

December 2019

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

Congregational Council

Don Craig President
Alecia Harrison Vice President
Lindsay Crocker Secretary
Becky Babel Treasurer
Tess Andrews Deputy Treasurer
Terry Barnes Financial Secretary
Sarah Watkins, Shannon Thomsen, Julie Bogle,
Linda Garoutte, Dave Hash, and Dan Hayes



**Lord of Life
Lutheran Church**
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WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

9:00 am
**Bible Study &
Discussion Group**

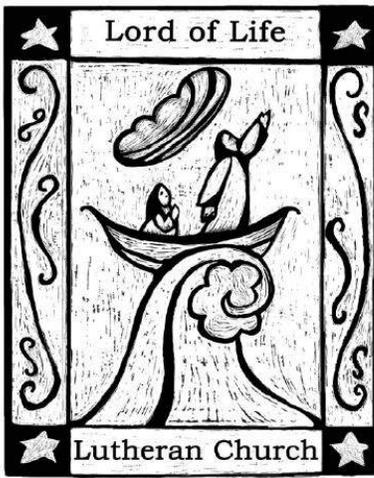
10:00 am
Worship Service

7:00 pm
Advent Midweek Worship

Jesus is the Reason for Christmas



H.S.



Life-Lines



(919) 772-9044
December 2019

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

Christmas is the time when we celebrate the birth of God's Son. The theological word we use to describe this is "Incarnation". God became one of us. Let's first reflect on some W questions: Who? God's Son. When? 2000 years ago. Where? Bethlehem. Why? To grace us with new life here and life eternal.

But here is a big W question. What if the incarnation took place now in this world?

Who? Joseph and Mary were a traditional family. Perhaps now Mary would be a single mother. Remember that was Joseph's first thought when he heard his betrothed was pregnant. A documentary called "For Soma" documents the Syrian Civil War from the mother's perspective, telling it to her daughter.

Where? Perhaps present-day Syria or Yemen where many are in need of food, good water and safety from harm and violence. Such situations would be similar to the circumstances Jesus was born into; a lower class couple living with the oppression of the Roman Empire.

Why? Because God in any day and age wants to be with His people giving us hope in less than hopeful times.

So this Advent season let us invite God's presence with us. Come Emmanuel!

When Emmanuel does come at Christmas, may our songs of praise rise to God in heaven.

~ Pastor Wayne



THEME: Women of Valor –

based on the woman described in Proverbs 31

Order of worship for each service will be the Holden Evening Prayer

December 4: Rahab, the Canaanite spy

December 11: Ruth

December 18: Esther



Social

Concerns

Ministry



*“So you delivered them into the hands of their enemies, who **oppressed** them. But when they were **oppressed** they cried out to you. From heaven you heard them, and in your great compassion you gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the hand of their enemies.”*

Nehemiah 9:27, NIV

Your Social Concerns committee has sponsored four Garner Elementary schools for years via the Christmas time Angel Tree and the Back to School Giving Tree: Rand Road, Timber Drive, Creech, and East Garner. We decided to do something different this year! We divided the financial support that we have given to the schools into four equal parts. The PTA of each school will decide who gets what gifts and will do the shopping. The committee asked for receipts for our records. In the past, we provided 3 gifts for up to 75 children ... a toy, something they wanted, and something they need.



In return, we asked Wake County Social Services for four Garner families where we as a church will provide their entire Christmas. You will notice some odd items like cleaning products and adult clothes that we have not addressed in the past. We are hopeful that this type of giving will become our new tradition and I thank each and every one of you for your part in supporting our community!

Also, we hope to see you at the **Annual Mary Jo Albert Christmas Concert** on Monday, December 9th at 7 pm.

Blessings and Merry Christmas!

May you be blessed with lots of friends and relatives!

Alecia Harrison and Gale Isaacs

Co-Chairs, Social Concerns Committee

December 1st begins a new month, and a new church year (Advent). Happy New Year to all!!

We are all once again filled with anticipation at the news of the coming of the Savior, the story never grows old. "Advent" consists of four weeks before Christmas. The name of the first season of the liturgical year comes from a Latin word meaning "coming" in three ways: the infant Jesus coming into the past, two millennia ago in Bethlehem; Christ coming in the present by word and sacraments and in the fellowship of communion of the church; and Christ coming again in the future at the end time. In Advent we prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming in the incarnation, but more importantly we prepare for his second coming, when he will make all things new and judge the world in righteousness. The preferred color for Advent is blue, the color of hope. "

The Advent Wreath which originated in home use in Europe after the Reformation, is a wreath on which four candles are placed near the altar. The Jesse Tree is decorated with symbols portraying the spiritual heritage of Jesus. It is a kind of family tree that was suggested by Isaiah's prophesy: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse", Isaiah 11:1.

