

Welcome to Lord of Life!

We are a member
of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in
America (ELCA)

MINISTERS
The Lord of Life
Faith Family

WORSHIP TIMES
Sunday
Traditional
8:30 am

Sunday
Contemporary
10:30 am

Wednesday
Evening
6:30 pm

OFFICE HOURS
Mondays, Tuesdays,
and Thursdays:
8:30 am - 5 pm

Wednesdays:
11 am - 5 pm

Our Office is closed
on Fridays

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Brainerd, MN, 56401

The Good News at Lord of Life

October 2023

Who Has Authority

Authority is an interesting concept. Often, when we think of authority, our brains immediately go to politics, workplace authority, or people in positions of power. It can bring us to a place of argument or anger, of debate and struggle. Who is right? Who is wrong? We instinctively embrace a category or strong belief system.

Jesus wanted disciples who were both committed and thoughtful. He asked questions and pushed people to think deeply about who they were and why they believed and acted as they did. Jesus wanted to help them avoid arbitrarily falling into one camp or another. He even said, "What do you think?"

What do you think about authority? What gives someone authority? To whom do you grant authority?

Authority exists in helpful and deeply meaningful ways that go beyond politics, beyond opinion, and beyond culture. It gives us the courage to act when we feel confused. Taking the authority of Christ seriously brings us back to being Jesus for one another. It brings us back to authentic care within the body of Christ.

Two years ago my husband (also a pastor) died in a mountain climbing accident. I will forever remember my Bishop, a person in authority, looking me in the eye as she held my head with a face of streaming tears, and said, "He fell into Jesus." That gracious, powerful exercise of her authority, that pastoral care moment, is nestled deep in my heart and brain. She had talked with others in authority, Search and Rescue, who knew their craft just as she knew her craft. These authority areas came together for good, to care for people, and to use their giftedness in a time of deep trouble. We often consider authority to be negative, but authority can also be positive.

Finally, Christians look to Jesus Christ as their ultimate authority, as the guide when the way is unclear. We look to Christ to give our actions direction and justification. We hear him say, "What do you think?" and with our

eyes on him we can dare to step into the messiness of gray choices.

Let us pray;

Holy God, in the midst of discord and distrust we experience the abuse of power and authority. We pray for leaders and people in positions of power, in households, schools, hospitals, corporations, and government. We pray that compassionate authority will reign. Fill the world with forgiveness, open minds, and open hearts. We pray with gratitude for the places and spaces offering healthy authority. We pray for the places and spaces of unhealthy authority and abuse, that justice will reign. Thank you for Christ's authority that comes to us in confession and absolution in the midst of our sin. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Adapted from the
ELCA Faith Lens Blog by
Pr. Shannyn Fuerst

All Are Welcome In This Place



October Readings

First Readings

October 1st
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

October 8th
Isaiah 5:1-7

October 15th
Isaiah 25:1-9

October 22nd
Isaiah 45:1-7

October 29th
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalms

October 1st
Psalm 25:1-9

October 8th
Psalm 80:7-15

October 15th
Psalm 23

October 22nd
Psalm 96:1-9

October 29th
Psalm 1

Second Readings

October 1st
Philippians 2:1-13

October 8th
Philippians 3:4b-14

October 15th
Philippians 4:1-9

October 22nd
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

October 29th
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Gospel Readings

October 1st
Matthew 21:23-32

October 8th
Matthew 21:33-46

October 15th
Matthew 22:1-14

October 22nd
Matthew 22:15-22

October 29th
Matthew 22:34-46

Gospel Reflections

Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the money-changers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

Matthew 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

Matthew 22:15-22

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

Fall Clothing Giveaway

Friday, 10/6: 9am to 3pm

Saturday, 10/7: 9am to 12pm

**Donations accepted
starting October 1st!**

Youth Ministry Update

Confirmation Update & Affirmation of Baptism Service

Our 7th-9th grade confirmation program is busy focusing on the New Testament, Catechism and Faith Life topics this year! This month our students will have the opportunity to help set up for the Fall Clothing Giveaway and help with service projects around the church!

On Sunday, October 29th at 10:30 am we will hold our Affirmation of Baptism Service for our 10th grade confirmation class! Join us in supporting these confirmands on this special day and taking a moment to view their confirmation projects that will be on display!

Club 56 open for 5th and 6th graders

Club 56 is launching on Wednesday, October 4th from 7:15 pm - 8 pm. Registration is still open if you would like to join! The first session is 4-weeks in length the dates are: October 4th, 11th, 25th and November 1st.

A few themes that we have explored in the past are: Bible 101, Holy Sacraments, Health & Wellbeing and Discipleship Practices.

