

Life-Lines



(919) 772-9044
February 2019

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

As we ended January with the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, the gospel lesson ended with Jesus saying, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The gospel for the 4th Sunday after Epiphany "starts" with Jesus saying that. And He tells the people in His hometown things they did not want to hear implying that God loved and cared for people other than just His chosen people, the Hebrews, sending Elijah to a widow of Zarephath and Elisha to Naaman the Syrian implying His ministry also went beyond the Hebrews. He was a Light to the Gentiles. The hometown folk were outraged and tried to throw Him off a cliff.

The gospel for the 5th Sunday after Epiphany has Jesus "Light up the Lake of Gennesaret" by providing His disciples with a great catch of fish. However, it was to make a point that instead of catching fish, they would be catching people. The fish catch was not that important, they left it behind. The locals took it (my words).

The 6th Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus gave His Sermon on the Plain (level place). Before He did that, we read that "a great crowd came to Him to be cured, they wanted to touch Him because they felt if they did they would receive His power." Then He blessed the poor, the weepers, and those who are hated. He is shining His light upon those which society usually shuns.

The 7th Sunday after Epiphany continues Jesus discourse started the Sunday before beginning enemies, do good to those who hate you." He tells of ways to love, especially ways to love those who don't return that love.

In February we do not quite get to the end of the season of light, Epiphany. That occurs March 3rd when

we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord. He is transfigured on the mountain and then goes back down to get back to work.

All through February, Jesus will exhibit his Light to the world. He models for us how we can do the same.

The poor and the sick wanted to touch Jesus for help and healing. We touch the poor and the sick by supporting and caring for them.

Those who are hated we can touch by our love for them.

Those who are weeping we can touch by comforting them.

We may not be aware, but we can be lights for more people than we think possible not because of our skills or hard work, but because Jesus our Light sends his Spirit to be present with us as we go out into the world as Lights spreading love.

~ Pastor Wayne

**Let your light shine
before others
that they may
see your good deeds
and glorify your
Father in heaven**

Jesus





From the desk of your congregation council:

The Lord of Life Church Council met for the monthly meeting on January 13th. Regular business included review of committee reports, financial reports, and minutes. Additional discussion included a review of the “draft” 2019 budget, and preparation for the Annual Congregational meeting planned for January 27th. Council will hold a brief meeting after this Congregational meeting to vote on 2019 Council Officers. There will be a Leadership retreat planned for February 9th, the topics and planning for that meeting are forthcoming.

Becky reported that in 2018, Lord of Life limited its budgeted expenses, and contributions were higher than expected. This has resulted in a surplus for 2018. Becky also provided an overview of the “draft” 2019 budget, which included moving some of the budget numbers around so that 2019 will match closer what was spent in 2018. Becky noted that the “Home Mission mortgage” (second mortgage) will be paid off in December 2019. In addition, we are paying down an additional \$500/month on principal on the original mortgage. This original mortgage has 10 more years left, to be paid off in 2029.

Sarah noted that the one-day women’s retreat is February 16th at Lord of Life. Registration is \$10 and Lord of Life attendance is encouraged. Dave reported that a faucet in the bathroom was repaired. Dave mentioned that replacing or fixing the chimes is difficult because there are no schematics that we know of, but discussion will continue. Council discussed the temperature issues noticed recently and Dave described that Duke will be installing new “smart” thermostats. Steven Babel is planning to start his Eagle Scout project developing a trail on Lord of Life property on February 9th.

Dave suggested a fellowship reception for Pastor Tallent, a Lord of Life Pastor for 17 years, to celebrate his retirement. His son, Randy Tallent, who the LOL Congregation has supported, is coming back permanently in March. Pastor suggested that we have a reception that would include celebration of

both the Tallents. Council will tentatively try to find a Sunday that works in May.

Mary recommended that the Congregation look for ways to engage and assist Able to Serve more. One suggestion to help them is a donation box for regularly needed supplies that could be placed in the front donation area. Sarah suggested that we couple this with the back to school donations.

