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** March 2024

Serendipity Pr. Steven Rye

I hope you aren't superstitious. I hope you aren't the type that gets nervous when someone remarks about the exceptionally warm snow-free winter we have had so far Nervous because "talking about it might jinx us "

I will take the risk and say it here: This has been an amazing winter.

It's already nearing the end of February, and we hardly have had any snow. I have yet to use my Husqvarna snowblower. This is a machine I have used consistently all 9 winters I have been here in Baxter, Minnesota. In fact, I'm proud to say I bought that snow blower the first week I arrived (in the middle of July). It was - in part - done out of jest. But also out of respect for the Minnesota Winters I first came to know when our family lived in International Falls, Minnesota.

I hesitate to say it, but for me, the funniest part of this season is that for eight winters now I would ALWAYS get caught by surprise by the first snowstorm. No matter when that first snow storm came. My lawn tractor was

always in the "ready-to-use corner of the garage, and my snowblower was ALWAYS in the far back "put away" corner. So it never failed that in the midst of the snowstorm, I would have to pull all the cars out, rearrange, lawnmower and snowblower. All the while feeling badly that the first snow blowing was going to be done on last winter's oil. So, I would typically do that fall maintenance oil change sometime in the neighborhood of 2 to 3 weeks after the first snowfall, in biting cold.

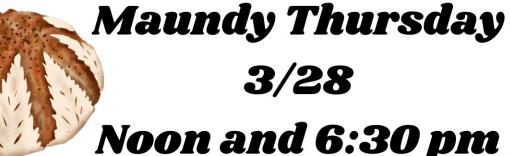
This year - FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER! I did all the necessary ready-forwinter maintenance on both the lawn mower & snow blower on a beautiful, warm. early-October day. I tucked the riding lawn mower away in the far corner, moved the snow blower into the readyto-use position. And I have vet to use it. I've started it up a couple of times. But we haven't had enough snow to blow. So, if you ARE superstitious - you can credit my abnormally early and thorough preparation for the unusually warm winter.

mend being superstitious. Just attributing everything to God being "super."

In the old Testament position" in the front-right the character Joseph finds himself in many unexpected, serendipitous situations. From one surprising situation to the next - he endures hardship only to arrive at the joy of being saved and then saving the whole population, including his own. The story culminates with the verse, spoken to his brothers: "You intend evil against me, but God intends it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Genesis 50:20). His story was unlikely - as unlikely as a snow-free Minnesota winter - and yet thankfully, joyfully, it was to be.

What does one do in the face of unusual and unlikely circumstances? ommend finding joy in the "super God" we know in Jesus Christ. It's been my reflection over the years that seemingly random events or chance encounters are often opportunities for growth, connection, or blessings in disguise. Perhaps this winter is a time for us to grow in our profound joy at God's providence and blessing. Far from making us superstitious, it ought to redouble our focus...being on the That said, I don't recom- lookout for our super God at work.







JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK 2024

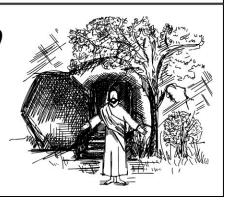


Good Friday 3/29 Noon and 6:30 pm





Easter Sunday 3/31 7, 9, and 11 am



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Youth Ministry Update

February Recap Middle School Late Night Out

On Friday, February 23 Bethlehem Lutheran Church hosted another Middle School Late Night Out! Students from Lord of Life gathered with their friends from, Trinity, Bethlehem and First Lutheran in Brainerd! The night was filled with games, great fellowship and a Bible study.

Our Bible study focused on the passage from Matthew 5:13-16 "Salt & Light."

Thank you to everyone from Lord of Life who was able to join us for this fun

Summer Trip Update: National Youth Gathering Connects & Fundraising!

Gathering in New Orleans, er, MN for our summer trip! We have begun our monthly trips! meetings together where we

As spring gets closer, we explore getting ready mateare ramping up on our meet- rials and get to know each ings and fundraising efforts other! Fundraising is pickfor our high school summer ing up as we have hosted a trip to the National Youth few pancake breakfasts and also have had the opportuni-LA. This year our church is- ty to fundraise through helppartnering with area ELCA ing out at Range Printing in Brainerd congregations and Brainerd, MN. Thank you also Hope Lutheran in Walk- for the continued support of our annual summer youth

Club 56 Final Session of the year

is studying where we will year! explore more about Holy Baptism & Holy Communion! Thank you to all of the

We are in the midst of our students who participated last Club 56 4-week session in this program and parents this year. Our focus will be who have helped to lead it similar to what confirmation when needed throughout the



Tim Slinger, **Youth Director**

No Programming **March 13 or 27**

Just a quick reminder for families that due to Brainerd Public Schools spring break happening the week of March 13 th we will not have youth programming. Also Wednesday, March 27 th is Holy Week so we will not have youth programming that night as well.