Join us for Kids Time Lessons

Sundays at 8:30 and 10:30 am services

Special Community Hour Activities at 9:45 am



**Tim Slinger,
Youth Director**

Middle School Late Night Out!

**Friday, 10/27 from 5 to 11 pm
Cost is \$10, Register by 10/22**

Teens Upstream and Middle School Youth Group

Inviting all middle school and high school youth to join our youth groups happening each month! Here is a great way to connect with your friends throughout the school year. Explore Bible lessons that connect with your everyday life and enjoy some of your favorite games!

Teen's Upstream for Grades 9 - 12:
Meets weekly on Wednesday nights at 8 pm-9 pm

Middle School Youth Group for Grades 5 - 8
Meets monthly our next youth group is Sunday October 29th 5:30-7 pm

Synod All Youth Gathering!!! 11/18 to 11/19 at Cragun's Register by Sunday, Oct. 22



Ministry Updates

Micah Group Update

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 NRSV

There are many ways to work toward God's challenge to us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly. Last month several Micah members participated in the Brainerd Lakes Pride in the Park event supporting LGBTQ+ people in our community. In October we will celebrate Indigenous People's Day. We read, we learn, we seek to educate ourselves and others regarding social justice issues. We desire to advocate and walk alongside those in our community are seeking equality and justice.

Soon we will be starting another book discussion group. Stay tuned and join us!

Fall Clothing Giveaway

Our next project? In October we are setting up our annual Clothing Give Away. It will be held Friday, October 6th from 9:00 to 3:00 and Saturday October 7th from 9:00 to noon. All clothing will be free. Anyone can come. Spread the word!!

How can you help? By donating clean, gently used

clothing. Men's, women's and children's clothing and shoes will be accepted. Please bag the items and bring them to the East Door of the building. Donations will be accepted at the following times:

- Sunday, October 1 from 8:30 to 1 pm.
- Monday through Wednesday October 2-4 from 9 am to 3 pm

How else can you help? We are looking for people to volunteer to receive, help sort and organize the donations before the sale. If you have a few extra hours and a willingness to help our community, contact Pat Dickson at 720-984-6260 or otherpeoplecount.period@gmail.com. Thank you for helping make our community just a little bit better.

Community Hour at LOL

With the recent change in worship times to 8:30 am and 10:30 am on Sundays, Lord of Life is looking to offer forums for members in that inbetween time we now have.

After the early traditional service ends at 9:30 am, we'll grab our coffee and treats before making our way to the Fellowship Hall.

There, we'll have a different enrichment discussion aimed at adults each week. Some of the topics that have been considered include:

- Forums discussing issues of interest to the Congregation;
- Deep dives into the day's scripture readings; and
- Discussions regarding faith in our own lives.

Our goal with this time is to offer experiences that will be of value to our congregation. We also want to use this as an opportunity for people staying after the first service, and those coming early for the second service, to be in community with one another.

During this time, we will also offer activities for children at church. At 9:45 am each Sunday, they will gather with a Kids Time Leader for a time of fun and learning.

We are looking for people willing to lead these Kids Time sessions. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Erika.

If you have any questions, please call us at (218) 828-9374.

We want you for the Contemporary Worship Music Team!



**Talk to
Kennedy Niska or
Koreann Martin if
interested**

Financial Report

Fall Generosity Campaign

Fall is the time of year when we invite you to think intentionally about our ministries here, and what you might be willing to give in support of them.

This year, Lord of Life is focusing our Fall Generosity Campaign on two themes. The first is from our four-year cycle, with this year's call being to "Live Courageously."