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



Parish Committee met on January 20th and discussed the following topics:

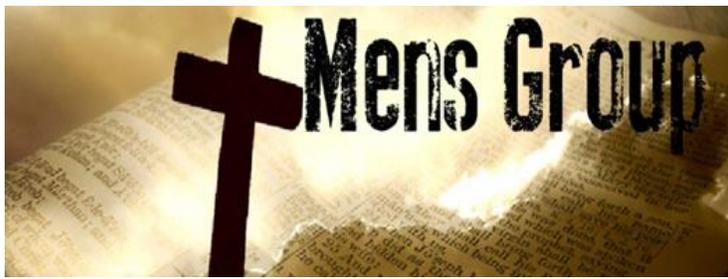
We reviewed our “Draft Emergency Plan” and identified volunteers for our Emergency Response Team. For our Medical Response Team, our volunteers included Linda Garoutte and Alecia Harrison. This team will address emergency response for medical emergencies.

Our Safety Response Team includes Tim Clark, Vince Wright and Terry Barnes. This team will plan for emergencies due to weather, fires, active shooter, etc. Part of our resolve regarding safety includes locking the Fellowship Hall after service starts and ordering emergency locks for sanctuary doors.

Anybody wanting to join either of these groups, please contact myself, Pastor Wayne, or people noted above. We will be setting up additional meetings in the near future.

Dave Hash will be organizing the update of our LOL Church Directory sometime in the first quarter of 2019.

Yours in Christ,
Terry Barnes/Parish Chair



The January Men's Club Meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Wayne followed by a meal prepared by members of the club. The following members were elected to serve as officers for the coming year: Tim Clark, Vice President, Gerry Havenstein, Secretary, and David Hash, Treasurer. Since no one volunteered for the office of President, it was decided to have a volunteer serve in that capacity for our monthly meetings and special events.

We still have room for many new members, so if you are interested, please inform any member of your interest.

The Valentine's Day Dinner will feature an Italian theme with Italian style dishes prepared by the men. The event will be held on February 15th in the fellowship hall beginning at 7:00 pm. Every participating congregational member is asked to bring a dessert to share. It is important that we have an accurate participant count so that we can plan accordingly. A sign-up sheet is posted in the fellowship hall.



Because the Valentine's Day Dinner is scheduled for February 15th, there will be no meeting on the first Friday of February.

The Pine Straw Sale is tentatively scheduled for March 23rd and March 30th. Gerry Havenstein is in charge of the sale.

The Paper Shredding Day will be on Saturday, May 4th, starting at 9:00 am and ending at 12:00 noon. Terry Barnes is in charge of the Shredding Event.

The next meeting of the Club will be on Friday, March 1st at 7:00 pm.

John Leuenberger,
President



Thank you to Karen Post for setting the altar for January, and to Ginny King for baking bread. If you donated wine or grape juice, thank you also. Wine will always be needed.

A very successful meeting was held on January 12th, after which we removed the Christmas decorations and put them away. We are very happy to welcome Grace Barnes to the altar guild. A covered dish luncheon followed after all business had been taken care of. The next meeting of the altar guild will be in April, just prior to Palm Sunday.

The color of paraments:
White is the color of light, gladness, purity and joy in Christ. White is thus the liturgical color appointed for festivals of Christ. Bright Red is the color of fire, the fire of the Holy Spirit. Red is used for the Day of Pentecost, for martyrs' days and for certain other days celebrating events in the church, such as Reformation, ordination, and church dedications and anniversaries. Scarlet is a hue deeper than red. It is the color of the crucifixion. Scarlet is used during Holy Week. Purple is the penitential color of Lent. It is also the alternate color for Advent when it is interpreted as the royal color of the coming King. Blue is the preferred color for Advent because it is the color of hope. Green is the color of growth, and it is used during the seasons after Epiphany and Pentecost to represent our growth in the Christian way of life and thought. Gold is the preferred color of Easter Day, since that day is the "queen of feasts" - the most important day in the church year. Black, the color of ashes and humiliation and mourning, is appointed for Ash Wednesday.



