

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
6:15 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

October 2025

The Big Picture

This past August, I reached out to Kevin Olson and asked if he'd consider an artistic representation of not our only Lord of Life's mission, but the richness of the ministry that happens in and through this congregation.

I love working with Kevin. I share an idea and then he goes to work, or shall I say, the Spirit goes to work in him, and within a few days he reaches out with a sketch, a notion of what's possible and then he goes to work. I never know how an idea will land on his creative soul – and I am always blown away by what emerges. There is a wonderful piece of art now hanging in the Commons entitled, "The Big Picture."

The shape and form of the creation was inspired by Piet Mondrian a Dutch artist who moved the art world into "Modernism" in the early parts of the 20th Century. He was born and raised as a Protestant and sought, through primary colors and simple shapes to rise above the earthly and enter the pure beauty of art and spirit.

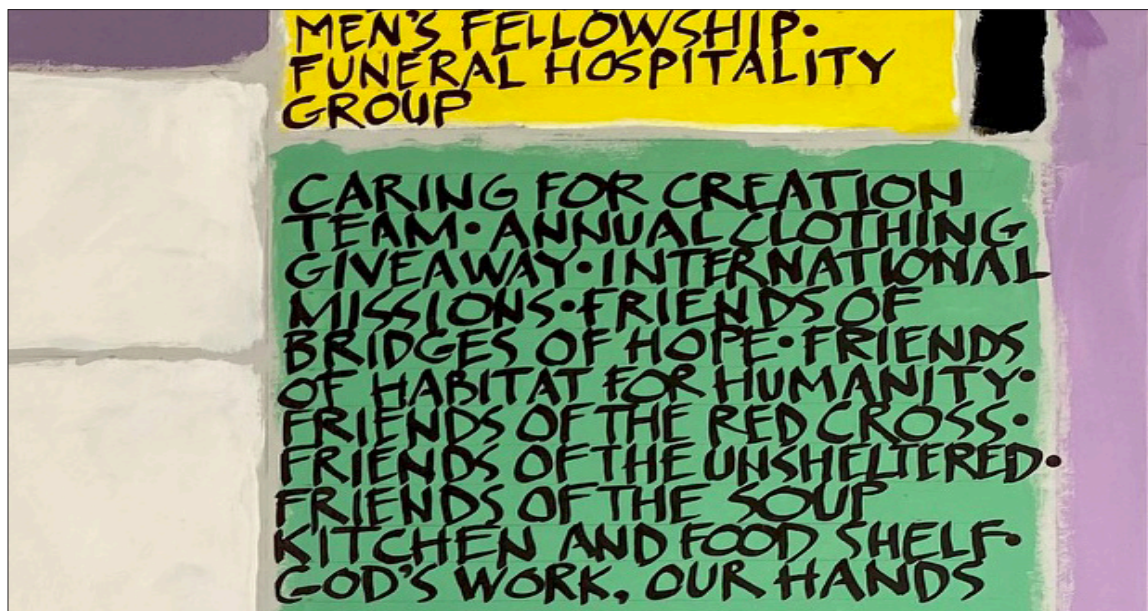
Kevin's sense of Lord of Life's mission is that it too, in its particularity and in its connections, draws us into the deeper and richer reality of God. If you take some time to look at The Big Picture – you'll notice a cross at the center of the window – much like the one we gaze upon in the sanctuary as we look outside. And, you'll notice that there is a black square without any "ministries" listed on it – therein

lies the mystery of God – from which all of life and connection comes – an endless source – a depth we'll never fully know, a richness of which we only get a small taste.

You might also notice that there's room for more ministry! The Big Picture isn't complete. Isn't that great news?! So, what will continue to enrich the Big Picture? How will we grow in our connections to Christ, Community and Each other? Where do you see yourself in The Big Picture?

Thank you, Kevin for drawing us into the reality of God and inviting us to see The Big Picture.

Blessings,
Pastor Erika



Ministry News

Volunteering At The Bridge On 7th

This year, Lord of Life will once again work with the community to make sure everyone has a warm place to lay their heads in the winter.

The Bridge on 7th is making a change this year, and requiring volunteers to complete a background check before serving.

Volunteers from Lord of Life will help serve at the Bridge on 7th Shelter, November 23rd to the 29th. The Shelter is looking for two people each morning to help from 6:30 to 8 am, remaking beds and cleaning up.