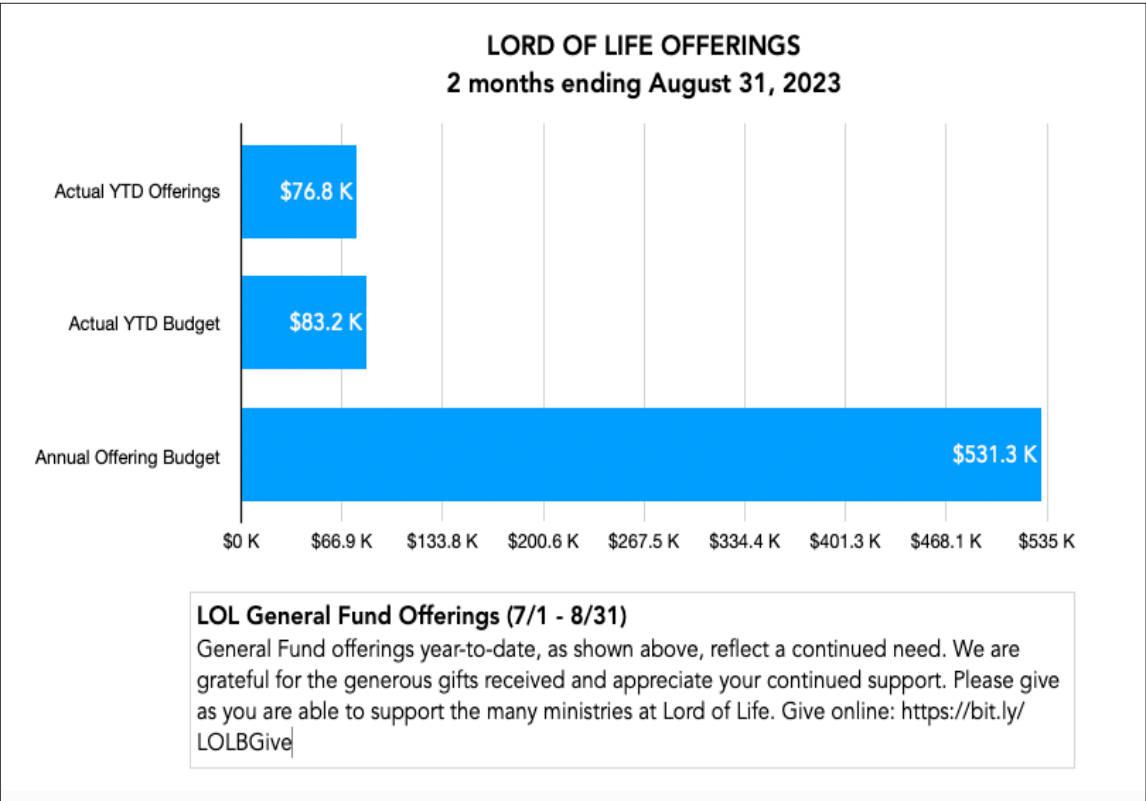
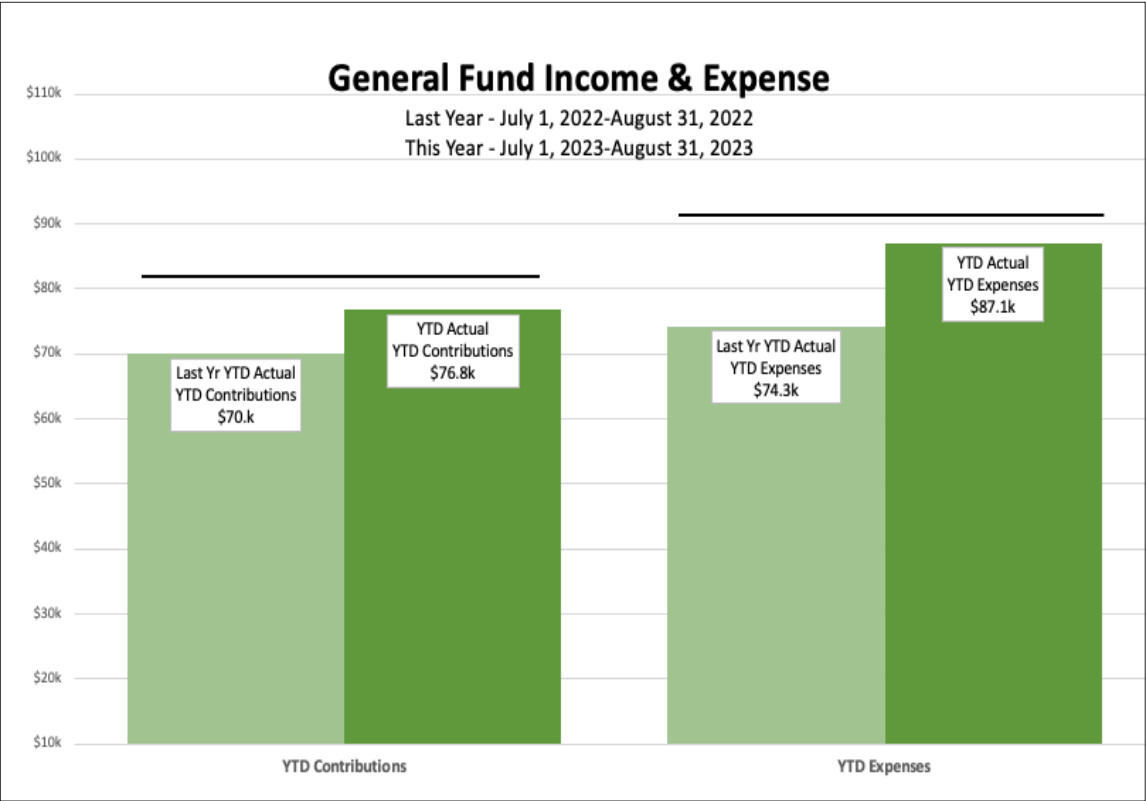
The second theme, containing much of the ideas our pastors will preach on in the series, is the idea of "You Have Heard It Said..."

