



Life-Lines

919/772-9044
FEBRUARY 2017

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

How do we know the groundhog is not a Lutheran? Answer, It only comes out of its burrow once a year to do anything worthwhile. Whether it be Puxatawny Phil, Sir Walter, or Garner's own Mortimer, we only hear from them once a year. As Lutherans we are heard from often, and continue to expand our local ministries. However, our ministries are not limited to Garner or the Raleigh area, they extend statewide, nationwide and I wonder how extensive our knowledge of the church wide organization called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is.

First, ELCA was the result of a merger between the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America in 1988. The first congregation I served from 1980 until 1991 was St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oak Hill, New York, which belonged to the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America.

Currently in the ELCA there are nearly 10,000 congregations in 65 synods across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. We are in the North Carolina Synod which includes congregations in the entire state of North Carolina.

We are led by an elected bishop, currently Tim Smith, and assistants to the bishop along with an elected synod council and synod office staff. We call ourselves a synod which is defined as an assembly of clergy and/or laity in a division of a particular church, in this case, the Lutheran Church.

The ELCA's church wide office is in Chicago, Illinois. ELCA is led by a presiding bishop, currently Elizabeth Eaton, along with a council of bishops. Both the church wide and synod assemblies are held annually.

Domestically, ELCA supports youth ministries, campus ministries, advocacy for those having little or no voice, outdoor ministries, multicultural ministries, social justice ministries among others. Global ministries include theological education, leadership development, sustainable development, evangelical witness, global advocacy, disaster response, and global health. In the early 1990's I briefly considered serving as missionary in Papua New Guinea joining the 200 plus missionaries worldwide. Augsburg/Fortress Publishing House and store provide resources for individuals and congregations. If they don't have it, they will get it.

There are 26 colleges and universities across the ELCA. Lenoir Rhyne University is located in Hickory, North Carolina, and is also affiliated with Southern Seminary of Columbia, South Carolina. Southern is one of 8 seminaries in the ELCA. I graduated from Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey in 1975, and Christ Seminary-Seminex in 1980. Upsala, an ELCA college went out of business due to financial difficulties. Christ Seminary-Seminex intentionally went out of business at the inception of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA. ELCA's motto has been and remains, "God's Work, Our Hands".

Pastor Wayne

Social Concerns planning ahead

Happy Valentine's Day! I just cannot believe that we are already into February. Spring is just around the corner! Thank goodness! Thank you all again for all of your help and support that you give us throughout the year!

Springtime is going to be busy as well. We have our Relay for Life fundraisers coming up, Camp Scholarships will be coming soon, and as always our continued support for Garner Area Ministries. These are just a few of the things we have coming up. We might even throw in a surprise or two!

We also extend an invitation to anyone who would like to join us. Everyone is welcome! We meet every third Thursday of the month, at 6:30 pm, in the library. Please come join us!

In Christ's Love,

Sarah Watkins

Social Concerns Ministry



Lent begins

Ash Wednesday is March 1
with service at 7:00 p.m.

Each Wednesday during Lent there will be a simple supper of soup and bread in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m. with a service to follow at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

'Tis Better to Give AND Receive

How many times have we heard, as well as said, that old adage, "It is better to give than to receive?" Countless! And it is an especially useful tool with children at Christmas time! That's because giving is touted as an act of kindness, benevolence, and self-sacrifice. We give advice, we give hope, we give insight, we give support, we give money and other things, but most of all we give of ourselves. Giving of one's self involves intangibles such as time and involvement . . . those unquantifiable entities. Sure, giving is great and requires effort but it doesn't mean that receiving is easy. What we fail to consider is that receiving is, more often than not, harder than giving. Yep, some people even find it difficult to accept a compliment of unpretentious praise, approval, or kudos that they just received. So what happens? Well, the person on the receiving end of a particular compliment probably brushed it off in an 'oh, it was-nothing' manner all the while assuming that receiving it was inferior to the giving of it. NOT! Both actions correspond in importance.