There is no cost to volunteers for this, but it can take up to a week to complete.

If you are able to help with this, please sign up in the Commons, or call Ruth Nelson at (218) 821-9168.

Interested In Joining Lord of Life

I invite you to attend a 4-week class in which we explore our life together as a faith community through our particular Lutheran lens.

how Lutherans “See, Hear, Teach, and Live.”

We’ll use a resource entitled, “Baptized We Live,” and think together about

Join me Sundays after worship on October 12, 19, 26 and November 2.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We will be meeting for a Prayer Shawl gathering on Wednesday, October 22, 1 pm at Lord of Life.

Prayer Shawls and Baptismal Shawls.

This ministry was started over 16 years ago and dozens of Prayer Shawls have been given to folks in need. In order to keep this wonderful ministry going, we are looking for more folks to help knit or crochet

We welcome anyone who would like to learn more about this ministry. Please join us on Oct. 22!

Questions? Please call: Jeannine zumBrunnen (218) 343-0964 or Brenda Johnson (218) 831-9725.

Micah Group

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Annual Clothing Giveaway

Micah Group is continuing to shepherd the Annual Clothing Giveaway at Lord of Life. This is an event that draws a large number of people from the community. We will be accepting items for donation starting Sunday, October 5th. Items needed include children’s, men’s and women’s clothing, shoes and accessories. Please make sure all items are clean with no spots, tears, stains or animal hair.

Accepting donations:

Sunday, October 5th:
9 am to 12 pm

Monday-Wednesday
October 6th to the 8th:
9 am to 7 pm

Please use the East door of the Lord of Life building.

Shopping dates:

Thursday, October 9th:
9 am to 7 pm

Friday, October 10th:
9 am to 7 pm

Saturday October 11th:
9 am to 1 pm

Please feel free to stop in and see what is available during shopping hours. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with this project as it takes a lot of hands, hearts and minds to organize this event!

Indigenous Peoples Celebration:

October 13th at Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts.

The event will be open from 4:30 to 7 pm. The program will be from 5 to 6 pm. The theme/topic is Why Treaties Matter and will be presented through history, stories and community.

Mondays with Micah

Mondays with Micah will resume with a special presentation by Susan Beaulieu on Intergenerational Trauma and Resilience on Monday, October 27th at 7 pm in the Lord of Life Sanctuary. Please join us to learn more.

Youth Update

Middle School Youth Group

Next Meeting
Sunday, October 5th
5:30 to 7 pm at LOL

fun games, interactive Bible study lessons and of course your favorite snacks.

The first Sunday of every month is our monthly Middle School Youth Group. This group is open to all 5th-8th graders and their friends. Join us for an evening of

All are welcome to join and no registration is required come if you are able!

Open to 5th - 8th graders.

High School Youth Group

Next Meeting
Wednesday, October 8th
7 to 8 pm at LOL

Interactive games, faith & life conversations, service projects or fun events.

High school youth group is open to all 10th through 12th graders at Lord of Life.

No registration required to attend. Join us if you're able.

Each night may involve something different from in-

teractive games, faith & life conversations, service projects or fun events. Open to 9th - 12th graders.

Confirmation Update

We will be finishing our study following along with our Fall preaching theme of Forward together and Lord of Life's Mission statement.

some fun nights happening with a property work night and the annual 9th grade and mentor scavenger hunt!

We will now be transitioning into a study around Martin Luther during the month of October. We also have

Look forward to seeing pictures and hearing highlights from these fun experiences.

Third Grade Bible Class

This class is for 3rd graders and parents/adult caregivers!

ry of God' love for the world.

Come connect and grow in faith together while learning about the wonderful sto-

Meets October 6th, 13th, and 20th from 6 to 7 pm. Bibles will be presented Sunday, October 26th in worship.

Club 56 Update

Meets **October 1st & 22nd** 7 to 8 pm

Club 56 is wrapping up its focus this month on the Fall theme as well Forward Together exploring and learning about Lord of Life's mission statement. This group is open to all 5th-6th graders registration is required to attend. This program runs September through April!

