

# 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 September 2024

## Building Us Up, Lord

As we enter the fall season, our congregation, Lord of Life, will embark on a journey of spiritual growth and community building. The theme for this season, "Build Us Up, Lord," is inspired by the hymn of the same name.

This theme will be woven into our preaching, teaching, and reflections throughout the fall. We will explore the importance of building a strong spiritual foundation, supporting and encourag-

ing one another within the church, and sharing God's love with the world.

By focusing on this theme, we hope to:

Strengthen our spiritual foundation: We will delve into the fall bible readings in the lectionary and learn how to build a strong and enduring faith.

Foster community: We will create opportunities for members to connect with one another, support each other, and grow together.

Share God's love: We will explore ways to share the love of Christ with our community and the world.

Join us as we embark on this journey of spiritual growth and community building. Together, we can experience the transformative power of God's love and grace.



# September Readings

## First Readings

September 1st  
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

September 8th  
Isaiah 35:4-7a

September 15th  
Isaiah 50:4-9a

September 22nd  
Jeremiah 11:18-20

September 29th  
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16,  
24-29

## Psalms

September 1st  
Psalm 15

September 8th  
Psalm 146

September 15th  
Psalm 116:1-9

September 22nd  
Psalm 54

September 29th  
Psalm 19:7-14

## Second Readings

September 1st  
James 1:17-27

September 8th  
James 2:1-10, 14-17

September 15th  
James 3:1-12

September 22nd  
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

September 29th  
James 5:13-20

## Gospel Readings

September 1st  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 8th  
Mark 7:24-37

September 15th  
Mark 8:27-38

September 22nd  
Mark 9:30-37

September 29th  
Mark 9:38-50

# Gospel Reflections

## Mark

### 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

## Mark

### 9:38-50

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.

## Mark

### 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

## Mark

### 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

## Mark

### 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

# September Calendar

**Sunday, September 1**  
Worship, 9:30 am  
Soup Kitchen Serving, 11 am

**Monday, September 2**  
Labor Day, Office Closed

**Tuesday, September 3**  
Driver Improvent Course, 12 pm

**Wednesday, September 4**  
Women's Bible Study, 1 pm  
Confirmation Leader Training, 5 pm  
Worship, 6:30 pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Thursday, September 5**  
Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am  
Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm

**Friday, September 6**  
Men's Breakfast, 7 am  
Al-Anon, 7:30 pm

**Saturday, September 7**  
Lots of Love AA, 7:30 pm

**Sunday, September 8**  
Worship, 9:30 am  
God's Work, Our Hands, 11 am

**Monday, September 9**  
Stephen Ministry, 4 pm

**Tuesday, September 10**  
Sarah Circle, 1 pm

**Wednesday, September 11**  
Driver Improvent Course, 9 am  
Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
Finance Team Meeting, 4 pm  
Worship, 6:30 pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Thursday, September 12**  
Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

**Friday, September 13**  
Men's Breakfast, 7 am  
Al-Anon, 7:30 pm

**Saturday, September 14**  
Lots of Love AA, 7:30 pm

**Sunday, September 15**  
Worship, 9:30 am  
Rally Sunday, 10:30 am  
Darrell Pedersen Book Launch, 3 pm

**Wednesday, September 18**  
Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Club 56, 7:15 pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Thursday, September 19**  
Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am  
Tech Help Ministry, 11:15 am

**Friday, September 20**  
Men's Breakfast, 7 am  
Al-Anon, 7:30 pm

**Saturday, September 21**  
Peer Ministry Leadership, 9 am  
Lots of Love AA, 7:30 pm

**Sunday, September 22**  
Worship, 9:30 am

**Monday, September 23**  
Stephen Ministry, 4 pm  
Church Council, 6 pm

**Wednesday, September 25**  
Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
Worship w/ Confirmation, 6:30 pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm

**Thursday, September 26**  
Quilters, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

**Friday, September 27**  
Men's Breakfast, 7 am  
Al-Anon, 7:30 pm

**Saturday, September 28**  
Lots of Love AA, 7:30 pm

**Sunday, September 29**  
Worship, 9:30 am

## 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

# Youth Summer Recap

## National Youth Gathering

Together we gathered with hundreds of youth and adult leaders from our NEMN Synod along with 17,000 people from across the United States! Embarking on an adventure down to New Orleans, Louisiana.

Throughout that week we took time exploring and learning all about the city, its people and each other.

Our group was emersed in various learning experiences, mass gatherings for worship, listening to keynote speakers, dancing, singing, staying up late and so much more.

