

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**

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Brainerd, MN, 56401

The Good News at Lord of Life

July 2025

Discovering How to be an Artful Listener

In a recent Brainerd Dispatch article, I shared a story about this past May, when our youngest daughter graduated from Florida State University. While the campus buzzed with excitement and joy, it was also heavy with the grief of loss and violence. Two weeks before the end of the academic year, a young man opened fire in the student union, killing two men and injuring a number of students. The shooting happened on a Thursday. Maundy Thursday, to be exact. A vigil was held the following evening and then a notice went out on Sunday from the University's President to the entire faculty and student body that classes would resume on Monday and the academic year would move to its natural close.

However, at our daughter's commencement, the president stood before the student body, faculty and an auditorium full of parents and family and humbly confessed his error in judgment. He shared that by Monday morning his "inbox" was overloaded with the cries, pleas, and questions of the student body. They weren't ready to walk back onto

campus. They weren't ready to stroll through the student union that had become a crime scene just days before. They weren't ready. He read each and every email. He called in students and faculty to discuss the situation and he ultimately changed his mind. He listened to the voices of the people that were impacted most by his decision and he changed his mind. With humility and grace, he urged us all to be artful listeners in our vocations, in our families, in our daily living. He implored the graduates and those gathered to stay open to having their minds changed and to be willing to accept and receive wisdom in even the most unexpected ways. I left inspired to listen more deeply to the world around me.

I share this story with you, because here at Lord of Life we are currently in the midst of a Discovery Process. It is a process of listening deeply to each and every one of you. It is a process of listening - listening for things that have brought joy to you in being part of a community of faith, to the things that have been frustrating to you in this community of faith, to the things you'd like to change and the things you'd like to see in this community of faith. It is a process

for listening to the nudging and leading of God's Spirit. The Discovery Process is designed to help Lord of Life see and be open to the future that God's Spirit is inviting us into. It might mean having our minds changed about where we're headed. It might mean having our hearts broken up by a need in the world around us that gets brought to our attention. It might mean we simply keep moving forward together faithfully, in the meantime, while we figure it out.

For the meantime, I invite you to daily offer up this prayer for discovery and may God's Spirit lead the way.

Lord of Life,
we thank you for all you have provided, for where we have been and for where we are right now. Be with us as we discover where you and your Holy Spirit are leading us forward together.

Grant us:

Vision to navigate the opportunities and obstacles ahead of us,

Openness for each of us to actively participate in the process,

Courage to share confidently from our hearts,

Humility to accept differ-

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Ministry News

Visiting Friends Ministry

Lord of Life's Visiting Friends Ministry is running smoothly, thanks to the 20 volunteers who are committed to visiting our 20 LOL congregants, some of whom have difficulty attending worship services in person, and others who are residents of various care centers in need of a listening ear.

When we three coordinators began meeting late in 2024, our goals for creating this new ministry were both to help homebound folks feel more connected to their Faith Family, and to help Pr. Erika sleep at night, knowing that all LOL members were cared for by folks representing the whole of our congregation.

We thank all involved in Visiting Friends, either as "Visitors" or "Visitees" for making this vibrant ministry possible. We also invite any who would like to join the team, anticipating that the list of Visitees will likely grow. Please also contact one of the coordinators, listed below, if you know of someone who could benefit from receiving ongoing visits from a caring person.

Stay tuned for news of a team meeting for all Visitors, exact date yet to be determined. This meeting will serve as a Thank You to the VF volunteers, as well as guidance for bringing Communion to Visitees, how to request prayer support from LOL's Prayer Chain Team, and group discussion of creative ideas for providing continuing care for our fellow congregants in need of friendship.

Pr. Erika reports to us that she has heard much praise for the generous work of the Visitors from the Visitees themselves. The work of the Holy Spirit is amazing to see in the Visiting Friends teamwork, as in all of our Lord of Life congregation. IT'S GOOD TO BE FAMILY!