Summer Trip Update: National Youth Gathering Connects & Fundraising!

We are in the season of mation curriculum entitled, Lent and with that brings "Lutheran Life." about a few changes with the confirmation program. Every year our 9 th graders ics of Holy Baptism, Holy connect with their mentors each week during the season of Lent.

We are also starting a new mini-series in our confir-

Here we will be the top-Communion and worship!

This series will bring us through the season of Lent and on into the spring!

Stay tuned for summer programming news!

What's Happening at LOL

Micah Group

Micah Group has been busy in a number of ways over the past few months. The book discussion group met four times to discuss If God is Love, Don't be a Jerk. We also participated in some hands on efforts to make our community a better place.

At the book discussion, donations are collected to help pay for Hours for Showers. This fund helps the homeless in our community access showers at the YMCA. \$168 was collected during the first three meetings.

Micah also served at the Soup Kitchen on February 4th. Eleven people either helped plan, cook, or serve the meal for 40 individuals.

Micah Group is a part of a broader effort to promote social justice in the Brainerd Lakes Area.

If God is Love, Don't be a We are a partner in the Jerk. We also participated Lakes Area Justice Table in some hands on efforts to which is a hub for several make our community a bet-social justice efforts.

groups Other partner include Brainerd Friends Meeting (Quaker), Crow Wing Energized, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Northwoods UU Fellowship, People for Racial Justice, Pequot Parents for Kindness and Trinity Lutheran Church. If you would like to learn more about the Justice Table you can find information by googling Lakes Area Justice Table to view their website.

Submit your group's stories for the Annual Report

Shrove Tuesday Meal



Annual Reports

It is time to start planning for our Congregation's annual meeting, Sunday, June 2nd at 10:30 am.

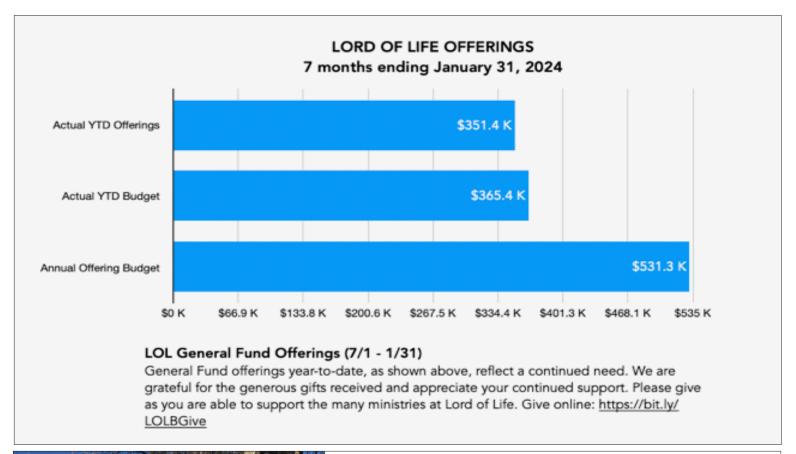
In addition to voting for members of the Church Council and considering the annual budget, the meeting gives us a time to reflect on what Lord of Life has been up to this past year.

To help with that, groups are asked to begin preparing their annual reports so they can be added to THE Annual Report.

These reports are an opportunity to tell the rest of the Congregation what your group has accomplished this past year, what challenges you need help facing, and your hopes for the future.

If your group would like to be included in Lord of Life's Annual Report, please submit your report to Tyler Jensen at tyler@lolbaxter. org, by Sunday, April 14th.