~ Carol Wallace

*S. Anita Stauffer, Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook

Social

Concerns

Ministry



Wake Up and Read! Lord of Life graciously donated almost 400 books three years ago to the Wake Up and Read book drive, specifically helping Creech Road Elementary School. This year we would like to again contribute to this important community activity. The Wake Up and Read Book drive will help Creech Road, East Garner and Smith Elementary Schools in the Garner area.

From January 5th – February 15th, WAKE Up and Read will collect new and gently-used books for children ages birth-12. Our goal this year is to collect 110,000 books. At the end of the school year, every student at our 13 WAKE Up and Read elementary schools and the neighboring child care facilities and community centers will be able to choose and keep 10 books to help build their home libraries. Our aim is to ensure that every child in our community has the opportunity to develop a love for reading.

The main drop off site is at the Cary Towne Mall at the Main Mall Entrance, unit 129, across from Vision Works and the National Guard. But the CLOSEST drop off site to Lord of Life Lutheran Church is Alossi Renewal Spa at 245 New Fidelity Court, in Garner. Alossi is located off highway 70 near Anfesa's Jewelers off Yeargan Road.

Sorting volunteers will be needed at the Cary Towne Mall location on March 2nd, 16th and 30th. Go to the Wake Up and Read website to sign up.

Other ways to help will include buying new or gently used children's books. There is a suggested book list on the website. Participating bookstores include Quail Ridge Books, Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

Sadly, many 4th graders are not reading at grade level. And many students loose reading skills over the Summer months. The Wake Up and Read initiative desires to give every student books to keep and read at their leisure. This gives each child an opportunity to enjoy the wonders of reading and escaping on a new adventure. What can you do to help?

Summer Camp Scholarship forms are now available from the Social Concerns Ministry. The application process will be the same as it has been in the past. Up to \$425 will be available to each qualified applicant. Each camper will choose the Lutheran camp week that best suits their interests and needs and write a paragraph on why they would like to attend camp. They will also need to ask a

member of the congregation to write a letter of recommendation for them. Please ask a member of Social Concerns if you are interested in applying for summer camp scholarship.

The One Day Retreat, "Called to Love as God Loves" will be held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 16th. Registration begins at 8:30 am and the program will end by 2pm. The cost is \$10. Lunch and program materials will be included. Men are welcome to attend.

The Spring Retreat at Kure Beach Retreat Center will be March 8-10th. The cost is \$110 (for those staying at the Retreat Center) to include two night accommodations, four meals and program materials. The commuter cost is \$55. The registration deadline is February 18, 2019.

Social Concerns currently donates \$2000 to Timber Drive and Rand Road Schools for Christmas gifts for the Angel Tree. We decided to divide the money equally between the four schools that we currently support at Christmas. So in December, we will give \$500 to Timber Drive, Rand Road, Creech Road, and East Garner. We are considering a new venue to purchase Christmas/ Angel Tree gifts.

We will hold our Annual Relay for Life fundraiser on Saturday from 5-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall either March 30th or April 6th. Pastor is checking for conflicts with other organizations that utilize the church. We will again have our Silent Auction, reverse raffle and barbecue sandwiches. Start thinking about what items you would like to donate for the auction now! This is a fun event and hope we can have lots of participation. And invite your friends!

Our ongoing food drive for Garner Area Ministries is going well. Thank you to everyone that contributes. This is what is wonderful about a group of people coming together for a common cause. We are able to do SO much together; much more than we can do individually. Thank you all! Last year, Lord of Life donated 13% of the food that stocked the Food Pantry at GAM. We served 1194 families and 3088 individuals.

For the month of February, the focus for GAM food collections will be soup in honor of the Super Bowl on February 3rd between the Patriots and the Rams. The theme will be SOUP-er Bowl! A special collection bin will be available in the Narthex throughout February.

In March we will collect household and personal items, which includes but is not limited to diapers, deodorant, paper products, pet food, sanitary products, toothbrushes, soap, etc.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and

Social Concerns, continued ...

you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:34-40, NIV

We are honored to serve Lord of Life and our Garner and surrounding area communities. Our meetings are open to all. Join us at any time! We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. All are welcome!!!