Members of the congregation and Altar Guild will meet on Sat. December 7th at 10 am to help set up the Chrismon Tree (Christ inspired ornaments) and again on Monday December 23rd at 10 am to decorate the church for Christmas Eve services. Any member of the congregation is welcome to help. The next meeting will be on January 11th followed by a covered dish luncheon.

Thank you to Karen Post for setting the altar for November and to all who donated wine and baked bread.

Thanks to all those who have helped over this past year. Your help has been greatly appreciated!

God Bless everyone.

~ Carol Wallace



*Lord, I'm going
to hold steady
on to you,
and you've got
to see us through.*

- Harriet Tubman

HARRIOTT: A REVIEW

As I am working out I usually have a book that I am reading while on exercise equipment. People ask me what I am reading. I have been asked three times as I read the book "Harriet, Imagining a Life" and each time when I told them, the questioner did not know who Harriet Tubman was. Thus, if nothing else, the movie gave Harriet Tubman, one of the most extraordinary personas in American history, exposure to the American public. So this is a movie from which we can learn something.

So I will start with her name. Harriet Tubman was not her name given at birth. She took the last name Tubman, which was the name of her first husband, even though when she escaped slavery he took up with another woman. Harriet was her mother's name which she took up when she escaped slavery. Her name originally was Araminty Ross.

She escapes her life of slavery in Eastern Shore, Maryland as a young woman in her twenties. She made the journey of a hundred miles alone to Philadelphia. That was astounding enough, but she almost immediately went back to bring others, namely, her family, out of slavery as well.

A two hour movie cannot even begin to get the story of this amazing woman right or be all-inclusive. Very little is mentioned of her time in the north for example. The book about her sums up who she was after an incident in Troy, New York when she helped stop an extradition of a former slave back to a plantation in Virginia. She was "like a mythical hero, a savior, who drops down at the exact moment of greatest need; fights, conquers, and vanishes" while becoming one of the most important conductors of the Underground Railroad. She "never ran her train off the track and never lost a passenger."

When asked how she could do all that she did

alone, she said she was never alone. God was always with her, and she believed God was guiding her. She would experience "spells" in which God spoke to her. Harriet, the woman of action, the agent of change, was fused with a unique spirituality & relationship with God.

Some might say the film is not historically accurate. Honestly, there is much that is a mystery about Harriet so in the film we do not experience much of her actual journey or her itinerary. We know that to do all she did she would have needed help. The film makes it simple by including a convert to her cause, Walter, who assists her on the railroad. The book I read mentions safe houses, and some of her important contacts which are left out in the film. Similar to the notion that we know who created the earth, God, but how He did it we leave to science. What is known about Harriet's accomplishments were talked about and put to paper long after the fact just as Scripture was written long after the events happened. Thus, some facts about this woman of valor may be omitted, embellished, interpreted or misinterpreted. For sure, Harriet was working her magic the same time period another woman of valor, Lakshmibai, warrior queen of Jhansi, was leading the first rebellion against the British in India. Both Harriet and Lakshmibai will be mentioned during our midweek Advent worship in relationship to Rahab the spy and Queen Esther respectively.

Cynthia Erivo is terrific as the determined, athletic Harriet who signals slaves of her intentions through her songs which Cynthia belts out with subdued emotion. I consider "Harriet" a must see movie; and if you do, stay alert until the very end when, at least I was and you might be also, in for a historic surprise.

It will be included in next summer's spiritual cinema.

~ Pastor Wayne

PLEASE review this Prayer List and let Laura or Pastor Wayne know of any updates, deletions, or additions.

thank you!