We literally walked miles upon miles each day throughout the city embracing the heat, humidity

and thunderstorms to enjoy unique New Orleans experiences.

From Café Du Mond beignets covered in powdered sugar to enjoying the street musicians which seemed were on every block! There were interactive learning days, a riverboat tour, being invited to be a part of the mass gathering and being on the floor of the arena in front of thousands of people!

I want to thank everyone who supported our group throughout the year, either helping with financial gifts, through prayers while we were away and continued support of these impactful summer trips!

## SummerStretch

Our annual Summer Stretch program finished the year out watching a Minnesota Twins victory with a walk off in the bottom of the 9th at Target Field!

Together, our group enjoyed serving throughout our community at The Confidence Learning Center, Salem West, The Arbo-

retum, Common Goods and the Outreach Program of the BLA.

Fun activities included swimming, bowling, and watching Inside Out 2!

It was a great group that gathered throughout the summer!

## serveCAMP

It was another great week of serveCAMP hosted at Lord of Life July 28th- August 1st.

Together we served throughout our community and right here at Lord of Life.

Throughout the week our group served at The Outreach Program of BLA, Common Goods, Operation Sandwich, Breath of Life Adult Day Service, the Salvation Army and helping members of our congregation.

Every camper also had the opportunity to serve at church. In the FaithWorks building our campers were busy word working helping to assemble benches and

swings!

With our Lord of Life Quilters campers learned how to sew and iron by making baby quilts which will be donated to area hospitals or the hospital of their choice.

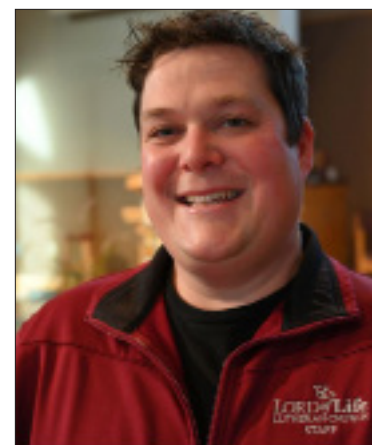
Thank you Camp Onomia counselors for leading us this week in Day Camp as we focused in on our theme, "Created To Be", with our theme verse from Psalm 139:14 and experience fun games, group builders and campfire worship.

Thank you to the over 25 volunteers and staff who helped to make this week a memorable one

## Summer Youth Group

Twice a month in the summer Lord of Life hosted a collaborative summer youth group program with Bethlehem, Trinity and First Lutheran Church.

It was great bringing our youth groups together for fun games and bible study throughout the summer!



**Tim Slinger,**  
**Youth Director**

# 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.

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.

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

## School Year Programming

Registration has opened for our school year programming!

Confirmation will be every week, from 6:30 pm to 8 pm, while Club 56 will be every other week from 7:15 pm to 8 pm.

Confirmation, for those in Grades 7-9, and Club 56, for kids in 5th and 6th Grade, will run on Wednesdays from September 18th to April 30th.

Sign up at lolbaxter.org, or call the Church Office for more information.

## God's Work, Our Hands

We have finalized our sites for the 2024 God's Work, Our Hands event on Sunday, September 8th. From 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, one team will travel to Camp Confidence to help prepare for their annual rummage sale.

source is kept clean and free of litter.

Immediately following worship, people can put together seed bombs to plant around the community!

The second group will head to Whipple Beach, where we will work to ensure this community re-

If you would like to volunteer for God's Work, Our Hands, please sign up in the Narthex, email tyler@lolbaxter.org, or call (218) 828-9374.

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

## Fall Clothing Giveaway

In October Micah group will be taking the lead in organizing the annual Free Clothing Giveaway at our church.

day, October 5th through Wednesday October 9th.

Please bring items in as early in the week as possible. It takes time to organize the donations.

This is an opportunity to sort through your closets and drawers and decide on what to keep and what to donate.

Also, we are in need of volunteers. Do you have a few hours that you can give to help this worthwhile cause? No expertise is required. We will have organizing gurus that will assist.

We all have usable clothing that could use rehoming. This is a chance to let others benefit from our bounty.

The giveaway will take place on October 10, 11 and 12. Watch for signs on the entry bulletin board.

If you are willing to help, please contact Pat Dickson at otherpeoplecount.period@gmail.com or sign up through CCB.

