

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
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office@lolbaxter.org

PO Box 685
Brainerd, MN, 56401

The Good News at Lord of Life

January 2024

Supporting First Lutheran's Ministry to the Unsheltered

We are stronger together. That is the philosophy that has driven recent talks between the four Brainerd/Baxter congregations. Another driver has been that Bethlehem, First, and Trinity Lutheran churches have concluded that they have exited the COVID times without the capacity to have both a Senior Pastor and an Associate Pastor on staff. It is too early to tell, but there may soon be a pastor shared by two or three of those congregations. For sure the talks have led to a renewed interest in finding ways to partner and Lord of Life has been present at the table for those talks.

One concrete way we are partnering more is that we have begun toeing in on providing volunteers to help at First Lutheran Church on a Sunday afternoon ministry to the homeless. First Lutheran is within walking distance of the soup kitchen and has opened its doors. Ruth (and her husband Chuck) Nelson served with me on a

recent Sunday and we will be sending more volunteers on New Year's Eve. We found it to be a significant way to serve.... it would be a sad thing if these "unsheltered" children of God had to stay out in the cold while a nearby church was warm and available. But, of course, the only way that can happen is if this community is watched over.

Here is a description from Pastor Patty from First Lutheran regarding what's involved:

"Sunday hospitality, serving the unsheltered" doors open at 2:30 on Sunday afternoons. The guests gather in our fireside room or out in the fellowship hall, where we have DVDs playing and or the football game, plus puzzles and other such activities are set out for those who might be interested.

Those who serve in the afternoon will be asked to just keep an eye on things be friendly and, keep the snack supply filled. those who are serving the meal typically show up at 4:30 with the meal already prepared, ear-

lier, if the meal needs to be prepared in our kitchen. We continue hosting the folks while serving them up their meal.

We serve them as opposed to them serving themselves. Serving continues until about 6:15 after which cleanup begins. We close the evening with a sending prayer. Whoever serves can be assured that there will be an experienced supervisor, there to keep an eye out for any issues. We have had no problems with these folks they are so invested in this program that they keep each other in line.

So those who want to serve can serve for two hours in the afternoon during the first half, or just come for the meal, or stay for the complete full four hours.

If anyone who is reading this would be interested in receiving email that includes dates that help is on — please let me know (Pastor Steven) — or Tyler in the office.

Blessings on you in the new year!

Pastor Steven

January Readings

First Readings	Psalms	Second Readings	Gospel Readings
January 7th Genesis 1:1-5	January 7th Psalm 29	January 7th Acts 19:1-7	January 7th Mark 1:4-11
January 14th 1 Samuel 3:1-10	January 14th Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	January 14th 1 Corinthians 6:12-20	January 14th John 1:43-51
January 21st Jonah 3:1-5, 10	January 21st Psalm 62:5-12	January 21st 1 Corinthians 7:29-31	January 21st Mark 1:14-20
January 28th Deuteronomy 18:15-20	January 28th Psalm 111	January 28th 1 Corinthians 8:1-13	January 28th Mark 1:21-28

Gospel Reflections

Mark 1:4-11 Mark’s gospel reports the story of Jesus’ baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.	John 1:43-51 In John’s gospel, Jesus’ ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip’s friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to “Come and see.”	Mark 1:14-20 Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.	Mark 1:21-28 Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.
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Youth Ministry Update

Confirmation Focus: The Apostles Creed & Faith Life

As the new year begins our confirmation class will be transitioning from learning about the New Testament to focusing on the Apostles Creed for this month! This month our 9th graders will also spend time connecting with their mentors on January 10th and 24th focusing on Faith Life Topics led by Pastor Erika!

Middle School Late Night Out

Inviting all 5th - 8th grade Lord of Life Youth to our upcoming Middle School Late Night Out! This event is on Friday January 12th from 5pm-11pm and held at First Lutheran Church in Brainerd, MN. Enjoy connecting with friends from area ELCA Lutheran Churches staying up late and enjoying night games, food, Bible

Study and so much more! Cost is \$10 per person for this event. There is a registration form we ask everyone who is attending to fill out. Our registration deadline for this event is Sunday, January 7th! Please visit our website for a link to the registration form!

Summer Trip Pancake Breakfasts

Our first pancake breakfast of the year is happening on Sunday, January 28th 9:30 am -10:30 am. This year we will be traveling to New Orleans, LA for the ELCA National Youth Gathering!

