into our last session of Club 56 for the year! In this final session we will be focusing in on the 7 discipleship practices as a group. I want to take a moment to thank everyone who has been involved this year. A special thank you to our high school youth who helped lead and connect with our 5th & 6th graders. I look forward to seeing all of you on Wednesday, March 9th!

High School Summer Trip Update:

This past month, The ELCA National Youth Gathering informed us that the gathering this year was being cancelled. As some of you may have been aware this was one portion of our high school summer trip this year. Lord of Life youth and adults were signed up to be a part of the NEMN Synod Journey and the ELCA National Youth Gathering down in Minneapolis, MN.

I am thankful that the NEMN Synod Journey is continuing despite the cancellation of the gathering and we are busy looking into other additional options for our group! If you are interested in learning more or signing up to be a part of the summer trip experience please write down these important dates. We are opening up registration to new participants along with those who had signed up for the prior experience.

March 2nd Summer Trip Meeting (Following the Ash Wednesday Service Roughly 7:30 pm)

March 9th Initial Registration Due & Deposit (For new participants)

Teen's Upstream & Lutheran High School Connect

Do you know of someone currently in 9th-12th grade? We have two great programs happening for our high school youth this year and all are invited! Our Teen's Upstream high school youth group meets regularly on Wednesday nights at Lord of Life from 8-9 pm! Lutheran High School Connect meets twice a month on Monday's after school at First Lutheran Church in Brainerd. Check our Social Media pages and websites as future dates and information will be posted.

Important Calendar Dates:

March 2nd Ash Wednesday

March 2nd High School Summer Trip Meeting

March 6th Middle School Youth Group

March 9th Club 56 Session #4 Launches

March 16th NO Wednesday Night Programing (Spring Break)

Ministry News

You May be Missing Out?

Biscuits and gravy, tomorrow. Last week, French toast, hashbrowns and pork chops. Throw in eggs, fresh fruit, coffee, juice and milk every week. Stan's maple syrup. Bacon. Ham. Sausages. Did I say, "meat?" All prepared. Sit down and eat. Need I say more? What? If you are a guy and haven't been enjoying these meals, I'd say you are missing out. Fridays.

What about sweet rolls, muffins, frosted doughnuts and coffee? Maybe some of John's moose meatballs for a treat? Sid's venison sausage? Been there? Could be. Thursdays.

Every Friday, 7 am, fellows meet at Lord of Life for breakfast and small talk – hunting, fishing, weather, Vikings, Twins, The Wild . . . And then an informal Bible study/discussion on a scripture passage and what in the world that has to do with our everyday lives and world. Share any concerns, hopes or dreams. Or, just listen. Pray the Lord's Prayer. Then off to work or wherever, 8 am. Leave early if you need to.

Every Thursday, 9:30 am, fellows meet at Lord of Life for coffee, rolls and small talk – same subjects. Then an informal Bible study – What is God trying to tell us today? Concerns, hopes, how is so-and-so doing after his surgery, etc. Lord's Prayer. Carry on with your retirement or whatever. Officially done by 11 am. Come when you can. Leave when you need to.

I attend almost every week. So do a lot of other guys. We'd love to have you join us.

Darrell J. Pedersen

Heartland Conference offers gatherings for women:

The Heartland Conference Spring Gathering will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca on April 9. The theme is from Psalm 107:1, "Oh give thanks to the Lord for he is good! His love endures forever!"

Our Summer Convention will be June 6-8 at Sugar Lake Lodge near Grand Rapids. The theme will be "Make a place at the table." The theme verse is from Romans 15:7 "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you for the glory of God."

These two gatherings are for all women, you don't need to be a member of a Circle or even a member of Lord of Life! All are welcome!

There is a scholarship for any woman ages 18-45 for the June gathering. If you would like a ride or more information, please call Brenda Johnson at 218-831-9725.

LoL Staff

Senior Pastor

Steven Rye
steve@lolbaxter.org

Associate Pastor

Erika Nilsen
erika.nilsen@
lolbaxter.org

Operations Manager

Anne Laechel
anne@lolbaxter.org

Youth Director

Tim Slinger
tim@lolbaxter.org

Communications

Coordinator

Tyler Jensen
tyler.jensen@
lolbaxter.org

Custodians

Paul and Karen
Erickson

More News!

First Communion Class!!

5th Graders and parents – it's time for first communion class!

