

Life-Lines

919/772-9044
MARCH 2017

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

During the entire month of March we will be in the season of Lent. It is a season when many Christians think of *Giving Something Up*. Also many Christians struggle with something creative to Give Up. Or they joke about what they will give up. "I am gong to Give Up eating caviar." (they never ate caviar in their lives.)

So for those who are challenged as to what their Lenten discipline will be, I suggest, you merely GIVE, GIVE WITH, GIVE FOR, and GIVE TO. The result will be we will be following our Lord's commandments to "love the Lord your God, with all our heart, soul, and your mind; and your neighbor as yourself" .

First, just GIVE. When put this way, we usually think of giving money. However, that is not as easy as it seems,. You know when you give to one organization, a hundred more will be asking you for contributions. It is no secret I have a different, fancy cell phone. Ever since I got it, I have been getting frequent calls from credit card companies offering me a deal I can't refuse. You also know I am a slow learner when it comes to the cell phone, but I do know one thing: how to hang up and I do it quickly and often. When I talk with a solicitor, I tell them my family and I pick and choose to whom we will give: the Church, public radio and tv, the Raleigh museums, and causes that have personal meaning for us. You might do similarly or even give money in a new and different way.

Another thing we might GIVE. A kind word. I recently called the family of one of my students who were Honduran, and I expressed my support of them as they kept their daughter out of school on the Day Without Immigrants. Time. I am constantly asking you to volunteer your time. You can volunteer your time in various capacities on Sunday morning, on committee, and in various other ways. I was delighted recently to have a young man of the congregation OFFER his time in any way that we might need him. I did not hesitate but asked him to commit to working the two weekends of the pins straw sale.

This Lent you can choose to GIVE WITH someone. This summer will be my fifth year volunteering at the Wild Goose Festival on the Green Team. Four of us work together in four hour shifts. Giving with three others enhances the experience of giving, especially when some of what is involved with collecting trash, composting, and recycling is not always pleasant.

This Lenten season you can choose to GIVE TO a cause. We have opportunities in the future to give to Relay for Life, CROP Walk, in addition to the church giving opportunities. Choose what is most meaningful for you and then GIVE TO it. Most importantly, in all you do GIVE your Love with All and GIVE TO in Thanks and Praise to God.

Pastor Wayne

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8 • 10 a.m.

*LOL Annual Easter Egg Hunt
for children in 5th grade and younger.
Bring your basket to collect eggs.*

Donations of filled plastic eggs appreciated.

*Please deliver by Wednesday
night the 5th of April.*

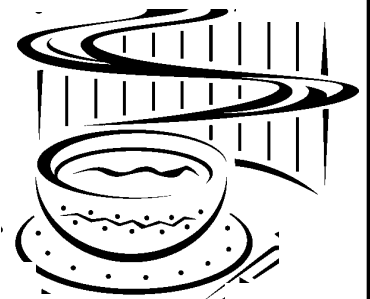
*Join us for light refreshments after
the hunt in the fellowship hall.*

Lenten Services

7:00 p.m.

**Wednesdays during Lent
(March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5, 12)**

Join us at
6:00 p.m. before
the service for a
simple supper of
bread and soup.
Everyone is
welcome!





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 25	Olivia Jensen
March 27	Wes Roscoe
March 28	Michael Hayduk
March 28	Heather King
March 29	Rob Weisenburn
March 30	Camille Morris

April

April 2	Don Stang
April 7	Gray Anthony
April 15	Shari Rebbeor
April 15	Enid Weatherwax
April 19	Arthur Kyles
April 19	Roland Kyles
April 21	Jeannie Stang
April 24	Shirley Poole
April 26	Sara Melanie Bollinger
April 29	Alecia Harrison
April 29	Chris Thomsen
April 30	Sarah Rebbeor



Thank you to Connie Fortmeyer for setting the altar for the month of February, to Ginny King for baking more bread and to the Men's Group for donating the wine after the Valentine Dinner on February 10. All are greatly appreciated.

At the time of this writing we are still in the season of Epiphany which will conclude on Sunday, February 26, "The Transfiguration of our Lord." On this day all Alleluias will be removed from the church until Easter, April 16.

Ash Wednesday, March 1, will be observed with a church service with communion and the imposition of ashes at 7:00 p.m.

"Ash Wednesday altar paraments may be black, (color of ashes, humiliation and mourning) or the color purple, (the color of penitence). Lent has two primary themes, baptism and penitence - both in preparation for a worthy celebration of the paschal feast. (Easter)

"Flowers, being a symbol of joy, are appropriately omitted during Lent in order to help the congregation absorb the penitential character of the season."¹ The cross above the altar will be turned to show the "crown of thorns" -- the penitential side.