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

Dennis King; Carol Wallace; Shirley Poole; John & Betty Nalepa; Monna Stamm; Nick Vietri; Ken Fillingim; Peg Stamp, myeloma; Bob Watkins

– pace maker & kidney issues; Jerry Hart’s mom, Ruby – bad fall; Alice Austin’s friend, Kathy Koonce – brain tumor; Camille’s friends, Mike Hargett & Helen Williams – Both recovering from surgery; Mindy and family after death of Randy – friends of Kate Beck; Keith Howard – isolated, lonely, depressed, requesting prayers to regain strength of spirit; Mary Cook’s sister-in-law, Linda Wrightson – broken femur; Tess Andrews brother, David Van Benschoten – multiple myeloma; Marge Rhodes, friend of the Phil & Linda Garoutte – cancer with bone metastases; Darcee W. – cancer has returned; Karen Rodgers – stage 4 cancer; Karen Post’s friends: Blanca Hernandez – ovarian mass; Dr. Steve Rushton – lymphoma; and Sandy Murphy; Karen Post’s cousin, Mike Harris – recurring prostate cancer; Lindsay Crocker’s Nephew, Daniel Harman – health and healing; Karen Wright’s mother, Carol Goodford – heart issues; Steve Klawiter’s mother, Marylou – heart failure; Pam Klawiter’s co-worker, Carolyn Harbertson – breast cancer; 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; Christine Brennecke, Alzheimer’s disease; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe.



December

December 5	Rebecca Swanson
December 7	Amanda Babel
	Jim Rebbeor
December 8	Lisa Grayson
December 9	Neil Brennecke
December 14	John Nalepa
December 17	Laura Raun
December 20	Pastor Dave Brooks
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 21	Ryan Macurdy
January 24	Barbara Kyles
January 25	Pastor Wayne Dubnansky

Please let Laura know of any Birthdays that need to be added! Thank you!!



Parish Committee

LOL Parish Committee met on November 17th and had some great discussion and a few laughs. Dave & Tim provided the "Comic Relief".

➤ NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed 2 new members to the Parish Committee; Steve Brantley and Julie Roeser. Both Steve and Julie have been active in our congregation and regularly contributed to kitchen duties for Fellowship, which we really appreciate!

➤ EMERGENCY PLANNING

We had discussions around the stolen heat pumps and the Property Committee will be installing about 4 security cameras around the outside of the building to monitor our facility better. Able to Serve already has some outdoor cameras installed. We discussed the safety of our church family while in service and potential precautions against active shooters or threats. Current precautions include keeping the fellowship doors locked during service and having quick locks available for sanctuary doors if needed.

➤ DIRECTORY / PICTURES

We're currently updating our pictures in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be modifying picture boards and adding a "Memory Board" to remember those LOL members who have gone on to Heaven ahead of us. Julie & Grace volunteered to work on updating. Anyone wanting a NEW PICTURE for the board, please contact Tim Clark or myself for a "photo shoot" in the Chapel.

➤ TIME & TALENTS INFORMATION

We had positive input from our "Pledge Cards" and "Time & Talents" sheets. We had a

successful MINISTRY FAIR on October 20th and enjoyed sharing what our various committees and ministries do at Lord of Life.

➤ OUTREACH TO CHURCH FAMILY

We had some lengthy discussion on keeping in contact with our members who have not visited us for a while. As Pastor Wayne shared with us his diligence in keeping in touch, we offered to help him out through the Parish Committee. Barbara, Julie and Steve all expressed interest in reaching out.

I would like to thank EVERYBODY for their awesome contributions and participation in our after church Fellowship. Our recent "Breakfast Food" theme was an overwhelming SUCCESS!!!

Yours in Christ,

PARISH Chair, Terry Barnes

PARISH COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Rebecca Swanson, Grace Barnes, Tim Clark, Dave Hash, Vince Wright, Barbara Kyles, Steve Brantley, Julie Roeser, Pastor Wayne, and Linda Garoutte (Council Liaison)



Steven Babel has earned the rank of Eagle Scout from Troop 64. Steven's Eagle Scout project was restoring the nature trail and identifying trees along the trail with markers for the pleasure and enjoyment of the Lord of Life congregation.



CONGRATULATIONS Steven!

"Once an Eagle Scout Always an Eagle Scout"

You're Invited

Steven and his family would like to invite the congregation to attend his Eagle Scout ceremony on

January 5, 2020 at 5:00 pm

Mount Zion United Methodist Church
15772 NC 50 North, Garner, NC 27529

Steven will receive the highest and most coveted award in Scouting.

Please **RSVP** to blbabel@aol.com or call 919-805-5182 by December 20, 2019.



Men's Club members met for dinner on Friday November 1st to enjoy some great food and good fellowship. The business meeting was devoted primarily to finalizing plans for the **Congregational Christmas Dinner** that we will host at 7:00 pm on Friday, December 6th, and on **Camp Agape's O Holy Night** program Saturday night December 14th. The Club purchased 40 tickets (\$13 each) and most of them have now been spoken for. A few are still available, so see Dave Hash if you and/or your family would like to join us for some great food and a wonderful kickoff for Christmas.

