

Life-Lines

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AUGUST 2017

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

I have talked about the book "The Shack" and the movie "The Shack" in positive ways. Now that I have recently heard him speak and tell his story, I will continue to speak of him positively. I like his honesty in telling how he messed up in his life and I like the simplicity he, an informally trained theologian, uses it to talk about his relationship with God. So, in his most recent book published this year, "Lies We Believe About God", William Paul Young encourages us to think through beliefs we've presumed to be true and consider whether some might actually be lies. Young takes 28 of these and writes 6 to 10 pages on each. Recently, we at Lord of Life have experienced illnesses and even deaths. Therefore, I thought Chapter 22 of his book may give us insight.

It is entitled "God Is Not Involved in My Suffering". He starts by telling what a female high school cross country runner experienced when she was separated from her team. She was abducted, raped, strangled, buried under brush uncovered and then shot 5 times and left for dead. In the email Young received from her, she wrote that she knows exactly what it feels like to have the peace of Christ in you when absolute hell is happening to and around you. She said she did not understand where that peace was coming from at the time, but she would never forget the calmness that overcame her as the morning wore on, and that calmness overcame her fear.

Young goes on to say the girl survived and still participated as an athlete scholastically and on the college level.

Young tells of a friend who called him lamenting all the problems surrounding her family; cancer, mental illness, death, financial upheaval, and the list seemed to go on and on; as it may seem also to us.

Young says emphatically, "God refuses to be absent from the Creation and infuses our suffering with Presence and Love. He says Love was all God knew before creating humans. Humans brought into God's creation loss and suffering, yet that has not reduced in any way God's Love.

He says in the book and through his spoken word at the Wild Goose Festival that the weekend the main character, MacKenzie, spends with the Trinity at the Shack represents the eleven years of Young's life as he dismantled the brokenness of his own personal Shack.

From the gospel according to William Paul Young, suffering and loss are everywhere, yet love also is everywhere based upon the love of a God Who is Present with us in all our losses and sufferings. Young ends this chapter with these words. "May we who are growing in our relationship with Jesus choose to be present in the midst of the suffering of others as well as in our own, and thereby participate in the abiding and active Love of God."

Pastor Wayne

**Choir practice starts at
7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 2**

Why not spend
some time enjoying
fellowship and fun!!
Join the choir . . .
on a trial basis
if you want.



The Back-to-School Giving Tree is up!!
Please check to see what supplies are
needed and help out again this year.
Supplies are due back August 20!!



August

August 1	Aidan Johnson
August 5	Stacie Johnson
August 7	Sarah Weisenburn
August 12	Edie Craig
August 13	Dylan Rebbeor
August 14	Sarah Watkins
August 20	Alisa Hart
August 24	Linda Hash
August 28	Sage Weatherwax
August 30	Don Craig
August 30	Kathy Hart
August 30	Chip Kyles
August 30	Joe Ann Wilder

September

September 1	Deanna Leuenberger
September 2	Gerry Havenstein
September 7	Ben Harrison
September 8	Betty Nalepa
September 8	Emma Terrazas
September 14	Donald Bredell
September 16	Claire Dubnansky
September 17	Kerri Blanchard
September 23	Shannon Thomsen
September 26	Bob Baxter
September 27	Esther Bredell
September 30	Adia Hans

Summer doldrums?

On the first day of the month when Paula sends out notification that all articles for the upcoming newsletter are due on the 15th, I sigh. I sag. I whine. What can I possibly say about food needed by Garner Area Ministries that I haven't said many, many times before?

When a specific need of certain foods is brought to our attention we respond with overflowing bins. Our summer donations for the school children on vacation were the largest of the year so far. No doubt when Thanksgiving and Christmas appeals are made we once again will open our hearts and pocketbooks and show our love by donating every item requested.

All that can be said, over and over again is: the need goes on all year long. The smallest can of beans is just as important as the large can and just as appreciated. So, stop for a moment when you are at the grocery store, look around for an item to buy, smile, buy that item, knowing that somebody will benefit from your caring.

---Connie Fortmeyer



All the big celebrations of this year are now behind us, Easter, Pentecost, 40th Anniversary celebrations and the ordination of Josh Kestner. Yes we have been very busy. There's one more celebration during this church year, the Anniversary of the Reformation in October.