Deb Bergstrom,
Parish Nurse
~ 701-678-4053

Bonnie Henningson
~ 218-851-9163

Lolly Kalinoski
~ 218-829-8207

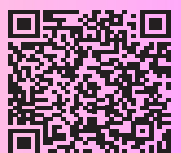
Save The Date
Backpack Blessing
Sunday, August 24th
at 9:30 am



The July 13th
Noisy Offering
Will benefit
ELCA World Hunger



Bike Against Hunger
July 20, 2025 at 11:30 am
Meet at the Nisswa Legion
Cycle to Baxter or Merrifield and back
Register by July 10th using the QR
code



Youth Update

Summer Stretch

It's hard to believe that we are already a month into our summer stretch program! Baxter, Confidence Learning Center and The Northland Arboretum!

Twenty youth from Lord of Life have been volunteering throughout the community and enjoying some local attractions and fun activities on Thursdays!

So far, we have partnered with Common Goods of

This month we will wrap up our program with a food packing event at The Outreach Program of the Brainerd Lakes Area and enjoy a Twins game! Thank you to the volunteers and organizations that we have partnered with this year!

High School Summer Trip

HERE WE GO!!! In two short weeks we will be off to Knoxville, TN for our annual high school mission trip!

As we go, I ask for your prayers as we travel and serve in the Knoxville community.

Along our journey we will be stopping in different cities which include: St. Louis, Memphis with a stop at the Civil Rights Museum and then on to Knoxville!

We will spend a week volunteering throughout the Knoxville area with the or-

ganization called NextStep, before traveling back home!

We never know exactly what we will encounter or experience on these trips and that is the beauty of them. It is my hope and prayer that it is an opportunity for growth, learning more about ourselves, growing in faith together, adventures and making memories that last a life time!

We can't wait to share about our week with you when we return! Thank you for your continued support of these summer mission trips!

ServeCAMP

The annual Lord of Life serveCAMP is coming up at the end of the month. As we prepare, we are in need of many volunteers to help make this a memorable camp for all. We have 35 youth who are signed up for this great week! Here are some ways in which you could help!

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!

Help with meals: we provide breakfast and lunch for our campers / camp staff throughout the week. Also, 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: *If you are interested in helping out with serveCAMP this year please contact the church or see the volunteer signup sheets in the Narthex.* Monday - Thursday our

If you are interested in helping out with serveCAMP this year please contact the church or see the volunteer signup sheets in the Narthex.

**Follow the progress of our
High School Mission Trip
July 11 - 20
on Lord of Life's
Facebook page**

Recent Baptisms

(Pictured Right) On Wednesday, June 18th, Henrik Lee Erdman and Josie Rose Erdman, children of Kollin Erdman and Brianna Schilling, were brought into the Body of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.



(Pictured Left) On Sunday, June 22nd, Klayten John Carvelli, son of Nicholas Carvelli and Cori Stenglein, was brought into the Body of Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

***Your perspective
matters.***

***Join us as we
Discover the way
forward together for
Lord of Life.***


“Where Are We Now?”

July 13th - 11 am

Scan the QR Code to RSVP



**Open to children
Age 3 to those who've
completed 4th Grade**



**VBS SCUBA!
August 3rd-6th
Sign up using the QR code**



SUMMER STRETCH 2025!



| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> |
|---|---|--|--|
| <i>June 29th</i> Sunday Worship, 9:30 am Pancake Breakfast, 10:45 am Family Fun Day, 11 am | <i>June 30th</i> | <i>July 1st</i> | <i>July 2nd</i> Worship, 6:30 pm |
| <i>July 6th</i> Sunday Worship, 9:30 am Soup Kitchen Serving, 11 am | <i>July 7th</i> | <i>July 8th</i> Property Team, 4 pm | <i>July 9th</i> <i>Noisy Offering</i> LOLLY Event, 12 pm Finance Team, 4 pm Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm |
| <i>July 13th</i> Sunday Worship, 9:30 am <i>Noisy Offering</i> Discovery Team Event, 11 am | <i>July 14th</i> Pinetree Patchworkers, 1 pm Stephen Ministry, 4 pm | <i>July 15th</i> | <i>July 16th</i> Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm |
| <i>July 20th</i> Sunday Worship, 9:30 am Columbarium Dedication, 11 am | <i>July 21st</i> Driver Improvement Class, 12 pm | <i>July 22nd</i> | <i>July 23rd</i> Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm |
| <i>July 27th</i> Sunday Worship, 9:30 am ServeCAMP, 7 pm | <i>July 28th</i> <i>ServeCAMP</i> Stephen Ministry, 4 pm | <i>July 29th</i> <i>ServeCAMP</i> | <i>July 30th</i> <i>ServeCAMP</i> Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm |

