

Life-Lines



(919) 772-9044
December 2018

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

Our Sunday Church School Adult Bible study group that meets in the fellowship hall has been hearing Professor Bart Ehrman lecture on how the three synoptic accounts of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke; are different. John, not considered a synoptic, has little in common with the other three. They are written from different perspectives while telling the story of Jesus' life with a particular emphasis in mind. Simply put, Mark is shortest and most basic. Matthew focuses on Jesus' Jewishness. Luke tries its best to get the narrative of Jesus straight. Ehrman says they must be studied separately, as single units, which is the case for scholarly study. However, I feel for worship we must see how the gospels fit together, especially for the seasons of the Church year.

We will have 5 Sundays in December, 4 of which will be Sundays in Advent, during which we will be preparing for the birth of Jesus. John the Baptizer, Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph and their developing relationship. These characters are seen only as we read all the gospels, namely Matthew and Luke. All will be pointing to the Birth of Jesus.

During Advent we hope to see something in all of them which we had not noticed before. Added to our Sunday worships are our midweek Advent worships which may give us even more insight in order to be better prepared for the Birth of Jesus.

Wherever we may be at in our personal preparations and our congregational preparations, all need to be under the umbrella of the Gospel of Jesus whereby God's love shines through to us. All the characters we will encounter on our Advent/Christmas journey will be touched by the Love of God. When we arrive Christmas Eve at the stable in

Bethlehem and join the shepherds and wise men, we will experience the love of God in the most vulnerable of all those gathered, the Baby Jesus. God Incarnate, God Made Flesh. The culmination of our Advent/Christmas will be our 5:30 pm family worship and our 10:30 pm worship on Christmas Eve. Both worships will be candlelight worships, and from 10:30-11 pm the choir will present a mini concert before worship begins at 11 pm.

On the First Sunday of Christmas, December 30, we will have an informal hymn sing and provide an opportunity for any who wish to, to formally join Lord of life Lutheran Church.

The more we participate in these worships, the more we will feel the Love of God in Jesus, His Son. May the Holy Spirit's presence be with us this holy season when God's love finds us once again.

~ Pastor Wayne





From the desk of your congregation council:

The Lord of Life Church Council met for the November monthly meeting on November 11th. Regular business included review of committee reports, financial reports, and minutes.

Boy Scout Keaton Crooks attended the meeting to update Council on progress. His project was presented to the Boy Scout Council and was approved. The next phase is the fundraising effort to cover the cost of materials. Keaton asked if he could come before Lord of Life with a fundraising request. Keaton would like to start work in January/February timeline, at least 3 or 4 days will be required. The Property Committee and Able to Serve will be involved throughout the project.

Council discussed budget changes for 2019 at length, and Becky Babel will prepare a draft 2019 budget for the December meeting. The Social Concerns committee is working on the Angel Tree again this year, and Council will help sort these items before the December meeting to assist in that effort. The Property Committee reported that lawn



Dear Church Family -

I've always loved Thanksgiving. With all the demands of life, I'm guilty of letting "stuff" control my thoughts and even my prayer life. But not during November.

So "thank you" for blessing Able to Serve again this year. And know that during this time of giving thanks, you will be a "special" part of my thoughts and prayers.

Carlton McDaniel - Able to Serve

equipment was purchased and the septic updates occurred last month. Dave Hash is evaluating options to repair or replace the Bell Carillon unit and speakers. The Worship and Music Committee will purchase a new Advent wreath stand. Don Craig showed the new door locks that were purchased in an effort to bolster church safety and security during worship. Mary reported that Backpack buddies could use some extra help packing and shopping before track outs. Council voted to allow \$400 (maximum) to purchase a smart TV for use in meetings, for computer hook up and viewing items on a screen, in the library. The Council discussed who might be candidates to serve next year on Council as Mary, Karen, and Lindsay's terms are ending in 2019. January 27th is scheduled for Annual Congregational Meeting and Leadership Retreat is scheduled for February 2nd.