Thank you to the Altar Guild members who helped with all of our activities. Thank you to Rebecca Swanson for setting the altar for July and to those who have baked bread or donated wine or grape juice.

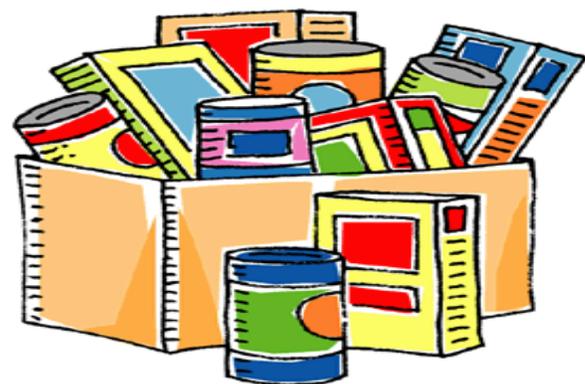
Have you ever wondered why we have the large candle near the baptismal font as you enter the narthex?

"The paschal candle is a large decorated candle that symbolizes our Lord's glorious Easter triumph over the darkness of death and sin.

"It is reminiscent of the pillar of cloud and the fire that led the people of God to the Promised Land. Paschal candles have been used in worship since at least the fifth century. The Paschal Candle remains in the central position in the chancel throughout the weeks of Easter, and it is lighted for all worship services during the season. After the final liturgy on the Day of Pentecost, the candle is moved to a place near the baptismal font and is lighted for each baptism and for funerals. It is a visual connection between baptism and Easter, reminding us that in our baptism we are buried and raised with Christ (Romans 6:3-5) Baptismal candles are lighted from the paschal candle for presentation to the baptized. For funerals the paschal candle is carried immediately behind the processional cross, at the head of the entrance procession. It is placed in its stand at the head of the casket or remains for the burial liturgy."¹

---Carol Wallace

¹Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook. S. Anita Stauffer



FEED THE HUNGRY

What's goin' on? LOTS!!

We hope everyone had a blessed 4th of July celebration with family and friends! The Lord of Life Lutheran Church family certainly did! Many members gathered to celebrate with our greater Garner community and church members. The 'back 40' parking lot was full to capacity. Those parked in that area were pleasant and respectful of our grounds.

Social Concerns Ministry again passed out bottled water to those passing by our church on the way to Lake Benson Park. We also had Frisbees® and folding fans with the church's name imprinted for additional giveaways (thanks Gale!). It was entertaining to see who took a fan versus a Frisbee® and how many of each they asked for. One teen took a Frisbee® but immediately returned it when he realized that his sister already had one. He said they could share! A heart warming moment to be cherished!

Our refugee family also was able to share in the July 3rd celebration. Grandma enjoyed her fan! The kids learned to throw a Frisbee®, but were not so good at catching it. And of course, it was the first time any of the family had seen fireworks. They were amazed. Another cherished image!

Again this year we also had toy soldiers to give away. We asked if anyone had someone special in their family to remember on this day of freedom. Actually, everyone we asked said yes! Every day is a good day to remember that freedom is not freely enjoyed by everyone. Thank the service members and law enforcement people in your life for providing the comforts that we enjoy easily.

Social Concerns is focused on meeting the needs of those who are unable to make ends meet with their current means. We had several committee members attend the Backpack Buddies packing event in our fellowship hall last in June. We also donated money to the Interfaith Food Shuttle that provides meals to children who are out of school for the summer and receive free or reduced meals at school.

The Back to School giving tree is our next project. The tree goes up on July 29. The school items will be due back at the church on August 20. We will again be supporting elementary schools in Garner: Timber Road, Creech Road, East Garner and Rand Road. Prayerfully consider how you can help these students be more prepared to learn and develop a strong educational foundation.

And finally we are excited and "proud parents" to celebrate with Josh Kestner on being ordained as a Lutheran Pastor. Most of us remember Josh as a small child and he is now an accomplished young man. Josh, you make us proud! And we know you will continue to do great things!

Galatians 5:13

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Social Concerns Ministry

Alecia Harrison and Gale Isaacs, Co-Chairs



Greetings from the Lord of Life Men's Group!