This will take place in between the two Sunday worship services. Join us for a Pancake breakfast bar which will include all your favorite toppings, sausage links, orange juice & coffee. A free will donation will be

Come join us for breakfast and learn more about this summer trip from our youth who are a part of it!



**Tim Slinger,
Youth Director**

Teen's Upstream

All 9th - 12th graders are invited to join Teen's Upstream happening on Wednesday nights from 8 pm - 9 pm!

Join us each week to connect with friends and take a break from your busy lives. Each week we are focusing in on a devotion from the book, "3 Big Questions That Shape Our Future," by Kara Powell, Kristel Acevedo and Brad M. Griffin.

Club 56 Session 3

This month our Club 56 class will be focused on Mental Health & Well-being. Part of our 4-week study will be around the book, "Kryptonite for Bullies" by Charles Butenhoff.

Within this book we will explore themes that focus around: trust, patience, courage, integrity, humility and gratitude.

January Calendar

January 3rd: Club 56 & Confirmation Classes Resume.

January 10th & 24th: 9th Grade Confirmation Mentor Nights.

January 12th: Middle School Late Night Out.

January 28th: Pancake Breakfast & Middle School Youth Group

**Thanks for supporting our
Youth Christmas Sale. We
raised more than \$2,000!**

What's Happening at LOL

Micah Group Book Discussion

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

Micah Group will host a discussion of John Pavlovitz's book, *If God is Love Don't Be A Jerk*, over four Sundays in January and February. The dates are 1/14, 1/28, 2/11 and 2/25, after the second service at 11:30 a.m. We will begin with a meal and discussion will follow. Child care is available upon request (contact Judy Bialka).

From the book, "Pavlovitz examines the bedrock ideas of our religion to help all of us take a good, honest look at how the beliefs we hold shape our relationships with God and our fellow humans--and to make sure that love

has the last, loudest voice." This book provides a framework for conversations that are sometimes difficult, yet extremely important in our polarized society.

The audiobook is available on Hoopla from the library, and there are many used copies available on Thriftbooks.com if you'd like a hard copy. Please join us as we attempt to find a faith that makes us better humans.