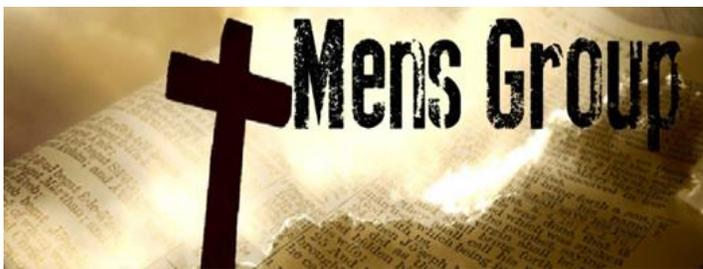
Yours in Christ,
Lord of Life Council Members:

Shannon Thomsen, Lindsay Crocker, Don Craig,
Karen Post, Mary Cook, Alecia Harrison,
Sarah Watkins, Dan Hayes, Becky Babel,
Dave Hash, and Pastor Dubnansky



Every last Sunday of the calendar quarter we schedule a Sunday when those who wish to do so can become new members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Our next one will be Sunday, December 30th, the first Sunday of Christmas. See Pastor Wayne if you wish to join on that Sunday.





We will be beginning a new year in January and I would encourage any man within the congregation to consider joining our group for some excellent fellowship and important service to the church. We meet the first Friday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Church Social Hall.

Just a reminder that the Men's Group will be sponsoring the congregations Annual Christmas Party on December 7, beginning at 7:00 pm. A traditional Christmas meal will be served with a White Elephant gift exchange following dinner.

The men's group donated \$400 to Angie's Restaurant's Thanksgiving Dinner Project. The meal is provided for anyone within the community that would like to participate. We were told by Angies that close to one thousand people have signed up to participate. There is never a charge for the meal so everyone is invited. The Men's Group has supported this endeavor for several years.

We were informed by the Property Committee, which by the way is composed totally of members from the Men's group, that the plumbing problems have been corrected and that the insurance company has reimbursed the church for the lawn equipment stolen this year. A new riding mower and other equipment have been purchased.

John Leuenberger,
President



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! The start of another new church year – (Advent). Advent has 4 Sundays, the parament color will be blue, the color of hope.

On the 23rd of December members from the altar guild and congregation will gather to decorate the church after the 10:00 am service. If you would like to assist with this please gather after church on that Sunday.

Christmas Eve Services will be at 5:30 and 10:30 on Christmas Eve. The color of the altar hangings will be white throughout the Christmas season. Anyone wishing to place a poinsettia for Christmas please sign up on the sheet in the hallway.

Thank you to Helen Holderman and Linda Garoutte for setting the altar for December.

You may have noticed the new Advent wreath in the sanctuary (more new so follow next month).

The next meeting of the altar guild will be Saturday, January 12, at which time we will put the Christmas decorations away, have a meeting, and then enjoy a delicious luncheon. Members will please bring a dish to share. Thank you to all and have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas

~ Carol Wallace



Garner Area Ministries reported that they had received 80 turkeys for their Thanksgiving food basket. Ten of the turkeys, plus a large ham, potatoes and most of the other items that were suggested by

Social Concerns were donated by Lord of Life! Our baskets overflowed with everything needed for a traditional Holiday meal.

Now we are facing December and the Christmas dinner needs. Basically the menu for Christmas is much the same as the Thanksgiving one. We will be collecting foods for Christmas up until December 20th. A few additional items such as marshmallows, brown sugar, nuts, coffee and tea are added to the list. As usual, any other food you want to donate is gladly accepted.





Reflections from the NC Women of the ELCA Fall Retreat in Blowing Rock November 2018

Are you a recovering worrier? You can't prevent challenges in your life . . . but you can control how you respond to your stressors.

Anguish is deep pain. God will relieve your anguish if you allow Him. He gives us hope.

Stress is a cheap weapon from Satan. God is our Father. He knows what we need. Seek Him first.