Thanks to everyone who helped park cars, and helped cook, shop, or provided a dessert for Garner's July 3rd celebration. We had a great turnout with fun and fellowship watching fireworks with family and friends from the church, our refugee family and Able to Serve.

Because of this event, we did not hold our regular July meeting, but the men have still been busy. Members of the group have been

helping the property committee with the cleanup of downed branches and pruning bushes around the church campus.

Our next business meeting will be August 11. All men are invited to attend, and bring a beverage of your choice. If it is your first time joining us, your meal is on the house.

---*Gray Anthony*, president
Men's Group



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

Grief . . . family and friends of Linda Hash's mother, Gerry Barlow, who died July 18; family and friends of Don Wallace's sister, Irene Pollard, who died June 23; family and friends of Jack Austin's cousin, Chuck Austin, who died July 7; and

Health Concerns . . . Terry Barnes, recovering from hip replacement surgery; Corrine Wichti, Dan Stamm, Mona Stamm, Perry Proper, Betty and John Nalepa, Dennis King, Betty Zapata, Bob Baxter; and

Family and friends . . . Clyde Cook's brother, thyroid cancer; Jack and Alice Austin's friends, Bob Anderson and Sam Mansour; Lisa Grayson's mother, Betty Hooker, and uncle, Bill Winterbottom; Gerry Havenstein's sister, Jan O'Briant; Dan and Roxie Hayes' friends, Jacob and Cynthia Sterling; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe; Camille Morris' mother, Ola Morris-Jones; Carol Wallace's sister, Claudia Bossen, Don Wallace's nephew, Chuck Wallace, and sister Marge; 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; Dave Hash's mother, Lucille Hash Stewart; Esther Bredell's sister-in-law, Marti Swanson; family of Michael Horvath; Mary Ann de Leon; Beth Owen.

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



I was pleased to note recently that the effort to get more people involved in the various functions of the worship service has paid off, and that more people are ushering. Being an usher is an important role, because when visitors come to our services, the first person they usually encounter is either a greeter or an usher. We don't have formal greeters, so the task falls to ushers. Besides pointing out where things are and welcoming everyone both new and old, ushers collect weekly tithes and present these offerings to the Lord, and escort people to the communion table.

One of our new ushers was asking about what the other positions are that are listed on the bulletin board. Acolytes are usually children, though anyone can be an acolyte. They light the candles prior to the service, and then snuff the candles at the end of the service. We are

Annual gathering . . . new opportunities to serve

The Women of the ELCA held their Annual Gathering at Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina, June 23-25, 2017. The Lutheran Women of North Carolina participate in a variety of charitable and fundraising events. At each Gathering we hold, whether it is a conference or statewide meeting, we collect an offering for a "General Offering", a "Pennies Offering" and an "In-Kind Offering".

The General Offering usually goes along with the theme of the meeting and directly helps a vulnerable group of people. We have highlighted Prison Ministry, Battered Women/Homeless Shelters and Food Pantries. The Host Church gets to select Who and What the In-Kind gifts will be. We have collected baby items and backpack buddies food items in the offering past. The idea for the pennies at the end of the day and surprisingly several dollars were donated each collection.



This year's NC Women of the ELCA Pennies Project will benefit a global mission. Through the ELCA Good Gifts program, we hope to purchase a community well in an impoverished area (\$2,500) and also purchase supplies needed for a family farm (\$715). A cow, a couple goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training and support, for example, can help a family achieve a fresh start. With the installation of a water well, or spring box, as many as 500 families can gain access to clean, safe water.

Please bring coins or bills each Sunday through January 2018. There will be a container in the back of the nave. To learn more about ELCA Good Gifts go to <https://community.elca.org/elcagoodgifts>.

We are God's hands in the world.

---Alecia Harrison

fortunate that we have a young man who now often serves as an acolyte. We need more.

The Crucifer carries the Cross as a standard ahead of the choir both in processing and recessing the church. We have used crucifers at certain Holy Day services, but wouldn't it be nice to have a corps of crucifers for every service? Crucifers only have to be large enough to handle the cross, say as a general rule 12 or older.

Participating helps you and others to enjoy the service more. Your part may seem small, but is very important, and the congregation misses your service.

