

September 2021



**Lord of Life
Lutheran Church**
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Office Manager Laura Raun
Web Master Gray Anthony

Congregational Council

Alecia Harrison President
Linda Garoutte Vice President
Julie Bogle Secretary
Open Treasurer
Tess Andrews Deputy Treasurer
Terry Barnes Financial Secretary
Sarah Watkins, Steven Brantley, Lindsay
Crocker, and Dan Hayes

Please pray for the families of the 13 American service members who were just killed in Afghanistan, and all who have been left behind. May God watch over them and keep them safe.



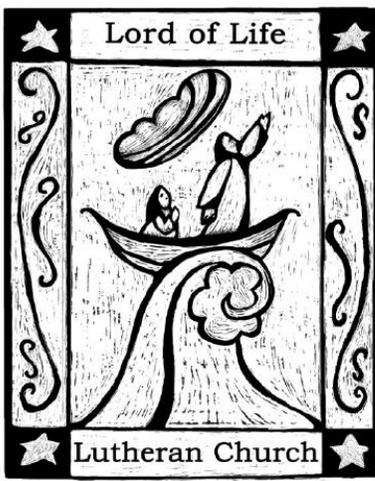
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 10 am – In-Person Worship

10 am - Live Stream Virtual Worship via Facebook

Live <https://www.facebook.com/LoLLCGarner/>

Eucharist: Every Sunday



Life-Lines

September 2021



WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

I am looking upon the coming days, weeks, and months, as somewhat of a coming out time. Thus, I will refresh us with the 5 fingers on a hand analogy as a means of reminding us of the five functions of the Church.

First and foremost is Worship. Worship is what sets us apart as a church. Regular Sunday morning worship can be counted on each Sunday. Even when there is inclement weather, it is my hope worship will happen, and people can make their individual decisions whether to attend worship or not. Ideally, Holy Communion will always be included in Sunday worship.

Second - Nurturing. Nurturing is essential for the vibrancy of Lord of Life. That may occur during Sunday worship; for example, a recent reading during worship included the word "mirror", and we may not have thought the biblical writers had knowledge of a "mirror" or a word for it. Nurturing can occur at 9 am for adults as we study the Old Testament in the fellowship hall or following communion for the children. Nurturing can occur whenever we might spend time together. Someone once mentioned a while back, "I did not KNOW Lutherans were known for coffee." What?? An elderly German man in the first church I served in upstate New York drank coffee so strong I joked I could form sculptures out of it.

Third - In Reach. Since we have been worshipping in the sanctuary I have heard more than once, "It is so good to see you. I have not seen you since the pandemic began." We reach IN to our Lord of Life community of faith physically and personally; but can do that also using our "devices" – cell phones, emails, Facebook, and even written letters sent by post (yes, some of us still do that.)

Fourth - Out Reach. We will soon be welcoming the people of the Garner community to events; the Yard Sale on September 25th and the Blessing of the Animals on October 2nd. There will be a Trick or Treat event in White Deer Park and we will have a table there.

Fifth - Pastoral Care. You may think that is my exclusive realm; nonetheless, you are doing it all the time. You actively listen as someone describes what is happening in their lives - positive and negative. You support them, pray for them, and offer them a hand.

Using the "mirror analogy" again, as you do all five of the functions of ministry outlined above, you are reflecting the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

~ Pastor Wayne





From the Desk of Your Council President

The Church Council and Committee Leaders affirmed our ministry at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in a 5 hour coaching session on August 13-14th. We learned many things led by Heidi Kleine, a NC Synod sponsored coach. Heidi helped your leaders to identify many issues but we also identified four goals that we will work on this year. I feel that these goals are doable and achievable.

No one's expectations were met this past year. We need to give ourselves time to grieve over any loss, and we ALL experienced loss this year... from loss of a loved one to loss of spending time with our church family every week. Heidi gave us a homework assignment... I recommend that everyone try this! Reflect on the Covid year... why are you sad? Write a letter to someone in the future... future grandchildren or great-grandchildren (especially if this person has yet to be born!) Describe what you learned this past year and how you grew because of the challenges you experienced.

We will have small group sessions in September to get your input on how we get to these goals and what success looks like. I hope we find more ways to build up our ministries. With everyone's input, we will be able to craft an awesome plan that we all have a part in achieving our success! Everyone wins!

