

## 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

## June 2025

Dear friends,

This summer, in worship and in our communal life we will be *Discovering the Way Forward Together!* For our worship life, we will use the pivotal stories of the book of Acts to reflect on the decisions the early church had to make as it was forming and introduced to a wider world. We'll wonder how the Holy Spirit invites us now to discover who we are and who God is creating us to be in a time of change and transition, in a world filled with conflict and when the witness of the church is critical.

**Sunday, June 8th is the day of Pentecost.** The disciples were gathered together again in Jerusalem to celebrate a harvest festival – a time dedicated to bringing in the “first fruits” offering. The city would have been

“on fire” with activity and energy and joy! And while in that space – God's Holy Spirit descended upon them! Tongues, as of fire, rested upon them. They began speaking in other languages and declaring the powerful works of God. This dramatic moment in our story – both reminds us that God follows through on God's promises and invites us into a new, creative future.

Jesus often told his disciples that this moment would come, when the breath of God, the Spirit of God would be given to them. When it finally happens, all are amazed. Then, they need to learn what it means to be guided and lead by God's Spirit, to be gifted visions and dreams, to speak and live in such a way that the Spirit pours out from their lives.

The book of Acts is the story of the disciples figuring out what it means to be a spirit-filled community of faith existing and thriving in a world that does not always affirm or agree with it.

On Sunday, June 8th – Lord of Life will also begin its process of discovering again what it means to be a spirit-filled community of faith today and into the future.

See the next page for a detailed description of the Discovery Team and the journey we'll be on over the summer!

I look forward to discovering the way forward together!

Blessings,  
Pastor Erika

## ***Discovering The Way Forward Together!***

## **June 8<sup>th</sup> After Worship: “Where Have We Been?”**

# Ministry News

## Discovering the Way Forward Together

After a wonderfully successful capital campaign, we are now embarking on a new journey to discover our way forward together. This is an exciting time for our church, and we look forward to engaging the whole congregation in this process of discovering where the spirit is leading us.

We, the Discovery Team, with the help of consultant Peter Reuss (one of our Capital Campaign consultants) and Pastor Jared Carson (an Intentional Interim Pastor) will lead and guide the congregation through an intentional and thoughtful process as we consider where we have been, where we are right now, and where we are going.

We'll look at the culture of Lord of Life, leadership, and partnerships. This work will help discern the focus of our mission and how we staff effectively for the future.

The Discovery Process will consist of three community conversations over the summer, one-on-one interviews with our consultants Peter and Jared, and a congregational survey related to each focus areas.

If you would like the opportunity to speak directly with our consultants, please let someone on the Discovery Team know and we will sign you up for an interview!

### Community Conversations are scheduled for:

**Sunday, June 8 –  
Where have we been?**

**Sunday, July 13 -  
Where are we right now?**

**Sunday, August 24 –  
Where is God's Spirit  
leading us?**

Each community conversation will last approximately two hours and will involve a simple meal, a presentation, and small group conversation. There will be child care and youth activities each time we meet. PLEASE mark these dates on your calendar and make every effort to participate!

Your Discovery Team:  
Wendy Adamson,  
Colleen and Mike Bush,  
Justin Halbersma,  
Andy Isackson,  
Steve Schaitberger and  
Lisa Tupy

## Micah Group

Lord of Life's Micah Group is hosting a tour of the Mille Lacs Indian Museum on Wednesday, June 25. We will be carpooling, so there is room for everyone.

The trip will include a guided tour of the amazing Four Seasons Room where the lives and traditional practices of the ancient Ojibwe people are portrayed and explained. Did you know that the Ojibwe people already used some of the same ingredients for mosquito repellent that we use today?

Following the tour, we will be able to explore the extensive artifacts displayed around the museum. Director Travis Zimmerman will conclude our time in the museum with a question/answer time informed by his own Indigenous roots. Finally, we will visit the Indian Trading Post, next door, to see a rich and beautiful array of Native arts, writings, pottery, jewelry, and more.

This is a wonderful tour. We'd love to have you come along and learn with us more about the people who lived in this land long before our European ancestors settled here.

### Here are the details:

**- Wednesday, June 25**

**- 1 pm – Car Pool leaves  
Lord of Life**

**- 2 pm -- Tour Begins**

**- 5:15 pm – Back at Lord  
of Life**

**- Group Admission is \$10/  
person**

**- Please call the church  
office, (218) 828-9374, to  
sign up/offer to drive.**

We hope to see you there,  
Darrell J. Pedersen

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



# Youth Update

## Rummage Sale raises over \$7,000

Rummage sale week is always a busy one around Lord of Life and this year was no different!