Thursday**July 3rd***Office Closed*

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
 LSS Support Group, 11 am
 Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

July 10th

Summer Stretch, 9 am
 Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
 Parkinson's Support, 1 pm
 Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

July 17th

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
 Tech Help Ministry, 11:15 am
 Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

July 24th

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
 Church Council, 6 pm
 Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

July 31st*ServeCAMP*

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
 Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

Friday**July 4th**

Independence Day,
 Men's Breakfast, 7 am

July 11th

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
 Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 am

July 18th

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

July 25th

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

August 1st

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

Saturday**July 5th**

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

July 12th

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

July 19th

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

July 26th

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

August 2nd

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

May Council Minutes

**Lord of Life
Council Meeting
05/22/2025 @ 6 pm**

Present:

Pr. Erika Nilsen
Eric Davidge
Andy Isackson
Greg Bennett
Jane Peterson
Landen Stoen
Guy Kelm

Absent:

Erica Dolven-Kolle
Matt Delaney

Guests:

Anne Laechel

Devotion and opening prayer offered by Pr. Erika

There is already \$100,000 in the capital campaign fund following the initial payment of \$75,000. There will be a donation of \$20,000 coming in at some point.

Motion made by Greg Bennet to pass the financial report, second by Eric Davidge, All Ayes (CC.05.22.2025.01)

Motion to approve another payment toward the principal payment to the principal made Greg Bennet, second by Guy Kelm, All Ayes (CC.05.22.2025.02)

Erika spoke with Paul Marsh and he reminded us that it is important to keep the congregation informed of all the ways that we are able to pay for things for the church in

relation to the capital campaign.

Annual meeting is June 1st, Andy has a script that we can use. It provides information on when to make a motion. Andy provided copies for all council members. It would be great to have the council there if possible.

Nominating committee-internal conversations have been had, there will be some potential movement of roles within the council, but we still need to recruit for outward and inward.

Capital Campaign update

- It is important to continue to let the congregation know where we are at.
- We need to make sure that we get thank you letters out.

Discovery Team

- June 8th, July 13th, August 24th
- Hired GSB to be a third party to bring in survey information, to look at past, present and future.
- 4-5 people are on the Discovery Team
- Wendy Adamson, Colleen and Mike Busch, Andy Isackson (ex-officio), Lisa Tupy, Steve Schaitberger, Justin Halbersma
- Discovery team will report to GSB the findings about what the congregation reports about the needs for staffing.

Staffing discussions

- Anne will be out this summer from July 21st through August 3rd.

- However we need to think about hiring some type of administrative assistant not only to fill in for Anne while she is gone, but to help as we move forward with ministry.

- Have Tyler send out a mass communication for a part time administrative assistant.

- Set the deadline for June 15th for applications.

Barrett Property

- With the capital campaign being so successful, we have an opportunity to dream about what other things could be done either with the property itself, or from the profit of the sale of that property.
- Maybe an endowment that lives in the Barret name
- Or some other dream

Pastoral Updates

- Pastor Erika will be gone 2 known Sundays over the summer
- June 1st-Pastor Darrell
- July 6th-Pastor Lilja Behr
- 18 people in new member class
- Jane has been there for each class on Wednesday
- Next Wednesday night, May 28th at 7:30 pm it would be great to have council members present.
- Koreann has put together a Community Event on Sunday, June 29th with a potluck, petting zoo, and boun-

cy house.

- Council is concerned that it is a community event and wanted to understand the event a bit more.

- Pastor Kim at Trinity is proposing that we do a fundraising event along the Paul Bunyan Trail.

- Ruth Nelson will reach out to outward ministry.