2022 Lord of Life Lutheran Church goals:

1. Worship opportunities that nurture people and deepen your personal relationship with God
2. Incorporate people of all ages to use their gifts in our ministries
3. Help members live out their Faith in daily lives
4. Create excitement within and without our community.

Thanks to Becky Babel, Tess Andrews and Lindsey Crocker for their many hours of work to reconcile the church accounting system utilizing the new ParishSoft software. And I appreciate the faithful members of

Lord of Life that continue to make regular donations to maintain our ministries. Your prayers are always appreciated and needed. Thank you.

We currently have on-line giving set up. You may access the link on the Lord of Life website. It is pretty easy to get set up. I did it in a few minutes.

“For,” said Peter, “it is written in the Book of Psalms: “‘May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,’ and, “‘May another take his place of leadership.’” ~ Acts 1:20, NIV

We are looking for FOUR new Council members to serve from January 2022 to February 2025. If you are interested, please ask me or one of our current Council members.

We continue to provide fellowship opportunities outside of Sunday worship. We had a movie night on August 20th – “Only the Brave”. We enjoyed a pizza and salad dinner and popcorn during the movie. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped out with movie night.

Our next big activities will be the Church-Wide Clean Up Day on Saturday, September 11th. I hope many people will be able to help. We will gather from 10 am until 1 pm.



Rally Day is Sunday, September 12th.

We will have a Pot Luck Luncheon and a service project to make “Zoom Bags”.

These bags will have a T-Shirt, a bottle of water, a pack of nabs, and a granola bar. You can give out a Zoom Bag when you come across someone asking for help on the side of the road.

And finally, the Annual Yard Sale will be on Saturday, September 25th. Start cleaning out your closets now! This is a fun day that we can also use everyone's support! Hope to see you there!