Worry is meditating on the lies of the devil. We are very precious to God.

He places every feather on the body of a bird and every hair on your head. Trust Him to take care of you.

The Holy Spirit never stops speaking to us through His Word, prayer and other people.

Stop trying to "keep up with the Jones". Be content in who you are and how God sees you. You are perfect the way you are to God. So stop worrying and keep your focus on honoring God.

We have insurance with God.

Grab the best of what God has to offer by treating Him like your best friend. Tell Him everything. He loves you and wants what is best for you. Trust God to be more powerful than your problems.

God says you're worthy, why dishonor Him with you doubts?

God will validate your life.

Our goal is to Celebrate God all day.

Can others see that you belong to Christ? Why do you protect this light from the world? Are you working with Him or against Him?

Instead of worrying, pray. Remember that's your first defense against doubt. Let God know your

concerns, leave them with Him. Don't pick up what you gave to God. Leave it at the cross.

God will gladly exchange peace for your worries. He has already bore the weight of every sin you have and will commit. He can be trusted to carefully and perfectly work out all your issues. Give Him a chance!

Mediate on what is true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, and gracious; the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things of praise, not things of curse.

God makes everything work together. He will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

Decide to live a life of worshiping God. It puts everything into perspective. When you relish the awesomeness of God's Creation, you will not be bothered by small details.

These are 5 choices to help you live peace-filled days.

- Pray
- Replace you worry with God's Word, specifically a promise from God.
- Watch your words.
- Take care of yourself.
- Don't forget to laugh.

It is okay to ask God for what you want. He already knows what you want. He's waiting for you to ask through your prayers. But be open to the possibility to change your prayer to meet a need for God's kingdom. We are here to bring God glory and help fulfill His purposes.

Don't let your prayers be a worry session to God. Expect that God will provide a solution to your problem. It may not be the resolution you imagined. It probably will be so much better!

Don't pray to the problem, pray the promise. Look for a promise in scripture that covers your problem. Then turn the scripture into a prayer.

We can defeat worry with prayer. Tell God the problem, leave the problem with God, pray the promise and know that God will listen.

Seek God. Focus on the relationship between you and God. Know how much He loves you. He sent His only Son to die for our disobedience. God has promised to take care of you. God keeps His promises. God wants you to have everything He defeated at the cross.

Our minds are the battlefield. Whatever you allow to fill your mind runs your life and comes out of your mouth. Will it be worries or God? You can trust that God is bigger than any problem in the world.

Speak the result you want. We will have an awesome weekend In Blowing Rock filled with love, fellowship and spiritual renewal.

God gives great attention to birds and wild-flowers. He takes care of you, takes pride in you and will do what is best for you. These are promises that you can trust.

Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

So are you a recovering worrier? We are so fortunate to have a loving Father in Heaven who knows us completely, loves us and wants to give us the best of everything we need!

MAY THE GOD OF
HOPE
FILL YOU WITH ALL
JOY + PEACE
AS YOU TRUST IN HIM
SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH
HOPE
BY THE POWER OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT
ROMANS 15:13

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison



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

Shirley Poole, at Springbrook Rehab for broken pelvis; Dave Hash – healing; Peg Stamp, myeloma; Bob

Watkins - kidney issues; Don Stang; John & Betty Nalepa; Billie Jean Buffaloe, very close friend of Dan & Roxie Hayes - tumor in stomach; Darcee W. – cancer has returned; Dan Hayes neighbor's son, Fireman Brent Upton, age 35, severe liver and esophageal