Cantata



Christmas Caroling

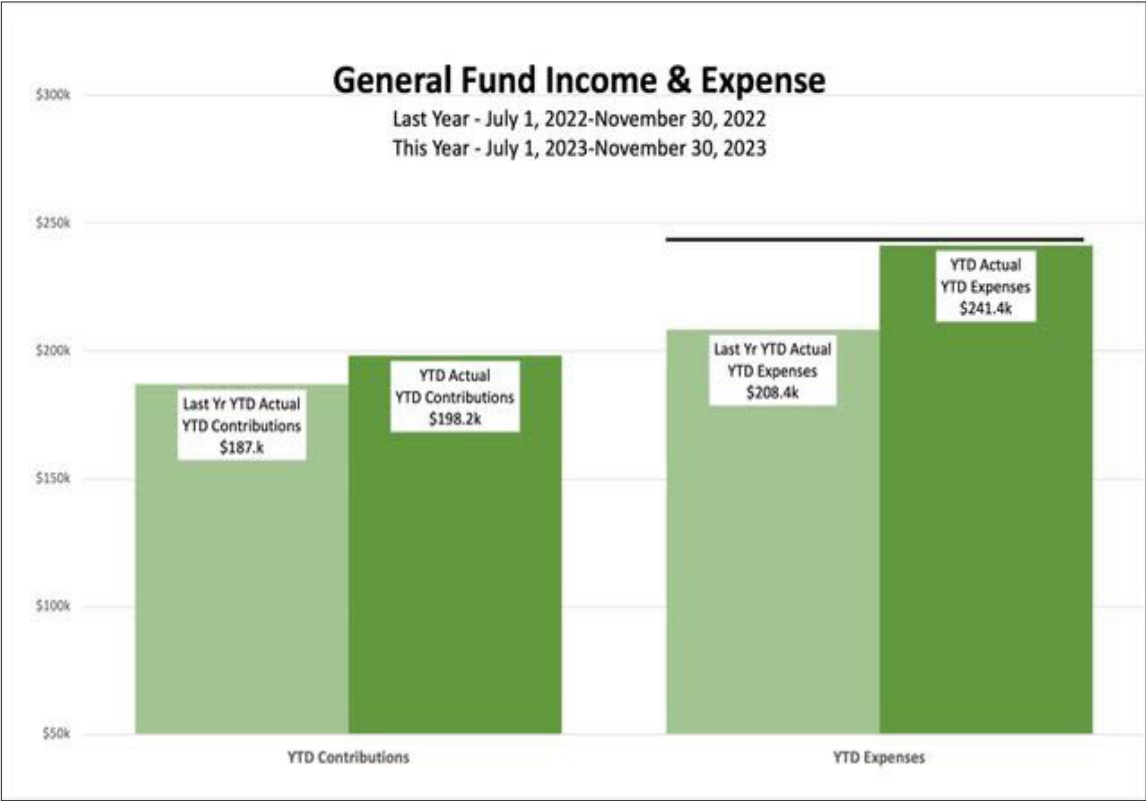


Christmas Eve Service



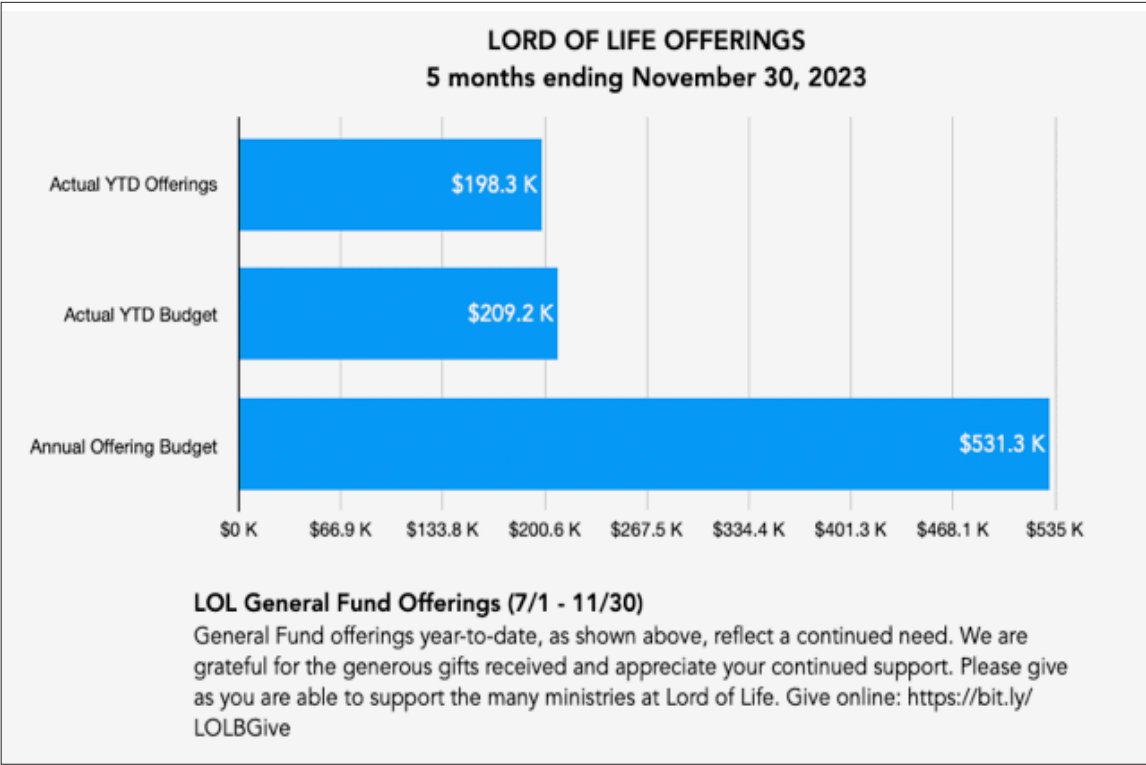
Swedish Meatball Dinner

Financial Report



Year-End Tax Deductible Contribution Deadlines

- **In Person:** 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 31, 2023;
- **Via USPS:** Postmarked to PO Box 685, Brainerd, MN 56401 no later than December 31, 2023;
- **Online:** Must have an “approved” status by December 31, 2023; and
- **Stock:** If you wish to gift Stock to Lord of Life, please contact Anne Lae-chel for more information. Transfer of ownership must be completed by Friday, December 29, 2023 to be considered a 2023 gift. As the process can take 1-2 weeks, requestsshouldbeinitiatedby Friday, December 15th.



Any gift received or post-marked on or after January 1, 2024 will be credited to 2024.

