

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

February 2020



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

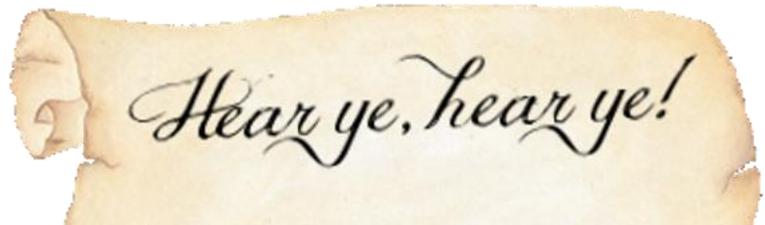
Email: LordofLife2100@gmail.com
Pastor's Email: wdubnansky@gmail.com
Website: www.lordoflifechurchgarnernc.org
Office (919) 772-9044



WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

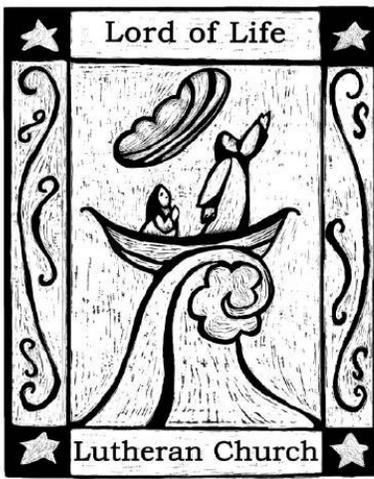
9:00 am
**Bible Study &
Discussion Group**

10:00 am
Worship Service



Pastor Wayne has given up his land line phone!
You can still reach him at the church: (919)-772-9044
or on his cell phone number: (919)-358-1751





Life-Lines



(919) 772-9044
February 2020

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

At the last church council meeting I was tasked with asking those who are receiving "Living Lutheran" magazine to consider whether you want to keep receiving it. I was told one could read it online. I can not speak for others, but I will not sit upright in front of a computer and read, be it a magazine or book. Nonetheless, I have to wonder if one could get anything online for free. I know, as a subscriber to the News and Observer, I could not get digital news without subscribing. In my feeble attempt to access the magazine on line, I failed, but I will get over it. My self-esteem is intact. Moreover, some of us may not have access to a computer. Nonetheless, if you wish not to receive the magazine anymore at the very reasonable congregational subscription, please let me know and I will cancel your subscription. My concern is, and I may be overreacting, that there are several budget lines that I would deem less significant for the church with a higher dollar amount. My second concern is that this is a sign that our Lutheran Identity is slowly going by the wayside. However, this is a good segue to what I want to stress in this piece.

The fact that we are a Lutheran Church does not reduce the importance that we are a Christian Church. "Lutheran" is a means to describe who we are and what we stand for. Martin Luther risked his life to stand up for his beliefs. Take some time to think for yourself what it means to you that we are Lutheran.

The following are just some ways I see what it means to be a Lutheran Church.

First of all, I hope we would all feel pride in our Lutheran heritage, a heritage that goes back 502 years

to the Reformation. The grandmother of one of my students, Lasha, whom some of you have met, responded when I told her I was Lutheran, "Oh, they do good things". We can be proud to say "the Reformation started with Luther, Melanchthon, and maybe Luther's wife Katie."

Second, we are liturgical. Each Sunday morning involves a liturgy, "a formulary according to which public Christian worship is conducted." It is a liturgy more like a Catholic Mass than a free flowing style of worship.

Third, we recognize two sacraments, Baptism and Holy Communion, and one we receive as a gift of God's grace each Sunday.

Fourth, we adhere to the belief of JBF "Justification By Faith" through God's grace.

Fifth, we, as are all Lutheran churches, are all about social justice issues which are embodied in our brief mission statement "Sharing God's Love With All".

I once had someone mention to me that Faith Christian Church up Aversboro Road had their people parking on the grass. Meaning they had overflow crowds - and we don't. That person needed to "research" such a statement since their parking lot is one third the size of ours.