cancer; Marge Rhodes, friend of the Phil & Linda Garoutte – cancer with bone metastases; Cheri Morton, friend of Nick Vietri – surgery; Karen Rodgers – stage 4 cancer; family of Linda Hash's cousin, Dan Dumas, who passed away 11/7; family of Jack Austin, who passed away 8/20; family of Tom Miller, friend of Karen Post, who passed away 8/9; Karen Post's cousin, Mike Harris – recurring prostate cancer; Dr. Steve Rushton, friend of Karen Post - lymphoma; Camille Morris's friend, Brenda Jiggetts – Stage 4 stomach cancer; Lindsay Crocker's Nephew, Daniel Harman – health and healing; Rebecca Swanson's Niece, Brenna – premature delivery of Hope Emmaline – 1 lb 9 oz.; Karen Wright's mother, Carol Goodford – heart issues; Elena Cabrera's daughter, Stephanie; Tess Andrews brother, David Van Benschoten – multiple myeloma; Deanna Leuenberger's sister, Charlene Beno – auto accident; Steve Klawiter's mother, Marylou – heart failure; Pam Klawiter's co-worker, Carolyn Harbertson – breast cancer; Harvey, Carol, Bob, and Scott – friends of the Knudsons; Carol Gordon's daughter, Natalie; Nick Vietri; Dan & Monna Stamm; Dennis King; Teresa, mother of David Allen – SSS Principal; Larry Watson, Joan Stewart's son-in-law - ICV Stroke; Dennis King's sister, Beverly - several serious health issues; Holly Hans' sister, Heather House and her family; Shannon Thomsen's niece, Kylie Gardner – tumors and Turner Syndrome; Paul & Kerri Blanchard's son, Jason, mental disability; Fred Whitfield, Amy Macurdy's step-father, health issues; Joyce Bredell, breast cancer; Chuck Wallace, Don Wallace's nephew, health problems; Carol Wallace's sister, Martha – shoulder surgery; Evelyn Peterson, Mary Langworthy's mom, surgery for extensive arthritis in lower back; David Andrew Duty, son of Mary Langworthy's friend – spondyloarthritis; Becky Bandy, sister of Mary Langworthy – Crohn's Disease, bleeding; Mark Schmidt, brother of Mary Langworthy – heart attack, blood clot, complications of OWRD; Cathy LaBianca, Mother-in-law to Mary Langworthy's daughter - surgery for burst vertebrae; Christine Brennecke, alzheimer's disease; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe.

Please review this Prayer List and let Laura or Pastor Wayne know of any which can be deleted, information updated, or additions to be added.

thank you!



Parish Committee

Parish Committee met on November 18th and discussed the following topics.

We purchased a 55" TV/Monitor for Conference Room (Library). This can be used for ALL groups having meetings in the Library and was installed on Friday, November 16th. Materials can be presented electronically as opposed to making multiple paper copies and wasting church resources (paper & ink). This monitor also makes it easy for groups to review LOL's website and make changes. This purchase is helping us to be good stewards to our environment.

We distributed pledge cards and time & talents information during our Ministry Fair. One question that came up: "Do you have to be an LOL member to become part of a committee?". After talking with Pastor and others, the common answer was "NO", anybody is welcome to join a church ministry/committee without being an LOL member (excluding Church Council).

Dave Hash made updates to our LOL Church Directory, updated on October 27, 2019 and distributed to all via mailboxes.

Our Parish Committee sent out Get Well and Encouragement cards to those in our Church Family experiencing some difficult times.

We're working on some Emergency Action Planning and will be looking for some volunteers for a Building/Emergency Coordinator and a Medical Coordinator. Both roles would help to coordinate our actions in case of emergencies. As part of this planning, we're looking at ways of applying better security within our church (especially on Sundays).

We're also revitalizing a list previously known as "Karen's List", from work efforts by Karen Wright, which are similar to "Angie's List". The new reference will simply be known as "LOL List". This is a list of contractors or other service providers who have been recommended by an LOL member (i.e. plumbing, carpentry, yard maintenance, etc.). We've moved the list on our website, from the Parish Committee section under the member login to the "Links" section available to anyone who is looking at LOL's website. We updated our Parish Committee information regarding our members on the website. THANKS to Gray Anthony who updated these website changes for us.