Social Concerns Committee

Alecia Harrison and Gale Isaacs, Co-chairs

**WE ARE
ALL
THE
LEAST
OF THESE**

To All My Church Family –

Thank you so much for all your prayers, visits, cards and goodies! It was a long two months in rehab. I am improving every day and getting stronger since coming home.

Thanks again,
Shirley Poole

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM: CONFIRMATION



I have had several families tell me their child/children are pre-adolescent or adolescent age, and they should be confirmed. It is important that young people "Affirm the Faith of Their Baptisms", but on the other hand (using a constant of Tevye from Fiddler on the Roof) giving proper instruction is a challenge in the 21st Century.

Therefore, I present my plan for accomplishing "Confirmation Instruction" by Reformation Sunday of 2020 with the Rite of Confirmation on Reformation Sunday 2020. Easter Sunday (April 21st) is the deadline to hear from families with prospective confirmands.

By May 12: I will send out as a gift to mothers (and fathers) my goals and expectations

On May 19: families will meet during fellowship to talk about the program

September 8 or 15 (Rally Day): the Confirmands will meet with me after worship

Until the New Year: Scripture will be the focus, first half of 2020 - Small Catechism

We will physically meet only 10 times, we will use email to communicate information back and forth.

September/October 2020: "Burning Issues of Youth in the Church"

October 25: Confirmation Sunday

~ Pastor Wayne





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

Neal Brennecke, surgery; Family of Don Stang, who passed away 1/27; Shirley Poole, recovering from broken pelvis; Peg Stamp, myeloma; Bob Watkins - kidney issues; Family of

Beverly Bobroske, Pastor Wayne's Aunt; Tess Andrews brother, David Van Benschoten – multiple myeloma; Tess Andrews mother, Corrine Van Benschoten; John & Betty Nalepa; Billie Jean Buffaloe, very close friend of Dan & Roxie Hayes - tumor in stomach; 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; Darcee W. – cancer has returned; Cheri Morton, friend of Nick Vietri – surgery; Karen Rodgers – stage 4 cancer; Family of Kathleen Dumas and Dan Dumas, Linda Hash's cousins – recently passed away; 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; Deanna Leuenberger's sister, Charlene Beno – auto accident; Steve Klawiter's mother, Marylou – heart failure; Pam Klawiter's co-worker, Carolyn Harbertson – breast cancer; Nick Vietri; Monna Stamm; Dennis King; 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 updates, deletions, or additions.

thank you!



February

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| February 3 | Daniel Cook |
| February 7 | Lisa Hash Burnett |
| February 12 | Daniel Jordan |
| February 15 | Clyde Cook |
| | Vince Wright |
| February 16 | Josh Kestner |
| February 17 | Antonio (Tony) Smith |
| February 21 | Patrick Niemann |
| February 24 | Helen Reeves |
| February 29 | Paul Blanchard |

March

| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| March 4 | Holly Niemann |
| | 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 |



Upcoming Women's Ministries Events

Spring is a very busy time for the North Carolina Women of the ELCA....are you ready?

We just completed our planning meeting in RALEIGH at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We had over 60 women attend and more than a third of them drove 4+ hours to get to the Committee Day meeting.

ANYONE can be a member of a state-wide committee for the NC Lutheran Women! We have a variety of committees to consider. Gathering and Planning; plans the Annual Gathering held each year in June. Justice; considers all justice issues affecting North Carolina but specifically things that affect women and children. Stewardship; develops a strategic plan to use any money collected in the most efficient way to address issues that affect women and children. Discipleship; plans Bible Studies for our conference gatherings, the annual gathering and the Fall and Spring Retreat, and One Day Retreat. And finally Conference Leaders; each of the 11 conferences in the NC Synod have a Presider, Treasurer's Assistant and Director of Communication. This is by far the largest group! We are always looking for new members for our Conference Leadership! I would be GLAD to discuss any of these committees and positions with you!

Next up is the One Day Retreat, held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Garner. I bet you know how to get there! The retreat is on Saturday, February 16th from 8:30-2 pm. The cost is \$10. Lunch will be included (prepared by some of your favorite LOL chefs!)