We need to know who we are and take pride in the fact that we are

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

I personally really take pride in the fact that we are a Lutheran Church comprised of many people with diverse backgrounds.

Pastor Wayne

Social

Concerns

Ministry



[Job 10:12](#)

*"You gave me life and showed me **kindness**, and in your providence watched over my spirit." NIV*

[Colossians 3:12](#)

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness and patience." NIV*

Your Social Concerns committee has been very busy! Thank you SO much for your generous donations of gifts to provide a real Christmas for five families in the Garner area. This was a change in what the committee usually does for the Angel Tree, but it was definitely successful. We have decided to provide for four families next year in addition to providing financial support to the four Garner elementary schools to purchase Christmas gifts for their students.

We also enjoyed a new band at the Mary Jo Albert Memorial Christmas Concert. I hope many of you were able to attend. The Celtic group from White Memorial Presbyterian Church was excellent. It was especially wonderful that they explained their instruments and why they chose each song and how they combined a traditional Irish song with a Christmas carol. The results were amazing!

We wrapped up our Wake Up and Read book drive on January 31st. Thank you again for your generous donations! Last year we donated over 200 books. We hope to at least meet that goal this year too.

February is SOUPer Bowl collection month for Garner Area Ministries. There will be a bin in the narthex to collect cans of soup, but of course, ANY food donations are greatly appreciated by GAM.

Lord of Life will host the One Day Retreat on Saturday, February 15th from 9:30 am until 1:30-ish. Lunch will be provided. Our program title is "How Can Hospice Help?" This retreat is sponsored by the NC

Women of the ELCA, but EVERYONE is welcomed to join in the fun. We will have small group sessions and a craft! We will welcome many ladies from other churches. It is always fun to make a new friend!

Blessings,

Alecia Harrison and Gale Isaacs
Co-Chairs, Social Concerns committee

NC Women of the ELCA One-Day Retreat

**– Hospice –
A Helper as we Face
the End of Life
Why is it needed?**

How Can
Hospice Help?



Saturday, February 15, 2020
Check-in/Fellowship – 8:30 am

Program - 9:00 am until around 1:30 pm.

\$10 Registration Fee - Includes:
Continental breakfast, lunch, & program materials

Women do not have to be Lutheran to enjoy this retreat, so bring friends, family, and neighbors.

Encourage teens and young women too.

Please bring your Bible!

Registration Deadline:
February 3, 2020



Let's Go Back!

You know, perhaps it would be okay to be six-years old again... in a manner of speaking of course (first grade was really cool!). I've been daydreaming a bit and reminiscing about the days when life "seemed" simpler. I say "seemed" because for many people the right here-and-now has always been the norm... the hustle, the bustle, the every-day-a-news-story to dread, the threat of war, public bullying, and the like. When we were six, all we knew were our colors, how to add numbers, and the words to 'Old McDonald Had A Farm.' At school we had snack, recess, gym and fieldtrips. It was a time when what we didn't know didn't bother us, and we would not have cared in the first place... we were kids! Somebody else bought the food, worried about money to get the car fixed, paid the bills, and juggled how to find the time to jump the countless day-to-day hurdles.

Okay, so *maybe* being six is going a bit far back but, just for a day or two, I would absolutely love to go back. I want to go back far enough to where I think that the world is fair and everyone in it is honest and good... I want to be happy because I don't know what should make me sad, and that if I'm happy, so is everybody else... I want to believe in the possibility of a pure, universal goodness; I want to go to *Burger King* and think it's the best place in the world to eat! Remember when we used to fantasize about what we'd be when we grew up? We didn't give a second thought about it not working out! Why? Because the next day or two would bring yet another awe-inspiring path to explore and we'd just change directions! I want THAT time back!

