

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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The Good News at Lord of Life

June 2024

The Holy Trinity
From ELCA Faith Lens
Dave Delaney

Social (Dis)Connection

Social researchers of adolescents have been measuring the amount of time teens spend with each other in person and noticed a significant drop between 2010 and the present.

Although some attribute this to the pandemic lockdown, the trend was already starting before 2020 and has not rebounded since public gatherings once again became the norm.

There is a great deal of speculation about what is behind this, and it includes many social theorists who assign a fair amount of blame to the prevalence of social media and electronic communication.

Others disagree, pointing instead to societal tensions and increased anxiety among the adults who are supposed to be providing guidance for growing young people.

Either way, most researchers are concluding that there is a connection between this lack of personal relationships (or the substitution of screen relationships) and the

dramatic rise in teen depression and identity crises.

Furthermore, it is well-known (and easily confirmed by even casual conversations with teens) that the Zoom gathering platform is no substitute for being together, to the point where students will beg for in-person experiences over an online option, even if it is more time-consuming and inconvenient.

Holy Trinity Sunday

The Festival of the Holy Trinity is famous for being the only Sunday in the church year that is based on a theological doctrine rather than on an event in the life of Jesus or one of the saints or apostles.

And many Christians get hung up on the seeming contradiction implied by the “3-in-1, 1-in-3.” In the end, however, the story of the Trinity is the story of God’s own self and relationships. It is more story than doctrine: we believe that from all eternity, the Father and the Son have been locked together in a relationship of creative love through the sharing of their mutual Spirit.

The absolute closeness between them is what makes

them “one God” and even defines what it means to be God. We might even say that God *is* relationship! And this mutual love between them is so powerful that it flows over into creating all things in the universe, including us!

Since we are made in the image of God, we too are made for the experience of relationship, first within ourselves, and then – creatively and lovingly – with others!

With the ongoing crisis of teens’ internal struggles and drop-off of peer interactions, there is almost no time in history when we have more needed a God who embodies unity of self and love for others. Everything that God is and does points us to putting together and repairing things that are broken, uniting people that are at odds with themselves and others.

The Spirit of the one God is God’s gift to us to powerfully bring this about, and since God is one and we are one with God, we can bring God’s gift of healing to the world – the small world around us, and the big world that seems so often to be in so much conflict.

**It's time to celebrate this
last year, and plan for the
future.**

**Join us for the
Lord of Life Annual Meeting
June 2nd, at 10:45 am**



Affirmation of Baptism Service



Senior Recognition Services



Youth Ministry Update

Summer Youth Programming

Summer programs are ready to launch is your family signed up to join us this summer?

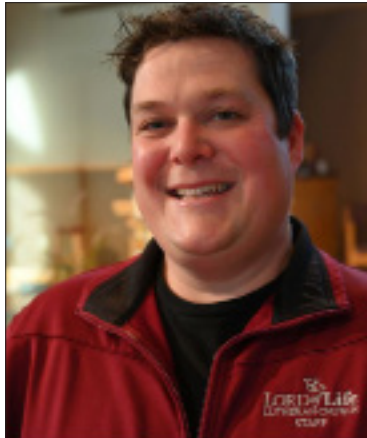
We have programs happening for all age groups and

programs of various lengths!

From weekly programs to single events! Stay connected with us this summer and check in for updates throughout the summer!

Summer Youth Groups

The first of our summer youth programs start next Tuesday, June 4th, for the Citywide Middle and High School Youth Groups! Middle Schoolers meet at 5:30 pm, followed by High Schoolers at 7 pm. These twice-monthly groups are a time for fun, faith and friends! For more information, call the Church Office at (218) 828-9374, or email tim@lolbaxter.org.



**Tim Slinger,
Youth Director**

Visit lolbaxter.org for more information about youth programming

May Programming Recap

This month was a busy one at Lord of Life! Each week we were preparing for another important ministry event happening.

The beginning of the month we welcomed our 2024 high school seniors and families to join us for senior recognition.

Together we presented twenty seniors with handmade personalized quilts from the Lord of Life Quilters. We wrapped them in blessings, love and support as they begin the next chapter of their lives. If you did not get the chance to be a part of this service, I would encourage you to visit our YouTube page and watch the service which included a slide show and information about each student, their future plans and highlights from Lord of Life!

Annual youth rummage sale was a success! Thank you to the congregation, many volunteers and First Lutheran Church in Brainerd who partnered with us this year!

Together over \$8,000 was raised during the two-day sale.

Money raised will go to support Lord of Life and First Lutheran youth who

are attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA this summer!

For those that know this sale, you know it takes many hands to pull off this event and takes over the entire church building. I appreciate your flexibility and support from the prep week to the sale itself!

Everything is cleaned up and put back together with left over donations going to organizations throughout the Brainerd Lakes Area!

The Affirmation of Baptism Service was held on Sunday, May 19th at Lord of Life for our 9th grade confirmation class. Twelve students affirmed their baptismal promises in front of the congregation, family and friends!

Each student created a personalized faith project which is on display in the Commons. If you haven't yet taken a moment to view these projects and get to know our confirmands.

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in making this service and day special for our confirmation families!

June Calendar

Saturday, June 1

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, June 2

Worship, 9:30 am

Annual Meeting, 10:30 am

Soup Kitchen Serving, 11:30 am

Tuesday, June 4

Lawn and Garden Team, 9:30 am

Columbarium Team, 4 pm

Middle School YG, 5:30 pm

High School YG, 7 pm

Wednesday, June 5

Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, June 6

SummerStretch, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Parkinson's Support, 1 pm

Friday, June 7

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, June 8

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, June 9

Worship, 9:30 am

Tuesday, June 11

Lawn and Garden Team, 9:30 am

Sarah Circle, 1 pm

Wednesday, June 12

Finance Team, 4 pm

Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, June 13

SummerStretch, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Martha Circle, 1 pm

Friday, June 14

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, June 15

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, June 16

Worship, 9:30 am

New Member Conv., 4 pm

Monday, June 17

Book Discussion, 1 pm

Micah Group, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, June 18

Lawn and Garden Team, 9:30 am

Columbarium Team, 4 pm

Wednesday, June 19

Worship, 6:30 pm

Micah Group, 7:15 pm

Thursday, June 20

SummerStretch, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Tech Help Ministry, 11:15 am

Friday, June 21

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, June 22

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, June 23

Worship, 9:30 am

VBS, 6 pm

Monday, June 24

VBS, 6 pm

Tuesday, June 25

Lawn and Garden Team, 9:30 am

VBS, 6 pm

Wednesday, June 26

VBS, 6 pm

Thursday, June 27

SummerStretch, 9 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Church Council, 6:30 pm

Friday, June 28

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Friday Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, June 29

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, June 30

Worship, 9:30 am

Middle School YG, 5:30 pm

High School YG, 7 pm

Our Team

Pr. Steven Rye,

Senior Pastor

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Pr. Erika Nilsen,

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Coordinator

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Paul and Karen

Erickson,

Custodians

Koreann Martin,

Worship Leader

Micah Group

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 mes-

sage "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 lolibaxter.org.