

## 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**

**CONTACT US**  
**(218) 828-9374**

**office@lolbaxter.org**

**PO Box 685**  
**Brainerd, MN, 56401**

# The Good News at Lord of Life November 2023

### Worship Reflections

As I write this, the leaves on the trees are changing and the colors surrounding us are in full glory. It is a time when change brings unexpected beauty and a tribute to God's wonderfully created world. It is a time of change and wonder.

This fall, we have changed our worship schedule and formats to provide more options for our congregation. We will now have two worship services on Sundays: a traditional service at 8:30am and a contemporary service at 10:30 am with a Community Hour in between.

The traditional service will follow a traditional lit-

urgy, with hymns, prayers, a sermon, and communion. The contemporary service will have a more modern feel, with contemporary music, praise songs, communion, and a message.

We have received good feedback from members about these changes, and we appreciate your input. The comments are collected, considered at staff meetings and council meetings as we make decisions about future worship services.

Please be aware that we are still in what I would call the "testing phase," so please be patient as we make adjustments.

We are grateful for the spirit in which people have entered into these changes. Even when people give feedback that could be described as negative, it is always done in a way that makes it clear that everyone wants a strong and vibrant worship experience.

We believe that these changes will allow us to better meet the needs of our congregation and provide a more welcoming and inclusive worship environment. :: Thank you for your partnership in the gospel. We look forward to seeing you on a Sunday soon.

- Pastor Steven Rye

# All Are Welcome In This Place



# November Readings

## First Readings

November 5th  
Micah 3:5-12

November 12th  
Amos 5:18-24

November 19th  
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

November 26th  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

## Psalms

November 5th  
Psalm 43

November 12th  
Psalm 70

November 19th  
Psalm 90:1-8, 12

November 26th  
Psalm 95:1-7

## Second Readings

November 5th  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

November 12th  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

November 19th  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

November 26th  
Ephesians 1:15-23

## Gospel Readings

November 5th  
Matthew 23: 1-12

November 12th  
Matthew 25:1-13

November 19th  
Matthew 25:14-30

November 26th  
Matthew 25:31-46

# Gospel Reflections

## Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus encourages his disciples to obey the words of Moses they hear from their teachers but to shun the hypocrisy and pretension of those who do not practice what they teach.

## Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

## Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

## Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

**Thanks to everyone who contributed  
to our “New Beginnings”  
Advent Devotional**

**Releases Sunday, Nov. 19th**

# Youth Ministry Update

## Christmas Sale

Christmas is right around the corner. Do you have some gently used Christmas Decor you no longer need? Looking to change up some decor or add to you collection?

We invite you to our Christmas Décor and Bake Sale happening Saturday, November 18th 9 am to 3 pm!

If you are interested in donating gently used items you may do so Sunday, November 12th- Wednesday November 15th. Money raised from the sale will support the summer youth trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans!

## 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**

## Youth Gathering

Lord of Life will be joining congregations and their youth from across the NE MN Synod at Cragun's for the All Youth Gathering in November! This year's focus is on the Ten Commandments with Keynote Speaker Agape! Registration is closed for this event but we look forward to sharing pictures and stories with all of you!

## Middle School Youth Group 11/26 at 5:30 pm

**Congratulations to  
our 2023  
Confirmands**



# Micah Group

*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

As this is being written, the world is holding its breath to see what happens next. Hamas has brutally attacked Israel and Israel is poised on the border of northern Gaza, threatening massive retaliation. Over a million people have been told to flee before the impending destruction of the area. It is difficult to imagine the fear, chaos, trauma, loss of life and devastation this new conflict will bring. And the war in Ukraine continues on. And Myanmar. And many other places around the world.

As we watch in horror, what does our church have to say to us that will guide us through the ensuing days? The following is a letter from Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA:

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?” —Psalm 22:1*

*Dear church,*

*As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.*

*For the past week we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. We also watch a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as Israel blocks food, water, fuel and medical supplies and as airstrikes continue to cause unbearable civilian casualties ahead of a just announced ground assault. We see Israelis and families around the world in the agonizing wait for word about the fate of loved ones killed or taken hostage by Hamas. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.*

*Among us are Palestinian Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland. In our communities we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.*

*It is difficult to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together, as church, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.*

*We must also call a thing a thing. The power exerted against all Palestinian people — through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence — must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing. We are committed to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.*

*The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness. May it be so.*

*In Christ,  
The Reverend Elizabeth Eaton*

*Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America*

Lord of Life members: Please pray for peace. Be kind. Love one another. And help those who are suffering when and where you can.

