Pastor Wayne Dubnansky					
Minister of Music Dr. Brad Hunnicutt					
Office ManagerLaura Raun					
Web MasterGray Anthony					
Congregational Council					
Alecia HarrisonPresident					
Linda GaroutteVice President					
Julie BogleSecretary					
Ken Fillingim Treasurer					
Tess Andrews Deputy Treasurer					
Terry BarnesFinancial Secretary					
Sarah Watkins, Steven Brantley, Lindsay					
Crocker, Dave Hash, and Dan Hayes					

#### March 2021



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

# Irish Blessing





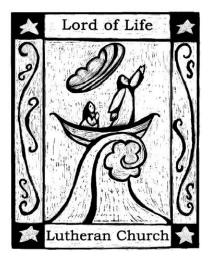
Sundays: 10 & 11 am – In-Person Worship

10 am - Live Stream Virtual Worship via Facebook Live <u>https://www.facebook.com/LoLLCGarner/</u>

**WEATHER PERMITTING** – 11 am Worship will be Outdoors

**Eucharist:** March 7<sup>th</sup> & First Sunday Each Month **Healing Worship:** March 14<sup>th</sup> & Second Sunday of Each Month

Wednesdays: 7 pm Lenten Worship via Facebook Live



# Life-Lines



# March 2021

### WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

Our time leading up to Easter (Lent) and Holy Week and Easter will be "the same and different".

First, it will be the same. We will have midweek Lenten worship, we will have Holy Week worships including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, bookmarked by Palm Sunday and Easter. But they will be different.

Our midweek worships will be only live streamed. Thus, we will have midweek worships at 7 pm on Wednesdays March 3, 10, 17, and 24. I am hopeful that by Holy Week the weather will be favorable enough that we can worship outside in our outdoor chapel. No matter the weather, however, we will continue having two worships each Sunday: live streamed and in person at 10 am as well as 11 am worship either in our outdoor chapel, weather permitting, or in the sanctuary. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worships will be in person in the sanctuary with Stations of the Cross at 12 noon on Good Friday. All worships will be in accordance with Corona virus guidelines.

If the Garner community decides not to have an Easter Sunrise worship at Lake Benson Park, we will have an Easter Sunrise worship in our outdoor chapel in addition to our regular 10 am Celebration of the Resurrection.

We can take some good things away from the Corona virus pandemic. First of all, we will always have Sunday worship, since we will always be able to live stream it. Thus, the Gospel of Jesus Christ will always be sent out from the sanctuary even if we are unable to worship in person. As a result of our live streaming of our worship, we are able to expand our reach to the Garner community and beyond.

St. Paul tells us in the first chapter of Philippians,

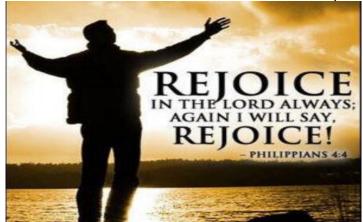
"What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice."

And I repeat with Paul, "yes, and I will continue to rejoice."

The Gospel is proclaimed in person during worship in the sanctuary, it is proclaimed as live streamed, and it is proclaimed on YouTube. However, I say there is more. The Gospel is proclaimed as we live our lives dedicated to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and as we model our lives after the same Lord and Savior Who fed the hungry, hydrated the thirsty, welcomed the stranger, clothed those in need, cared for the sick, and visited those imprisoned. As we know, as we did the above for others, we did it for Jesus.

May the same Jesus continue to bless our proclamation of the Gospel in many and various ways.

~ Pastor Wayne





## From the Desk of Your Council President

Your Church Council continues to meet monthly and oversee church matters for you. Again, I am pleased to tell you that we are paying all our bills and have money in the bank. Unfortunately, we will not have a zero balance budget for 2020 OR 2021. We are falling short by about \$40,000. That being said, we continue to collect money for our Kitchen Renovation and Camera upgrades for our live streaming. Lord of Life continues to be very generous in our giving toward Benevolence to the North Carolina Synod. Thank you for your continued prayers as well as your financial contributions!!!!