But alas, then came that old thing called growing up (maturity is optional); that part of life where we learned too much about stuff that wasn't on our radar... world hunger, abused kids, illness, and homelessness. And death! I could no longer think that everyone, including myself, would live forever... now THAT was an eye-opening concept (along with no more watching the Mickey Mouse Club for moral fortitude)!

Now-a-days I can no longer use that time in my life as pure unadulterated escapism... it's gone... forever! I have a mountain of papers on my desk, my computer crashes whenever it chooses, I lost a close friend, I battle with my colleagues... I can never be six again! But wait... let's think about this! The 18th chapter of Matthew reads, "*Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*" So, I can! I can be six again! No, not chronologically, but in the best way possible; I can be six again... in *SPIRIT*!

Be blessed.
Gale J. Isaacs





A HIDDEN LIFE: A REVIEW

A “Hidden Movie”, my words since it is not having a wide distribution. What an incredibly “moving movie”, yes a pun intended. After seeing this historic gem, I had a restless sleep.

There are incredible scenes of the idyllic village of St. Radegund in Austria where Franz and Franziska Jaegerstatter live a simple but hard life, eventually adding three daughters to their family.

When war breaks out, Franz goes to basic training but is sent home after France is overwhelmed by German troops.

It is a love story and a family story. Franz and “Fani” (Franziska) adore their daughters and the daughters could not be brought up in a more loving environment. That family is extended to include Franz’s mother, and Fani’s sister. Franz is called up again. He reports but will not pledge allegiance to Hitler or the Third Reich. He was Germany’s most famous conscientious objector. He is imprisoned for 3 months, tried and executed.

Above I described my post night of sleep as restless because I would never consider following through with his objection, especially since he was given several opportunities to sign allegiance and then work a non-combative job while still serving his country. His German interrogators emphasized no one will even know his sacrifice, and he would be leaving behind his beautiful family.

See the movie if you choose because of his faith in God which some critics say is not showcased enough; but when it is, it is powerful.

See the movie if you choose because of the type of loving support Fani gives him despite the hardship she knows will await her and her family due to Franz’s strong convictions.

See the movie knowing the aspects of Franz and Fani’s lives that are not told in it.

This one is important. Franz was beatified in 2007 (the village of St. Radegund was Roman Catholic including Franz and Fani). It was thought no one was ever beatified with the widow, the surviving spouse or any spouse for that matter, attending. She was 94 years old at the time. Their three daughters all were in attendance as well. Fani lived two weeks after her hundredth birthday. The movie certainly shows that a hard work ethic which she had might result in long life.

As I looked through the Academy award nominees, not a one was garnered for A Hidden Life. Franziska Jaegerstatter was well-portrayed by August Diehl, but my hat goes off to Valerie Pachner who gives an inspired performance of the wife left behind.

As I alluded to above, the way the Austrian farming village is portrayed is a historic and period masterpiece.

~ Pastor Wayne





Lord of Life Council

Annual Meeting Update

The changes to the Lord of Life Governing Documentation were approved with 38 of the 39 members voting yes. These changes align the rules to how we operate. Some examples of the updates include the size and makeup of the mutual ministry committee and the need to have a written ballot for council elections if there are only three candidates. We also clarified wording about voting membership to reduce confusion.

Lord of Life Council

The follow candidates for council were affirmed during the meeting, receiving 39 votes by written ballot.

Steve Brantley (3-year term – 2020, 2021 & 2022)

Alecia Harrison (3-year term – 2020, 2021 & 2022)

Tess Andrews (3-year term – 2020, 2021 & 2022)



Thanks to the nominating committee for their efforts and to these individuals as they begin their terms January 27, 2020. The Leadership Retreat is scheduled for February 8th, 2020 from 10 am to 1 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend, and all committees are urged to have at least one representative there to help prepare for the coming year. Please let Alecia Harrison or Don Craig know if you plan to be there.