# 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.”

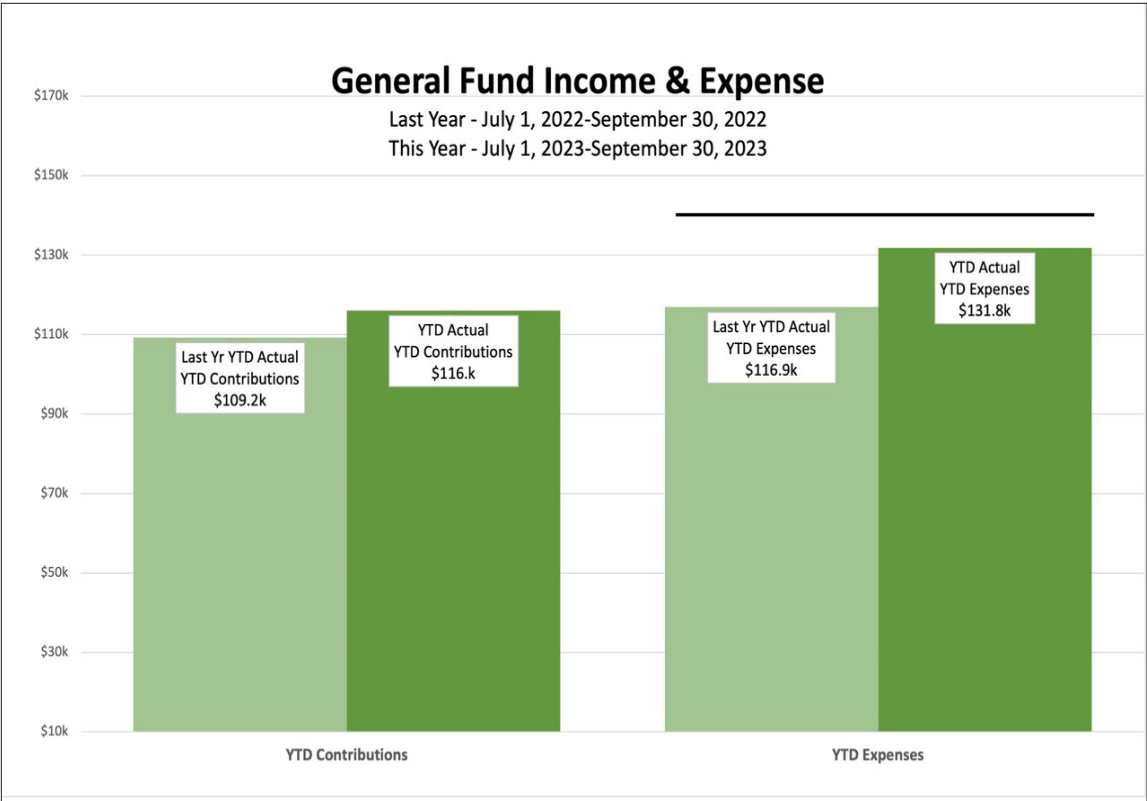
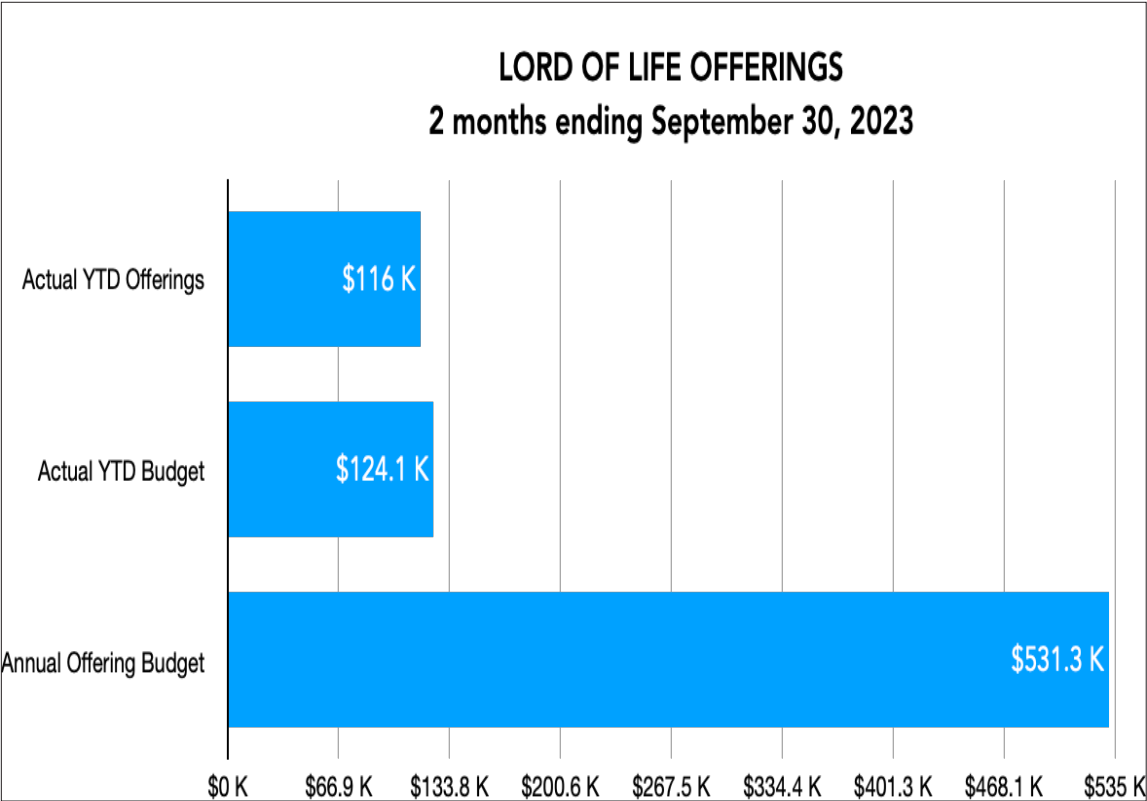
The second theme, containing much of the ideas our pastors will preach on in the series, is the idea of “You Have Heard It Said…”