Yours in Christ,
Terry Barnes/Parish Chair

December

December 5	Rebecca Swanson
December 7	Amanda Babel Jim Rebbeor
December 8	Lisa Grayson
December 9	Neil Brennecke
December 14	John Nalepa
December 20	Pastor Dave Brooks
December 25	Jesus Christ
December 26	Becky Babel Drew Cook
December 28	Karen Wright
December 30	Verity Eggert

January

January 3	Dave Hash (the daddy)
January 6	Holly Hans
January 7	Becky Roof
January 8	Grace Barnes
January 9	Anne Marie Dubnansky
January 13	Carol Wallace
January 14	Jamie Bredell Becky Von St. Paul
January 15	Rita Clark
January 18	Gere Savolainen
January 19	Amanda Childress
January 21	Ryan Macurdy
January 24	Barbara Kyles
January 25	Pastor Wayne Dubnansky
January 28	Elizabeth Blanchard

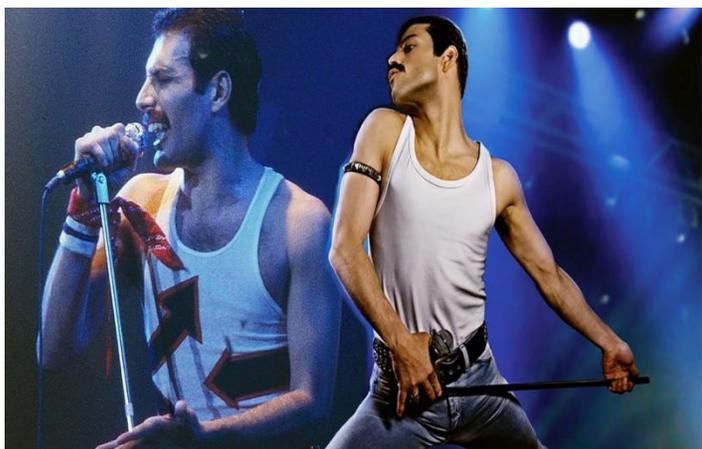


BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY: A REVIEW



The first camp I directed in 1992 in upstate New York, Clover Patch Camp, affiliated with the Cerebral Palsy Association, took on two popular songs which were sung at each camp fire and most gatherings. The two songs were “We Will, We Will, Rock You” and “We Are the Champions”; perfect for campers with disabilities because they can all participate in some form. Of course, these songs were recorded by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band, “Queen”. “Queen” is the band featured in “Bohemian Rhapsody”, the movie and the title of arguably their most popular song.

Thus, when “Bohemian Rhapsody” arrived in theaters, with great expectations I went to see it. It exceeded my expectations! It was meant to be focused on Freddy Mercury, a Zanzibar-born English immigrant whose family was Zoroastrian, one of the greatest performers of all time. It does delve into his personal life. He cares for Mary whom he originally promised to marry. He takes care of Mary, even after he discovers he is “bisexual”.



Although Freddy was the focus, the writers portrayed the other three members of the band appropriately letting us get to know them just enough to understand how close all four of them were, and the fact that they had other interests than music. Brian May, the lead guitarist, has his PhD in Astro Physics. Roger Taylor, the drummer, studied dentistry. John Dirkson, the bass guitarist, studied electrical engineering. And Freddy, he just wanted to entertain.