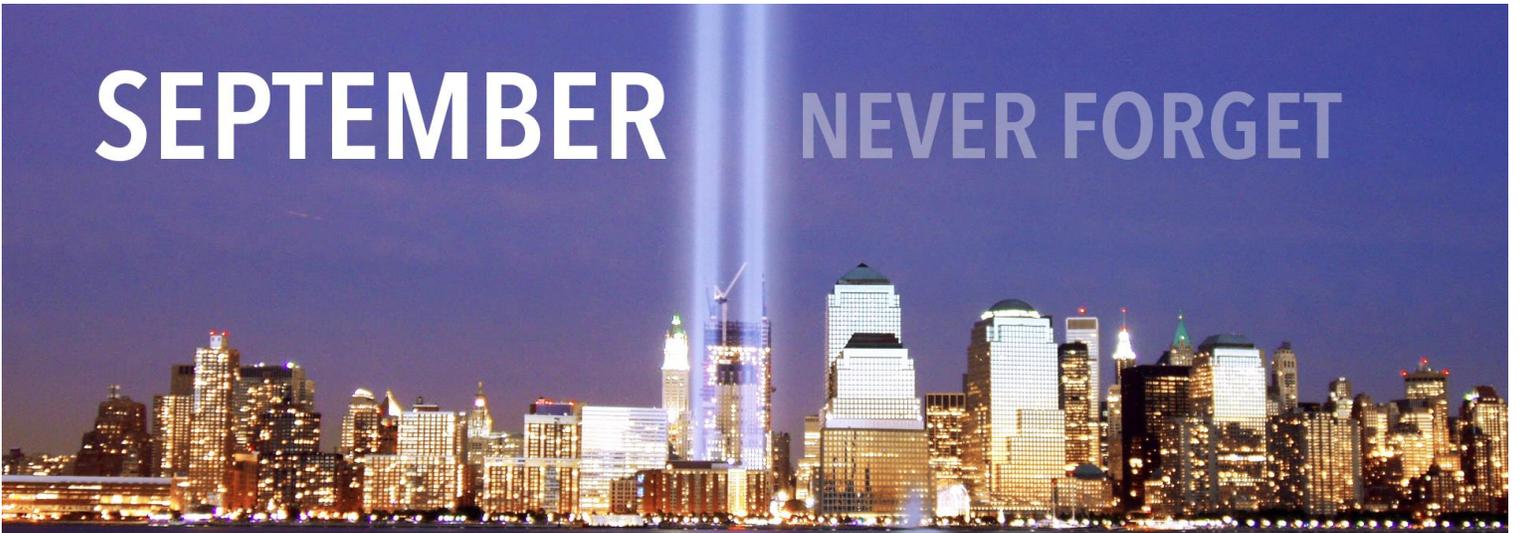


Blessings,

Alecia Harrison, Council President

SEPTEMBER

NEVER FORGET



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Every Sunday 9 am Coffee w/ Pastor Wayne 10 am Virtual & In-Person Worship	6	7  National Beer Lovers Day	8	9	10  WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY	11 Patriot Day 
12  Rally SUNDAY	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY 	20	21	22 Happy FALL y'all 	23	24	25 CHURCH YARD SALE 
26 GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY 	27	28	29 HAPPY National COFFEE day! 	30		



CODA: A Review

Coda in music is often a concluding section in a musical composition. Appropriately, music plays a large role in the film. Coda is also an abbreviation for Children of Deaf Adults. So Ruby is a 17 year old child of deaf parents in the film CODA, the only member of her family with hearing ability. Both her parents and brother are played by deaf actors, the most famous is Oscar-winner Marlie Matlin who plays Ruby's mother. Her father, Frank, is played by Troy Kotsur and her brother, Leo, is played by Daniel Durant.

Authenticity was always foremost in the minds of the filmmakers. One evening the family is eating dinner when Frank passes gas, and Frank says something like this, "God gave me that ability so we could all have something to share."

Because Ruby is the only hearing member of her family, she takes on the role of interpreter in her family's work and community life, a role she does not consider a burden, nor does she take it lightly. Emilia Jones played Ruby, and trained in sign language so that, it was said, she even improvised with her deaf co-stars going off-script at times.

One reviewer stated he has "never seen a film capture heart, soul, and depth while also offering an empathetic view from every perspective of the main characters."

One extremely informative and enlightening view of Ruby's family comes as they are in the audience while Ruby is performing Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now" on stage during her high school concert. While she is performing, suddenly there is silence, her lips are moving, but we, like her family, are hearing nothing. Ruby realizes this and so while she is singing, she signs for them so they can "hear" her performance. After the concert, her father asks her to sing again so he can hear, holding her throat so he can "feel" her words.

We all know Marlie Matlin from her academy award performance in "Children of a Lesser God", but Troy Kotsur's performance as Frank, the incredibly hard-working (he is a fisherman off the coast of Gloucester, MA), loving father, I feel deserves a Best Supporting Actor Oscar.

Another reviewer said, "Sometimes a feel good movie hits the spot, CODA is just that movie."

Some other takeaways from the film: It gives us a picture of the challenging life of a fisherman, even more challenged by Frank's and Leo's disability. The Coast Guard can blow a horn all it wants, but there has to be a visual as is used for their "alarm clock", a bright flashing light. Having been on a whale watch out of Gloucester several years ago, the film makers were "spot on" portraying the beautiful coast, travel log, insight into coastal fishing, understanding of the deaf culture; a three in one film. Three's a charm.

I highly recommend this film. It will not get much recognition, but it should.

~ Pastor Wayne





We should give as we would receive, cheerfully, quickly, and without hesitation; for there is no grace in a benefit that sticks to the fingers. -- Seneca

Summer... Gone So Soon?

Well, yes... Many kids are already back in school! Please note that our September collection/donation to Garner Area Ministries (GAM) centers is Snacks for Kids; as always, any food and/or toiletry donation is welcomed. Several activities that we had to cancel last year and are hopefully anticipating this year, namely, the Annual Yard Sale is on our schedule. Another biggie is that we will NOT activate our Back-to-School-Giving Tree based on directives from the school system. However, should circumstances change, we stand ready to assist. In addition to the MS Bike Ride, Women of the ELCA, and other regular donations and contributions, our large-scale assistance effort this month is to the Haiti Relief Effort by way of Samaritans Purse who was first on the scene.

