

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
Morning
9:30 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

July 2024

Thank You For Your Support

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

There are many things we are told to do in the Bible. The greatest of these is to love The Lord, our God, and to trust in the promise that He loves us.

The second most important, I think, is to love and support the people we encounter on life's journey.

After this past month, I would like to say thank you to our congregation, who have shown love and support for our Church Staff Team, Lord of Life's Mission, and one another.

At the beginning of June, we had to have a conversation at our Annual Meeting about the need to make cuts to staffing if giving did not increase.

In the month since, you have increased giving by \$44,400 out of the \$60,000 we are aiming for.

While we cannot rest on our laurels as we work to raise the remaining \$16,000, we want you to know that this commitment to our ministry is impressive, it's exciting, and it is appreciated from the bottom of our hearts.

In addition to financial giving, I also want to lift up those who devote their time to our ministries.

One of the most recent

examples of this was this year's Vacation Bible School program.

Seeing volunteers spend hours to help plan and make possible almost a week's worth of activities to help grow faith in the hearts of children is impressive, exciting, and so appreciated.

Finally, I want to lift up the numerous acts of kindness I see from members of our Congregation on a weekly basis.

I see people showing concern for their fellow members of the Body of Christ, working to bring joy to the groups they are in, comforting people when needed, and just finding ways to make other's lives a little better.

As I said earlier about financial giving, I do not intend for the message of this to be 'Well done everyone, Mission Accomplished, we've reached peak kindness!' Instead, I hope we are encouraged by what is happening here at Lord of Life, and that we are inspired to let the Holy Spirit guide us to do even greater things.

Thank you and God bless!
Tyler Jensen



Joint ELCA Service

**August 14 at Lymon P. White Park
(the amphitheater on the river
by Brainerd High School)**

5:30 pm - food served

6:15 pm - outdoor worship

**Hot dogs and hamburgers
will be provided.**

**Bring a potluck dish to share along
with your own beverage and chair.
Feel free to bring outdoor games
to share.**

**All undesignated offering and cash will
go to Lutheran Social Services (LSS).**

August 14

5:30 - 7:00 pm

**Lymon P. White
Park**

July Readings

First Readings

July 7th
Ezekiel 2: 1-5

July 14th
Amos 7: 7-15

July 21st
Jeremiah 23:1-6

July 28th
2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalms

July 7th
Psalm 123

July 14th
Psalm 85: 8-13

July 21st
Psalm 23

July 28th
Psalm 145:10-18

Second Readings

July 7th
2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

July 14th
Ephesians 1: 3-14

July 21st
Ephesians 2:11-22

July 28th
Ephesians 3:14-21

Gospel Readings

July 7th
Mark 6: 1-13

July 14th
Mark 6: 14-20

July 21st
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28th
John 6:1-21

Gospel Reflections

Mark 6:1-13

At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.

Mark 6:14-20

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

Mark 1:14-20

When Jesus sends his disciples out to teach and heal, they minister among large numbers of people. Their work is motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.

John 6:1-21

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

Youth Ministry Update

Summer Youth Groups

Middle School: 5:30 - 7 pm
High School: 7 - 8:30 pm

Don't forget that during the summer we have youth group happening twice a month for both middle school and high school!

This youth group is host-

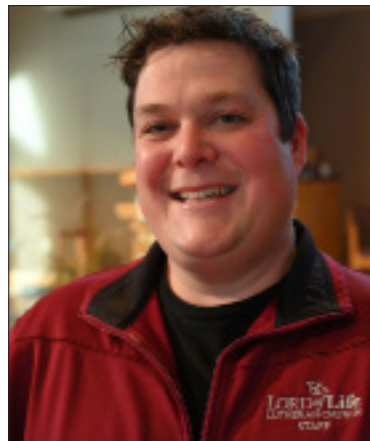
ed at Lord of Life and we collaborate with area ELCA churches as well.

If you are interested in signing up for youth group and have not done so already, please contact Tim Slinger Youth Director to do so!

Confirmation 2024-2025

Make sure to keep an eye out for upcoming information about the 2024-2025 Confirmation Program!

Confirmation will kick off in September with an orientation evening, after which we will meet Wednesday evenings.



**Tim Slinger,
Youth Director**

Summer Stretch

It is hard to believe only a few weeks remain for Summer Stretch this year.