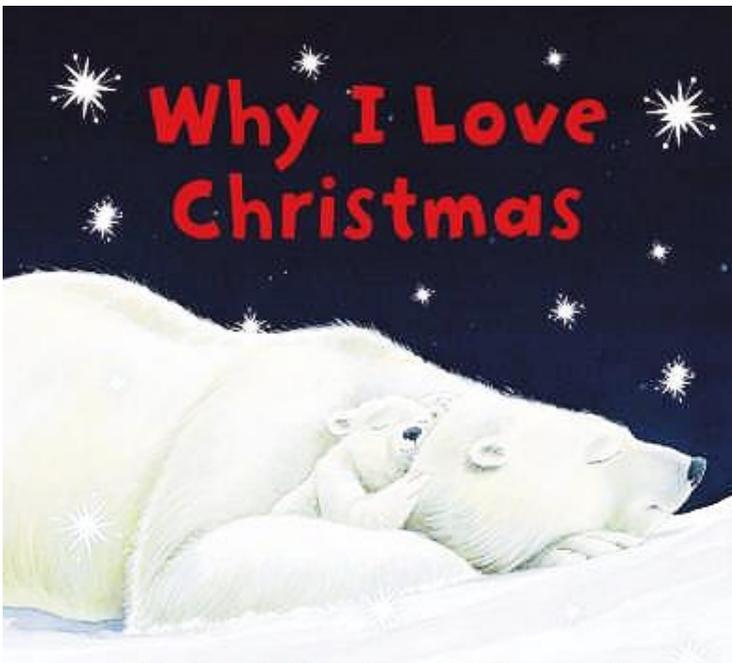
The movie shows Freddy in a dark period, when took a break from the group and was estranged from his family. A major theme in the film is Freddy’s self-redemption. He humbly asks for his bandmate friends’ forgiveness and asks to be allowed to return to the band. He brings his latest partner to meet his family simply acknowledging who he is and his family embraced him warmly. The previously unknown actors who played the band members got them right.

An extra bonus is the movie makes brief detours showing how their songs were put together and the risks they took recording some of their songs.

I do not think this movie is for everyone; nonetheless, it exceeded expectations at the box office. It exceeded my expectations because it did such a good job of portraying Freddy Mercury and Queen as they wished to be portrayed according to surviving band members.

~ Pastor Wayne





I love the excitement of the season. You can already feel it around town. Kids getting ready to be out of school for a few weeks. Parents gathering surprises for their children. Leaves changing color and falling to the ground. Cool, crisp air. Decorating, holiday baking, Christmas cards, I love it all!

I especially enjoy spending time with family and friends. Too often this is the only time of the year that we see some of our family and friends. I am glad that most people make a special effort to visit those important to us.

At Lord of Life, we are blessed with MANY opportunities to fellowship and help those in need. It may be as simple as to hug a member of the congregation so that he or she knows they are still valued and needed. A smile goes a long way! First, we have the Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 1st at 10 am. As Dr. Brad stated, the hardest part of this event is finding everything! The dramatic Chrismon Tree will be set up in the Narthex and the new Advent wreath will be next to the Altar. As Pastor Wayne told the children during the Children's Sermon, the cross will be turned during Advent. Also, Advent is the BEGINNING of the Church year. A little different from our traditional calendars.

Next we have the Annual Men's Group Christmas dinner on Friday, December 7th at 7pm. I am personally VERY excited about the return of the White Elephant gift exchange. I never laugh as hard as I do the night of the Christmas dinner! It is similar to the Yard Sale that your trash becomes another person's treasure. Fortunately they take their new treasures with them to their house and not back to yours!

The Angel Tree gifts are due back to the church on Sunday, December 9th. The church Council has agreed to help us sort gifts and prepare for them to be picked up on December 10th.

Also on December 10th is the Annual Mary Jo Albert Memorial Christmas Concert at 7 pm, followed by a reception in the Narthex. This is a wonderful event to bring your neighbors and friends to show off the musical talents of Dr. Brad and friends!