Financial Report





We have listed the 35-acre Barrett Property For Sale

Speak with
Close Converse or
Council President Kurt Porter
if you are interested in
purchasing the property

March Calendar

Friday, March 1

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

Saturday, March 2

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, March 3

Traditional Worship, 8:30 am Community Hour, 9:30 am Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am Soup Kitchen Serving, 11:30 am First Communion Class, 1 pm NYG Connect, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, March 5

Presidential Primary, All Day Whisper Book Study, 1:30 pm

Wednesday, March 6

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

Thursday, March 7

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

Friday, March 8

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

Saturday, March 9

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, March 10

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

Tuesday, March 12

Bible Study, 9 am Sarah Circle, 1 pm Whisper Book Study, 1:30 pm Property Group Meeting, 4 pm

Wednesday, March 13

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am Prayer Shawl Meeting, 1 pm Finance Team Meeting, 4 pm Worship, 6:30 pm Master Class, 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 14

Quilters, 9 am Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am Martha Circle, 1 pm Columbarium Group Meeting, 4 pm

Friday, March 15

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

Saturday, March 16

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, March 17

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

Monday, March 18

Grief Support Group, 1:30 pm

Tuesday, March 19

Whisper Book Study, 1:30 pm

Wednesday, March 20

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

Thursday, March 21

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

Friday, March 22

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

Saturday, March 23

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, March 24

Choir Practice, 7:45 am Palm Sunday Service, 8:30 am Community Hour, 9:30 am Palm Sunday Service, 10:30 am

Tuesday, March 26

Bible Study, 9 am Whisper Book Study, 1:30 pm

Wednesday, March 27

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

Thursday, March 28

Quilters, 9 am Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am Maundy Thursday Service, 12 pm Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 pm

Friday, March 29

Men's Breakfast, 7 am Good Friday Service, 12 pm Good Friday Service, 6:30 pm Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, March 30

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, March 31

Easter Service, 7 am Easter Service, 9 am Easter Service, 11 am

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 Thursday, November 30th, 2023 Location: Lord of Life

Present (10)	Brian Orlowski	Karla Skwira
Pastor Steven Rye	Jessamyn Foley	Absent: (1)
Kurt Porter	Pastor Erika Nilsen	Erica Dolven-Kolle
Greg Bennett	Josh Freelove	Guests (1)
Andy Isackson	Jolene Parks	Anne Laechel

Meeting called to order by President Kurt Porter at 6:00 PM

Devotions by Pastor Erika Nilsen

Consent Agenda

- Approval of October financial reports
- Approval meeting tober

Greg Bennett; second by ond by Andy Isackson, All Josh Freelove, All ayes ayes. (CC.2023.11.30.03) (CC.2023.11.30.01)

Barrett Estate

Porter, LOL Council President, to sign the Close Converse Barrett Property listing as is, or a better offer made by Greg Bennett; second by Andy Isackson, All (CC.2023.11.30.02) Ayes.

amendment to the motion PM (CC.2023.11.30.02) to remove "as is or better", to instead read to authorize Kurt closing prayer led by Pastor Porter to sign the listing agreement with the following changes:

1.) If Lord of Life brings a buyer the seller commission would be 3%.

- 2.) If Close Converse acts as both buyer and seller agent, then their seller commission would be 6%.
- 3.) Request increase of buyer agent commissions from 2.4% to 3%.

If changes are not accepted, the original or revised of Oc- listing agreement will need minutes to be approved by electronic, or in-person vote. Motion Motion to approve by made by Greg Bennett; sec-

Christmas Eve Offering

Motion to tithe 10% of the Motion to authorize Kurt Christmas Eve offering towards mental health resourcorganization. es Motion made by Brian Orlowski; second by Josh Freelove, All ayes. (CC/2023.11.30.04)

Next regular council meeting is scheduled for De-Motion to propose an cember 28th, 2023 at 6:00

> Meeting adjourned with Erika Nilsen at 8:15 PM

Church Council

Kurt Porter, President kurt@seversonporter.com

Andy Isackson, Vice-President andy.isackson@gmail.com

Greg Bennett, Treasurer gregbennett@brainerd.net

Jessamyn Foley, Secretary jessamynfoley@gmail.com

Karla Skwira, Upward Min. karla.skwira@gmail.com

Jolene Parks, Inward Min. jolene.parks@gmail.com

Erica Dolven-Kolle, Outward Min. ericabdk@gmail.com

Brian Orlowski, Ground Min. brian@bearcreekmn.com

Josh Freelove, Youth Rep. annefreelove@gmail.com

First Communion Class

If there is a 5th Grader for another huge milestone in their faith journey - First Communion.

On March 3rd at 1 pm, students and parents will gather to learn more about the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and prepare to receive it for the first time at March 28th's 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service.

Among the lessons about in your life, then it is time communion will be studying scripture, talking as a group, and baking communion bread.

> For more information, contact Pastor Erika at erika@lolbaxter.org.