Our group has been busy serving local organizations such as, Salem West, Confidence Learning Center, Northland Arboretum, Brainerd/ Baxter Parks & Rec and The Outreach Program of BLA.

For our final Summer Stretch event we will be enjoying a Twins game togeth-

er on Wednesday, July 24th when they play the Philadelphia Phillies.

It has been a great summer so far thanks to everyone who is participating this year and to the parents who volunteer each week! We couldn't run this program without you!

ELCA National Youth Gathering

Here we go!!! Lord of Life high youth and adult leaders will be traveling together with hundreds of others from the NEMN Synod down to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA, July 14 - 21.

This gathering will bring together thousands of youth and adult leaders from across the country in one place!

There is so much that will happen during this week as

we gather together for service projects, mass gatherings with keynote speakers, worship, and exploring the city!

We can't wait to share the stories about our trip with all of you when we return.

Thank you for your support of this summer youth trip. While we are away, I would ask for your prayers for safe travels and the ELCA Youth Gathering!

Summer Stretch

The annual Lord of Life serveCAMP is coming up at the end of the month. As we prepare, we are in need of volunteers to help make this a memorable camp for all. There are a variety of ways in which you can help us out.

Help with meals: we provide breakfast lunch for our campers / staff throughout the week. In the evenings we are looking for host families who could prepare a meal for our Camp Onomia Staff in between program times.

Transportation & Adult Leaders for Service Sites: Monday - Thursday our group will be serving in the community and we are in need of adults who would be

willing to help with transportation and be adult leaders at the various service sites.

Do You Have a Tent We Could Borrow: One of the great things about serveCAMP is tent camping in the back yard of the church. In order to do this, we will need tents to house our campers and camp staff. If you have a tent we could borrow, please let us know!

If you are interested in helping out with serveCAMP this year please contact the Church Office at (218) 828-9374. Volunteer opportunities and signups will be posted this month!

July Calendar

Tuesday, July 2

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Wednesday, July 3

Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, July 4

Independence Day, Office Closed

Friday, July 5

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, July 6

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, July 7

Worship, 9:30 am

Soup Kitchen Serving, 11 am

Monday, July 8

Glen Peppel Visitation, 10 am

Glen Peppel Funeral, 11 am

Stephen Ministry, 4 pm

Tuesday, July 9

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Middle School YG, 5:30 pm

High School YG, 7 pm

Wednesday, July 10

Finance Team Meeting, 4 pm

Worship, 6:30 pm

Noisy Offering

Thursday, July 11

Summer Stretch, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm

Friday, July 12

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 am

Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, July 13

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, July 14

Worship, 9:30 am

New Member Conv., 10:45 am

National Youth Gathering Trip

Noisy Offering

Monday, July 15

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

National Youth Gathering Trip

Micah Group Celebration, 6 pm

Tuesday, July 16

National Youth Gathering Trip

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Wednesday, July 17

National Youth Gathering Trip

Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, July 18

National Youth Gathering Trip

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Tech Help Ministry, 11:15 am

Friday, July 19

National Youth Gathering Trip

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, July 20

National Youth Gathering Trip

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, July 21

Worship, 9:30 am

Monday, July 22

Stephen Ministry, 4 pm

Tuesday, July 23

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Wednesday, July 24

Summer Stretch Twins Game, 8 am

Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, July 25

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Middle School YG, 5:30 pm

Church Council, 6 pm

High School YG, 7 pm

Friday, July 26

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, July 27

Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Sunday, July 28

Worship, 9:30 am

Hops & Hymns, 5 pm

serveCAMP, 7 pm

Monday, July 29

serveCAMP

Tuesday, July 30

serveCAMP

Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Day Camp, 9:30 am

Wednesday, July 31

serveCAMP

Day Camp, 9:30 am

Worship, 6:30 pm

Our Team

Pr. Steven Rye,

Senior Pastor

steven@lolbaxter.org

Pr. Erika Nilsen,

Associate Pastor

erika.nilsen@lolbaxter.org

Anne Laechel,

Parish Administrator

anne.laechel@lolbaxter.org

Tim Slinger,

Youth Director

tim@lolbaxter.org

Tyler Jensen,

Communications

Coordinator

tyler@lolbaxter.org

Paul and Karen

Erickson,

Custodians

Koreann Martin,

Worship Leader

Lord of Life Happenings



Baptism of Marigold Smude

Marigold Marie Smude was baptized on Wednesday, June 26th at our 6:30 pm worship service. She was born on March 9th, 2024 in Brainerd to Charles and Ceciley Smude. Her Baptismal Sponsors were Ivy Ruzynski and Jake Smude.



