

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

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Brainerd, MN, 56401

The Good News at Lord of Life

August 2024

Created To Be

I had the absolute privilege and joy to journey with 10 of our Lord of Life youth, along with our youth director Tim Slinger, to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July.

Our journey started last September as we invited youth to consider this rich experience of faith, community and service! Throughout the year we gathered to grow in faith, relationships with one another, and to learn more about what we would encounter when we arrived at the Gathering.

We were so grateful to be blessed in worship before we left. And our young people get it! They know how blessed they are to be a part of a vibrant faith family and they are deeply grateful for your support, your prayers, your encouragement, your faith in Christ that you have shared with them over the years and your hope for them.

We first gathered at Camp Onamia for 24 hours of relationship building with 200+ young people and adults from our synod. We are so fortunate to have congregations and a synod staff that

seek to journey together in ministry and build each other up!

Our time in New Orleans was then filled with walking adventures, delicious food, compelling speakers, inspiring worship, joyful connection, thoughtful learning and so much more. I was really proud to be a part of the ELCA as they seek to lift up young people and encourage them to lead passionate, faith-active-in-love lives. We follow an amazing God who, in Jesus, embraces the world and invites us to do the same. We follow an amazing God who, in Jesus, sets us free from all sorts of “have to’s” so that we can joyfully “get-to” the work of loving our neighbor as ourselves. We follow an amazing God who, in Jesus, disrupts injustice and breathes a spirit of change and transformation into our hearts so that we might share it with the world.

But our young people are not the only ones created to be brave, free, authentic, disruptive disciples. So are you! So is the church! May it be so!

Peace,
Pastor Erika

CREATED TO BE...

BRAVE!

FREE!

AUTHENTIC!

DISRUPTIVE!

DISCIPLES!

August Readings

First Readings	Psalms	Second Readings	Gospel Readings
August 4th Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	August 4th Psalm 78:23-29	August 4th Ephesians 4:1-16	August 4th John 6:24-35
August 11th 1 Kings 19:4-8	August 11th Psalm 34:1-8	August 11th Ephesians 4:25-5:2	August 11th John 6:35, 41-51
August 18th Proverbs 9:1-6	August 18th Psalm 34:9-14	August 18th Ephesians 5:15-20	August 18th John 6:51-58
August 25th Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	August 25th Psalm 34:15-22	August 25th Ephesians 6:10-20	August 25th John 6:56-69

Gospel Reflections

John 6:24-35 Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.	John 6:35, 41-51 After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.	John 6:51-58 In John’s gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true “bread of life.” Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church’s celebration of holy communion.	John 6:56-69 The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”
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**Join the
Communion
Servers Team**

**Training on
Sunday, 8/25
After Worship**



August Calendar

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

Friday, August 2
Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, August 3
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, August 4
Worship, 9:30 am
Soup Kitchen Serving, 11 am

Tuesday, August 6
Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am

Wednesday, August 7
Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, August 8
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Friday, August 9
Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, August 10
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, August 11
Worship, 9:30 am
Listening Session, 10:45 am

Monday, August 12
Stephen Ministry, 4 pm

Tuesday, August 13
State Primary Elections
Lawn and Garden Team, 9 am
Middle School YG, 5:30 pm
High School YG, 7 pm

Wednesday, August 14
Finance Team, 4 pm
Worship @ Lyman Park, 5:15 pm

Thursday, August 15
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Tech Help Ministry, 11:15 am

Friday, August 16
Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, August 17
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, August 18
Worship, 9:30 am
Backpack Blessing, 9:30 am
New Member Conversation, 4 pm

Tuesday, August 20
National Youth Gathering Trip
Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Wednesday, August 21
Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, August 22
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Friday, August 23
Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, August 24
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Sunday, August 25
Worship, 9:30 am
Communion Training, 10:45 am
Hops and Hymns, 5 pm

Monday, August 26
Stephen Ministry, 4 pm

Tuesday, August 27
Lots of Love AA Group, 7 pm

Wednesday, August 28
Worship, 6:30 pm

Thursday, August 29
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

Friday, August 30
Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Al-Anon, 7 pm

Saturday, August 31
Lots of Love AA, 7 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



**KINDERGARTEN
BACKPACK BLESSING
SUNDAY, AUGUST 18
DURING WORSHIP**

Lord of Life Happenings



Baptism of Briggs John Nelson

Briggs John Nelson was baptized on Sunday, July 28th at our 9:30 am worship service. Briggs was born on October 14th, 2023, to Logan and Emily, who are in the process of becoming members of Lord of Life after moving to the area two years ago. The family enjoys the mix of contemporary and traditional during Sunday mornings, and Kid's Time, which Briggs' older sister Layla attends.