---Carol Wallace

¹Altar Guild and Sacristy and Handbook. S. Anita Stauffer

Our behind-the-scene heroes

The Parish Committee maintains a food closet for emergency aid to folks who find themselves without food or money to buy groceries. This doesn't happen often so, to avoid stored cans and other ready to eat meals from being wasted, Tim Clark checks the dates on all of them. If the item is close to being out of date he swaps out with the Garner Area Ministries food baskets. That means food is never wasted or thrown away.

When food is donated to GAM it does not stay on the shelves very long -- nothing there ever stays long enough to go out of date. They are in constant need. As I watched Tim one day, it gave me the idea to check my own shelves. Sure enough I had a few things that had been there awhile and were not going to be used before out-of-date time. Have you checked your pantry or cupboard lately? Do you have something is near it's "To be used by" date. If so the GAM baskets have plenty of room for it.

Speaking of Gamer Area Ministries, Social Concerns thanks Terry Barnes for his commitment to making weekly deliveries of food donated. So, thanks Tim, thanks Terry, for caring.

---Connie Fortmeyer

Camp scholarships and more

Spring is almost here!! I can't believe it. It's that time of year again, time for Camp Scholarships. Applications will be available Sunday, March 5. Remember there is a cap of \$425. Applicant's family is responsible for any amount over that. We look forward to hearing about all the adventures our campers are going to have.

Thanks to everyone who is helping to keep our Garner Area Ministries food baskets full. The need is ongoing. We so appreciate your support!

Social Concerns Ministry is always looking for new members. Please feel free to join us anytime. We meet on the third Thursday of every month, at 6:30 p.m.

Yours In Christ,

Sarah Watkins

Social Concerns Ministry



I am humbled by the selection to be your President for 2017, and I am a bit overwhelmed as well. I recognize that I am following some excellent presidents that have gone before, and I have big shoes to fill.

The job of the president is to preside. As such, I do not see my function as to make decisions so much as to facilitate the process by which others can make the best decisions possible. The president is thus a servant to all. Therefore, I will make myself available however you want to input your thoughts and ideas. You can catch me at a service, or call 919 873 1518, or e-mail at wjensen548@aol.com.

Yours in the service of our Lord and Savior,
Wade Jensen

Lord of Life Men's Group News

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Saint Valentine's Day dinner which was held in lieu of our February meeting. We had plenty of food, fellowship, and fun. I want to say a special thank you to everyone who contributed to making the evening a success!

We are planning for our spring pine straw sale which will be held March 18 and 25. Mailers will be going out shortly, and order forms will be available. We need all the help we can get to deliver pine straw. We have several key persons who have headed up weekday deliveries who are not able to do so this year. Anyone who can assist for a few hours either of our delivery days, your help would be much appreciated!

Our next business meeting will be March 10. All men are invited to attend. 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

Thank You!

Dear Lord of Life church family -

We so appreciate your prayers and the many cards and notes of encouragement and support we received during the recent loss of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. Your kindness sustained us through this darkest of valleys and we are grateful for our wonderful church family.

*In Christ's love,
the John Swanson family*

Walk in Love and Celebrate LSC Child and Family Ministries

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us..." - Ephesians 5:1-2

We all have our own unique walks of life. As we go about our days, it may be easy to forget the struggles and difficult walks experienced by others. Children in foster care wait for a loving family to call their own. Refugees flee the dangers of their home and adjust to life in a new country. Adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities face daily challenges. However, thanks to Lutheran Services Carolinas and the support of your congregation, these people do not have to walk through life alone.

At Lutheran Services Carolinas, the mission is "Empowered by Christ, we walk together with all we serve." Thousands are helped every year through LSC child and family services, which include adoption, counseling, foster care, Lutheran Disaster Response, mental health services, refugee services, supportive housing, and supported living residences for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

March is designated as LSC child and family emphasis month. Take time this month to reflect on the message of Ephesians 5:1-2 and consider ways in which you can walk in love with those in need. If your congregation has not yet named one, consider becoming an LSC Champion so you can stay connected with LSC news and opportunities all year. You could also volunteer your time at an LSC program or make a tax-deductible contribution to support LSC's child and family services. Checks can be made payable to Lutheran Services Carolinas (write "Child and Family Month" on the memo line) and mailed to P.O. Box 947, Salisbury, NC 28145. Gifts also can be made securely online at www.LSCarolinas.net. There is so much that can be accomplished when we walk in love together!