Receiving is a way of acknowledging that someone else does in fact have something to give! You are saying to others, "Yes, thank you for what you give." We say thank you all the time for such little things . . . when someone holds open a door for us; when we drop

something that another picks up; or when we receive a favor. When we say thank you, it's in exchange for receiving some sort of "giving;" then you go merrily on your way without the full realization that you have received (and accepted) whatever was being given . . . that is an important concept! Often times having a gracious receiver is the only way that a giver becomes cognizant of the fact that he has something to GIVE! What a good thing that is . . . to help a person become aware that they have precious gifts with which they are endowed. And let's be mindful that God the Father has made us the greatest receivers of all, so we shouldn't be shy about it! The more we receive, the more we give. Sharpen your skill set to embrace receiving; you'll see . . . it is better to give AND receive!

Be blessed.

Gale J. Isaacs



A meeting of the Altar Guild was held on Saturday, January 14, in the church library. There were 10 in attendance. After the meeting Christmas decorations were taken down and put away. Following our work we enjoyed a delicious luncheon catered by members of the Altar Guild. A delicious birthday cake was supplied by Karen Post in honor of members birthday. The next meeting of the Altar Guild will be April 8 in the church library

It was decided upon that more members of the congregation are needed to help set up and take down the decorations. This responsibility should not fall on only members of the Altar Guild.

A special thank you to my husband (an honorary member of the Altar Guild) for being there to help with all the heavy tasks. Thank you Don and to all the other members who have been so willing to help.

---Carol Wallace



February

February 3	Daniel Cook
February 9	Lisa Hash Burnett
February 15	Clyde Cook
February 15	Vince Wright
February 17	Antonio (Tony) Smith
February 21	Patrick Niemann
February 25	Dorian Hewett
February 29	Paul Blanchard

March

March 4	Sophie Nora Clark
March 5	Daniel Klawiter
March 7	Steven Babel
March 8	Larry Langworthy
March 14	Bryce Douglas Lowe
March 15	Gale Isaacs
March 20	Brandi Bredell
March 22	Lora Clark
March 24	Harry Albert
March 27	Wes Roscoe
March 28	Michael Hayduk
March 28	Heather King
March 29	Rob Weisenburn
March 30	Camille Morris

Go West (not so) Young (wo)Man!

Hello everyone. I'm half way through my military commitment and closer every day to my military retirement! Pretty exciting stuff! I continue to have the personal challenge of walking on the river each day. I actually walk about 4 times a week on the river, but I hope to increase it by 1-2 days a week as the weather continues to warm up. It has been unbelievably WARM here in Texas! We had one cold week where the high was 29 degrees. But mostly it has been high 50's to low 70's. Crazy for December!!!

Work continues to be a challenge in the cases that I am asked to do. This month I did two cases that I have never done before! I removed a left ventricular assist device in a patient that had open heart surgery the day before. It has been 15 years since I did the anesthesia for an open heart case! Then I had the opportunity to do a ballooning of the trigeminal nerve. I was told right before the case that the patient often goes into systole during the ballooning. Oh yeah! And the patient already had aortic stenosis! It was a repeat procedure. The first case took over 3 hours. Imagine my surprise when the surgeon said he was done in 30 minutes. And fortunately both patients did well! On the other hand, I am enjoying all the federal holidays! I have had an extra day off each week this month. I feel guilty since my friends at home are working the butts off. Typically those who have met their deductible for the year try to squeeze in every possible surgery before the end of the year. Pretty sure that is NOT what Gerry Havenstein was thinking! Military medicine gets paid by the day . . . same amount no matter how productive you are. Civilian medicine is paid by the case. A complete different mindset!

Another challenge that I had was getting to work. Normally I leave at 5:00 am and it takes about 10 minutes to get to the hospital. Conversely it takes about an hour to get back to the apartment. San Antonio has hosted a Rock and Roll marathon for the past 12 years. The day of the marathon was especially cold and rainy. On my way to work there was a Corvette turned sideways in the middle of the interstate! The roads are often slick when it is raining. Too bad this driver forgot this simple fact! So I got off the interstate and drove through downtown. Unfortunately the course for the marathon was through downtown. I ran into multiple roadblocks. I did however get to work in 30 minutes that morning. And I thought Raleigh drivers lacked common sense!