With these combined themes, we hope to move forward as congregation with courage and conviction, ignoring those who you have heard say our work is not worthwhile, or that it is not possible.

At the end of this series (Sundays Oct 15, 29, Nov 12 & 19) We will invite you to turn in pledge cards with your planned giving to Lord of Life in the following year.

If you would prefer to adjust your giving online, we can also help you get set up using our Aplos payment service.

God Bless!



October Calendar

Sunday, October 1

Traditional Worship, 8:30 am
Community Hour, 9:30 am
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am
LOL at the Soup Kitchen, 11 am

Monday, October 2

3rd Grade Bible Class, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, October 4

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Animal Blessing Service, 4 pm
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm
Club 56, 7:15 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, October 5

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

Friday, October 6

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Clothing Giveaway, 9 am
Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, October 7

Clothing Giveaway, 9 am
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, October 8

Traditional Worship, 8:30 am
Community Hour, 9:30 am
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am
Noisy Offering Sunday
Indigenous People's Sunday

Monday, October 9

3rd Grade Bible Class, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, October 10

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 am
Sarah Circle, 1 pm
Property Group, 4 pm

Wednesday, October 11

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Finance Team, 4 pm
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm
Club 56, 7:15 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm
Noisy Offering Wednesday

Thursday, October 12

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

Friday, October 13

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

Saturday, October 14

Property Work Day, 8 am
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, October 15

Traditional Worship, 8:30 am
Community Hour, 9:30 am
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am

Monday, October 16

3rd Grade Bible Class, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, October 18

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

Thursday, October 19

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

Friday, October 20

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

Saturday, October 21

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, October 22

Traditional Worship, 8:30 am
Community Hour, 9:30 am
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am
MG Book Discussion, 11 am
Cantata Rehearsal, 7 pm

Monday, October 23

3rd Grade Bible Class, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, October 24

Tuesday Bible Study, 9 am

Wednesday, October 25

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm
Club 56, 7:15 pm
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, October 26

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

Friday, October 27

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

Saturday, October 28

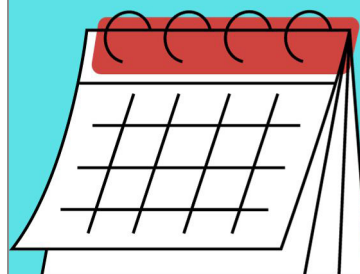
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, October 29

Choir Practice, 7:45 am
Traditional Worship, 8:30 am
Community Hour, 9:30 am
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am
Middle School Youth Group, 5:30 pm
Cantata Rehearsal, 7 pm
Reformation Sunday
Confirmation Sunday

**Do you have
an item for
the calendar?**

**Contact the
Church Office**



Our Team

Pr. Steven Rye,
Senior Pastor
steven@lolbaxter.org

Pr. Erika Nilsen,
Associate Pastor
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Anne Laechel,
Business Administrator
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Tim Slinger,
Youth Director
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Tyler Jensen,
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Coordinator
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**Paul and Karen
Erickson,**
Custodians

Kennedy Niska,
Music Coordinator
kennedy@lolbaxter.org

Koreann Martin,
Contemporary
Worship Leader

Celebrating September



God's Work, Our Hands 2023



Rally Sunday 2023



**Baptism of Louie Joe Hodnefield
Son of Lucas and Anna**



**Return of Youth Programming
(Middle School Youth Group Pictured)**

Fall Property Work Day

It is almost time for our Fall Property Work Day! The event is from 8 am to 12 pm on Saturday, October 14th.

These work days are an opportunity for the congregation to come together and care for the blessing God has given us in the form of our church and property.

Many volunteers help make these days a success.

This year, there are a variety of projects the Property Team has identified as needing to be addressed, including:

- Mulching trees in front of the Church;
- Check the grounds for debris from last fall's roofing project;
- Cleaning up rocks around the parking lot circle;
- Sweep / blow debris from the parking lot;

- Prune pine trees;
- Trim suckers from the crab trees;
- Clean out the annuals from flower beds;
- Wrap hydrangeas for winter;
- Cut up dead trees;
- Clean and organize the shed; and
- Store away outdoor equipment.

A sign up sheet for the different activities is available

in the Church Narthex, or on lolbaxter.org. Volunteers are asked to bring work and weather-appropriate clothing, work gloves, and tools.

Water bottles and snacks will be available inside the Church.

For more information, please contact the Church Office at (218) 828-9374.