Did you know?

Biblical societies relied very heavily on wood fires for heating and cooking, which meant that keeping ashes under control was a major housekeeping task. Then as now, if a person was preoccupied with something serious, they didn't always tend to the housekeeping — it's the least of their concerns. Imagine that there is a death in the family. A friend stopping by to pay their respects might gently say, "Did you know you have ashes on your face?"

So ashes became a sign of remorse, repentance, and mourning. Today someone might wear a black armband to signify that they are in mourning; back then people put ashes on their foreheads. (You can find biblical examples of this in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1-3, Job 42:6, and Jeremiah 6:26.)

Hidden Figures: a review

Three African American women in the 1960's were essential to the NASA space programs! Who knew? Katherine Johnson was a brilliant mathematician who John Glenn insisted be the one to check the coordinated flight trajectory (who knew I knew that word) to get him into orbit and back. Dorothy Vaughn was an incredibly gifted computer programmer who also became the first employee



supervisor of color in the space program. Mary Jackson was an engineer who jumped various hurdles to gain her “credentials unfairly imposed upon her” in order to use her engineering skills to enhance the accomplishments of the space program.

As was stated in the February 12 sermon, these women let nothing get in their way and NASA reaped the benefits. This film takes note of the worth of these women, and their quest for excellence is a trademark of the film. It excels in numerous ways. It is based on a book of over 300 pages including notes and bibliography. Firstly, the screenwriter was extremely able to capture the book in 127 minutes which is the movie's length. Secondly, the music accompanying the action was finely tuned sometimes accenting a serious tone, other times playing to the comical. Comedic scenes in the film provide the comic relief that even Shakespeare would delight in. Katherine's tapping of her foot presaged the need to embark on a sprint to the closest “colored bathroom” accompanied by desperate music. A quick musical tone accompanied the computer team of colored women “on the move”.

Despite the obsessive focus of NASA in beating the Russians in space, the personal sides of the women as loving mothers and wives is included beautifully. Don't miss one of the most creative marriage proposals ever on film. Don't miss the very real concern of Mary's husband for his wife who wants to be a black, female engineer. And don't miss the support all three of them have for each other despite setbacks, and the friendship they have which will last their lifetimes.

Slightly more than 50 years after their peak accomplishments, these Hidden Figures have finally been brought to life for all of us. In 2015, Katherine Johnson, the only survivor of the three, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, “way overdue”. As I am writing this, I have not yet heard any of these women mentioned during Black History Month. The reason, I surmise, is they transcend mere history.

The math in the film will be over your head (it was way over mine). No worry, just watch in awe, and gasp. Both Harry Albert, who saw it with me, and I consider it one of the best movies of the year, best acting, best writing and best music. It is a “Must See” film. It will be a feature on the next Spiritual Cinema Season.

---Pastor Wayne

Parish Committee

Some may prefer a long, cold winter with lots of snow, but for many of us this has been an ideal winter! We had some cool temperatures but no prolonged cold or frequent ice storms. Conversations at church have focused on whose daffodils and crocuses were already blooming in mid-February, along with multiple robin sightings.

The early 2017 spring is also a perfect time to renew and make plans for the future. As your Parish Committee we are always seeking ways to inform, help, and encourage members and friends of Lord of Life. If you have a suggestion for how we could better serve our congregation please let us know!

As a reminder, our group prepares welcome brochures for visitors and follows up with a note of welcome with those who provide an address. We also support Pastor Wayne's visitations by following up with shut-ins and those recovering from illness or surgery as requested.

We coordinate the after-church fellowships, held in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service each Sunday. This is time for members and friends to relax with a cup of coffee and treats, to get acquainted, or share joys and concerns.

On the first Sunday of each month the fellowship time typically consists of cookies and juice. The last Sunday of the month is a “You Bring It” fellowship. Whatever you can bring will be served. In between there are other weeks that we ask for volunteers to provide the fellowship food and drink. There is a sign up sheet by the coffee cup cart in the Fellowship Hall, and we invite you to volunteer for one or more fellowship times. If you would prefer to work with someone else to host the fellowship please speak to Rebecca Swanson, who will be happy to find a co-host or -hostess. Thank you for your support of this important ministry.

The Parish Committee also coordinates the emergency contact list. If you have recently moved, or changed or added a phone number, please remember to provide the update to our church administrator, Laura Raun. We rely on the updated directory information to keep our phone contact lists accurate in case there is a need to reach everyone quickly in our congregation.