January Calendar

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day, Office Closed

Wednesday, January 3

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

Thursday, January 4

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

Friday, January 5

Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, January 6

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, January 7

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

Tuesday, January 9

Bible Study, 9 am
Sarah Circle, 1 pm

Wednesday, January 10

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

Thursday, January 11

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

Friday, January 12

Middle School Late Night Out, 5 pm
Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, January 13

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, January 14

Traditional Worship, 8:30 am
Community Hour, 9:30 am
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am
Micah Group Book Disc., 11:30 am

Monday, January 15

MLK Jr. Day,
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 16

Ground Advisory Team, 6 pm

Wednesday, January 17

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Chili Cookoff, 5:15 pm
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm
Teens Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, January 18

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

Friday, January 19

Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, January 20

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, January 21

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

Tuesday, January 23

Bible Study, 9 am
Church Council, 6 pm

Wednesday, January 24

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm
Teens Upstream, 8 pm

Thursday, January 25

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

Friday, January 26

Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 am
Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, January 27

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, January 28

Traditional Worship, 8:30 am
Community Hour, 9:30 am
Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am
Micah Group Book Disc., 11:30 am
Middle School Youth Group, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, January 31

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



Baptism of Carolyn Hendrickson

Our Team

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

Pr. Erika Nilsen,
Associate Pastor
erika.nilsen@lolbaxter.org

Anne Laechel,
Business Administrator
anne.laechel@lolbaxter.org

Tim Slinger,
Youth Director
tim@lolbaxter.org

Tyler Jensen,
Communications
Coordinator
tyler@lolbaxter.org

Paul and Karen
Erickson,
Custodians

Kennedy Niska,
Music Coordinator
kennedy@lolbaxter.org

Koreann Martin,
Contemporary
Worship Leader

Council Minutes

Lord of Life Church Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 2023
Location: Lord of Life

Present (7) <i>Pastor Steven Rye</i> <i>Kurt Porter</i> <i>Greg Bennett</i> <i>Andy Isackson</i>	<i>Brian Orlowski</i> <i>Jessamyn Foley</i> <i>Erica Dolven-Kolle</i> Guests (1) <i>Anne Laechel</i>	Absent: (3) <i>Pastor Erika Nilsen</i> <i>Josh Freelove</i> <i>Jolene Parks</i>
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Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Devotion offered by Pr. Steven Rye

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of September financial reports
- Approval of September meeting minutes

Motion to approve by Greg Bennett; second by Andy Isackson, All ayes (CC.2023.10.26.01)

Unencumbered Accounts:

As the projects have been completed and donors cannot be identified for the selected restricted designated accounts, the Finance Team recommends the following motion; Motion to release the listed amounts to the Net Assets Released account for general budgetary support. Motion to approve made by Greg Bennett, second by Pr. Steven Rye, All ayes (CC.2023.10.26.02)

Confirmed Members of Lord of Life:

Motion to receive the following individuals as confirmed members of Lord of Life, effective October 29th, 2023. Motion made to approve by Pr. Steven Rye, second by Brian Orlowski, All ayes (CC.2023.10.26.03)

firmed members of Lord of Life, effective October 29th, 2023. Motion made to approve by Pr. Steven Rye, second by Brian Orlowski, All ayes (CC.2023.10.26.03)

Cora Clough Tyson Decker
Jason Feigum Jason Fordyce
Drew Haakonson Lucas
Hoglin Emma Jentsch, Michael Jentsch, Andrew Lofstrom Madeline Maurer
Aubrey Minthun Nathan
Nybeck Chole Patrick Collin Pederson, Sophia Porter
Sawyer Riffle Owen Robertson Landen Stoen Avery Vagts

Carpet Cleaner:

Motion to authorize the purchase of a Powr-Flite 9 gallon Prowler self-contained carpet extractor for \$2,700 including tax and shipping. Motion to approve made by Brian Orlowski, second by Andy Isackson, all ayes. (CC.2023.10.26.04)

Closing prayer The Lord's Prayer led by Jessamyn Foley, adjourned at 7:26pm

Red Cross
Blood Drive

January 26
10 am to 4 pm
redcrossblood.org



Luther College's Nordic Choir
is coming to the Gichi-Ziibi!
Tuesday, January 30, 7pm



Email
tyler@lolbaxter.org
if you are willing to
host students

Thank You to those
who sponsored
our Christmas Poinsettias





Chili Cookoff

Wednesday, January 17 at 5:15 pm

Sign up in the Narthex