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

Seasons of Commitment

Revelation 3:15-16 - ¹⁵"I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

There is an old maxim that says, "Don't bite off more than you can chew." Mostly the translation means that it's seldom prudent to undertake more responsibilities than we can manage in a satisfactorily manner. Ohhh, the countless times we may have been full of zest, energy, and enthusiasm as we began (or began-again) a must-do task . . . ready to knock the ball out of the park when, alas, we let our stick-to-it-ness (commitment) falter and fade after a month or two. It doesn't matter if it's a book club (no time to read the whole book?), a cooking class (ingredients too costly?), or an exercise class (too much jumping up & down?), total commitment wasn't there! In the midst of all the personal obligations we undertake, many times we likely feel overwhelmed by the size and scope of a "thing" we have agreed to do . . . a commitment we have made.

Oddly enough, sometimes our commitment to God may seem a bit weighty, not in and of itself, but when coupled with all of the other things to which we commit ourselves and our promise to Him is put on hold, probably because we know He will always be there for us. We tend to shortchange Him some Sunday mornings . . . it's summer vacation, the kids have a game or other activity, we're at the beach, or we want to sleep in. We tend to shortchange Him with our lukewarm spirituality . . . we go to church, read the Bible, or praise Him from time-to-time with minimal prayers of thanksgiving --- all when it's convenient. I am confident that God wants us to finish the things we start, and I am especially certain that He wants

us to be finishers in our service to Him.

It was Jesus who spoke the words in Revelation 3:15-16 as quoted above. He seems to say 'make a decision' . . . be hot or be cold but don't straddle-the-fence (lukewarm). Later in his life Paul asserted that he had honored his commitment and

by God's grace he had finished all that God had given him to do; we can strive to be like Paul by putting forth an extra effort to hold fast to our commitment of service to God.

As you well know, milk is great cold with cookies, it's good hot in cocoa, but it's fairly yucky when served lukewarm.

Be blessed.

---Gale J. Isaacs



The Secret

One day, one friend asked another, "How is it that you are always so happy? You have so much energy, and you never seem to get down."

With her eyes smiling, she said, "I know the Secret!"

"What secret is that?"

To which she replied, "I'll tell you all about it, but you have to promise to share the Secret with others.

"The Secret is this: I have learned there is little I can do in my life that will make me truly happy. I must depend on God to make me happy and to meet my needs. When a need arises in my life, I have to trust God to supply according to HIS riches. I have learned most of the time I don't need half of what I think I do. He has never let me down. Since I learned that 'Secret', I am happy."

The questioner's first thought was, "That's too simple!" But upon reflecting over her own life she recalled how she thought a bigger house would make her happy, but it didn't! She thought a better paying job would make her happy, but it hadn't. When did she realize her greatest happiness? Sitting on the floor with her grandchildren, playing games, eating pizza or reading a story, a simple gift from God.

Now you know it too!

We can't depend on people to make us happy. Only GOD in His infinite wisdom can do that.

Trust HIM!

And now I pass the Secret on to you!

So once you get it, what will you do?

YOU have to tell someone the Secret, too! That GOD in His wisdom will take care of YOU! But it's not really a secret . . . We just have to believe it and do it . . . Really trust God!

Just Pass It On!

It's simple. Be encouraged!

---anonymous



The Case for Christ: a review

I admit, I was skeptical when someone recommended *The Case for Christ* to me. I thought it was going to be a courtroom style case



with absolute “proof” of Jesus. I felt our relationship with Jesus results from faith; and that rings true even as the investigative journalist, Lee Stroebel, uncovers more and more evidence that Jesus actually did live, die and was resurrected.

That being said, the movie takes many “Hollywood Liberties” outside of the book. Stroebel is portrayed as a very fanatical atheist who is devastated by his wife’s desire to be Christian. The movie emphasizes a dramatic event in the life of the family as the reason for Leslie’s, Lee’s wife, turning toward Christianity.

What Stroebel does do well is “investigate”, and he asks the hard questions of theologians, biblical scholars, agnostics, and doctors.

All support the biblical texts, and all support that Christ lived, died, and came back to life.

There is also a divide between the columnists within the Chicago Tribune as Lee is doing his investigative work, one is on the atheistic side, the other, the religious editor, is of course on the side of *The Case for Christ*. That appeared to be too “cut and dried”, yet both characters were likable for different reasons.