The Parish Committee meets on the third Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the church library. If you would like to learn more about our ministries or volunteer to help, we welcome you to join us!

Rebecca Swanson,
for the Parish Committee

FYI:

Pastor Joseph and Pat Tallent's new address:
1020 Lawing Drive, China Grove, NC 28023

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

I had the unique "opportunity" to work every weekend in the month of January. That was the result of a communication failure on my part. But I was able to discover more of San Antonio and surrounding areas because I had more time off during the week. I spent a whole day in Austin, the capital of Texas. I toured the Texas Museum of History, the Lyndon B. Johnson library and museum and the State Capital. You may remember that I complained about the excessive amount of concrete in San Antonio (overpasses in the sky of many highways). This excessive concrete is also present in Austin, but I must say it is the worst in Houston. I do not look forward to driving through Houston again on the way home.

I was able to volunteer weekly at BSF headquarters mainly in the Press. BSF provides weekly lessons to almost 2000 classes across the world. That's a lot of paper! Each week a lesson is prepared for infants to adults, including each level in-between. There also is a traditional and simplified Chinese lesson for each week. When packing the course materials for classes across the world, I was intrigued by where the Chinese lessons went in the United States. It seems that many Chinese that have made their way to the U.S. have found themselves in a BSF course. Interesting! And I learned this week in my BSF class that headquarters is working on preparing weekly lessons in Spanish. Currently the weekly questions are available in Spanish. And they are trailing Spanish-speaking discussion groups in key locations across the U.S. I know there are more people in the world that speak Chinese, but I don't interact with them on a daily basis. I do however interact with Spanish-speaking people daily both in Texas and North Carolina. I guess I'm surprised that the lessons weren't already available in Spanish.

By working so many weekends, I have missed attending regular worship services at St. John's Lutheran Church in San Antonio. During the Week of Christian Unity, the local "Reformation" churches decided to hold their own special services. There was a statewide conference about Christian Unity held on Saturday, January 14. St. John's had a guest Lutheran Seminary Pastor give the Sermon on January 15. I missed this service because I was working. And remember St. John's just lost their senior pastor a few weeks ago. They are still early in their Interim period and trying to figure out if they call a new Senior Pastor or share a Pastor with another church. And Pastor Judi was called to assist with Family and Children Services. They are unclear about what her future may be also.

St. John's also lost their Preschool last year (sound familiar?) Some members only want to consider bringing in another preschool. There is some traction to do more for the homeless since the church is located in downtown San Antonio. The homeless population is significant, but not as bad as I saw in Hawaii! St. John's has a commercial kitchen that Connie Fortmeyer would salivate over! Meals on Wheels San Antonio started at St. John's many years ago. There are three stories to the church. Worship on the first floor and church offices on the third floor. The entire second floor used to house the preschool. Now it is being used for storage. And they have a basement that is used for storage. Linda Hash would be jealous of all the costumes they have hung up in multiple closets for their plays! St. John's already participates in a Christian Ministry that cares for the homeless. CAM is a group of geographic churches of all faiths that come together weekly to offer classes and meals for the homeless. CAM is similar to Garner Area Ministries in the

areas that they try to help those in need. In my opinion, St. John's is ideal to offer daily meals and housing to homeless families on a limited basis. But they did not ask me, and I don't get to vote in their congregational meetings. And they have quarterly congregational meetings at St. John's! Glad that Lord of Life just has an annual one!!!!

So back to the week of Christian Unity . . . St. John's hosted the first service on Monday, January 16 since Martin Luther was a large part of the Reformation. I was able to attend this service. We did Marty Hagan's Evening Prayer service that we use at Lord of Life during Lent and Advent. St. John's did not use this service during Advent and I had really missed it! Tuesday night was at San Antonio Mennonite Church. Wednesday at St. Mark's Episcopal. Thursday at San Fernando Cathedral and Friday at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church at noon. Fortunately, I was off that Friday. Again Connie Fortmeyer would have swooned at this service! There was singing and clapping and dancing in the aisles! I was churched that day. And you can't leave a service like that without being charged with excitement for the Lord! I smiled all day! Bethel AME called their service a Prayer Pilgrimage, referring to the week of Christian Unity that was now coming to an end.

I happened to find out that San Antonio Restaurant week was during January also. Upscale restaurants offered price fix menus of \$15 for lunch and \$35 for dinner. I was able to try several different restaurants that I would have never tried otherwise. I went to a Cajun one, an Asian fusion one, and several others that were not so close to downtown where I live. I also visited the Toyota plant outside of San Antonio. It was a free two hour tour. I did not know that all Toyota trucks are made in San Antonio. They produce an average of 1000 trucks per week. And you can imagine that many people work there. Toyota has onsite medical, dental and vision care of all their employees (similar to SAS in Cary). Fascinating tour!