In keeping with our designated time frame of the last Saturday in September, the Annual Yard Sale is



scheduled for September 25th. Effective this year, electronics will no longer be accepted (including printers and computers)! The agency that picks up our leftover items (cost-free!) will not accept electronic items due to the

constraints for disposal. Please also be reminded that as of 2019 we no longer accept VHS tapes. Items that we do not sell are donated to other agencies and they are specific about what is acceptable for resale.

Otherwise, we welcome all of your donations! However, we are requesting that ALL donations are within the framework of selling usable items to the buyers... if you wouldn't buy it, please don't donate it... selling cheap doesn't mean selling "junk!" DO

donate rip-free, no-holes, clean clothes, purses, & shoes that are wearable... DO donate small appliances that work (clocks, blenders, ice crushers, irons, etc.)... DO donate dinnerware that is not chipped or cracked... DO donate housewares, linens, and books that are in good condition. The list is endless, so if you can no longer use it, and think that we can sell it, BRING IT IN! Thanks in advance!

We received acknowledgements from our camp scholarship recipient and from several agencies with whom we work. The Rotary Breakfast meetings are averaging 20 people; masking and social distancing are back.

Social Concerns Ministry engages our community outreach efforts on a continuum and your donations to our efforts are very much appreciated. This is one way in which we share Lord of Life Lutheran Church with the surrounding community.

Gale Isaacs & Alecia Harrison
Co-chairs



We had a reorganization meeting in the church library on Saturday, August 28th with 5 members in attendance.

After devotions we discussed what supplies had been purchased or donated during the pandemic and made recommendations of things to be done in the months coming up.

Thank you to those who serve; we have a very dedicated group. If you have a desire to serve, we welcome new members!

Please check the candle and flower charts on the bulletin board. We sincerely appreciate our volunteers.

Agapé,
Ginny King



PARISH COMMITTEE

We've been distracted and negatively affected by the impact of the COVID virus for about 1-1/2 years. Within this time, we've lost several of our LOL Church Family who have passed away from our life and advanced to Heaven. COVID is almost like an evil character who is trying to break up our Church Family. It's much easier to watch church on Facebook at home or not go to church at all, and it's "justified"... "I might get the COVID" if I go. It's certainly understandable to exercise caution during these times. We notice that some LOL members have not physically returned for worship since COVID reared his ugly head.

I don't think there's any real good substitution for gathering together in person for worship and fellowship, but we should all take whatever safe precautions that are available. We should support each other and our various church functions as best we can! There has been a euphoric high since gathering once again to break bread with one another following our worship service. I think we've all had a spiritual need to meet and support one another following our worship together. I've noticed a renewed enthusiasm from many LOL parishioners and Pastor Wayne as evidenced in his frequent emails of biblical references and reflections (which he's been doing for a while now).

On August 13th-14th, Alecia, our fearless LOL Council President, helped to facilitate a leadership retreat which was held at church in Fellowship Hall. This retreat was held to discuss challenges our church has and the best way to deal with them. In my opinion, the success of our church depends on ALL OF US! Many people are a bit shy regarding taking on new responsibilities, since in many cases... you might own that new responsibility for a long, long time! Many of our senior leadership have been in the same positions for a long time, and have got understandably "worn out". So the search for new leaders continues.

One of our biggest gaps is lack of a "Treasurer" for our church. Another opening is for a Property Committee Leader. Our Men's Group is always looking for some new, young blood who are ready, willing and able to tackle new challenges! Part of the solution for finding new help is simply asking a person who may be interested, but they need to be asked.

When I went out for my hip replacement, Dan Hayes jumped in and volunteered right away to help deliver food to GAM (Garner Area Ministries), and also backed me up on our audio system controls. Dan jumped in without me hardly asking, and I'll always appreciate that help! In the 2nd quarter of 2021, LOL Lutheran Church donated 349 pounds of food to GAM and so far in Q3, we've donated 178 pounds to GAM! That's pretty awesome for such a small church as ours!

We will have a Ministry Fair on October 24th, immediately following service in Fellowship Hall. The Ministry Fair will be an event where each of our ministries/committees shares what they do for LOL and looks to recruit new members to these committees.

Yours in Christ,
Terry, Parish Chair



Continuing in September on Sunday mornings at 9 am, before our 10 am Sunday worship, there will be a time for informal conversation with Pastor Wayne. You don't have to be a coffee drinker. Just like our Sunday morning fellowships – tea, hot chocolate, and other beverages will be available.