Able To Serve made a presentation to the Council at our February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. They plan to increase their number of participants from 38 (current) to 80 in the next three years. They currently are using three of the classrooms in the education building. The last classroom has been made into a Life Skills classroom, including a microwave, washer and dryer. ATS would like to convert that classroom back to a regular classroom and create a Life Skills classroom somewhere inside the main church building.

I need to know WHAT your questions are and any concerns that you have so that we can have a clear understanding between Lord of Life and Able To Serve. Any space within the church building would have to be SHARED space. The Council will work with ATS to get a proper proposal of what we can agree upon to present to the Congregation at our next Congregational meeting, whenever that will be. I am hopeful that we will have lessened restrictions on gathering soon but understand that many of you are still avoiding crowds whenever possible. It will be several months after we CAN gather before we will have enough people present to make a quorum. I have been in contact with the Synod about HOW we can have a vote on several of our big issues during the pandemic. Your Council has decided to err on the side of caution and wait to hold our Congregational meeting in person when it is safe to do so.

And finally, we are in need of a new Treasurer. I have reached out to both Becky Babel and Harry Albert. Both of them are very busy and unable to take on this responsibility at

this time.

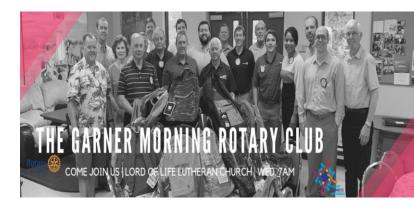
A TREAURER is the chief financial officer of the congregation and serves as the chairperson of the Finance Committee



which includes Tess Andrews as Deputy Treasurer and Terry Barnes as Financial Secretary. The Treasurer is responsible for providing a written report of all financial transactions to the Congregational Council each month and is available for the Council meeting in person or virtually. The Treasurer also submits an annual report to the Congregation for the Annual Meeting.

If you are interested in serving as our Treasurer, PLEASE let me know!

Blessings, Alecia Harrison Council President



The Garner Rotary Club will resume their Wednesday morning in-person breakfasts on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a very important fund raiser for your Social Concerns Committee, and any and all help putting on these breakfasts is always greatly appreciated!! Please contact Helen Holderman if you are able to volunteer.





## March... Onward Christian Soldiers!

"...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Luke 6:38

Well, last month showed no scarcity of benevolence afforded the people and charities with whom we work. As a matter of fact, we are still, by the Grace of God, able to provide in our usual manner albeit, from-time-to-time with few minor adjustments.

Our customary donations to Garner Area Ministries in February is aptly called 'SOUP-er Bowl' month and we rose to the occasion (even if a favored team did not win the football game) and contributions of soup appeared in the donation boxes. We designate this month of March as the personal care and household items collection period. However, any and all donations aside from the month's theme are welcomed and greatly appreciated.

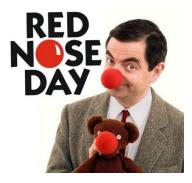
The Annual *Wake-Up and Read* Book Drive continues to be a part of our focus and we are collecting books until mid-March this year. Two new direct involvements include a contribution to the Raleigh-Wake Homelessness Program and, as an added layer of support, our Holiday Cheer Family will receive a quarterly gift card to help them throughout the year with generic items.

We sounded the trumpet (via email of course) for 2021 Summer Camp scholarship applications. The application process was modified to new specifications that are easy to address and very doable. Camp Agapé has taken all of the needed precautions and moved ahead with its summer camp offerings for 2021. The different camp

descriptions can be found on their website with instructions for completing the necessary camp application per usual. If more information is needed to consider the scholarship itself, please contact Gale or Alecia... there is no place quite like summer camp! The Agapé-Kure Beach Ministries sponsor faith-based camps that integrate church ministries with the experience of going to camp. Together with the Lord of Life Men's Group we encourage our young folks' participation in the camp experience which in turn fosters their participation in the church. There is a camp for every age/grade from elementary to high school! Camp has it all... they can swim, hike, sing, meet new friends, reconnect with the camp staffers; it's a grand time!