Clothing donations will be accepted from Sun-

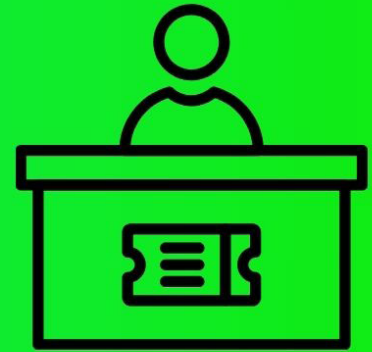
**6-Week Grief Support Group**  
**Mondays starting Sept. 16**  
**Call the Church Office to register**

# ***Rally Sunday!*** ***Sept. 15th*** ***After Worship***

***Food***



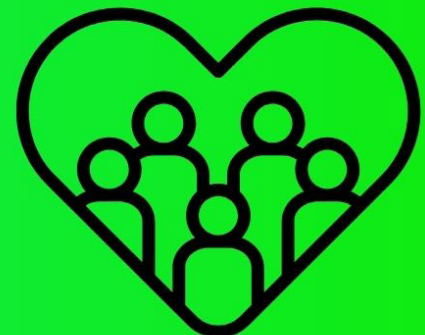
***Ministry Fair***



***Games***



***Good Company***



# Leadership Updates

## A Message From Council President Andy Isackson

Members of Lord of Life, I hope this message finds you well. I want to start by extending a heartfelt thank you to the Property Team and everyone involved in the completion of our new parking lot. It's wonderful to see this project finished, enhancing our church's facilities.

This significant update would not have been possible without the generous gifts and dedicated time of our members, volunteers, and staff.

I'm also pleased to announce that the council has approved our budget for the upcoming year.

As you may recall, we faced a budget shortfall and we asked to not approve the during our Annual Meeting.

Thanks to additional financial contributions from our members, we are excited to present an updated and balanced budget that maintains all current staff positions.

We will review and vote on this revised budget on Sunday, September 22nd. Your patience and generosity during this period have been greatly appreciated.

Here are some key dates to mark on your calendar:

- **Sunday, September 8th: God's Work Our Hands;**
- **Sunday, September 15th: Rally Day; and**
- **Sunday, September 22nd: Budget Presentation and Vote.**

For more details about upcoming events and activities, please visit our online calendar at <https://lolbaxter.org/calendar/>.

We will continue to update the calendar with information that we believe will be beneficial to everyone.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of the Columbarium Team, who have been diligently working on a proposal for a columbarium at Lord of Life. We appreciate their dedication and look forward to presenting their proposal to the council soon.

In addition, Pastor Steve, Pastor Erika, Guy Kelm, and Tim have been actively engaging with youth and families to explore ideas and vision for the coming year.

They've discussed schedules, activities, and ways to enhance involvement for both high school and middle school students.

As always, I look forward to keeping you informed about council activities and developments. We have much to celebrate and continue working on.

We are committed to improving communication, enriching our online calendar, exploring a personnel committee, and gathering member feedback.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our church community.

Sincerely,  
Andy Isackson

***Budget Meeting***  
***September 22nd***

Walking Together:



50 Years of ELCA World Hunger

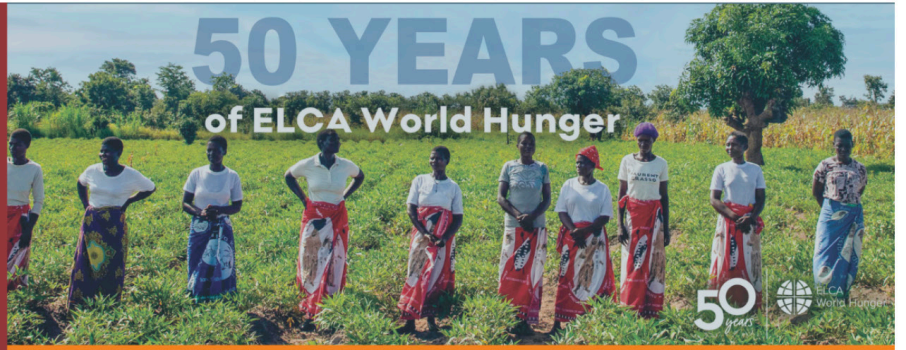
Saturday, Oct 12, 2024

Lutheran Church of the Cross  
Nisswa, MN

8:00am - 3:00pm

*Registration opens August 2024*

50 YEARS  
of ELCA World Hunger



Join the celebration as we give thanks for 50 years of  
ELCA World Hunger! The day will include:

- Worship with Global Music
- Workshops with ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Advocacy-MN, EcoFaith Network, Together Here & Sumud Northland
- Hunger Simulation
- Action Center & Silent Auction
- Public Art Project



Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
PO Box 685  
Brainerd, MN, 56401