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!



# November Calendar

## Wednesday, November 1

Women's Bible Study, 1 pm  
Hunter Blessing & Meal, 5:15 pm  
Worship w/ Conf., 6:30 pm  
Club 56, 7:15 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

## Thursday, November 2

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

## Friday, November 3

Men's Breakfast, 7 am  
Dawn Benedict Visitation, 1 pm  
Dawn Benedict Funeral, 2 pm  
Al-Anon, 7 pm

## Saturday, November 4

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

## Sunday, November 5

Traditional Worship, 8:30 am  
Community Hour, 9:30 am  
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am  
Soup Kitchen, 11 am  
Cantata Rehearsal, 7 pm

## Monday, November 6

Grief Support Group, 1:30 pm  
Grief Support Group, 6 pm

## Wednesday, November 8

Finance Team, 4 pm  
Worship w/ Conf., 6:30 pm  
Club 56, 7:15 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm  
*Noisy Offering Wednesday*

## Thursday, November 9

Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am  
Martha Circle, 1 pm  
Worship Planning, 4 pm

## Friday, November 10

Al-Anon, 7 pm

## Saturday, November 11

Lots of Love AA

## Sunday, November 12

Traditional Worship, 8:30 am  
Community Hour, 9:30 am  
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am  
*Noisy Offering Sunday*

## Monday, November 13

Grief Support Group, 1:30 pm  
Grief Support Group, 6 pm

## Tuesday, November 14

Bible Study, 9 am  
Sarah Circle, 1 pm

## Wednesday, November 15

Worship w/ Conf., 6:30 pm  
Club 56, 7:15 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

## Thursday, November 16

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

## Friday, November 17

Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

## Saturday, November 18

Christmas Sale, 9 am  
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

## Sunday, November 19

Choir Practice, 7:45 am  
Traditional Worship, 8:30 am  
Congregational Meeting, 9:45 am  
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am  
NOOMA Retreat, 1 pm  
Cantata Rehearsal, 7 pm

## Monday, November 20

Grief Support Group, 1:30 pm  
Grief Support Group, 6 pm

## Wednesday, November 22

Thanksgiving Service, 12 pm  
Thanksgiving, 6:30 pm  
Pie Social, 7:30 pm

## Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!