Social Concerns could not function without your strong congregational support; thank you... we're all in this together.

> Gale Isaacs and Alecia Harrison Social Concerns Committee Co-Chairs



Red Nose Day seeks to end child poverty by funding programs that keep children safe, healthy, and educated. This day aims to use the power of entertainment to bring people together

to laugh and have fun. The red nose is a calling card that encourages people to come together, share a laugh, and give the world something to smile about. In 2021 this day falls on March 19<sup>th</sup>.





We will not hold a meeting of the LOL Men's Club during the month of March, but we will have one at 7:00 pm on Friday April 9<sup>th</sup>. Information about that meeting will be sent out to the members in late March.

Terry Barnes has made arrangements for our annual LOL Paper Shredding Day. That event is scheduled for Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am until noon. Terry will need a minimum of 5-6 volunteers to help carry out this fund raiser. Please let him know, if you can help.



As everyone is aware, for the past 10-12 years, we have sold about 1,400 bales of pine straw for our major annual fund raiser. Due to the health and age of several of us who have previously carried out this very physical activity, we will not have a pine straw sale this year and probably not in the future, unless some younger members step forward to lead and carry out the work involved.

The past few months have been extremely difficult for the Men's club. The passing of Ken Fillingim a few weeks ago is a big loss to the club. Ken, even though he had some long term, serious health issues, when his health permitted he was always there to help out with cooking or other club projects. He was also overseeing the budgeting process for LOL. Ken also regularly helped out Nick and Sharon Vietri by driving them to many of their appointments. He was a good man, and our sympathies go out to Steve Brantley and all the rest of Ken's family.

The news that we received from Pastor Dubnansky via Linda Hash about Dave Hash, is also a major blow to the LOL Men's Club. Dave has served and helped lead the Club faithfully in so many ways. He has been the Club Treasurer for as long as I can remember, and he was always involved in all of our fund raisers and other club activities. He was also one of the leaders for all of the work projects that the Club carried out for Camp Agape. Dave also taught Rocketry for campers for several years. Sincere thoughts and prayers from all of the Men's Club members go out to Dave and Linda and their great family during this difficult time.

I want to also mention that, even though Dan Stamm had not been active in the LOL Men's Club for a number of years, all of us also mourn his passing. We truly miss him, and especially his always friendly demeanor and stories. We extend our sympathies to Mona and all of the other members of their family.

Gerry Havenstein, Secretary

Zero Discrimination Day aims to celebrate individuality, inclusion and human rights while promoting tolerance, compassion and peace. Discrimination refers to the selective practice of unfairly treating a person or a group of people differently than others due to factors such as religion, gender, race, sexuality,



age or disability. Despite laws and education, discrimination contines to be a wide-spread problem throughout the world.

Zero Discrimination Day was first celebrated in 2013 by the United Nations HIV/AIDS Program UNAIDS. The following year, the UN and other global organizations officially celebrated the day in an effort to promote everyone's right to live a full life with dignity regardless of age, gender, sexuality, nationality, ethnicity skin color, height, weight, profession, education, and beliefs.



At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him." Mark 1:9-13, NIV

I have never noticed when reading this passage that Jesus was <u>immediately</u> pushed into the wilderness after He was baptized by John. AND that He was in the wilderness with <u>wild beasts</u>.

This is another contemporary Christian song, but the words really apply....