I continue to try different restaurants. Lori mentioned during her visit that she did not know that San Antonio was such a foodie town! But it is! And not just Tex-Mex. I found out today about a German deli within walking distance of my apartment. It is now on the list of restaurants to try. I still have not been to Bliss which is rated the #1 restaurant in San Antonio. It is a little over a mile from my apartment, so I will have to drive. Fortunately there is plenty of parking there. As with any big city, parking is at a premium. So that is another blessing that I can walk to so many places from my apartment.

Lori was able to come for a week in early December. She has always been someone that needed to be entertained. So I had quite an aggressive week planned. We even went to see the Spurs play in the ATT Center. The Alamo Dome is near my apartment and currently under renovation as San Antonio plans to host the NCAA finals in 2018. Lori did get me downtown to see the lights along the Riverwalk. They are exquisite! I usually try to be in my apartment when it gets dark, so I had not been downtown while I was alone. Parts of the Riverwalk are very dark and I was afraid to

walk home alone. Lori thought it would be extra special to take the boat ride at night . . . so we did! All amazing.

Pastor Wayne makes a point to see the TransSiberian Orchestra each year. I was never proactive enough to get tickets while I was home. So when I heard TSO was coming to San Antonio, I requested the day off. TSO did two concerts in the same day. I went to the 4:00 pm concert since there is no way that I could stay up until 11:00 pm AND get up at 4:00 am for work the next day! The ATT Center was packed! TSO accused us all of playing hooky! I will try to see them again next year. It was an amazing concert!

St. John's had a "cookie walk" to raise money for the youth and family ministries at the church. I thought that it would be open to the community since it was originally set for a Tuesday morning, but it was just for church members. You would not believe how many cookies were there! We got a clamshell to-go box to walk around the table picking up cookies to try. Then the box was weighed and priced accordingly. I had a pretty full box and paid \$4! We had a fellowship dinner for BSF a few days later. So I bought a pumpkin spice cake for \$5. It was all delicious!

Christmas Eve at St. John's was magical. The lights, the music, the people . . . where do I begin! The choir is phenomenal and there was a 5-piece brass group to accompany the choir. There were over 400 people at the early service. Pastor Judi had 100 candy canes to pass out for the children's sermon. She did have a few left over but children filled the steps. Since St. John's is a "destination" church meaning that most members do not live near it, they decided to have a dinner in-between services. Initially it was just for the choir but they decided to open it up to the whole congregation. There were about 200 people in the fellowship hall for dinner. The choir sang around the piano for an hour and then we watched the recorded Christmas Cantata and Polka Services. I had been in church for both services but it was fun to watch them again. And, of course, the choir had not seen either since they were participating. A few people went down to walk on the river between services and I regret that I did not know about it until they returned. I made a suggestion today that that be included for next year. This was the first year they had the dinner between services but plan to continue it in the new year.

The Christmas Day service was Great! Pastor Judi used the King's Chapel Service of 9 festivals and carols. It was a mix of hymns, poems and scripture reading. I LOVED it! Unfortunately there were only about 30 people at the service. The choir had the "day off" since they had done the two services the night before. Brad! Don't get any ideas! Also fortunate for me, Lori left some wrapped presents for me to open on Christmas morning. I did not think that it would matter but I was so glad to have something to open. My cousin had invited me to her house for dinner but I chose to stay in my apartment and chill. It was a very relaxing day! And then the next day was the Federal holiday so I didn't even get dressed. What a great day!

I disparately missed First Night Raleigh this year! You would think that a city the size of San Antonio would know how to celebrate. San Antonio has a Fiesta Celebration every April which is well-known throughout Texas. They had something but nothing compares to Raleigh's New Years Eve celebration! There were three stages with different groups performing. I enjoyed the music, dance and singing. The homeless people that usually are hanging around

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We pray for our world and those in it with hope for our future.