With regard to the **Annual Christmas Dinner** for the congregation, all adult members of the congregation are invited to attend the dinner and child care **will be available**. Club members will provide roast turkey with dressing, ham, mashed potatoes, candied yams, cranberry sauce, green bean or other casseroles, and wine. The congregation is asked to provide desserts and/or other specialty Christmas type dishes. Dave Hash will again lead a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Please keep the cost of your exchange gifts at or below \$10.

O Holy Night at Camp Agape: Pastor Wayne will be driving the church bus to Camp Agape leaving at 6 pm. A sign-up sheet for riding the bus is on the bulletin board in the LOL Fellowship Hall.

During the November meeting, the Club again voted to provide a sizable donation to Angie's Restaurant to help cover the expense of the special Thanksgiving dinner that the restaurant provides for the community each year. Hundreds of people are given their free meal each year. Tim Clark, Dave Hash, and Gerry Havenstein traveled to Camp Agape on Monday, November 18th, to install seven commemorative bricks in the new patio at the Agape dining hall. Three of the bricks were provided by the Club to honor John Swanson, Herb Liebsch, and Don Wallace.

Several Club members are tentatively planning to travel to Agape on Tuesday, December 10th to install the trail luminary lighting for the O Holy Night pageant. Please let Tim Clark know if you are willing to help in that effort.

The Club's next regular meeting will take place at 7:00 pm on Friday, January 3rd.

Congratulations to our new President, Eric Roeser, who will officially take over his office at that meeting.

Gerry Havenstein, Secretary



Lord of Life Council

Air Conditioning

The new air conditioners have been installed and we are adding security cameras and lighting to that area and around the church building.

Constitutional Changes

Please watch your email for an announcement on the upcoming annual meeting planned for January 26, 2020. One key discussion point will be the approval of some changes to our constitution to align the language with our operational realities. The summary will be included with the announcement. If you want your own copy of the constitution, please let one of us know and we will see that you get it.

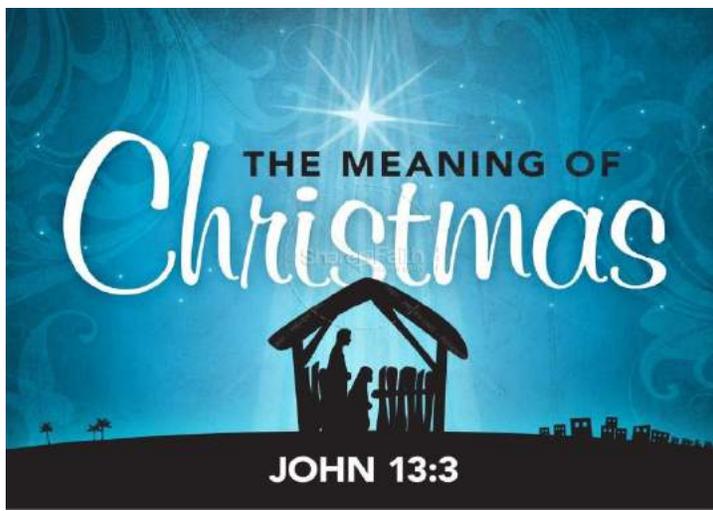
Lord of Life Council

Be sure to review the council candidate bios available on the bulletin boards around the church. Get to know your council member candidates committing to serve a three-year term from 2020-2022.

Treasurer: Ken Fillingim will be taking over for Becky Babel as church treasurer.

Kitchen Changes: We have approved a project for upgrades to our kitchen. Council has also asked for a review of a larger range of options for the effort and Lindsay Crocker and Dan Hayes are gathering a consolidated list of ideas, options and funding opportunities. Please provide your input when asked.

Yours in Christ,
Lord of Life Council Members,
Don Craig, Alecia Harrison, Lindsay Crocker, Shannon Thomsen, Sarah Watkins, Dave Hash, Dan Hayes, Julie Bogle, Linda Garoutte, and Wayne Dubnansky, Pastor



The Meaning of Christmas

You know, I combed my brain to come up with a title for this article other than this one! The meaning of Christmas... PUH-LEEZ! Who does NOT know the meaning of Christmas? I mean, since October stores have been lining their shelves and aisles with green & red colored decor, toys and goodies, completely decorated Christmas trees, resplendent with blinking lights, and let's not forget the jolly fellow himself! Christmas is clearly the most popular holiday of all. Ahhh, just visualize those beautifully boxed Christmas cards depicting Angels on High looking down on Baby Jesus; We can find them in any Christian bookshop/store.