#### Evidence by Josh Baldwin

All throughout my history Your faithfulness has walked beside me The winter storms made way for spring In every season, from where I'm standing I see the evidence of Your goodness All over my life, all over my life I see Your promises in fulfillment All over my life, all over my life Help me remember when I'm weak Fear may come but fear will leave You lead my heart to victory You are my strength and You always will be I see the evidence of Your goodness All over my life, all over my life I see Your promises in fulfillment All over my life, all over my life See the cross, the empty grave The evidence is endless All my sin rolled away Because of You, oh Jesus See the cross, the empty grave The evidence is endless All my sin rolled away

Because of You, oh Jesus I see.

Lent is NOT my favorite season of the church year. It seems dark and depressing. Unfortunately most of 2020 and 2021 have been dark and depressing. And there has been so much death. So we are already experiencing our personal wilderness since we are limited by what we can do and who we can do it with. This year, I will view Lent as a time to look deep inside myself. Confess my sins to my Loving Father and think about what I can do to make the world a better place. Jesus is in the details of our lives. Me messing up is something that will always happen. Every day I am spared the punishment that I deserve for my sin. Jesus has already taken the punishment for me! What an amazing gift! And this gift never expires because God does not change! Wow!

Remember that Jesus is Lord! Start every day with this thought. Say it out loud! Jesus is Lord! And none of our suffering is wasted.



God hears all of our cries. God is full of compassion and love for each of us. He already knows what we have done, but it helps us to say our mistakes out loud and ask for forgiveness. Let us be the Light shining in this dark world. We might be the only face of Christ that someone sees on a given day.

And another song by Toby Mac, <u>Help is On the</u> <u>Way...,</u> taken from a passage in Psalms describing God as rolling up His sleeves to do the hard work for us!

May be midnight or mid-day Never early, never late He gon' stand by what He claimed Lived enough life to say...

<u>I</u> heard your heart, I see your pain Out in the dark, out in the rain Feels so alone, feels so afraid I heard you pray in Jesus' name

Help is on the way Roundin' the corner Help is on the way Comin' for ya Help is on the way I lived enough life to say... Help is on the way

Sometimes it's days, sometimes it's years Some face a lifetime of fallen tears But He's in the darkness, He's in the cold Just like the mornin', He always shows Well, I seen my share o' troubles But the Lord ain't failed me yet So I'm holdin' onto the promise, y'all That He's **rollin' up His sleeves again** Said, I seen my share of troubles But the Lord ain't failed me yet We'll keep holdin' onto the promise, y'all That He's **rollin' up His sleeves again** 

Fountain of Living Water, pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love, Amen.



A Gift of the Soul

I completely scrapped the article that I had originally started. Not because it wouldn't 'fly', but because my heart had a turn when I read the email summarizing Dave Hash's medical status. I **Jove** Dave Hash; I know that I'm among many and we are praying for him in ways that we didn't know we knew how to until now; he is a gift. I'm not making this all about Dave, but I've met very few people like him, and for as long as I have known him there has <u>never</u> been a single, solitary time that he's been anything other than the Dave I first met. Not in his demeanor, his actions, his wit (OMG that wit!), humor, gentleness, time spent, and kindness. These adjectives are Dave-descriptives that can be summed up in one word... generosity.

I truly believe that generosity is a gift of the soul. Yes, we all are generous in one way or another, and some more than others, but that doesn't translate to generosity being a *gift of the soul*. Generosity isn't always about giving physical things that you can touch or feel; sometimes it's a nice, simple thought or prayer. It's about being there time and time again to offer something as unsophisticated as a smile, and the upside is that often times the benefactor isn't even necessarily aware of the effect.

Did you ever read a book in elementary school entitled "The Giving Tree?" It's an old, old children's book by Shel Silverstein. For those of you who need a refresher, it begins with an apple tree (yeah, I know, you're thinking, "really?"). The tree loved a young boy and the boy loved the tree as well. The tree happily gave the boy whatever she could... shade, apples, fun swinging from her branches and climbing her trunk... it was all good! Generosity abounded; the tree even let the boy carve his initials into her!