Then the Triangle Conference Spring Gathering will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 27th from 9-2 pm. The cost will be \$8, to include lunch. We will elect our new Conference Presider at this meeting. Pam Pittenger from Holy Trinity, Raleigh, has graciously agreed to run for this office. It is a 2 year commitment. The other Triangle Conference leaders are Paula Kelly from Abiding Savior in Durham and Faye Fredrick for Director of Communication from Christus

Victor also in Durham. Paula and Faye have already served one year of their term. Their positions will be up for election at the 2020 Triangle Conference Spring Gathering. Are you our next conference leader????

And finally the Annual Gathering at Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory, NC June 21-23, 2019. There will be a variety of activities, business meeting, service projects, shopping, and awareness session where you can learn more about an issue and what we are doing about it! I love staying on campus enjoying the fellowship in the evening with my old and new friends. We also will have a group Bible Study on Saturday night led by a member of the Discipleship committee.

With all these Women's events, I get to meet new people and reconnect with friends I made at previous events. We had the Triennial Women's Gathering (all of US to include Puerto Rico and the Bahamas) in Charlotte in 2014 and in Minneapolis in 2017. The next Triennial will be held in Phoenix, Arizona in 2020. Do you want to go? It is pretty interesting to meet Lutheran Women from across the country! We have a Sister Synod in Costa Rica. Some women from Costa Rica attended the Charlotte Gathering. Again, how amazing to talk to these women about their issues and realize that we have some in common!

So prayerfully think about what your level of commitment to Women's Ministries might be. I am always available to talk.

Blessings,

Alecia Harrison



Dear Church Family --

What an amazing celebration of God's blessing was heard at the Annual Meeting on January 27th! I am so thankful for the partnerships we had last year and look forward to building on our foundation of ministry together in the coming (2019) year.

Quote from a Baptist Minister:

"Being in Christ, it is safe to forget the past; it is possible to be sure of the future; it is possible to be diligent in the present." ~ Alexander MacLaren

May God richly bless you as you have richly blessed us.

Carlton McDaniel - Able to Serve



"If you have men who will only come if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all." – Dr. David Livingstone, Missionary in Africa

How many times have we all said that we were going to do a 'thing' and that thing was pushed to the back burner until a more opportune time? That's called procrastination but we got it done, eventually. Then there's commitment, the stalwart big brother of procrastination. That's the mechanism by which you pledge or promise to do a thing and then do it dependably... either by interest, obligation or coercion. Commitment is the flip side of sometimes-every-now-and-then involvement. You know, it's a guarantee to do what you say... when you say; that is commitment! *"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up"* - Galatians 6:9

Nowadays we can be interested in doing a thing and never do it, and that's okay! I have many interests... for example, I am interested in how to make yeast rolls but, I promise, I have absolutely no plans to make them... I just want to know how to do it. On the other hand, having varied levels of interest in commitment-type activities requires follow-through even at times when we fancy being otherwise engaged; many of us share this same mantle. The difficulty lies in the fact that we can't seem to understand why just as many people share the 'no-commit-gene'... that abstract 'it'll-get-done' mentality means surely somebody will step-up and do it (whatever IT is). Why not you? Isn't there a twinge of obligatory emotion when it seems that a mere two or three people are holding down the fort (wherever the FORT is)? We have to step-up otherwise we'll all fall down; all units have different functioning parts to comprise the whole... no exceptions.



Dear Lord of Life Congregation:
Thank you very much for your generous Christmas gift to me!
I look forward to great adventures together in 2019.

With Love,
Brad

The church is described as one body however, we realize that not everyone can be or do everything. Often we expect one member of the body (designated or not) to fulfill a task that belongs to all OR we just expect that a member will see that IT needs fixing and they will do. After all, you may say, it's not MY job... But IT is! There must be some one thing to which you can see as your commitment! There are so many ministries and committees at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, and the meeting times are listed in the weekly email. You can read the scripture on a Sunday morning and kill two birds with one stone 1) get up for church and 2) read the scripture... come to choir practice on Wednesday at 7:30 and sing on Sunday (you just might like its diva-free atmosphere)... hand out bulletins and you get to smile at everyone when they enter! And the list goes on and on... but if you show up only at Christmas and Easter, don't get upset and pout if you're not recognized!

