

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

April 2025

Dear friends,

Throughout the season of Lent – we have also been focusing on our Capital Campaign FORWARD TOGETHER! I must admit it's been a bit jarring in a way. Lent and a Capital Campaign don't really go hand in hand in my mind. And yet . . . Lent is a season that moves God's people from death to life – that invites God's people to get real and honest – that blesses God's church with opportunities to confess our own selfishness and hardness of heart and be forgiven and set free individually and as a whole body.

In so many ways – our campaign theme embodies this movement. FORWARD TOGETHER. It's a wonderful theme for the campaign as we think deeply and commit courageously to moving forward together as a faith

community, as the body of Christ here in Baxter, MN, and as we dream about the future into which God is pulling us – set free from debt and a building that is aging. Every member is needed as we move forward together. Every sharing and offering of time, talent and treasure is a blessing, no matter how small or large. Every prayer is a gift as we place our trust firmly in God's spirit leading and guiding us forward.

And FORWARD TOGETHER is a deep and rich way to think about our journey with Jesus to the cross, grave and into new life at Easter.

We move FORWARD TOGETHER first to the cross – honestly and humbly acknowledging the brokenness of this world, the jarring fact that we live in a world that would choose to hang someone on a cross

and watch them die. Think about that for a moment. No wonder our hearts need to be transformed and made new and forgiven, so that we can move forward beyond violence, beyond sin and into new life.

As followers of Jesus we move FORWARD TOGETHER through death and into life - life abundant - where grace and mercy flow, where love and joy are ours, where hope is more than a thing with feathers (as Emily Dickinson would say) but something to hold and claim and trust.

Join me, and your faith family, as we move FORWARD TOGETHER in faith, hope and love this Easter! Giving thanks for all that is and looking forward to all that will be!

Forward Together in Christ,
Pastor Erika



**FORWARD
TOGETHER**
LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

March 30th
 Sunday Worship, 9:30 am
 Forward Together Brunch, 11 am
 Middle School YG, 5:30 pm

March 31st

April 1st

April 2nd
 Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
 Lots of Living Left Yet, 12 pm
 Women's Fellowship Event, 1 pm
 Fellowship Meal, 5:30 pm
 Worship w/ Conf., 6:30 pm
 Club 56, 7:15 pm

April 6th
 Sunday Worship, 9:30 am
 Commitment Card Sunday
 Choir Rehearsal, 10:45 am
 Soup Kitchen Serving, 11 am

April 7th

April 8th
 Sarah Circle, 1 pm
 Property Team Meeting, 4 pm

April 9th
 Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
 Finance Team, 4 pm
 Fellowship Meal, 5:30 pm
 Worship w/ Conf., 6:30 pm
 High School YG, 7:30 pm
Noisy Offering

April 13th
 Palm Sunday Worship, 9:30 am
Noisy Offering
 Choir Rehearsal, 10:45 am
 Club 34, 5:30 pm

April 14th
 Pinetree Patchworkers, 1 pm
 Stephen Ministry, 4 pm

April 15th
 Special Senate Primary Election

April 16th
 Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
 Micah Group CLT, 6 pm
 First Communion Class, 6:30 pm

April 20th
 Easter Worship, 8 am
 Easter Worship, 10:30 am

April 21st
Office Closed

April 22nd

April 23rd
 Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
 Worship w/ Conf., 6:30 pm
 High School YG, 7:30 pm

April 27th
 Sunday Worship, 9:30 am
 Choir Rehearsal, 10:45 am

April 28th
 Driver Improvement Class, 12 pm
 Stephen Ministry, 4 pm
 Mental Health Panel, 7 pm

April 29th
 Special Senate Election

April 30th
 Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
 Worship w/ Conf., 6:30 pm
 Club 56, 7:15 pm

Thursday**April 3rd**

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
LSS Support Group, 11 am
Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm
First Communion Class, 6:30 pm
U.C. Book Study, 6:30 pm
Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

April 10th

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Martha Circle, 1 pm
Justice Table, 2:30 pm
First Communion Class, 6:30 pm
U.C. Book Study, 6:30 pm
Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

April 17th

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Maundy Thursday Service, 12 pm
Maundy Thurs. Service, 6:30 pm
Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

April 24th

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Church Council, 6 pm
U.C. Book Study, 6:30 pm
Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