Kitchen Changes: The Property Committee and Lord of Life Council continue gathering information on a

potential kitchen remodel. In October 2019, it was brought to Council's attention by the Property Committee that there is a need for updating the 30-year-old kitchen. Dan Hayes and Lindsay Crocker met with members of the Property Committee and members of the congregation who use the kitchen regularly for Rotary and Fellowship to look closer at the needs and come up with some priorities. In order of priority, the needs for the kitchen were identified as:

- * New countertops
- * Larger more functional sink
- * New cabinets with more storage
- * Storage
- * Ovens
- * Prep Space
- * Microwave and dishwasher integrated into the kitchen
- * Larger refrigerators and access to a freezer in the kitchen.
- * Popcorn ceiling removal as it holds moisture, grease, and dirt
- * Lighting

The committee will be gathering itemized quotes for the effort for review by the congregation and additional discussions about what we can and should do going forward. I want to thank those who asked questions and expressed their concerns during the meeting.

Fond Farewell

As I leave my council duties behind, I want to thank my fellow council members Linda Garoutte, Dave Hash, Dan Hayes, Julie Bogle, and Sarah Watkins for their support and efforts this year, and Shannon's leadership and guidance. I thank Alecia for her support as my Vice President and gratitude for her commitment to continue in her own term on council. Best of luck to our newest council members, Tess Andres and Steven Brantley in their journey. I'll be watching from the background as you work to move Lord of Life forward.

And last but not least, my thanks to the congregation for your comments and guiding suggestions that helped us stay focused on your needs and desires.

Yours in Christ,

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



Thank you to Linda Garoutte for setting up the altar for Sunday service during the month of January. To all those attending the Altar Guild Meeting on January 11th, thank you, and thank you to all those helping to take down the Christmas decorations. We are all eager to set things up but hesitant to take them down. After our work was done we gathered in the fellowship hall and enjoyed a delicious luncheon.

We are currently in the Epiphany season of the church year, soon to be followed by Ash Wednesday on February 26th and six weeks of Lent bringing us to Palm Sunday and Easter. The next meeting of the Altar Guild will be Saturday, April 4th in the church library followed by preparing and cleaning up all communion vessels for Easter.

If you would be interested in working with the Altar Guild please plan on attending the meeting. For any additional information please contact Carol at (919) 553-5984.

God Bless everyone.

~ Carol Wallace



The LOL Men's Club met on Friday January 3rd to enjoy an excellent meal provided primarily by Terry Barnes, and good fellowship. Eric Roeser, our new President, led the business meeting that was centered around planning for our annual Valentine's Day dinner that will take place on Friday February 14th. Initial planning for our annual Pine Straw Sale was also made. Gerry Havenstein will lead the Pine Straw Sale effort, and most of the physical work for that sale will take place on March 21st and 28th. Please place these dates on your calendar and help us make the sale a big success.

The annual Valentine's Day Dinner for the congregation will be held on Friday February 14th at 7 pm. The dinner will again have an Italian Theme, and a sign-up sheet for those planning to attend has been placed on the bulletin board in the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. If you plan to participate, please sign-up so the men will know how much food to prepare. A second sign-up sheet has also been put together for Club members so they can indicate what they will be providing for the dinner. President Roeser suggested that we invite the women of the congregation to set one table as part of a "Contest for the best Table Setting" for the dinner. Pastor Dubnansky announced this at one of the Sunday morning services, and to date, 7 women have indicated that they would participate in the contest. The men will provide most of the main meal, but as usual we would very much appreciate having other members of the congregation provide side dishes and desserts!! Michele Sidebottom will bring her flute playing talents for your entertainment.



Camp Agape: Tim Clark, Gerry Havenstein and Dave Hash went to Camp Agape in early December to install six commemorative bricks in the John Swanson Memorial Patio, including the ones that were purchased by the LOL Men's Club in honor of John Swanson, Herb Liebsch, and Don Stang. Clark, Havenstein, Garoutte and Hash also spent part of the Day on December 10th helping put out the luminary lights for the O Holy Night pageant. About 40 members of the LOL congregation attended the pageant on Saturday, December 15th, and it was a great way to kick off the Christmas season.