For 4 weeks in March we'll gather to learn more about the gift of communion, our scripture story and our understanding of God's gift of holy communion.

Classes will be held Thursday nights in March from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm. ***There will be no class on March 17, due to Spring Break.***

HUGE THANK YOU TO VAL RANGEN!

Val shared her absolute love of Jesus and love of kids and prepared all of the Kids Time lessons for our One Anothering series in January and February. We are so grateful for her wisdom, expertise and resources.

If you would like to help with planning and/or executing Kids Time Lessons, please reach out to Pastor Erika Nilsen.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS!!

There's a special Lenten devotional that is geared a little more towards kids and families that is available to pick up at church. It lifts up our biblical story and at the same time invites learning about all sorts of 'special days' in the calendar!

You'll learn some interesting things and be blessed by the time to together!

New Lord of Life Mugs!!!

Do you like coffee and/or tea? Do you like Lord of Life? Then we've got something for you! Lord of Life has acquired new coffee mugs with our name and butterfly logo. You can either take the mug home as part of your collection, or keep it in your Lord of Life mailbox for fellowship time.

The mugs are \$5 a piece, with proceeds supporting our work here at Lord of Life.



Micah Group

Micah Group is now one of six organized justice groups among the churches in the NE MN Synod of the ELCA. At the gracious invitation of Deacon Colleen Bernu, representatives of the six groups have had two Zoom meetings. We are getting to know each other, sharing ideas and event calendars, and even beginning to do some collaborative planning. Our NE MN Synod is invested in learning what we're up to and providing support. They are making digital and other resources accessible for us. I am both pleased and amazed at the passion for justice and the creative energy and knowledge that are shared when we care together. As we continue canoeing together seeking to calm the waters of injustice with acts of kindness and love, it is our hope that the splashes of our paddles will whet the thirst of others and that you will join the fleet.

Upcoming Events for March, April, and May

These are scheduled by Micah Group and will take place in rooms 1/3 and on Zoom.

March 6: 10:30 am – 12 pm: Tony Maurer – “Small Great Things”: A Reflection and a Call to Action

March 13: 10:30 – 11:30 am: Book Study 5 (final)

March 13: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Core Leadership Team Meeting

March 27: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm: Greg Swenson – Reconstruction, Jim Crow Policies, and the Great Migration

April 3: 10:30 – 11:30 am: Beth Bastian – How Many Americas are our Legacy Today?

May 1: 10:30 – 11:30 am: Bob Brekken – First Peoples: American Indians and American History

Upcoming Opportunities

These are opportunities to learn more about injustice and justice and called to our attention by Members and other individuals and groups.

March 9: 12 – 1 pm: Brainerd Public Library – Anton Treuer – “Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask”

March 27: 4 – 5:30 pm – First Congregational Church (UCC) Brainerd - Our Anti-Racist Faith: In Jesus' Grace, God's Love and Joy in the Holy Spirit. This panel event is a collaboration of Pequot Parents for Kindness, People for Racial Justice and Micah Group.

Check the Good News Weekly and listen for announcements at worship for additional opportunities or for any changes to already-scheduled events.

We would be most grateful if you would share with us information about any books, videos, podcasts, or speakers that would lend knowledge fuel to the canoe fleet. Come. Bring your paddle and jump into the Micah Group justice canoe!

March Calendar

Lessons

March 6

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 13

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17--4:1
Luke 13:31-35

March 20

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 27

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Tuesday, March 1

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 am
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Meal, 5:30 pm
Property Team, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, March 2

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Ash Wednesday Worship, 12 pm
Ash Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, March 3

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Martha Circle, 1 pm
Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm
First Communion Class, 6:30 pm

Friday, March 4

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Saturday, March 5

Pray and Ponder, 9 am

Sunday, March 6

Worship, 9 am
Middle School Youth Group, 5:30 pm

Monday, March 7

Driver Improvement Class, 12 pm

Tuesday, March 8

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

Wednesday, March 9

Driver Improvement Class, 9 am
Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Supper and Club 56, 5:30 pm
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, March 10

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
First Communion Class, 6:30 pm

Friday, March 11

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Sunday, March 13

Worship, 9 am
Micah Group, 10:30 am

Tuesday, March 15

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 am
March Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, March 16

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 17

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

Friday, March 18

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Sunday, March 20

Worship, 9 am

Wednesday, March 23

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Supper and Club 56, 5:30 pm
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, March 24

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
First Communion Class, 6:30 pm