Grief . . . family and friends of Lore Struss who died December 7; family and friends of Laura Raun's brother, Gary Jump, who died December 8; family and friends of Terry Barnes' mother, Lena Barnes, who died December 23;

and

Health Concerns . . . Barbara Kyes, recovering; Gerry Havenstein, recovering; Joyce Havenstein, Helen Reaves, Tim Clark, Dan Stamm, Mona Stamm, Harry Albert, Carol Wallace, Perry Proper, Betty Nalepa, Ben Hart, Christine Brennecke, Dennis King, Betty Zapata, Bob Baxter; and

Family and friends . . . Clyde Cook's brother, Rocky; Gerry Havenstein's sister, Jan O'Briant; Ethan Clark's friend, Staunto DeVine; Dan and Roxie Hayes' friends, Jacob and Cynthia Sterling, Lisa Grayson's mother, Betty Hooker, and her uncle, Bill

Winterbottom; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe; Camille Morris' mother, Ola Morris-Jones; Carol and Don Wallace's friend, Raymond St. Pierre; Carol Wallace's sister, Claudia Bossen, Don Wallace's nephew, Chuck Wallace and sisters, Irene P. and Marge L.; Tim and Rita Clark's friend, Gale; Vince Wright's stepfather, Ronald Pierce; Shirley Poole's niece, Pamela Chrissinger; Barbara Kyles' niece, Sandy Blackburn; Shannon Thomsen's niece, Kylie Garner, and nephew, Nickolas; Kate Beck's friend, Lisa Gauger; Tess Andrews' father, Arthur Van Benschoten; Mary Cook's niece Sarah, nephew Will, brother-in-law Rocky, son Daniel; Paul and Kerri Blanchard's son, Jason; Linda Hash's mother, Gerry Barlow; Dave Hash's mother, Lucille Hash Stewart; Esther Bredell's sister-in-law, Marti Swanson.

Please note: prayer requests that have been listed for several months have been removed. If you have current requests or updates of those listed, please e-mail them to: paulampic@aol.com

Brother, can you spare a dime (or some canned goods)?

The first mail delivery following Christmas Day contained a letter addressed to me from one of the organizations I had supported during the holidays. The person writing the letter started by thanking me for my monetary donation. The second sentence of the letter asked for another donation. My first reaction was to fuss about them asking for more money so quickly. I thought to myself, I doubt the first check has cleared the bank and already they are "hounding" me for more money.

Then I stopped, took a deep breath and realized that I was about to do the same asking. I knew I would be writing an article for the newsletter asking for food. So I was about to do something that I complained about when I was on the giving side, not the asking side. So, here goes:

I want to give thanks from Social Concerns Outreach to all who so generously filled the food baskets to overflowing with everything needed for holiday dinners. Thanksgiving donations were the largest we have had in the past 5 years. They were topped only by all the turkeys, sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, veggies, sugar, flour, etc., that was given for Christmas meals.

And, yes, I AM asking you to continue to fill the baskets week after week with much needed food for the Garner Area Ministry Food Pantry. The need goes on. Each week you are encouraged to check the food ads in the newspaper and look at the bargains listed, then decide what you are going to buy to help feed hungry families . . . this is something we all can afford to do.

---Connie Fortmeyer

from Alecia

the Riverwalk have been missing for about 2 weeks. I'm not sure if they were told to go or they chose to go, but the faint smell of urine persists. The Riverwalk was very crowded all week between Christmas and New Year's. Nebraska and Oklahoma had their bowl (football) game on Thursday between Christmas and New Years. Nothing like drunk cowboys everywhere you look.

And finally, I was able to slow down this Christmas and focus on Christ instead of expectations. I slowly reread the book of Luke. I highly recommend that each of you do this each Advent. It gave me a clear perspective. I also was able to gather all my receipts and complete my monthly spreadsheets in preparation to file our 2016 taxes. Usually I work through the night hours before I am to meet with the accountant to finalize the tax forms. So not this year! I will be able to go to the Tax Center at Fort Bragg immediately upon returning to North Carolina. Or I may try the Tax Center at Fort Sam. We will see. It is such a relief to already have this task completed. So the real challenge is take Christmas slowly and truly enjoy it while I am at home next year. I get caught up in the "oughts" and "shoulds" of every day life. Christmas is the blessing where we celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior with our family and friends. I pray that we all remember this each day.