Shredding Date for 2020: Terry Barnes has set the date for our next annual "LOL Shredding Day" Fund Raiser for Saturday April 18th, 2020. He has already secured the Shredding Truck for that date.

Our next Men's Club meeting: We will meet at 7 pm on Friday, March 6th. Come join us and enjoy the fellowship. Club wives and other church women will join together for their monthly meet and eat.

Gerry Havenstein,
Men's Group Secretary

VISION 2020

2020: The Year of Seeing Clearly

Here we are at the dawn of a new decade. Some might argue that because we start counting things with “one,” not zero, the new decade will not arrive until 2021, but I am not persuaded. The change of two digits is more attention-grabbing than a single shift, and certainly 2020 belongs to the 2020’s more than the 2010’s.

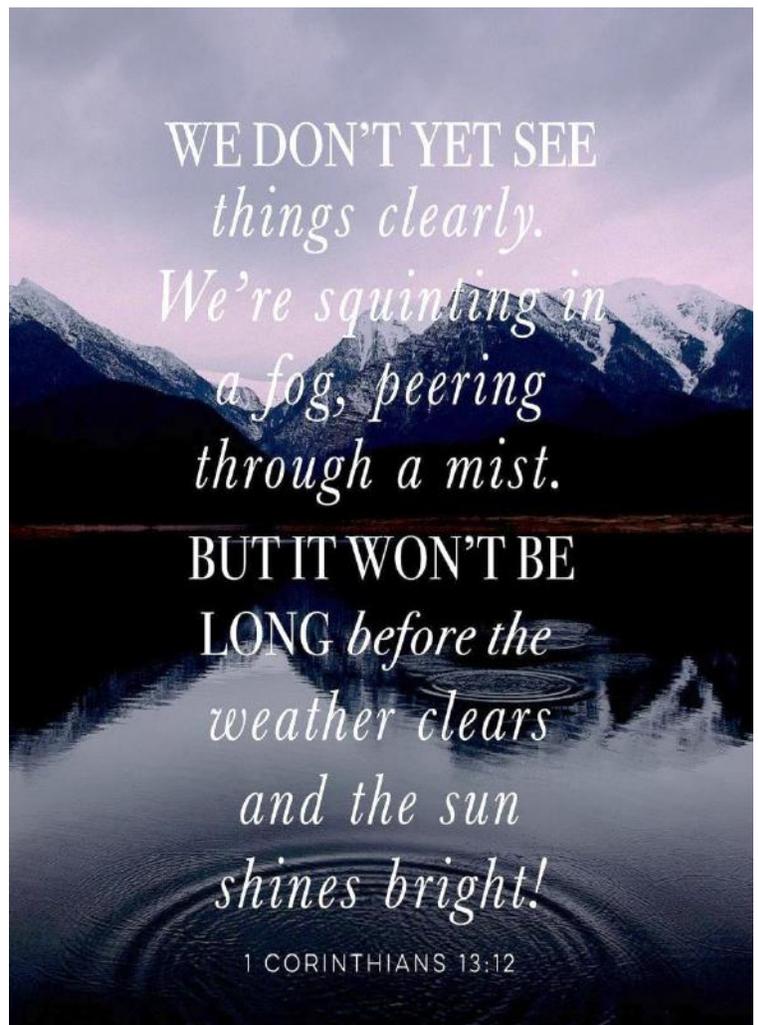
When I was younger and my memory may have been better, a new decade seemed like a big event. Lately, though, they seem to blur past like trees seen through the window of a speeding train. As so often happens, we again have arrived at a destination that once seemed very far off. Especially the year 2020 reminds us of so many long-range visioning committees and civic planning commissions--initiated long ago, and perhaps by now long defunct—that operated under clever names like “enVision 2020.” A church I served in Madison had a similar committee in the early 90’s. It was just a few people, and their work was very unlike any other committee or work group at the church. They looked at demographic trends, schools, city planning. Truly, I don’t know what all they looked at, and I’m not sure how often they met, but whenever I saw them emerge from the Senior Pastor’s study or wherever they worked, their eyes sparkled with excitement.