Baptism of Aria Visser

Aria Hazel Visser was baptized on Sunday, June 9th at our 9:30 am worship service. She was born on December 21st, 2023 in Staples to Jacob and Jacquelyn Visser. Her Baptismal Sponsors were Michael Sylstad and Jenna Burgess.



Summer Stretch



Vacation Bible School

Ministry News

Micah Group Celebration

JULY 15, 6 to 8 pm, all members of Micah Group and all Lord of Life members interested in learning more about Micah Group are invited to gather for a meal, music, and an inspirational speaker.

After the meal served in Fellowship Hall, attendees will gather in the Sanctuary to hear The Reverend Doctor Steve Newcom's message "What Does the Lord Require?" He will reflect on the profound and timeless wisdom of Micah 6:8, which calls us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. The prophet Micah envisioned a society rooted in justice, compassion, and humility—values that resound loudly in today's world of division and polarization.

Micah was a common citizen from a small village in the foothills southwest of Jerusalem, yet his prophetic words echo through the centuries. Grounded in our knowledge of what is good, how can we embrace this call to justice, mercy, and humility and come together to transform our communities?

Music will be led by Kristoffer Koop and Koreann Martin.

Reservations are required so that planners know food preferences and quantities needed. Registration will begin July 1 via CCB, by calling Tyler Jensen in the church office at (218) 828-9374, or filling out the registration form at lolbaxter.org.

**Send your group's news to
tyler@lolbaxter.org**

ELCA Draft Social Statement Hearing

The ELCA is developing a social statement on civic life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Social statements are the ELCA's primary documents to address significant social issues. They are intended to aid reflection, shape conscience, and set forth the ELCA's teaching and policy on the major social issues and questions of contemporary life.

Draft social statements are developed by task forces, using an established process of study and widespread participation across the church to guide theological and moral deliberation. Each ELCA congregation has the option of going through a study process and giving input to the task force.

Hearings are public gatherings where participants share their specific affirmations or concerns about a

draft statement.

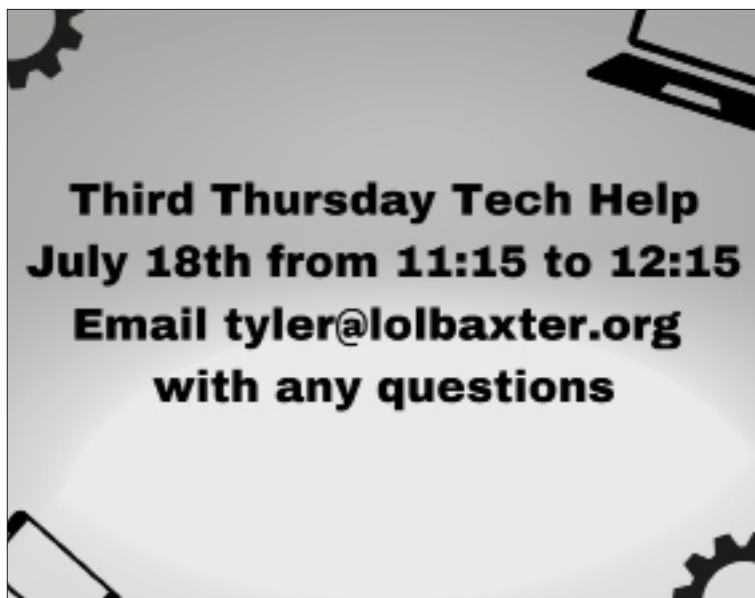
Lord of Life will hold a hearing on the draft social statement on August 11 from 10:45 to 12:15. Loren Solberg from the NE MN Synod will be our facilitator. Members of other local ELCA churches will also be invited to attend. Lunch will be served at 12:15. Child care will be provided.

Registration is required for child care and for the lunch.

Registration will begin July 15 via CCB, calling Tyler Jensen in the church office at (218) 828-9374, or by emailing Pat at otherpeoplecount@gmail.com.

Micah Group will host this hearing.

To see a copy of the draft social statement, [CLICK HERE](#), or visit elca.org/resources.



Lord of Life Music Ministry