May 1st

Quilters, 9 am
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
LSS Support Group, 11 am
Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm
U.C. Book Study, 6:30 pm
Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

Friday**April 4th**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

April 11th

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
James Blake Visitation, 10 am
James Blake Funeral, 11 am

April 18th

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Good Friday Worship, 12 pm
Good Friday Worship, 6:30 pm

April 25th

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

May 2nd

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Saturday**April 5th**

Pre-Marriage Retreat
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

April 12th

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

April 19th

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

April 26th

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

May 3rd

Synod Assembly
Property Work Day, 8 am
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Our Team

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

Thank you for your amazing support for the Forward Together Campaign. So far about \$250,000 in gifts and pledges have come in!

Please turn in your commitment cards Sunday, April 6th or Wednesday, April 9th



**FORWARD
TOGETHER**

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ministry News

Parish Nurse Ministry

I'm Deb Bergstrom and I have the privilege of being Lord of Life's Parish Nurse.

So, what does a parish Nurse do? A PN melds nursing and ministry to the congregation and assists the Pastor as directed.

April is when we will start programing, and the following are activities that will be starting *LOLLY-Lots of Living Left Yet will meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 12 noon-1:30 in the fellowship Hall.* This will be a potluck lunch followed by a speaker. *The first get together will be on April 2.*

Blood pressure screening will be done on *the first*

Sunday of the month after church.

Home visits after a hospitalization, occasional rides to a medical appointment, assist with outside resources, check vital signs and provide support to people and Home Communion.

Health education, co-chair with Colleen Bush the "Take Them a Meal" program.

As time goes on, I will be bringing back some other programs. Please contact me with ideas or needs!

I am looking forward to being Your Parish Nurse, God Bless! Deb Bergstrom

Micah Group

Here's another opportunity to learn about issues that face our families and community. Join us for this upcoming public presentation and invite anyone who might be interested.

"Mental Illness and Mental Health Are Us"
April 28th, 7-8:30 pm
Lord of Life Sanctuary

Negative societal stigma about mental illness presents a huge problem to those living with mental health challenges. Stigma prevents people from seeking help

for as long as 10 years. Join us as a panel of people with various lived experiences of mental illness tell their stories, describe the coping skills they have learned, and talk about the types of support that have helped them.

A Question and Answer session will follow the presentation. Light refreshments will be served. A free will offering will be taken for the ongoing work of Micah Group. There is no charge and everyone is welcome.

Universal Christ Book Study

"Humanity now needs a Christ who is big enough to hold all creation together in one harmonious unity."

Have you ever asked yourself the question, "What does Christ mean?" Or, "What does it mean for myself and the world?"

A new Book Study starting Thursday, April 3rd (6:30 - 8 pm) led by Teresa Kingsley may help

"THE UNIVERSAL CHRIST - HOW A FORGOTTEN REALITY CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING WE SEE, HOPE FOR, AND BELIEVE" by Fr. Richard Rohr.

Here's some of Teresa's thoughts on the book:

"This book has been so impactful and there is so much I want to discuss with others!

Over the years, I have pondered what "Christ" means and why we call ourselves Christians. I was told by a pastor that the meaning of Christ is the anointed one. But that didn't always fit with the different ways that "Christ" is used in the Bible. A dear friend had recommended this book and it's been a journey!"

To register, sign up in the Commons.

**NEMN Synod
EcoFaith Summit
April 5th, 9:30 am - 5 pm
First Lutheran - Duluth
Register at nemnsynod.org**



***Join us for Holy Week
as we journey from
the cross to the glory of
the Resurrection***

***Maundy Thursday, April 17
Noon and 6:30 pm***

***Good Friday, April 18
Noon and 6:30 pm***

***Easter Sunday
8 and 10:30 am***

Youth Update

Rummage Sale

As we prepare to host the largest fundraiser at Lord of Life, we are in need of some help this year!

We are looking to assemble a Rummage Sale Volunteer Team who will help to oversee and run this event.

If you have a passion for

setting up and running rummage sales or garage sales of your own, we could use your expertise and help in making this event a successful one!

If you are interested in being a part of this team, please contact Youth Director Tim Slinger.

Middle School Late Night Out

Friday, March 28th Lord of Life hosted the last middle school late night out event of the year!

Special thanks to all who were involved this year! These monthly events throughout the winter brought together youth from First Lutheran, Trinity and Bethlehem in Brainerd.