Numerous donations were gathered throughout the week and put on display for our two-day sale. It is truly amazing what comes in each year and in turn blesses those who come to our sale.

I want to thank everyone who took time out of their week to help support our annual rummage sale! Whether it was through volunteer

hours for set up, helping with the sale itself, baking delicious treats, or through the donations you contributed... Thank you!

Also, thank you to the various groups and ministries that were flexible throughout the week to change meeting spaces, times, or take a break during this busy week.

Donations from this year's sale will go to support children and youth ministries at Lord of Life.

## Senior Recognition & Quilt Blessing

There were seventeen high school graduating seniors from Lord of Life that were recognized and gifted a personalized quilt made by the Lord of Life Quilters.

Senior Recognition was held on Wednesday, May 14th and included a senior slide show with pictures, information regarding future plans and highlights from their time growing up at Lord of Life.

If you would like to see the slide show video please

visit our YouTube page and click on the worship service from May 14th.

A special thank you to the Lord of Life Quilters who spent months creating these personalized quilts for each graduating senior. May these quilts be a reminder that each of our seniors is wrapped in the love and support of God and their church family as they embark on new adventures after graduation!



## 2025 Confirmation Class

Congratulations to Lord of Life's Confirmation Class of 2025. The group finished their confirmation journey with the Affirmation of Baptism Service on Sunday, May 18th. We're so excited for the following youth as they begin the next stage of their faith journey: Wyatt Binsfeld, Avery Coonfield, Crewe Dahlheimer, Drew Dorn, Elsie Haakonson, Nolan Jendro, Joe Jentsch, Landon Lofstrom, Beckett Miller, Raegan Norquist, Rhett Sjostrom, Makayla Stoen, Rylie Strus, and Kia Halbersma (will be confirmed at a later date)



# What Happened in May?



**Property Work Day**



**Peter Mayer Concert**



**Rummage Sale**



**Quilt Blessing**



**Senior Recognition**



## Summer Programming

# CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY

### LORD OF LIFE VBS SCUBA

Open To:  
Ages 3yrs to completed 4th Grade

Dates:  
August 3rd-6<sup>th</sup> (Sun.-Wed.)

Time:  
6:00pm-8:00pm

Cost: \$20 Per Person Family Max: \$50  
Includes: 4 nights of programming, T-shirt,  
snacks & Wednesday night dinner

Registration Deadline Wednesday, July 9th  
To Register Scan QR Code



### SERVECAMP WITH CAMP ONOMIA

Open To:  
Those Entering 5th-8th Grade

Dates: Sunday, July 27th (Evening) -  
Thursday, July 31st

Cost: \$175 per person includes: Camp activities,  
servant activities, transportation meals &  
T-shirt.

Registration Deadline: Sunday, June 22nd  
To Register Scan QR Code



*For more information on summer programming  
visit [www.lolbaxter.org](http://www.lolbaxter.org)  
for details!*

***Sunday******June 1st***

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am  
 Annual Meeting, 10:45 am  
 Wiggle & Praise Class, 10:45 am  
 Soup Kitchen Serving, 11 am  
 Mission Trip Meeting, 6 pm

***Monday******June 2nd******Tuesday******June 3rd***

Driver Improvement Class, 12 pm

***Wednesday******June 4th***

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
 Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm

***June 8th******Noisy Offering***

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am  
 Wiggle & Praise Class, 10:45 am  
 Discovery Team Event, 11 am

***June 9th***

Pinetree Patchworkers, 1 pm

***June 10th***

Sarah Circle, 1 pm  
 Property Team, 4 pm

***June 11th******Noisy Offering***

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
 LOLLY Event, 12 pm  
 Finance Team, 4 pm  
 Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm

***June 15th***

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am  
 Wiggle & Praise Class, 10:45 am

***June 16th******June 17th******June 18th***

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
 Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm

***June 22nd***

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am  
 Wiggle & Praise Class, 10:45 am

***June 23rd***

Stephen Ministry, 4 pm

***June 24th******June 25th***

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
 Mille Lacs Museum Trip, 1 pm  
 Wednesday Worship, 6:30 pm