Logan's sister Lexi and her fiancée Sam Otto served as Briggs' baptismal sponsors.



Ministry News

Peer Ministry

Thanks to grants from the Anderson Brothers Foundation, we have the opportunity to provide teens in our congregation, and from around the state with a program aimed at helping them make a positive impact on their peers lives.

Through the 8-hour Peer Ministry Leadership training, teens will work on connecting face-to-face and heart-to-heart with their

peers, giving them the skills to love as Christ loved us, in relationships with friends and peers.

The event is Saturday, September 21. If you are interested in helping us host our visitors, please speak with Pastor Steven Rye, or call the Church Office at (218) 828-9374.

Fall Clothing Giveaway
Oct. 10-12th
Setup is Oct. 6-9th

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 Church-wide 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.

Lord of Life will hold a hearing on the draft social statement on August 11 from 10:45 am to 12:15 pm. 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/re-sources.

Joint ELCA Outdoor Worship

We are very excited to once again work with other local ELCA Churches to offer an outdoor worship and fellowship experience! Join us on Wednesday, August 14, at Lyman White Park in Brainerd, located on East River Road.

The evening will start with a picnic at 5:30 pm, followed by worship at 6:15 pm. During the service, any undesignated offerings will be collected for Lutheran Social Services.

God's Work, Our Hands

This year's God's Work, Our Hands, the ELCA's annual day of service, is set for Sunday, September 8th.

This year, we will be serving at Camp Confidence and Lutheran Social Services. Depending on how many volunteers sign up, we may add a third service site.

ber 8th, we will travel to our service sites and work from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

If you would like to participate in God's Work, Our Hands, please sign up in the Narthex, or by calling the Church Office at (218) 828-9374. If you would like a t-shirt, we need your information by August 12th.

After worship on Septem-

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

May Council Minutes

Lord of Life Council
Meeting
6/26/2024 @ 6 pm

Present:
Kurt Porter
Pr. Steven Rye
Josh Freelove
Brian Orłowski
Pr. Erika Nilsen
Andy Isackson
Jolene Parks
Karla Skwira

Guest:
Anne Laechel

Absent:
Landen Stoen

Pr. Steven led devotion

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm

Motion to approve the April 25, 2024 Council minutes by Andy, Second by Jolene Parks, Approved.

By unanimous consent the Financial report is approved.

Pastor Erika noted some information missing from the April 2024 minutes. An amendment to add a “Vote on the capital campaign. Greg Bennett made a motion to approve GSB as our consultant based on 1.2 million goal and \$34,800 fee to LOL. Seconded by Brian Orłowski– second. Motion carried.”

Andy Isackson moved to add the missing information, second by Pr. Steven. Motion carried

Fall Worship Schedule
Review of Worship Survey results

Motion by Andy Isackson to have one 9:30 am worship service starting this fall. Second by Josh Freelove. Motion carried

Motion by Andy Isackson to use a portion the donation from the Braak family toward the first three months of the consultant fee for

GSB, our Capital Campaign consultant. Second by Jolene Parks. Motion carried.

Budget Discussion
Motion by Andy Isackson to approve the proposed 2024-2025 budget to be presented to the congregation at the June 2, 2024 annual meeting, Second by Brian Orłowski. Motion carried.

Motion by Jolene Parks to approve the proposed three-month budget for July-September 2024, contingent on the other budget failing, Second by Josh Freelove. Motion failed.

Motion by Erica Dolven-Kolle to allow the Micah Group to host a listening session for the ELCA proposed Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith, second by Karla Skwira. Motion carried.

Motion by Pr. Steven to accept the current bid from Knife River up to \$110,000

to the best bid available with the following changes: add curbing to the center island, remove the two sidewalk bump outs in front of the church and widen the center ramp, and to empower Brian Orłowski to sign off on the bid. Second by Brian Orłowski. Motion carried.