On average these events

would host 40 middle schoolers for a night filled with interactive games, fellowship, interactive bible study and so much more! We could not have done it without additional help from parents and adults!

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events happen!

Senior Recognition

Every year we look forward to celebrating with our high school graduating seniors! *This year, senior recognition services are Sunday, May 11th at 9:30 am, and Wednesday, May 14th at 6:30 pm.*

Part of our annual senior recognition is compiling photos and information to have in a slide show.

Families of 2025 high school seniors, you will soon be receiving an information and an online form which we ask you to fill out.

Along with the form we ask you to send in photos for the senior slide show! *All forms and pictures must be received by Sunday, April 20th!*

Celebrate with our younger members as they hit major milestones!

**First Communion:
Thursday, April 17th at 6:30 pm**

**Affirmation of Baptism:
Sunday, May 18th at 9:30 am**

Club 34: Youth Group & Service Component

Brand new this year we launched Club 34, open to our 3rd and 4th graders.

The group meets monthly at the church, and has all the elements of a fun youth group experience and a focus each month on serving one another.

This past month as a service project, students helped to organize the pews in the sanctuary and wash tables and clean chairs in the commons!

Our next Club 34 is scheduled for Sunday May 18th from 5:30-7pm!

ServeCAMP

**Vacation
Bible
School**

Keep an eye out for summer programming registrations coming soon!

SummerStretch

Recent Baptisms

(Pictured Right) On Sunday, March 2nd, Maurice, Dean, and Joanna Erickson, children of Joe Erickson and Erica Dolven-Kolle, were brought into the Body of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.



(Pictured Left) On Sunday, March 16th, Thomas Bishop, son of Christopher and Kelli Bishop, was brought into the Body of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

(Pictured Right) On Sunday, March 23rd, Charlie Hermanson, daughter of Kale and Betsy Hermanson, was brought into the Body of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.





**Sponsor an
Easter Lily in honor
or in memory of
someone!**

**Fill out a slip in the
Commons between
now and April 13th.
Cost is \$15 per lily.**



February Council Minutes

Lord of Life Council Meeting 02/27/2025 @ 6 pm

Present:

Pr. Erika Nilsen
Eric Davidge
Matt Delaney
Andy Isackson
Greg Bennett
Erica Dolven-Kolle
Jane Peterson
Landen Stoen

Absent:

Guy Kelm
Anne Laechel

Devotion and opening prayer offered by Pr. Erika

Motion made by Greg Bennett and second by Eric Davidge to approve the consent agenda, all Ayes. (CC.02.27.2025.01)

Motion to approve the financial report made by Erica Dolven-Kolle, second by Greg Bennett, all Ayes. (CC.02.27.2025.02)

Barrett property is going to continue to be listed and we are hopeful that the market will pick up.

Community Conversation talked about capital campaign, budget, members brought up concerns, and other members helped council members understand some of the solutions to issues. They outlined financials. There were 30-40

members who stayed for the event and several council members were in attendance.

2025 Budget should get by April. It would be nice to bring a proposed budget then, and bring the final proposal to the council meeting in June.

- Add some wish list items to the budget to see where finances fall.

With Anne out sick we have realized that we need someone else to understand how to do payroll, the mail, deposits, and other SOP. Some sort of document that help another person understand how to do these jobs.

Capital Campaign

- Good committees that have been helpful;

- Bread and butter is the theme and this weekend there is bread and butter being delivered to all members of the houses each Sunday to kick off the campaign.

- Temple talks will kick off in March

- Special events
 - Sunday, March 16th from 5pm-7pm at Baia Della for council and other members.

- Sunday, March 30th doing a breakfast following worship at The Lodge at Arrowood.

Pastoral Transition

- Pr Erika had a conversa-

tion with Bishop Amy about how we can move forward as a team. Told her about the Discovery Team, pulling a group of people together to move LOL into the future. She suggested having a conversation with Peter Reuss from GSB, does financial coaching and coaching through transition. Could be a helpful person to walk through this time. Peter has expressed interest in helping with this.

- The Discovery team should be 5-6 people, looking for ideas on how to build this team.

- Come up with a description of what the people are doing and what the time commitment would be.

- Congregation could nominate or self-nominate.

Nominating Committee

- We will need to find new council members and need a committee to nominate members. Kurt Porter is the only member currently.