Motion to approve the new member list made by Greg Bennet, second by Jessamyn, All Ayes. (CC.05.22.2025.03)

Justin and Krista Anderson,
Justus and Elim
Keith and Kristin Binsfeild
Ray Bleimeyer
Shirley Johnson
Bill and Shaylyn Lange
Halie and Josh Majerus
Dillon and Katelynn McKay
Logan and Emily Nelson,
Layla and Briggs
Brian and Renee Shimley
Sue Smith Grier
Martha Smithson, Michael and Anton
Patsy and Warren Sunderland and Keith
Dane and Elisa Sypnieski
Jarret and Steph Swanson

Guy Kelm

- Church rummage sale went well, we raised \$7,000 and had really good volunteers! Judy and Sheri were here every day and were really loving it. Lots of volunteers and it went great. He will do a follow up meeting with the team and check in to see how it went. Hopeful-

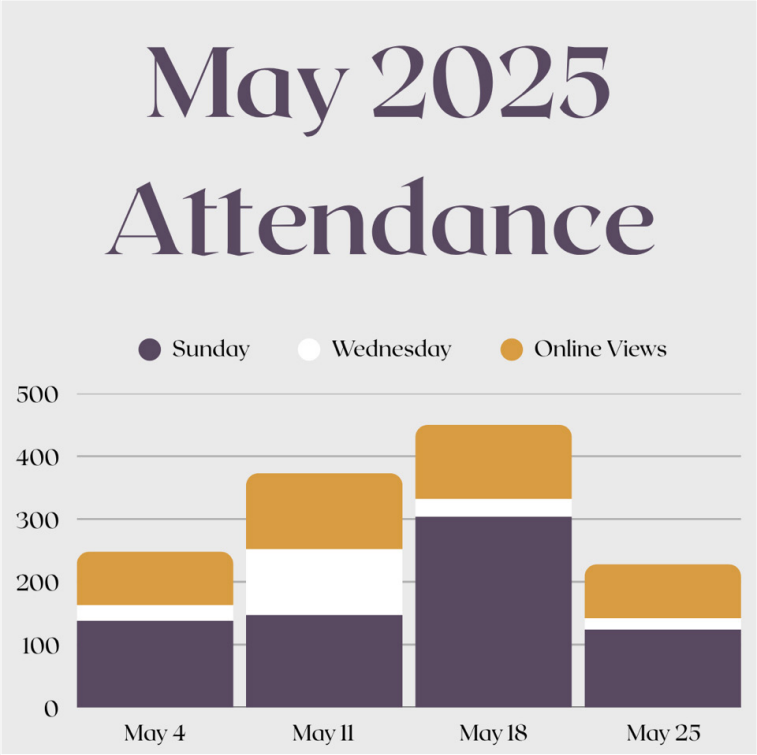
ly we will have a chair to run future rummage sales.

- Club 34 wrapped up for the season.
- The 3rd and 4th graders really loved it and want to keep doing it.

Pastor Erika closed in prayer and we are thankful for Erika Doven-Kolle and Andy Isackson’s service and blessed them on their way.

*Continued from
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ences,
Strength to address difficult decisions that may come along the way,
Confidence to aim high and reach goals that allow us to grow,
Resiliency to sustain us through as we journey together,
Wisdom to discern your leading and direction,
Faith to know that you will be with us on this journey, drawing us into your future. Amen



MAY 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND

| | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| INCOME | \$43,142 | \$47,685 |
| EXPENSE | \$42,689 | \$36,290 |
| YTD INCOME | \$542,336 | \$527,540 |
| YTD EXPENSE | \$565,197 | \$546,209 |

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

| | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
|-------------|-----------|----------|
| YTD INCOME | \$249,941 | \$62,513 |
| YTD EXPENSE | \$137,513 | \$62,513 |

MORTGAGE STATUS

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| May Interest Paid | \$2,269.76 |
| May Principal Paid | \$78,413.24 |
| Balance 6/2/2025 | \$469,222.40 |

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Dedicated Funds | \$214,132 |
| Unrestricted Funds | \$-34,929 |

***If it seems phishy,
just keep swimming
the other way!***

**If you get a message from
someone claiming to be from
LOL and it seems suspicious,
call (218) 828-9374 and talk
to us before doing anything.**



Columbarium Dedication

**Sunday, July 20th
After worship.**

**For more information
about the Columbarium
call the Church Office
at (218) 828-9374**