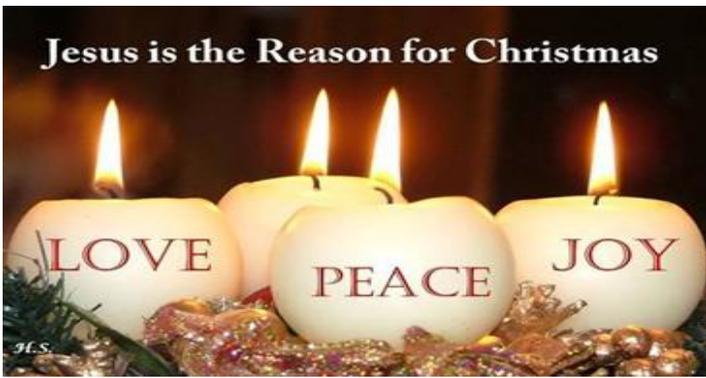
A treat not to be missed is at Camp Agape on Saturday, December 15th. The Men's Group has secured a group of tickets for the late showing of O Holy Night. This is a live nativity scene of previous camp counselors that is staged around the lake at Camp Agape. It is amazing and very much gets you in the mood for Christmas! The counselors are mostly college students who volunteer to return to camp to put on this production. They are an amazing group of young people. And of course, Myr plays her flute. You can make Christmas cards, decorate cookies, get pictures taken by the fire place while enjoying delicious treats made by the camp kitchen staff. You don't realize that you have walked the whole camp until you sing Silent Night at the Camp worship space and then you have to walk back to your car! A truly special night!

We might be treated to a special program on Sunday, December 16th. We will have to wait and see what happens! The Moravian Love Feast will be celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in Washington, NC at 4 pm. Pastor Wayne will be glad to carpool with you.

We will have our usual double services on Christmas Eve - the 5:30 pm Family Service and the 10:30 pm Candlelight Service. I personally try to attend both. Each service has something special to help me remember WHY I am here!

We all have a chance to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the Altar for our Christmas services. You can dedicate the poinsettia in memory or honor of someone or a group of people. It is completely your choice. And there will be many poinsettias to take home after Epiphany, again, if you would like one! We also will start the Wednesday night simple supper and services during Advent. This is a great time for centering during the middle of the week during this busy holiday season. I hope you will be able to attend at least one of the services!

Continued . . .



Why I Love Christmas, continued . . .

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."
 ~ Luke 2:1-7, NIV

Finally, let us remember the Reason for the Season - the celebration of the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us all be glad and rejoice!

Merry Christmas!
 Alecia Harrison

Social

Concerns

Ministry



December is a very busy month for us! So much activity around the church and at home. All of us preparing for the celebration of the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In our abundance, Lord of Life has graciously delivered by rapidly grabbing the tags from the Angel Tree. We have never had such a positive response in all the years that we have had the Angel Tree that

provides needed Christmas presents to children at East Garner, Creech, Timber Drive and Rand Road Elementary Schools. ALL the tags from the Angel Tree have been removed. Thank you!!! The gifts are due back on December 9th. The church Council has agreed to help the Social Concerns committee sort the gifts after worship on that day. Again thank you!

Also of note is our overwhelming response to the needs of Garner Area Ministries, specifically their Food Pantry. Lord of Life donated 10 turkeys before Thanksgiving, which was over 10% of the turkeys donated in November. Wow! We already have a few turkeys in the freezer to donate for Christmas. Thank you again and again! We have an emphasis of collecting holiday type foods during November and December but truly everything is needed and appreciated.

We continue to support the needs of Creech Road Elementary School by supplying needed items to the school social worker. The requests are varied from erasers, glasses, a mattress, underwear and bow ties. The needs of this particular school are high and parental resources are low. We provide up to \$200 per month for miscellaneous items.

And finally we chose a variety of items to send to those in need via ELCA Good Gifts. We purchased honey bees, a health clinic, send a girl to school, a solar (study) lamp, school supplies and communion supplies.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'

~Matthew 2:1-6

Let us remember the Reason for the Season and celebrate in the Birth of Christ.

Blessings,
 Alecia Harrison and Gale Isaacs
 Social Concerns Committee Co-Chairs

It's the most wonderful time of the Year

'Tis - 'Twas the Season

Well, Thanksgiving Day is gone... we should thank it! Although we donate food stuffs and such to Garner Area Ministries on a regular basis, we should 'thank' Thanksgiving for providing an additional opportunity for us to give even more, and in a special way... for a special season. We should 'thank' it also for being the unauthorized admission ticket to our all-out sprint to Christmas. As I mentioned last month, Thanksgiving observance seems to get lost in the shuffle; this happens all the time... every year... without fail!