***June 29th***

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am  
 Pancake Breakfast, 10:45 am  
 Community Fun Day, 11 am

***June 30th******July 1st******July 2nd***

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am  
 Worship, 6:30 pm

**Thursday****June 5th**

Summer Stretch, 9 am  
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am  
LSS Support Group, 11 am  
Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm  
Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

**June 12th**

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

**June 19th**

*Juneteenth, Office Closed*  
Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

**June 26th**

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

**July 3rd**

Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am  
LSS Support Group, 11 am  
Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm  
Al-Anon, 6:30 pm

**Friday****June 6th**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

**June 13th**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

**June 20th**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

**June 27th**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am

**July 4th**

*Independence Day,  
Office Closed*  
Men's Breakfast, 7 am

**Saturday****June 7th**

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

**June 14th**

*Owen-Tangen Wedding*  
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

**June 21st**

*Avelsgard Wedding*  
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

**June 28th**

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

**July 5th**

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

# April Council Minutes

**Lord of Life  
Council Meeting  
04/24/2025 @ 6 pm**

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Erica Dolven-Kolle  
Jessamyn Foley

**Guests:**

Anne Laechel

Pastor Erika led devotions.

Greg Bennett makes a motion to make an additional payment of \$75,000 to Mission Investment Fund to pay down our mortgage principal, second by Eric Davidge. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the March Financial Report for review by Greg Bennett, second by Matt Delaney, Motion carried.

Discussion of the Sanitizer in the Kitchen, which is currently out of order. Quotes will be obtained to find a replacement and the information will be sent to the council for a future motion to approve.

Discussion of the proposed budget for 2025-2026. Motion

by Eric Davidge to approve the budget as presented. Second by Guy Kelm. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee is working to recruit new members for the Council.

**Discovery Team –**

GSB will lead a group of 4-6 people will be recruited to lead the congregation in determining our next step for pastoral staff and to develop our Ministry Site Profile. Expenses will be paid out of the Senior Pastor budget section.

**Columbarium –**

Review of policies, procedures and paperwork, Delivery of the columbarium is pending the end of road restrictions.

The Annual meeting will be Sunday, June 1st after the 9:30 am worship service.

Pastor Erika brings forth the following individuals to be received into membership through Holy Confirmation on May 18, 2025, second by Greg Bennett.

Wyatt Binsfeld  
Avery Coonfield  
Crewe Dahlheimer  
Andrew Dorn  
Elsie Haakonson  
Nolan Jendro  
Joseph Jentsch  
Landon Lofstrom  
Beckett Miller  
Raegan Norquist

Rhett Sjostrom  
Makayla Stoen  
Rylie Strus

New Member classes will be held in May 2025. Council members are invited to attend to share more about the activities under their supervision.

Pastor Erika also shared information about the Bridge on 7th Homeless shelter, Micah Group and their Mondays with Micah Group activities, activities during the Easter season including the Jazz liturgy, Senior Recognition on May 11, Confirmation on May 18th, Discovery Team conversation on June 8th.

Koreann Martin would like to lead two children's summer camps as a for-profit venture at Lord of Life that would need Council approval. She would be responsible for billing and would involve her students in worship as an in-kind gift. We would request an insurance rider.

Club 34 has been going well and requests for a Club 12 have been received. Planning for the Rummage Sale is going well and the sale will be May 9 & 10.

Landen Stoen's Eagle Scout project has been approved, so he will be building and installing the benches during May and June.

Discussion at the May Council meeting regarding the profits from the Rummage sale and how to divide them amongst the Mission Trip and other projects.

Next meeting will be Thursday, May 22nd at 5:00 pm

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm



**APRIL 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**GENERAL FUND**

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
INCOME	\$44,370	\$49,435
EXPENSE	\$40,827	\$43,040
YTD INCOME	\$499,194	\$479,854
YTD EXPENSE	\$521,929	\$509,919