## Friday, November 24

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

## Saturday, November 25

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

## Sunday, November 26

Traditional Worship, 8:30 am  
Community Hour, 9:30 am  
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am  
Middle School YG, 5:30 pm  
Cantata Rehearsal, 7 pm

## Monday, November 27

Grief Support Group, 1:30 pm  
Grief Support Group, 6 pm

## Tuesday, November 28

Bible Study, 9 am

## Wednesday, November 29

Worship w/ Conf., 6:30 pm  
Teen's Upstream, 8 pm

## Thursday, November 30

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

## Our Team

**Pr. Steven Rye,**  
Senior Pastor  
[steven@lolbaxter.org](mailto:steven@lolbaxter.org)

**Pr. Erika Nilsen,**  
Associate Pastor  
[erika.nilsen@lolbaxter.org](mailto:erika.nilsen@lolbaxter.org)

**Anne Laechel,**  
Business Administrator  
[anne.laechel@lolbaxter.org](mailto:anne.laechel@lolbaxter.org)

**Tim Slinger,**  
Youth Director  
[tim@lolbaxter.org](mailto:tim@lolbaxter.org)

**Tyler Jensen,**  
Communications  
Coordinator  
[tyler@lolbaxter.org](mailto:tyler@lolbaxter.org)

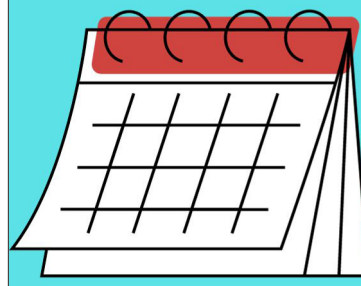
**Paul and Karen**  
Erickson,  
Custodians

**Kennedy Niska,**  
Music Coordinator  
[kennedy@lolbaxter.org](mailto:kennedy@lolbaxter.org)

**Koreann Martin,**  
Contemporary  
Worship Leader

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

**Contact the  
Church Office**







**Affirmation of Baptism Service**



**Fall Clothing Giveaway**



**Confirmation Scavenger Hunt**



**Baptism of Vada James Coonfield  
Daughter of Bruce and Elizabeth**



**Baptism of Vincent Harris Freeman  
Son of Tyler and Carrie**



# September Council Minutes

Lord of Life Church Council Regular Meeting Minutes  
Friday, September 29th 2023  
Location: Camp Onomia

<b>Present (9)</b> <b>Pastor Steven Rye</b> <b>Pastor Erika Nilsen</b> <b>Greg Bennett</b> <b>Kurt Porter</b>	<b>Brian Orlowski</b> <b>Jessamyn Foley</b> <b>Erica Dolven-Kolle</b> <b>Andy Isackson</b> <b>Jolene Parks</b>	<b>Absent: (2)</b> <b>Karla Skwira</b> <b>Josh Freelove</b>
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Meeting called to order by President Kurt Porter at 7:28 PM

Devotions by Pastor Steven Rye

**Consent Agenda:**

- Approval of August financial reports;
- Approval of July and August meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Greg Bennett, second by Brian Orlowski, All ayes (CC.2023.09.01)
- Purchase MacBook Air Tim Slinger’s computer is 7 years old and he is in need of a new computer. It was requested that we approve the purchase of a 15” MacBook Air w/8 GB RAM and 256 MB Storage; cost should be no more than \$1,5000. Motion made by Greg Bennetti; second by Jolene Parks-All ayes (CC.2023.09.02)
- 3K to Sharing Bread Kitchen-Anne Laechel requested permission to cut a check for \$3,000 from the monies collected through the Noisy Offering

- to the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen. Motion made by Andy Isackson, Second by Pr. Steven Rye-All ayes (CC.2023.09.03)
- Authorize Anne Laechel to send money from noisy offering to the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen as appropriate with no church council approval. Motion made by Jessamyn Foley, second by Erica Dolven-Kolle, All ayes. (CC.2023.09.04)
  - Insurance we are still waiting on 2 quotes to come in and need to review all policies to determine which policy will be selected. It was suggested that Greg and Kurt can review policies and make a decision in selecting insurance policy using their best judgment. Motion made by Andy Isackson, second by Jolene Parks, All ayes. (CC.2023.09.05)
  - Amendment made to the policy to allow Greg and Kurt to execute any documentation necessary to enact the policy. (CC.2023.09.05a)

- Boy Scout Request-The Boy Scouts have requested to use the building for activities. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian during any Boy Scout Activity. It was determined that no action was necessary on the part of the Council.
- Juneteenth-should Lord of Life staff be given Juneteenth off as a holiday? Discussion was had by the council around this. Motion to add June teeth as a paid holiday was made by Andy Isackson, Second by Erica Dolven-Kolle-All ayes (CC.2023.09.06)
- Barrett Property-this subject was tabled for further discussion to be held the next day at the retreat meeting.
- Sacred Sites/Places Community-Pr. Erika discussed the new law allowing tiny homes to be constructed on sacred sites and places and discussion was had about what that could look like at Lord of Life. We will continue to have discussions around this as we have a

better understanding of the new law and the logistics around this.