October Confirmation Schedule

October 8th

Property Work Night, Fall Clothing Giveaway Setup (7th - 8th Graders

9th Grade & Faith Mentor Scavenger Hunt

October 15th

MEA Break, no programming

October 22nd & 29th
Small Group Nights for Confirmation

Discovering Our Way Forward Together

Thank You to everyone who participated in our third Discovery Conversation on Sunday, September 7th! It was a great meal and a great night of discovering where the Spirit of God is leading Lord of Life and WHO the Spirit is inviting us to be!

More than 100 adults and teens participated in the conversation, and an additional 30 kids and middle schoolers were engaged with the questions. Seventy-five surveys were completed and 12 one-to-one interviews were

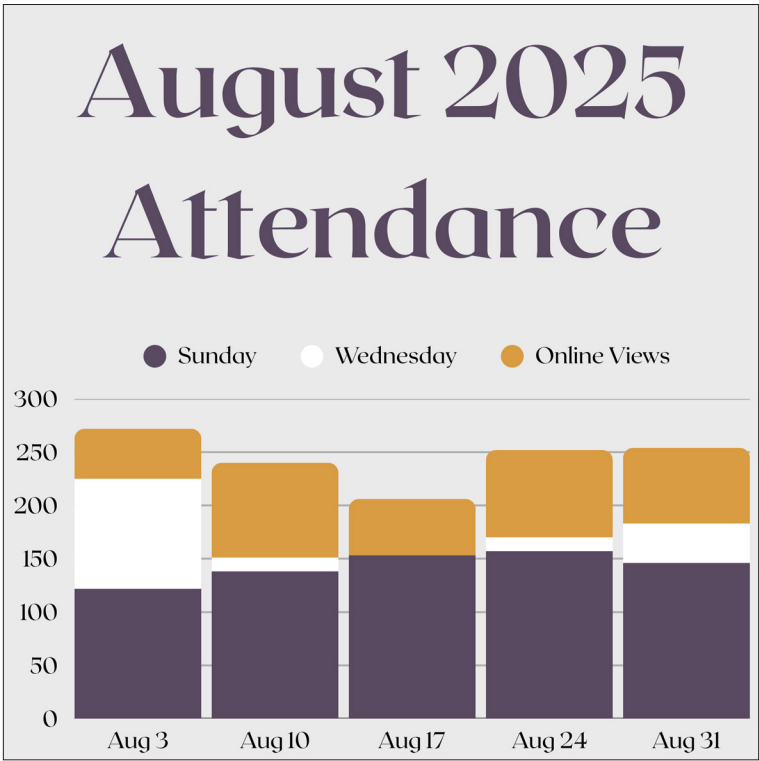
conducted.

But what happens next?

The Discovery team will be meeting in early October – a summary report will be brought to the council and congregation and then a second phase of work begins – diving a bit deeper into our values, vision and culture and then prioritizing future needs, programming, opportunities, communications, concerns and potential leadership.

Property Work Day
Saturday, October 4th
at 8:30 am
Sign up at lolbaxter.org

Reformation Refresher
Taught by Keith Peterson
Sunday, October 26th
(Reformation Sunday)
After Worship



AUGUST 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
INCOME	\$47,655	\$46,058
EXPENSE	\$35,534	\$54,376
YTD INCOME	\$88,393	\$92,166
YTD EXPENSE	\$70,420	\$105,467

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
YTD INCOME	\$30,478	\$11,366
YTD EXPENSE	\$19,389	\$11,366

MORTGAGE STATUS	CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE
Interest Paid \$1,598.70	
Principal Paid \$4,084.30	Dedicated Funds \$186,483
Balance 9/2/2025 \$382,038.02	Unrestricted Funds \$-38,302

United in Hope

All Youth Gathering

Northeastern Minnesota Synod



Nov 21-22 or 22-23, 2025

**@ Cragun's Resort, Brainerd
for 6th-12th grades**

This year's All Youth Gathering highlights mental health and wellness, and finding the hope of Christ in the challenges we face. We will explore this together through large group gatherings, break-out sessions, interactive experiences, and a good bit of humor and FUN. Join us!



Guest Speaker: Pastor Seth Perry

Pastor Seth Perry leads Elim Lutheran Church in Scandia, Minnesota, and loves helping people feel seen and understood. He shares openly from his own journey with mental health and a substance use disorder, beginning in his teenage years and continuing into young adulthood. Seth also created the Our Stigma Podcast and helps lead events that talk honestly about faith, recovery, and mental health. His big passion is making church a place where no one feels ashamed of what they're going through.