So what's the problem you ask, it's only turkey (NOT!)? Remember Plymouth Rock, the Pilgrims' escape for religious freedom, and the Native Americans teachings? The mere fact that it gets overshadowed sets the stage (unwittingly) for the misidentification of the mission of Christmas. More often than not, Jesus is completely lost in the hullabaloo of gift buying, parties, big decorated trees, decorated houses (Hansel has more lights than Gretel; Jill has more than Jack, etc.), and cozy gatherings of

friends... all because of our mad dash to Christmas! None of these is a bad thing if we allow for moderation. However, we live in the 21st Century and it seems incredibly difficult to celebrate our Christmases and simultaneously give serious focus on the "reason for the season"... the birth of Jesus and all that his birth signifies!

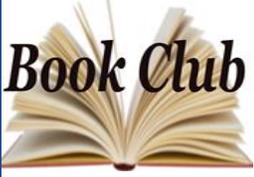
We place so much emphasis on the materialistic aspect of Christmas that we forget that it really isn't 'the most wonderful time of the year' for our friends who are un/under-employed; our friends who have suffered major loss; our friends who are in need of encouragement; and our friends who are victims of horrific weather phenomena at this time of year. They don't need A Christmas present; they need His Christmas presence. We need to be reminded of what this season is all about... it's not about things and it's not about presents. But it is about the wonderful sounds and visions of this season as presented through our Lord of Life sermons, special music and the miracle of birth as demonstrated by the children each year; it's about Christmas... it's about Jesus.

Sure, this is our way of reaching out. At this time of the year, we say, "Merry Christmas" and although I personally prefer that phrase to "Happy Holidays," I can't be too quarrelsome about it because, let's face it, Christmas isn't always a happy time for everyone. Having said this all-the-while remembering that these things have their place, we really need to remember the essential message of Christmas... God is with us, for us, and within us! Be blessed...have a very *MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

~ Gale J. Isaacs



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Advent Begins 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship	3	4	5 7am Rotary 6 pm Simple Supper 7 pm Advent Service 7:30 Choir Practice	6		8
9 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11:30 Council Meeting	10	11	12 7am Rotary 6 pm Simple Supper 7 pm Advent Service 7:30 Choir Practice	13	14	15
16 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship	17	18 7pm <i>Inspirational</i>  Book Club	19 7am Rotary 6 pm Simple Supper 7 pm Advent Service 7:30 Choir Practice	20 6:30  Social Concerns Ministry	21  First Day of Winter	22
23 4 th Sunday of Advent 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	24 	25 	26 NO ROTARY TODAY 7:30 Choir Practice	27 11:30 	28	29
30 1 st Sunday of Christmas 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	31					

Pastor Wayne Dubnansky
Minister of Music..... Dr. Brad Hunnicutt
Office Administrator Laura Raun
Web Master Gray Anthony

Congregational Council

Shannon Thomsen President
Don Craig Vice President
Becky Babel..... Treasurer
Tess Andrews..... Deputy Treasurer
Dave Hash Financial Secretary
Lindsay Crocker..... Secretary
Mary Cook, Alecia Harrison, Karen Post,
Sarah Watkins, and Dan Hayes

December 2018



**Lord of Life
Lutheran Church**
2100 Buffaloe Road
Garner, NC 27529

Email: LordofLife2100@gmail.com
Pastor's Email: wdubnansky@gmail.com
Website: www.lordoflifechurchgarnernc.org
Office (919) 772-9044



WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

9:00 am

Sunday School

Discussion Group (Library)

10:00 am

Worship Service

**LOL Annual
Children's
Christmas
Program**

December 16th
immediately
following the 10 am
service.



Please join us in the fellowship hall for
Hot Cocoa and Christmas Cookies.

We welcome all bakers to make a dozen or two of your
favorite Christmas cookies to share.

Merry Christmas!