So the funny things that make you think that happened this month were seeing the hospital security guard hobbling to his truck that was parked in a handicapped space. And being parked on the interstate (because there is so much traffic that no one is moving) and seeing a speed limit sign beside me that said 70. I would have been glad to go 7 at that point!

And finally this month, I am getting serious about retiring from the military. I had no idea that it would be so complicated! Even as a reservist I have to attend a bunch of classes! In the civilian world, you write a letter, they give you a watch and you are on your way. But not the government!!! I keep plugging away at it and I will get there eventually. I did however find out that I could start drawing my military retirement in two years, well before I turn 60! And unlike social security, the amount does not change. It will be set when I turn in the paperwork so I would be crazy not to take the money. Just have to figure out about working my real job! Tom says retire and we'll travel. Glad I don't have to decide now!

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

Blessings,
Alecia





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

Grief . . . family and friends of Tess Andrews' father, Arthur Van Benschoten, who died February 21; family and friends of Clyde Cook's brother, Rocky; who died January 27; and

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

Family and friends . . . Lisa Grayson's mother, Betty Hooker, mastectomy; 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 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; Mary Cook's niece Sarah, nephew Will, 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*

The Decline of Common Sense

Let's face it – sometimes we just don't use the good sense God gave us. For the sake of brevity, I'm going to go out on a limb and fancy that good sense, common sense, and horse sense all mean the same thing; you know -- sound judgment in practical matters. The meaning is often times clouded because we somehow, perhaps unwittingly, substitute the term "common sense" with the single words wisdom, or discretion, or prudence, or even understanding; they are not the same. The word wisdom is used a lot in the Bible and I sort of lean toward the notion that common sense is actually an amalgamation of wisdom and discretion; wisdom is knowing what to do, and discretion is knowing when and where to do it. It shouldn't be uncommon to use the common sense God gave us . . . He wants us to use it which is why he gave it to us in the first place! BUT the danger lies in thinking that whatever makes common sense to us, will likely be the "will of God" for us . . . NOT! I see it this way: When we use our judgment, it doesn't automatically translate into common sense because judgment is nothing more than a single component of the equation; we have to factor God into the calculation.

The Book of Proverbs is jam-packed with pathways to wisdom and discretion while at the same time, it discloses the downside of being foolish. Part of being a fool is having no common sense and, as such, a fool is devoid of understanding. When we embrace God's perspective we make decisions based on significance rather than on selfish interest. We all make bad decisions; the difference though, is that common sense enables us to learn from those mistakes . . . the fool keeps repeating them over and over again. Inherent in folly is the vision for power and glory that some of the "wiser fools" couple with a declaration of religious beliefs; this is suspect! Such posturing is a warped justification for doing something that debunks moral code, OR it's a way of defending a position because, "Hey, I prayed to God about it so it must be okay." The sad thing is that God's response to that prayer wasn't heeded . . . common sense wasn't considered. To paraphrase Proverbs Chapter 2, common

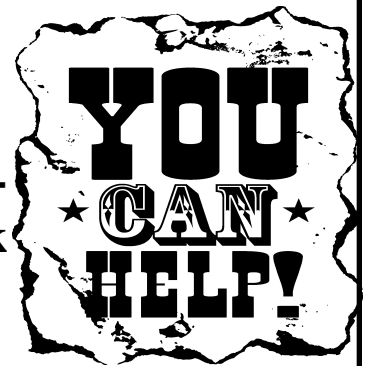
sense will save you from those who speak perversely, from those who rejoice in dishonest maneuverings, from those whose paths are crooked, and from those who are devious in their behaviors.

Sometimes God puts us in conflicting situations that involve both popular opinion and common sense; we aren't being tested, He just wants to see if we're using the gifts He gave us according to His Will; He will never lead us in a way contrary to His Word. Whatever the human condition, wisdom and discretion should be paramount so that we can experience the best that God has in store for us . . . that's just common sense.

Be blessed.

---Gale J. Isaacs

One hour,
once a month --
not much to ask



Will you consider helping clean up after Rotary breakfasts on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to 9:00? Right now the Wallaces and Carolyn Watkins share the cleanup chores every other week.

It would be great if we had several more volunteers so that you would only be needed once a month. If you don't wish to commit to once a month, are you willing to be on an as-needed list?

Please contact Helen Holderman if you have questions or to volunteer.

---Helen Holderman