Obligations. Promises. Commitments. They're not foreign words we know that they imply trust and steadfastness; partial commitment is not commitment. Let's not get to the point wherein even procrastination might start to be a good thing; we need all of us. Be blessed.

~ Gale J. Isaacs



Stop thinking so hard about everything, stop over analyzing. Just go. Just do it. If it feels right just go with it.

~Unknown
From RaiseYourMind.com

The article below was written by Pastor Peter Marty, senior pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa where a son of Lord of Life, Josh Kestner, serves as pastor.

People don't "pass away"

Imagine talking about birth the way we talk about death.

by [Peter W. Marty](#)

I *passed* on the chocolate dessert tray in the restaurant last night, tempting as it was. I dread *passing* through the TSA screening lines at the airport when I'm in a hurry. I *pass* columns like this your way hoping to stir your heart and mind on matters of faith and life.

One thing I will never pass, however, is away. I expect to die, and you'd be smart to expect the same. But neither of us will "pass away." I know the phrase has become increasingly popular in recent decades; some would say irritatingly popular. A survey of contemporary obituaries reveals that nearly 50 percent of families no longer refer to the death of their loved one. Mom merely "passed away." Or, when brevity is in vogue, she "passed."

A funeral director I know thinks this linguistic trend is an attempt to make death sound less cold, more gentle, and not so harsh. That sounds about right. We don't do well with the finality of death. We like to keep it at arm's length. To speak of mother's death as a "passing" is to lend a wispy and soft feel to her disappearance, almost as if an unsuspecting wind mysteriously swept her out of view.

"When a person is born we rejoice," anthropologist Margaret Mead once wrote. "And when they're married we jubilate. But when they die we try to pretend nothing has happened." To pretend as if the sudden absence of our best friend's voice or laugh at the table doesn't affect us is to perform a disservice to ourselves. Faith allows us to honor the reality and finality of death. It teaches us that grief can be a gift, just as tears rolling down the cheek can be a love offering for that friend who has died. The oddity of trying to soft-pedal death with the language of *passing away* sounds all the more awkward when we try to speak of its

counterpart—birth—in similarly wispy ways. As an experiment, try not to think of yourself as being born. Instead, see yourself as gradually showing up. You passed into the liveliness of infancy through an elaborate process called labor. You made your presence known to others as you emerged into oxygenated air. Can't we just be straightforward about the two bookends of life? We're born. And we die.

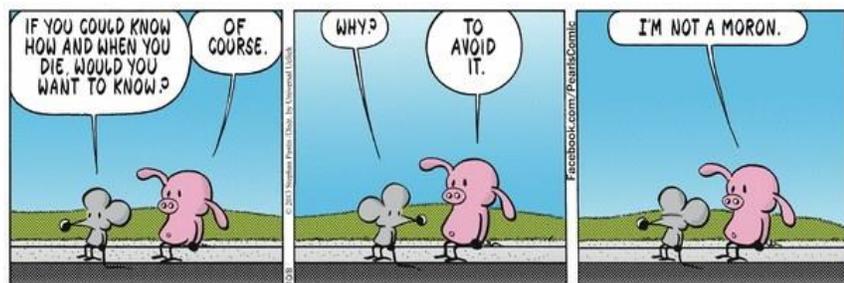
Jesus Christ overcame death and the grave. We're never told he holds a victory flag over our passing away. If that were the case we'd have to rewrite Paul to read: "'Passed away has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O passed away, is your victory? Where, O passed away, is your sting?'"

When the day arrives for me to shutter my eyes for a final time and breathe my last, who knows what euphemisms and dysphemisms will be uttered? Peter "checked out." He "kicked the bucket." He's "juggling haloes now." I guess he's "taking up harp." Or, in the elegant poetry of E. E. Cummings, he "started a worm farm."