**Updates:**

Outward:  
Habitat is working on 2 new homes and needs more volunteers. The new location for Restore should be opening soon.

Inward:  
Faith Works Building-needs a dedicated oversight person who is not already a staff member. The building may be locked until a person is found to do this.

Grounds:  
New sidewalk is installed ahead of the asphalt for the parking lot. A donation has been made for time, supplies, and labor to paint the cross on the roof. Carpet cleaner is broken down and a request has been made to purchase a new carpet cleaner for \$2,315. It was decided to discuss this at the next Council meeting.

Youth:  
Mission Jamaica-Pr. Steve has suggested pivoting to Mission Jamaica away from the National Youth Gathering. This will be discussed more at the meeting tomorrow when Josh Frelove will be in attendance.



# Christmas Poinsettia Orders



**Fill out an  
order form  
in person  
or online  
starting  
Nov. 26th**





**Advent Pray and Ponder Event**  
**Saturday, December 9th**  
**9 - 11 am**

**Contact the Church Office at**  
**(218) 828-9374 for more info**



# September Council Minutes

## Lord of Life Church Council Regular Meeting Minutes Friday, September 30th 2023 Location: Camp Onomia

<b>Present (10)</b> <b>Pastor Steven Rye</b> <b>Pastor Erika Nilsen</b> <b>Greg Bennett</b> <b>Kurt Porter</b>	<b>Brian Orlowski</b> <b>Jessamyn Foley</b> <b>Erica Dolven-Kolle</b> <b>Andy Isackson</b> <b>Jolene Parks</b>	<b>Josh Freelo</b>  <b>Absent (1)</b> <b>Karla Skwira</b>
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Meeting called to order by President Kurt Porter at 9:30 AM

Worship Hymns by Pr. Steven Rye and Pr. Erika Nilsen

Barrett Property: Discussion about sale of the Barrett Property was held. Some topics discussed where we; should list it and how aggressively it should be priced, also discussed what should be done with the money if/when it is sold. It was decided to hold a congregation meeting on Sunday, October 29th between the 1st and 2nd service to allow us to present our ideas to the congregation. Tentatively it was determined that \$249,900 was a reasonable listing price. It was determined that no formal motion was needed at this time.

Policy change regarding same-gender relationships

Guidance from Bishop Amy was given that a policy change of this matter did not require us to hold a congregational meeting. We could make this decision

as a council. Bishop Amy also encouraged the church to hold two informational sessions for the congregation around same-gender relationships and our policy at Lord of Life.

A discussion was held around Lord Of Life Church Policy regarding same-gender relationships including the history in the ELCA around same gender relationships and the creation of the policy at Lord of Life in 2009.

Special meeting called to order at 2:30 PM by President Kurt Porter

1.) Barrett Property-no formal motion is needed at this time and will await the congregation meeting on October 29th.

2.) Policy Change regarding same-gender relationships. A motion was made to rescind the current policy as it is, including paragraphs 1, 2,3, and 4 by Andy Isackson, Second by Jolene Parks and an anonymous ballot was collected. Prayer was

offered by Pr. Steve and a time for any last questions was given by President Kurt Porter. The motion passed. (CC.2023.09.30.01)

Closed special meeting at 2:45 PM

Many topics were tabled for later discussion at future Church Council meetings including our Strategic Plan, Five-year plan, Revenue Opportunities, Employee Retention, and Communication.

Closing Prayer offered by Pr. Erika

Next Church Council meeting will be held on Thursday, October 26th at 6:00 PM

Retreat adjourned at 3:15 PM

## September 29th Minutes Cont.

President:  
New smart TV was installed in the nursery and now we have the ability to stream the service in the nursery. The Water Bottle grant is complete and the cooler is in the building awaiting installation.

Pastoral:  
Confirmation has begun for the year. Club 56. Children's ministry with the new 2 service format is in development. Pr. Steve and Erika just attended a conference on strategic planning.

Next meeting will be tomorrow, September 30th at the retreat at 9:30 AM

Closing prayer by Pr. Erika

Adjourned at 9:21 PM

# Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social

**After the 6:30 Service on 11/22**



Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
PO Box 685  
Brainerd, MN, 56401