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison



**Valentine's
Day
Dinner**

**February 10, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

Sponsored and catered by the
Men's Group.

Signup sheet is in the fellowship hall.
Please plan to attend and feel free to bring
an Italian pasta dish, side dish or dessert!



Glass Half Full

Our regularly scheduled “First Sunday of the Month” council meeting was postponed due to Sunday falling on January 1st, and then, January 8 . . . we’re canceled due to the icy roads. So our first council meeting of 2017 was on January 15. This was my last council meeting, where I’m serving as council president. We’ll welcome our new group of council members to join us for beginning of their terms at our Leaders’ Retreat on February 4 in the fellowship hall.

I’m optimistic of the future of Lord of Life from the events I’ve witnessed in my last three years on council, so I’ll adopt the proverbial phrase “Glass Half Full” for being optimistic.

In 2014, our Council introduced our Lord of Life website, which took a great deal of planning and work. Our website is a “work in progress” and is currently being improved. It is a great way to reach out to the community and share the ministries we value as a church (i.e., Backpack Buddies, Angel Tree and support of local schools, Garner Area Ministries, Camp Agapé . . . just to name a few).

In March of 2015, we received our first monthly donation from La Voz de Dios Church of \$800. After three years of hosting the Hispanic Ministry, the council voted on providing the congregation with various options regarding La Voz de Dios. The LOL congregation voted to keep our Hispanic friends with us under the provision that they help us with contributing to the costs of our facility. La Voz de Dios congregation has been a great help to us and helped with workdays, maintenance issues and preparation of Garner Rotary meals . . . to name a few contributions. In October of 2016, we entered into a contract with Able to Serve ministry in leasing our extra building (previously referred to as “Preschool Building”, now referred to as “Able to Serve” building). This was absolutely an answer to prayer to enter into a contract with another ministry which is working in more of a partnership with our church.

Also in 2016, we installed a new audio system within our sanctuary and acquired hearing assisted devices for hearing impaired. We’ve been blessed with new buildings on our property sponsored by Able to Serve including a picnic shelter, gazebo, greenhouse and additional storage shed. We initiated a “Property Infrastructure Fund”, which is needed to make needed repairs on our aging facility (primarily new roof and heat pumps).

Our church has many blessings for which are thankful including a loving God who answers prayer and a congregation that generously contributes to His work.

Our Annual Congregational meeting is set for January 29, 2017 (weather permitting).

I’ve enjoyed serving on the LOL Council for the last three years and serving as your President for the last year.

Yours in Christ,
Terry Barnes, Council President

Greetings from the Lord of Life Men’s Group

We met on January 13 with 12 in attendance and enjoyed a meal and fellowship before our short business meeting. The following officers were elected: Gray Anthony, President; Tim Clark, Vice-President; Gerry Havenstein, Secretary; Dave Hash, Treasurer.

We began planning for our spring pine straw sale which we are planning on holding March 18 and 25.

We will be hosting a Saint Valentine’s Day dinner for the congregation on February 10. We will have bread, wine, salad, and pasta and roses. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the fellowship hall for desserts and Italian casseroles or dishes. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our next business meeting will be March 10th. All men are invited to attend and, if it is your first time joining us, your meal is on the house. Just bring a beverage of your choice.

Thanks,
Gray Anthony, president



Thanks to the congregation from the Dubnansky family for the generous monetary gift given us at Christmas. With Jean Marie and Claire, they take little time putting it to good use.

---Pastor Wayne

The Eagle Huntress: a review

A New Times Review of *The Eagle Huntress* exclaims, “In the Eagle Huntress, a Girl Soars”. I totally agree. In my humble opinion, *The Eagle Huntress* is one of the most unusual documentaries I have ever seen, and the other three people who were at the showing I attended agreed as well. The film is about Aisholpan, a 13-year-old Mongolian girl who divides her time between boarding school (her only option for an education) and her nomadic family’s home. Daisy Ridley, star of “Star Wars: the Force Awakens ”is the narrator, but she plays a minor role. It is all about Aisholpan and her father Nurgaiv, the trainee and trainer respectively.