Lord of Life Will Be Attending On... Whats Included In The Retreat:

Date: November 22nd - 23rd

Open To: 6th-12th Grade

Cost: \$100

Registration Deadline:

Wednesday, October 15th

**Housing
Food (Late night Pizza & Breakfast)
Programing with Guest Speaker
Fun Interactive Games
Worship**

To Register Scan The QR code...



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

September 28th

September 29th

September 30th

October 1st

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am
 Sunday School, 10:30 am
 Programming, 10:30 am

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
 WBS Fellowship, 1 pm
 Supper, 5:30 pm
 Worship w/ Conf., 6:15 pm
 Choir, 7 pm
 Club 56, 7 pm

October 5th

October 6th

October 7th

October 8th

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am
 Clothing Giveaway
 Dropoff, 9:30 am - 1 pm
 Sunday School, 10:30 am
 Soup Kitchen Serving, 11 am
 Middle School YG, 5:30 pm

Clothing Giveaway
 Dropoff, 9 am - 7 pm
 3rd Grade Bible Class, 6 pm

Clothing Giveaway
 Dropoff, 9 am - 7 pm

Clothing Giveaway
 Dropoff, 9 am - 7 pm
 Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
 Finance Team, 4 pm
 Supper, 5:30 pm
 Worship w/ Conf., 6:15 pm
 Choir, 7 pm
 High School YG, 7 pm

October 12th

October 13th

October 14th

October 15th

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am
 Sunday School, 10:30 am
 New Member Class, 10:30 am

Pinetree Patchworkers, 1 pm
 Stephen Ministry, 4 pm
 3rd Grade Bible Class, 6 pm

Sarah Circle, 1 pm
 Property Team, 4 pm

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
 Supper, 5:30 pm
 Worship w/ Conf., 6:15 pm
 Choir, 7 pm

October 19th

October 20th

October 21st

October 22nd

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am
 Sunday School, 10:30 am
 New Member Class, 10:30 am
 Club 34, 5:30 pm

3rd Grade Bible Class, 6 pm

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
 Supper, 5:30 pm
 Worship w/ Conf., 6:15 pm
 Choir, 7 pm
 Club 56, 7 pm

October 26th

October 27th

October 28th

October 29th

Sunday Worship, 9:30 am
 Sunday School, 10:30 am
 New Member Class, 10:30 am

Stephen Ministry, 4 pm

Women's Bible Study, 10:30 am
 Supper, 5:30 pm
 Worship w/ Conf., 6:15 pm
 Choir, 7 pm

Thursday**October 2nd**

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

October 9th

Clothing Giveaway,
9 am to 7 pm
Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am
Martha Circle, 1 pm
Al-Anon Family Group, 6:30 pm

October 16th

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

October 23rd

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

October 30th

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

Friday**October 3rd**

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
SMART Recovery, 7:30 pm

October 10th

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
Clothing Giveaway,
9 am to 7 pm
SMART Recovery, 7:30 pm

October 17th

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
SMART Recovery, 7:30 pm

October 24th

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
SMART Recovery, 7:30 pm

October 31st

Men's Breakfast, 7 am
SMART Recovery, 7:30 pm

Saturday**October 4th**

Property Work Day, 8:30 am
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

October 11th

Clothing Giveaway,
9 am to 1 pm
Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

October 18th

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

October 25th

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

November 1st

Lots of Love AA, 7 pm

Our Team

Pr. Erika Nilsen,
Associate Pastor
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Anne Laechel,
Parish Administrator
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Tim Slinger,
Youth Director
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Tyler Jensen,
Communications
Coordinator
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**Paul and Karen
Erickson,**
Custodians

Koreann Martin,
Worship Leader
koreann@
lolbaxter.org

Kristin Binsfeld,
Admin. Assistant
kristin@lolbaxter.org

Upcoming Wednesday Night Meals

October 1st -

Meatballs w/ Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

October 8th -

Chicken Wild Rice Soup

October 15th -

Salmon Alfredo

RSVP'ing in the Narthex or at lolbaxter.org is requested, but not required. We always have additional options that are vegetarian / gluten free.