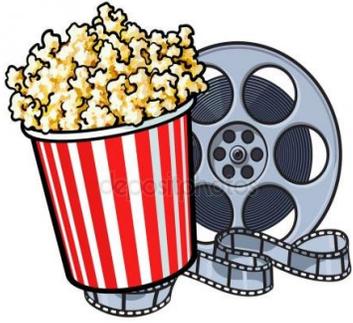
Euphemism

- ▶ Euphemism is an idiomatic expression which loses its literal meanings and refers to something else in order to hide its unpleasantness.
- ▶ For example, "kick the bucket" is a euphemism that describes the death of a person. In addition, many organizations use the term "downsizing" for the distressing act of "firing" its employees.

But those who know me best, and the confidence I have in God, only need four words: Peter died in faith. That will do it. Those four words will speak honesty, truth, and love, all at the same time. And the Lord will be praised.



IF BEALE STREET COULDE TALK: A REVIEW



During the sermon on January 20th, I quoted Larry Reni Thomas concerning the Wilmington Riot of 1898 in which 60-100 black

residents of Wilmington died. Here is the last line from that quote, "...to ensure that there will be no more 1898." "If Beale Street Could Talk" could be seen as making the case that 1898 is still happening, but to individuals, not groups and not so obviously.

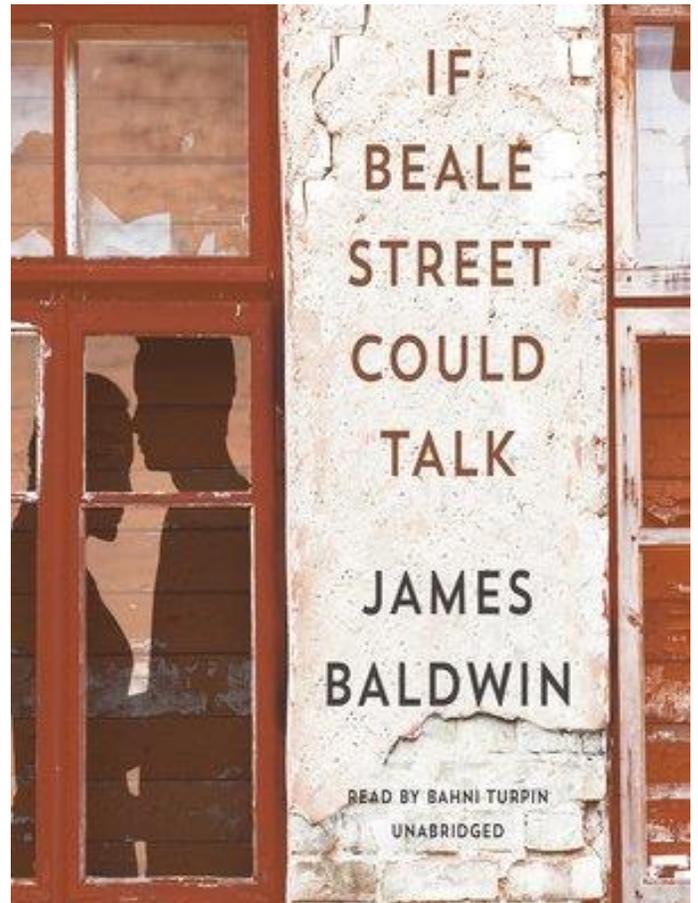
"If Beale Street Could Talk" is based on a novel of the same name by James Baldwin published in 1974.

The story revolves around a young African-American couple living in Harlem who are in love. Fonny works with wood producing sculptures while Trish works retail. Unfortunately, Fonny, (real name is Alonzo), is incarcerated for a crime he did not commit. Tish (real name Clementine), along with her family try every means possible to get Fonny out of jail.

There is not much good news in the movie. I kept thinking things have to brighten. Atypical of Hollywood - things don't brighten.

However, reflecting on the film afterward the takeaway for me was the love of Trish's family for her as well as Fonny. That must be contrasted with Fonny's family who, except for his father, was less than loving toward Fonny.

Fonny's mother and two sisters were doubly unloving toward Tish although they were the so-called "Sanctified" ones. The scene when the two families "have at it" is worth the price of admission in which Fonny's family is revealed as being bereft of love while Tish's family gushes over with love and support for her.