Friday, March 25

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Sunday, March 27

Worship, 9 am
Micah Group, 10:30 am

Wednesday, March 30

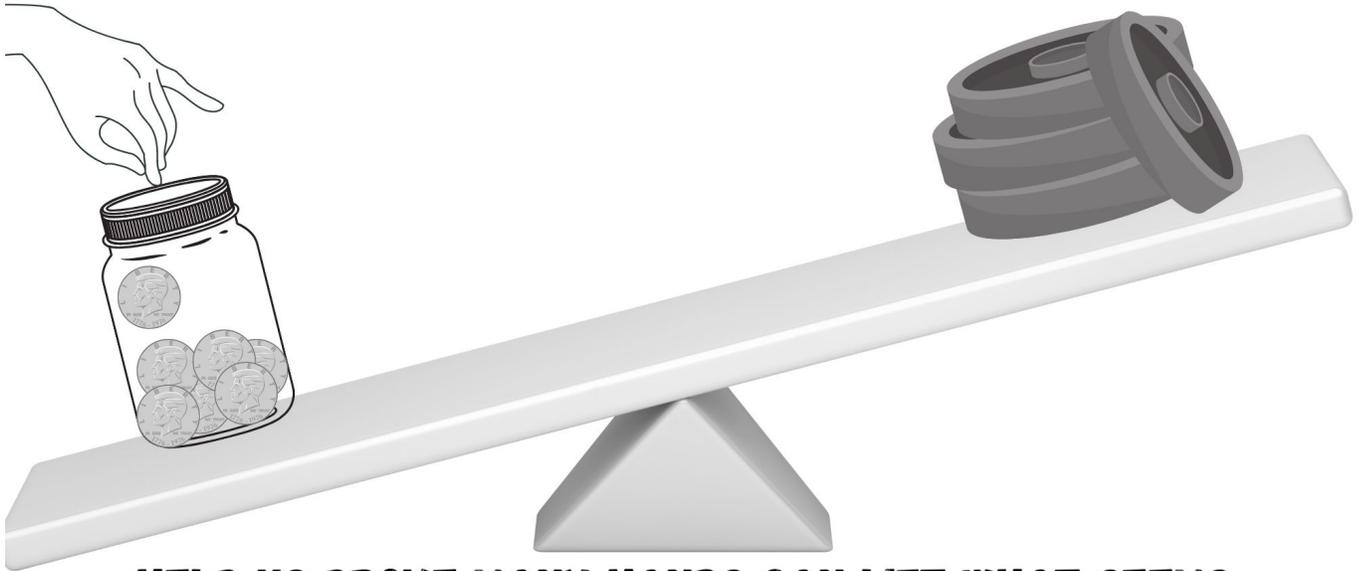
Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Supper and Club 56, 5:30 pm
Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm
Master Class Bible Study, 7:30 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, March 31

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
First Communion Class, 6:30 pm

Giving Campaign

**LORD OF LIFE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN: \$27,000 OUT OF \$60,000.
WE WANT TO THANK THE 45 FAMILIES THAT INCREASED THEIR
GIVING BY AT LEAST 50 CENTS A DAY THIS PAST YEAR!**



**HELP US PROVE MANY HANDS CAN LIFT WHAT SEEMS
IMMOVABLE, AS WE STRIVE TO MAINTAIN GOD'S WORK HERE!
TO GIVE, PLEASE VISIT LOLBAXTER.ORG, OR
REACH US AT (218) 828-9374.**

Groups

- Men's Fellowship - An opportunity for men to meet to discuss the Bible and other religious topics, while enjoying coffee, donuts and fellowship. This group meets every Thursday at 9:30 am in the Commons.
- Men's Breakfast - This group meets Friday mornings at 7 am for breakfast, Bible studies, and fellowship
- Master Class - A Wednesday evening Bible Study class aimed at helping people understand the mission of the Church and Scripture. Held Wednesday evenings at 7 pm via Zoom.
- Sarah Circle - The Sarah Circle meets the second Tuesday of each month for Bible Study and fellowship for women at Lord of Life.
- Wednesday Women's Bible - A Bible Study opportunity for women each Wednesday at 10:30 am.
- Martha Circle - A women's group that meets the first Thursday of each month at 1 pm, for fellowship and Bible study.
- Pray and Ponder - This program for women at Lord of Life meets one Saturday a month for breakfast and discussion based on the NOOMA video series.