Motion by Pr. Steven Rye that Kurt Porter be authorized to sign the non-binding agreement stating we will agree to an easement on the South side of the Barrett Property. Jolene seconded. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting is June 2nd.

Pr. Erika led closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by Anne Laechel, Business Administrator

Rally Sunday
September 15th
After Worship

Lord of Life
is a polling place
for statewide primaries
Tuesday, August 13

June Council Minutes

Lord of Life Council Meeting
6/26/2024 @ 6 pm

Present:

Jane Peterson
Pr. Steven Rye
Matt Delaney
Erica Dollven-Kolle
Guy Kelm
Pr. Erika Nilsen
Gregg Bennett
Eric Davidge
Andy Iasckson

Guest:

Anne Laechel

Absent:

Landen Stoen

Motion to approve secretary’s report and May Council Minutes my unanimous consent.(CC.06.27.2024.01)

Motion to approve May financials made by Erica Dollven-Kolle, second

by Greg Bennett, all Ayes. (CC.06.27.2024.02)

Motion to approve the rate of pay for the anchor musician (\$200 Sunday /\$125 Midweek), instrumentalists (\$50) and vocalists (\$25) for Sunday and Midweek Worship starting on June 1st, 2024 made by Steven Rye, second by Greg Bennett, all Ayes. (CC.06.2024.03)

Motion to allocate the \$30,000.00 from the Braak Family gift to the Capital Campaign made by Guy Kelm, second by Eric Davidge, all Ayes. (CC.06.27.2024.04)

Motion to approve a check up to \$2,400.00 out of the mission trip fund for cash for trip expenses made by Greg Bennett, second by Eric Davidge, all Ayes (CC.06.27.2024.05)

Motion to authorize a check for \$2,000 payable to First Lutheran Church, Brainerd, as their portion of the proceeds from the May Youth Rummage Sale to be paid out of the Mission Trip Dedicated Fund made by Pr. Steven Rye, second by Guy Kelm, all Ayes. (CC.06.27.2024.06)

Motion to donate \$2,609.25 from the Tanzania trip to International Health Partners made by Greg Bennett, Second by Pr. Erika Nilesen, all Ayes. (CC.06.27.2024.07)

Check Signing: Motion to authorize in the carrying out of their duties, Council President Andrew Isackson and Council Treasurer Eric Davidge, as signers of checks and other financial instruments at First Western Bank,

and to remove Kurt Porter and Greg Bennett from the authorized signer list made by Greg Bennett, second by Matt Delaney, all Ayes. (CC.06.27.2024.08)

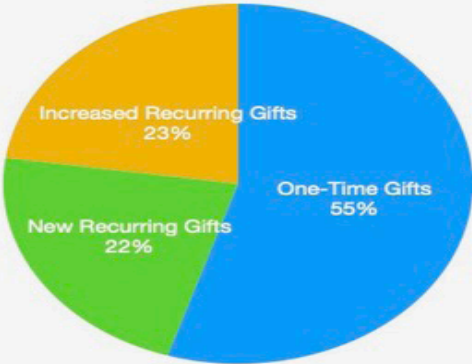
Stifel Account: Motion to authorize, in the carrying out his duties, Council President Andrew Isackson as approved agent for Stifel-Nicolaus, and to remove Kurt Porter from the authorized signer list. (Investment Account) - Normally the Treasurer is the second approved agent, but since Greg Bennett was unable to be the agent due to his job, so Anne Laechel became the approved agent, and since Eric Davidge works for the Stifel-Nicolaus, Anne will continue to be the approved agent until next year made by Greg Bennett, second by Pr. Erika Nilsen, all Ayes. (CC.06.27.2024.09)

Next meeting date July 25th, 2024 @ 6 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:55 pm by Guy Kelm and second by Erick Davidge, all Ayes (CC.06.27.2024.10)

Known Contributions toward Youth Director Position

- One-Time Contributions - \$24.9k
- New Recurring Contributions - \$10.2k
- Increased Recurring Contributions - \$10.3k
- Campaign Total: \$45.4k
- Goal: \$60.0k



Advent Devotional

**Would you like to
write a devotional for
Advent?**

**Email
steven@lolbaxter.org
if interested**