Epiphany is often about seeing things for the first time or seeing them in a new way. It is surely no coincidence that the season of Epiphany occurs near the beginning of the year. New Year’s resolutions are just one way we acknowledge new possibilities and our own longing for transformation and renewal. Culminating with the Transfiguration, Epiphany is a season that celebrates big transformations one after the other, all season long. Epiphany is a season of signs, revelations, and wonders: water gets changed into wine, the lame walk, ears are unstopped, the blind see. Epiphany shows us some other life-

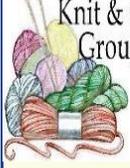
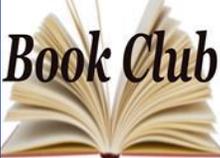
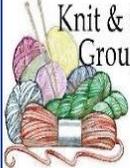
changing transformations as well. Foreign scholars embark on a long journey into the unknown. Fishermen leave their nets. Matthew abandons the tax table. Epiphany reminds us that we and the world we live in are not yet too old to be transformed. If faith and love do not yet entirely convince us that transformation is possible, then let us not fail to hope.

In worship, we connect with the past, the present, and the future. We read and hear ancient scripture. We celebrate community as we sing hymns together. Most of our hymns were written in the past two centuries, but some are much older. Some of our liturgical texts date to the earliest Christian centuries, and the psalms of course are much older. Even while elevating ancient texts we also look forward to a promised future when we shall see “not through a glass darkly, but face to face” (1 Corinthians 13:12). Between now and then we hope to see a bit of transformation in ourselves and the world around us. For now, we celebrate (or aim for) 2020 vision.

Yours,
Brad Hunnicutt



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9 – 11 am Knit & Crochet Group 
2 9 am Adult Bible Study & Discussion Group 10 am Worship	3	4	5 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7:30 Choir Practice	6	7 No Men's Group Meeting Tonight	8 9 – 11 am Knit & Crochet Group 10 - 1 Leaders' Retreat
9 9 am Adult Bible Study & Discussion Group 10 am Worship	10	11	12 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7:30 Choir Practice	13	14 7 pm Valentine's Day DINNER PARTY 	15 9 – 11 am Knit & Crochet Group 
16 9 am Adult Bible Study & Discussion Group 10 am Worship 11:30 Parish	17	18 7pm <i>Inspirational</i> 	19 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7:30 Choir Practice	20  Social Concerns Ministry 6 pm	21	22 9 – 11 am Knit & Crochet Group 
23 9 am Adult Bible Study & Discussion Group 10 am Worship 11:30 Property	24 	25 6 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 	26 7 am Rotary Breakfast  ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 pm Worship 7:30 Choir Practice	27	28	29 9 – 11 am Knit & Crochet Group 

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.

Friends & family of Betty Nalepa who passed on 1/19; Dennis King; Carol Wallace; Shirley Poole; Monna Stamm; Ken Fillingim; Peg Stamp, myeloma;

Bob Watkins – cardio & kidney issues; Linda Hash’s Aunt and Cousin, Viva and Ellen Dumas – burns from a kitchen fire; Alice Austin’s friend, Kathy Koonce – brain tumor; Ebony Avery and Stacey Foley, co-workers of Sarah Watkins – breast cancer; 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; Chuck Wallace, Don Wallace’s nephew, health problems; Mary Langworthy’s son Kyle’s Father in Law, Jim Jackson - Multiple Myeloma; Mary Langworthy’s nephew, Blake Evans - Chron’s disease, surgery for severe fistulas and going through a bad divorce/child custody battle; Christine Brennecke - Corticobasal Syndrome; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe.



February

February 3	Daniel Cook
February 9	Paul Finger
	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

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