It is not at the top of religious films in the past five years, but what it sets out to do, that is, summarize Lee’s evidence for Christ, is well done and worth seeing.

Therefore, I have changed the summer cinema schedule once again and we will view *The Case for Christ* as our last film of the summer

Now others are still skeptical and some critics are more critical; however, the flaws the film does have should not deter you from seeing it because its central message is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that is what we are all about. Additionally, as you view it notice at the very end the positive things that have happened to the Stroebel family as a result of Lee’s *The Case for Christ*.

---Pastor Wayne



Is it just me, or has the 2017 year just flown by for you, too ?! The long summer days of July and August are here already along with our typical hot, sunny weather. The regular rain we’ve received this year keeps parks and lawns green, and a drive along country roads reveal tall, robust crops ripening well for harvest. Truly God does “make everything beautiful in His time.”

Lord of Life’s year also continues, with two special events to mark our summer. The first was our 40th Anniversary commemoration. The second was Josh Kestner’s ordination. Both of these, in their own way, were affirmations of the life and ministry of our congregation, going strong after 40 years. The opportunity to reconnect with former pastors and members was a special blessing as we celebrated these special events.

As the ministries of our congregation continue, the Parish Committee reminds everyone of volunteer opportunities to serve. Everyone is wanted and needed! If you are not currently involved with a work group or committee, please consider sharing your time and talents with one or more of these ministries. Sign up sheets are also available in the Fellowship Hall to sponsor an after-church fellowship. There are plenty of weeks that need someone to provide food and drink for this important ministry. The first Sunday of the month is a simple cookies and juice fellowship sponsored by the Parish Committee. The last Sunday of the month is a “You bring it” fellowship. Anything food or drink you bring that Sunday to share is greatly appreciated. Not sure what is involved, or prefer to share the fellowship responsibility with someone else? Please speak with any member of the Parish Committee and we will be glad to answer questions or pair you with another fellowship volunteer.

As a reminder, please indicate on the bulletin insert any change in your mailing address, phone or email contact information, and place the paper insert in the offering plate. We regularly update the Lord of Life emergency call list in readiness for a natural disaster, pandemic, or other urgent situation that activates the all- member and friend phone notification. Thank you!

If you would like more information about the Parish Committee and its ministries we welcome you to join us at our monthly meeting, held on the third Sunday of the month in the church library after the fellowship time. Or feel free to speak to any member of the Parish Committee: Dave Hash, Karen Wright, Vince Wright, Grace Barnes, Terry Barnes, Tim Clark, Don Craig, Council representative, or Rebecca Swanson.

---Rebecca Swanson, coordinator



Children's Sunday School, pull out after Communion, will resume Sunday, September 10.

---Linda Hash

AUGUST 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast 6:00 pm Learn to Read Music Class 7:30 pm Choir Practice	3	4	5 10:00 a.m. Knitting/Crochet Classes
6 9th Sunday of Pentecost 8:45 am Sunday Cinema 10:00 am Worship Service 12:00 pm Council Meeting	7	8	9 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast 6:00 pm Learn to Read Music Class 7:30 pm Choir Practice	10	11 7:00 pm MEN'S GROUP 7:00 pm WOMEN'S Meet 'n' Eat	12 10:00 a.m. Knitting/Crochet Classes
13 10th Sunday of Pentecost 8:45 am Sunday Cinema 10:00 am Worship Service 11:30 am Christian Education	14	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 pm Inspirational Book Club	16 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast 6:00 pm Learn to Read Music Class 7:30 pm Choir Practice	17	18	19 10:00 a.m. Knitting/Crochet Classes
20 11th Sunday of Pentecost 8:45 am Sunday Cinema 10:00 am Worship Service 11:30 am Stewardship	21 5:30 pm Social Concerns	22	23 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast 6:00 pm Learn to Read Music Class 7:30 pm Choir Practice	24	25	26 10:00 a.m. Knitting/Crochet Classes
27 12th Sunday of Pentecost 9:00 am Sunday Cinema 10:00 am Worship Service 11:30 am Property	28 7:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting	29	30 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast 6:00 pm Learn to Read Music Class 7:30 pm Choir Practice	31 LUNCH BUNCH site tba		