The lack of love in Fonny's family does not include his father who, along with Tish's dad, comprise the Hall of Fame of fathers-in-law by marriage. They would do whatever it takes to "spring" Fonny, even some very shady business.

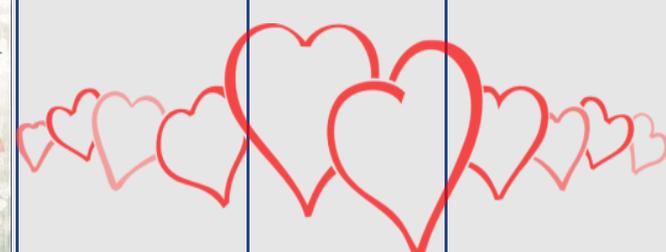
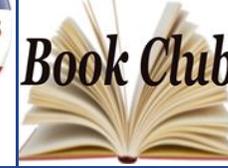
Tish's mother travelled to Puerto Rico for Fonny; Ernestine, her older sister found the lawyer for Fonny. They did all this with the possibility they may not achieve any concrete results, and they did not. They did it out of pure love and faith in Fonny's innocence.

I cannot recommend this movie for everyone. Regina King (Regina in latin means queen, so she is Queen King) won the golden globe award for best supporting actress. All I can say about the storyline it is written by James Baldwin, one of the greatest writers of our lifetime. Kiki Layne and Stephen James as Tish and Fonny respectively play their roles exhibiting the real human elements of young people in love and the anxiety of being separated from one another and what lies ahead.

It will not be on our summer cinema 2019 series, the film is too dark; however, if you do see it, the message of the film will resonate within you.

~ Pastor Wayne

February

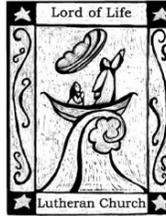
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Welcome FEBRUARY</p> <p>Wishing you a month filled with love, peace & joy.</p>  <p><small>©Fiona Childs</small></p> | |  | | | 1 | <p>2 10 am Knitting & Crochet Club</p>  <p>GROUNDHOG DAY</p> |
| <p>3 4th Sunday After Epiphany</p> <p>9am Sunday School 10am Worship</p> | 4 | <p>HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR 2019</p>  | | <p>6 7am Rotary</p> <p>7:30 Choir Practice</p> | 7 | <p>8</p> <p>9 10 am Knitting & Crochet Club</p> <p>Leadership Retreat</p> |
| <p>10 5th Sunday After Epiphany</p> <p>9am Sunday School 10am Worship</p> | 11 | 12 | <p>13 7am Rotary</p> <p>7:30 Choir Practice</p> | <p>14 Happy Valentines Day</p>  | <p>15 Valentine's dinner</p> | <p>16 10 am Knitting & Crochet Club</p> <p>Love As God Loves Retreat</p> |
| <p>17 6th Sunday After Epiphany</p> <p>9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Parish</p> |  <p>PRESIDENTS DAY</p> | <p>19 7pm <i>Inspirational</i></p> <p>Book Club</p>  | <p>20 7am Rotary</p> <p>7:30 Choir Practice</p> |  <p>Social Concerns Ministry</p> | <p>22 Happy National Margarita Day!</p>  | <p>23 10 am Knitting & Crochet Club</p> <p>G.A.S.T. Fasching Celebration</p> |
| <p>24 7th Sunday After Epiphany</p> <p>9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Property</p> |  <p>WORSHIP & MUSIC</p> | 26 | <p>27 7am Rotary</p> <p>7:30 Choir Practice</p> | <p>28 11:30</p>  <p>Lunch Bunch</p> | <p>February The Month Of LOVE</p>  | |

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

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Bogle, Linda Garoutte, and Dan Hayes

February 2019



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WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

9:00 am

Sunday School

Discussion Group (Library)

10:00 am

Worship Service

THERE ARE THREE THINGS THAT WILL ENDURE

Faith, Hope, and Love

AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS

LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

Happy Valentines Day!