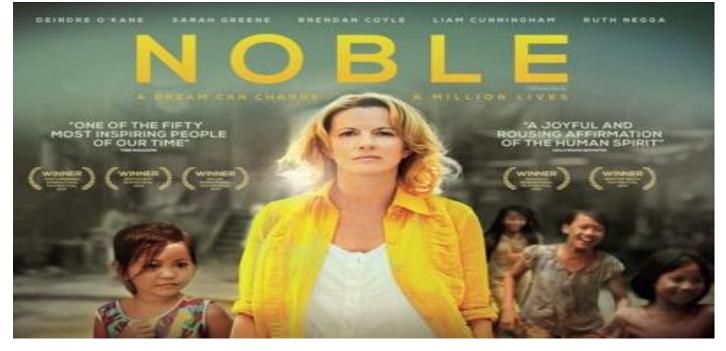
As the boy grew up he spent less and less time with the tree; this made the tree lonely and sad. After a while he would popup again, but not to play. When he wanted to make money, the tree let him sell her apples; when he wanted to build a tree house, she gave him her branches; when he wanted to build a boat, she gave him her trunk. Every time the tree gave boy something, it made her happy! So, she kept on giving and giving (you know where this is going, right?) and then, he went off to live his life.

The tree's generosity was a gift of the soul. This is such a God-like analogy! Who keeps on giving and giving without reciprocity? Who is always there for us... no matter what? Who cloaks us in divine <u>Grace</u> as a gift of the soul? Only Jesus Christ... our Lord... our brother... our guide... our friend. No, none of us is Godlike, but we all possess a bit of godliness by living a fruitful Christian life as best we can.

You see, many years later the boy returned! An old man now, who over the years had just about stripped the tree of all she had to give. Here she sat, just a withered old stump <u>wishing</u> that she had something left to give him! And, as story tales go, the boy did in fact, need one more thing... a place to sit. The book ends with, "And the tree was very happy." Such generosity; such a gift of the soul! Such a gift from God.

> Be blessed. Gale J. Isaacs





#### **NOBLE: A Review**

From the start, I have to say, "yes, the main character's actual name is Christina Noble, and what a "noble" person she is". I have mentioned her at least twice during worship. The definition of "noble" is "having or showing fine personal qualities or high moral principles or ideals". Bingo, she earns the name Noble.

From the start I will be critical that much of her life seems to be left out or glossed over.

I had mentioned that her mother died when she was 8 years old and the first prayer in the movie was bargaining with God that she would not have to become a great singer, or even go to America if God would not let her mother die (she died of tuberculosis). What I have not yet said is she seemed to turn into a wonderful, charitable adult with virtually no direction from adults in her young life. Since her father did not succeed as a single father, she resided in a convent. Although the nuns cared for her, they did not nurture her. They did not encourage her obvious singing talent.

Perhaps what shines in Christina's young life is her determination to "make it in life" despite the odds against her. It appears that even in her adult life, she was abused by her husband. Somehow she dreams of Vietnam and the children there, and follows her dream. Little is said of her professional life in England, as the film does indicate she grew up in Ireland and moved to England as a young adult. Soon after arriving in Vietnam, we see how persistent she was with the Vietnamese authorities obtaining a time-limited work permit. Note: this was in 1989 just a decade and a half after the war ended, so the authorities were hesitant. It also shows her persistence in convincing a wealthy businessman to finance a medical center for the street children of Ho Chi Minh City. These street children were called the bui doi which is also the way she describes her childhood in Dublin.

The movie ends by saying that Christina positively impacted the lives of 700,000 in Vietnam and Mongolia, but it does not take us to Mongolia which I found disappointing.

The actresses who portray Christina as a child, a young woman, and a middle-age woman going to Vietnam are of less importance than the incredible story line of a children's rights campaigner, charity worker, writer, and founder of the Christina Noble Children's Foundation which is dedicated to serving the physical, medical, educational, and emotional needs of vulnerable children

From all I have read about her, she is still continuing her work on behalf of children of the world at age 78.