- We need each member to put a list together of what each person does. What is the time commitment, and what would my role be.

- There may be descriptions already written that have been provided by Pr Steven.

- It would be nice to get everyone's thoughts on this and if we want to consider a way to transition to another role.

Pastoral Updates

- Deb Bergstrom, would like to re-engage as a parish nurse, can do blood pressure checks, check in after surgery, and lead the grief group, LOLLY. Lots of great ideas.

- Jazz Lent theme with a dramatic story told from a character who walked with Jesus during his last week.

- Seven baptisms happening this March.

- April the columbarium will be placed

- Easter Service time discussion

- 8 am and 10:30 am (10:30 am may be really full.)

- 7 am, 9 am, and 11am

- Pr Erika will talk to staff and see what everyone thinks and get back to us. Council will support her and the staff's decision.

Club 34 kicks off once a month on Sunday nights. The first night was February 19th and the next one is March 16th.

Property Committee meeting on January 14th

- The bid for the roof was really high, waiting for a second estimate.

- Spring work day is set for May 3rd

- The lights in the Sunshine Room, the Nursery, and the Fireside Room were hung, 30-40 lights.

- Asked about the Barrett Property

Council Minutes Cont.

Outward

Micah group is trying to fill the Mondays with stuff that they don't have

Youth

- Landon would like to take 10 minutes to propose an Eagle project at the next council meeting.

- Madeline is thinking of trying to organize a food drive with the winner getting a pie in the face. They will be held on two Wednesdays in March

Inward

- Met with each staff member and talked about their job descriptions and asked if anything big was missing because there was only one pastor. No one could think of anything.

- Asked them what they liked about their jobs, or favorite thing.

- Koreann should be introduced to the congregation and be allowed to tell her story. She would also like to know more about the budget and what she has to spend.

- It would be nice to introduce the staff featured as a spotlight.

- The council bulletin board needs to be updated.

Next meeting is March 27th, 2025 at 6 pm

Closing prayer offered by Pr Erika. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

FEBRUARY 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
INCOME	\$46,268	\$53,368
EXPENSE	\$32,861	\$45,423
YTD INCOME	\$437,062	\$427,197
YTD EXPENSE	\$470,224	\$475,064

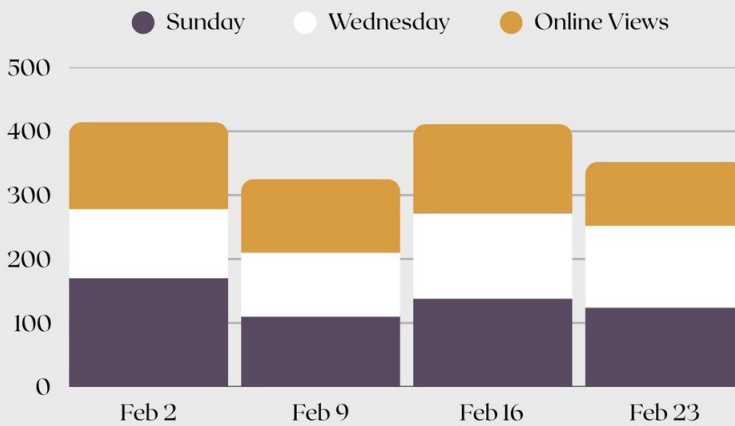
MORTGAGE STATUS

February Interest Paid	\$2,325.54
February Principal Paid	\$3,357.46
Balance 02/28/2025	\$558,094.38

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE

Dedicated Funds	\$105,577
Unrestricted Funds	\$-29,346

February Attendance



Thank You's to Lord of Life

MN Adult and Teen Challenge

The Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge Choir of Brainerd would like to thank Lord of Life for hosting them on Sunday, February 2nd.

They deeply appreciate the love and support churches show their members.

Attending churches and sharing their stories is a pivotal part of their healing and recovery.

MNTC thanks Lord of Life for giving them space to heal and work at their recovery.

Brainerd Key Club

The Brainerd High School Key Club would like to thank Lord of Life for hosting a blood drive they put on with the Red Cross Wednesday, March 26th.

Over 60 units were donated that day and the group is incredibly thankful for our

help. Members of the Key Club leading the event included Anneman'e, Cody, Madeline Angland, and Wendy Modales.