Even if you cannot see yourself sitting through 90 plus minutes about training eagles to hunt fox, the depiction of the Mongolian culture and Mongolian scenery is worth the price of admission; and if we have our spiritual cinema during the summer, *The Eagle Huntress* will be at the top of the list of movies shown so your price of admission will be nil.

Aisholpan’s father, Nurgaiv, is the 11th generation eagle hunter in his family. Eagle hunters catch young eagles and train them to hunt other animals, namely fox, for meat and fur. He trains his 13-year-old daughter, Aisholpan, to first catch an eaglet from a mountainside nest, and then teach it, AqQanattari, which means “White Eagle”, to follow her directions. So the film is about Aisholpan honing her hunting skills, but it also shows the remarkable relationship she has with her father, even at one point in the film showing her mother’s understanding of the fact that her time with Aisholpan is reduced as a result. Nurgaiv is a wise and patient coach, one who pushes her just enough, and gives praise when Aisholpan needs it.

Some have said Aisholpan is comparable to Kaitnis Everdeen of *Hunger Games* with one huge difference. She is real. Others have said we will see little girls Halloween 2017 dressed in traditional fur and embroidery hunting gear and pigtails fastened with pink bows in the style of Aisholpan, that is, if the film gets a wider showing.

For us, looking for spirituality, Aisholpan’s grandfather gives her his divine blessing as she begins her quest as an Eagle Huntress, and the presence of God is invoked often during that quest which climaxes at the annual eagle festival in which Aisholpan competes with 70 something other eagle hunters.

Thus, *The Eagle Huntress* expands our sense of what is possible. A girl with determination can hunt with an eagle equal to, if not better than, men who have been doing it all their lives. Who would have thought -- a 13-year-old, female, Mongolian role model.

---Pastor Wayne

Heading Home fall campaign successful!

We are extremely excited and grateful to report that PLM-Families Together’s fall Heading Home campaign was a huge success as we exceeded our goal of \$100,000! We are so thankful for the outpouring of support as it enables more children and their families to move out of shelters and into their own homes in our community. Your gifts create loving homes where parents can provide their children with the peace and security of a stable roof overhead. Thank you!

Green Thumb Volunteers. Are you looking for a new awesome volunteer opportunity? Do you have a green thumb? If you said yes to either or both we are looking for you! We have an onsite garden and we are starting a committee to oversee it. The committee will be responsible for planting and maintaining next season’s harvest. Our garden is a vital resource we have for families because it’s fresh, it’s healthy, and most of all it’s free! Contact Meghan Olesen, Community Engagement Coordinator at (919) 307-1892, or by e-mail, meghan@FamiliesTogetherNC.org.

Program Needs. We still have need for toiletries, such as soap, shampoo, deodorant as well as laundry baskets. Our after school program is now in full swing. We are still taking donations of nonperishable snacks and juices to provide for the children. Contact Meghan Olesen, Community Engagement Coordinator at (919) 307-1892, or by e-mail, meghan@FamiliesTogetherNC.org.

Help us get the word out. Connect with PLM-Families Together on Instagram ([Families2gether](https://www.instagram.com/Families2gether)).

Regular updates on Facebook: www.facebook.com/families2gether.

An illustration of three yellow monkeys. One monkey is sitting on top of the other two, holding a large pencil and pointing at a sign. The sign has some illegible scribbles on it. Below the monkeys, the text "SIGN UP TODAY!" is written in large, bold, blue letters. Below the text, there is a list of volunteer roles: "Volunteers needed as (1) assisting ministers, (2) readers, (3) greeters, (4) ushers . . . and even more." and a final line: "Look around and see what you can do!!".

Sign Up Today!

Volunteers needed as (1) assisting ministers, (2) readers, (3) greeters, (4) ushers . . . and even more.

Look around and see what you can do!!