Truly an inspiring life, and as I said on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, Christina emerged from the wilderness of her past life to make an incredible impact on children of the world.

If we are able to have a season of Spiritual Cinemas this summer, "Noble", if available, will be shown.



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

Dave Hash; Family of Ken Fillingim; Christine Brennecke, Corticobasal Syndrome; Jim von St. Paul, bladder cancer; Ingrid Albee, long-time friend of the

Dubnansky"s; Roger Baker; Vivian Sagan; Lora Clark's friend, Rebecca Bowman, breast cancer; Sheryll Albert's father, John Pope, and his wife, Barbara Pope; Kevin & his family, stage 4 cancer; Julie Roeser's brother, Paul Panek; Sarah Watkins, as she looks for a new career opportunity; Dennis King, prayer of thanks for improvement; Dennis King's sister, Beverly, several serious health issues; Shirley Poole; Peg Stamp, myeloma & back surgery; Eric Roeser, rotator cuff surgery and MS; Julie Roeser, eye surgery; Alice Austin's friend, Kathy Koonce, brain tumor; Julia Lochra's cousin, Les Salmon, 3<sup>rd</sup> spinal surgery; Tess Andrews brother, David Van Benschoten, multiple myeloma; 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; Pam Klawiter's co-worker, Carolyn Harbertson, breast

cancer; Larry Watson, Joan Stewart's son-inlaw, ICV Stroke; Holly Hans' sister, Heather House and her family; Holly Hans' mother, Carol Hardy; 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; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe.

**PLEASE** review the Prayer & the Birthday Lists and let Laura or Pastor Wayne know of any updates, deletions, or additions.

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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		

## <u>April</u>

April 7	Gray Anthony			
	Trent Ryden			
April 15	Andrew Green			
	Shari Rebbeor			
	Enid Weatherwax			
April 19	Arthur Kyles			
April 19	Roland Kyles			
April 21	Jeannie Stang			
April 24	Shirley Poole			
April 26	Sara Melanie Bollinger			
April 29	Alecia Harrison			
	Chris Thomsen			
April 30	Sarah Rebbeor			



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Worship			Worship	-		1 Hour
			7 pm			- Ne
<b>14</b> 10 am Virt	tual <b>15</b>	16	<b>17</b> 7 am Rota	ry <b>18</b>	19	20
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Worship		223	Worship			PASSOVER ***
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10 & 11 am				day	and and and	
In-Person		5		ully		
Worship	VIETNAM W VETERANS			March	17 <sup>th</sup>	
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SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

**March** 

Abiding in Him

Day 1: Exodus 25:8-9 Day 2: Exodus 29:45-46 Day 3: Deut. 33:27 Day 4: | Samuel 1:22 Day 5: | Kings 8:27 Day 6: Psalm 4:8 Day 7: Psalm 16:9 Day 8: Psalm 61:4 Day 9: Psalm 65:4 Day 10: Psalm 84:1-3 Day 11: Psalm 84:10-11 Day 12: Psalm 90:1-2 Day 13: Psalm 101:7 Day 14: Psalm 140:13 Day 15: Proverbs 1:32-33 Day 16: Isaiah 30:19

Day 17: Isaiah 32:16 Day 18: John 1:1, 14 Day 19: John 6:56 Day 20: John 8:31-32 Day 21: John 15:1-4 Day 22: John 15:5-8 Day 23: John 15:9-10 Day 24: I John 2:4-6 Day 25: I John 2:24, 28 Day 26: I John 3:6 Day 27: I John 3:9 Day 28: I John 3:24 Day 29: I John 4:12-13 Day 30: I John 4:16 Day 31: 2 John 1:9

Commit to spending 10 minutes every day to meditate and reflect on God's Word. Write down what you have gleaned from each day's scripture.