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND**

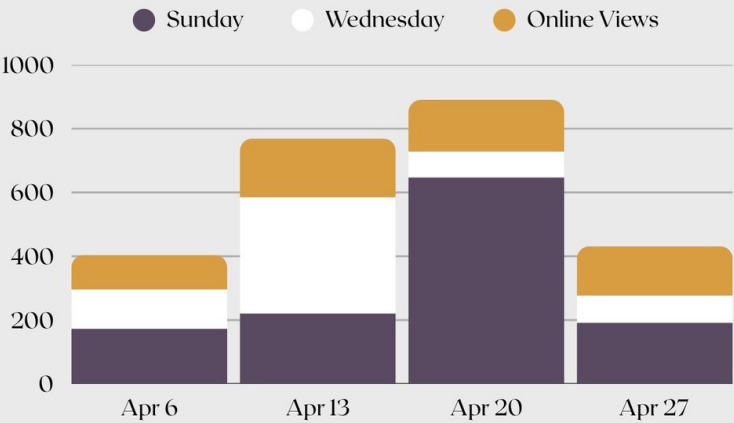
	ACTUAL	BUDGET
YTD INCOME	\$164,484	\$56,830
YTD EXPENSE	\$56,830	\$56,830

MORTGAGE STATUS		CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE	
April Interest Paid	\$2,208.22	Dedicated Funds	\$199,300
April Principal Paid	\$3,474.78	Unrestricted Funds	\$-30,217
Balance 5/6/2025	\$547,635.64		

**Facing a  
hospitalization?  
We want to be  
there for you.**

**Make sure you  
or someone you know  
contacts us  
if you would like  
a pastoral visit.**

**April 2025  
Attendance**



# 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. Hope-

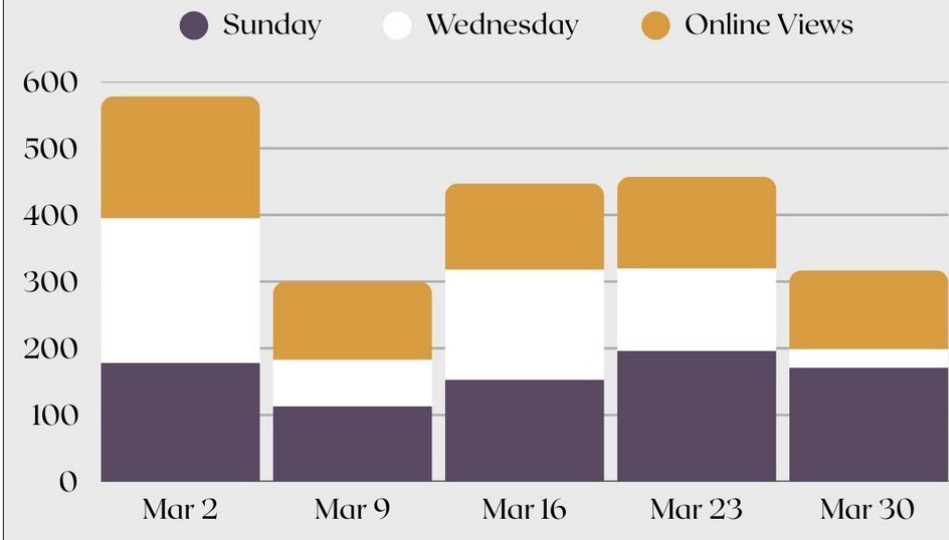


fully we will have a chair to run future rummage sales.

- 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 Erica Doven-Kolle and Andy Isackson’s service and blessed them on their way.

# March 2025 Attendance



## MARCH 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
INCOME	\$62,160	\$54,368
EXPENSE	\$62,229	\$42,963
YTD INCOME	\$499,222	\$481,566
YTD EXPENSE	\$532,821	\$518,027

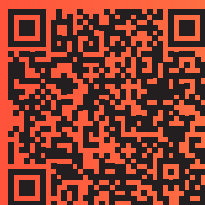
### MORTGAGE STATUS

March Interest Paid	\$2,086.67
March Principal Paid	\$3,596.33
Balance 04/02/2025	\$551,110.42

### CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE

Dedicated Funds	\$90,407
Unrestricted Funds	\$-28,416

**Red Cross  
Blood Drive  
July 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 4  
Sign up using  
the QR code**



**Kids Time  
In the Summer!**

From June 1 – July 13 there will be a Kids Time offering every Sunday morning during worship!

ship while we give our Kids Time leaders a little break!!  
Wondering about being a Kids Time Leader?

Kids ages 3 – 4th grade (and older kids are wonderfully helpers!) will have the opportunity to leave worship for about 20 minutes and have a fun time together learning about Jesus and different stories from the Bible.

We could definitely use some extra volunteers!! The lessons are created each week for you! And everything you need is available to you!

For the last part of the summer – there will be activity packets for kids to work on in wor-



If you'd like to sign up to help lead kids time – scan this QR code!