Everyone is getting in the Christmas spirit... why shouldn't we? After all, it IS that time of the year! And anyone past their first birthday knows about this most wonderful time of the year. For sure we know that Jesus was born for the redemption of our souls to save mankind, but if we stop for a minute and think about it, when did all the hype begin? It was way, way before our time!

The first Christmas didn't have all this "stuff." I mean there were no advertisements to welcome the season; no Santa; no Black Friday or Cyber Monday sales... none of these things. As a matter of fact, the first Christmas focused on a small family of meager means, nondescript, and homeless... they had nowhere to go and seemingly no one on whom they could depend. This scenario provides an unimaginably different descriptive than the Christmases of our lifetimes!

Yet, there was gift giving on that first Christmas. While gold, frankincense and myrrh come readily to mind, think about the real gift; it focused on love. The greatest gift of all was given to us accompanied by the

greatest love of all; it's a perpetual gift that belongs to US. Even though we may count our blessings sporadically throughout the year, Christmas is the season that we're all in! During the Christmastime, God resurrects His purpose by repeating that He sent His only son to live among us, with the full realization of what the outcome would be. This is all about the price God paid for us from the start... love is more powerful than we often realize, right? It is simply staggering to think about such a pure, unabashed, honest sacrifice.

This is the peace on earth good will toward men restart; we know the story very well!! To restate what has become a holiday mantra in the Christian community, "*Jesus Is the Reason for the Season*" (truly!). Perhaps next year the title of my Newsletter offering will read something like this: 'Christmas... THE Love Story.'

I wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas!
Gale J. Isaacs



AND THERE WERE IN THE SAME COUNTRY SHEPHERDS ABIDING IN THE FIELD, KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT.

AND, LO, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME UPON THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE ROUND ABOUT THEM AND THEY WERE SORE AFRAID.

AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO THEM, FEAR NOT; FOR, BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE.

FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.

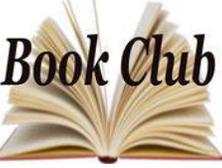
AND THIS SHALL BE A SIGN UNTO YOU; YE SHALL FIND THE BABE WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, LYING IN A MANGER.

AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL A MULTITUDE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST PRAISING GOD, AND SAYING,

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

LUKE 2:8-14

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Advent Begins 9 am Adult Bible Study & Discussion Group 10 am Worship	2 	3 	4 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Advent Worship 7:30 Choir Practice	5	6 	7 9 – 11 am 
8 9 am Adult Bible Study & Discussion Group 10 am Worship 11:30 Council	9 Mary Jo Albert Memorial Christmas Concert 	10 	11 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Advent Worship 7:30 Choir Practice	12	13	14 9 – 11 am 
15 9 am Adult Bible Study & Discussion Group 10 am Worship 11:30 Parish	16	17 7pm <i>Inspirational</i> 	18 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Advent Worship 7:30 Choir Practice	19	20	21 9 – 11 am 
22 9 am Adult Bible Study & Discussion Group 10 am Worship Kids Christmas Program	23 	24 	25 	26	27	28 9 – 11 am 
29 9 am Adult Bible Study & Discussion Group 10 am Worship w/ Hymn Sing 11:30 Property	30	31 				

children's program



Mary Jo Albert Memorial Christmas Concert

December 9th at 7:00 pm



Annual

Children's Christmas Program

All children and youth present are welcome to participate. **December 15th** immediately following the 10 am worship service. Please join us in the fellowship hall for hot cocoa and Christmas cookies.

We welcome all bakers to make a plate of your favorite Christmas confections to share.

Merry Christmas!
Christian Ed.



December 14

7:15 appetizers 8:00 worship

Make plans now to come to Camp Agapé for a fun evening of fellowship, light holiday fare, and a unique presentation of the Christmas story.

Delicious food!

Sample delicious savory and sweet holiday fare, and step into the photo booth for a friends or family holiday portrait.

Fellowship

Afterwards you will follow "Mary & Joseph" along festively lit trails, sing Christmas carols and finish the evening with a candle-lit service at the Lakeside Chapel.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Start a new Christmas tradition at Camp Agapé! Save the date, mark your calendar. Contact Dave Hash for tickets or more information.

We hope you plan to attend!