Each Sunday morning we will view a 30 minute video on the Old Testament followed by discussion.

All are welcome.



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

Family of Dave Hash; Mary Langworthy's mother, Evelyn Peterson – broken femur; Les & Nardina Panek, Julie

Roeser's brother/sister-in-law – Covid; Eric Roeser, rotator cuff surgery and MS; Julie Roeser, eye surgery; Julie Roeser's brother, Paul Panek; Roxie Hayes; Shannon Thomsen – bicycle accident; Jim Powers; Roxie Hayes; Jonathan McCoy; Shirley Gayer – surgery; Bob Savoysky – pancreatic cancer; Karen Morassi, cousin of Anne Marie Dubnansky; Connie Fortmeyer's neighbor, Jack Stafford - surgery; Ingrid Albee, long-time friend of the Dubnansky's; 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; Dennis King; Ginny King's niece, Robin Littleton – recurrence of breast cancer; Shirley Poole; Peg Stamp, myeloma & back surgery; Julia Lochra – hip replacement; Julia's friend, Tom Chism, diagnosed with ALS; Tess Andrews brother, David Van Benschoten, multiple myeloma; Tess Andrews friend, Jon Driggers – heart surgery; 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; 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; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe.



September

September 1	Deanna Leuenberger
September 2	Gerry Havenstein
September 5	Nancy Clifford
September 7	Ben Harrison
September 8	Emma Terrazas
September 16	Claire Dubnansky
September 17	Kerri Blanchard
September 22	Mike Kestner
September 23	Shannon Thomsen
September 27	Esther Bredell
September 29	James Stewart
September 30	Adia Hans

October

October 1	Kristin Hayduk
October 2	Tim Clark
	Connie Fortmeyer
October 5	Keara Grayson
	Doris Weden
October 8	Avery Britt
October 10	Scott Lokken
October 14	Tom Harrison
October 25	Amy Macurdy
	Thomas Isaacs

Save|THE|Date

Saturday, September 11th, 10 am - 1 pm

Church Wide Clean Up Day



We would LOVE as many volunteers to complete our tasks as possible! Can you help?

Each committee is responsible for providing a written list of tasks to be cleaned in their area of responsibility within the church. To remind you which committees are responsible for what area:

Parish Committee – Library

Worship and Music – Sanctuary

Christian Ed – Classroom and Prayer Chapel

Social Concerns – Kitchen and Fellowship Hall

Property committee – Church Grounds

September 11th is the 20th Anniversary of what has come to be known as the September 11 Attacks. Thus, all are invited to join Pastor Wayne at the large cross just outside our fellowship hall in remembrance of the attacks.

8:45 am – American Airlines Flight 11 flew into the North Tower of the World Trade Center

9:03 am – United Airlines Flight 175 flew into the South Tower of the World Trade Center

9:37 am – American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon

10:03 am – United Airlines Flight 93 crashed into a field in Shanksville, PA

As we heard the news about the attacks 20 years ago we stopped work, astonished by what we were hearing. We can start working whenever you wish and I will call us together at each of the times above for a time of remembrance.



The Lutheran World Federation has elected the first woman to head its global communion of Lutheran churches. Rev. Anne Burghardt, an Estonian theologian, was chosen on June 19th by the LWF Council as the next general secretary of the federation which includes 148 denominations in the Lutheran tradition from around the globe. Burghardt, 45, currently serves as head of development for the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church's institute of Theology. She is also an advisor to the church for international and ecumenical relations and governing board member of the Conference of European Churches.

In addition to being the first woman, her election makes her the first pastor from Central and Eastern Europe to lead the LWF.

Rev. Burghardt previously served as Study Secretary for ecumenical relations at the LWF Geneva Communion Office and coordinated content for the LWF Assembly in Windhoek, Namibia, and the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, both in 2017.

She studied theology at the University of Tartu in Estonia, at Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany, and at Humboldt University in Berlin. She has a master's degree in theology and is currently finishing a PhD in the field of Orthodox liturgies.

Burghardt will take office as general secretary in November. She succeeds Martin Junge, who has led the LWF for 11 years.

The Lutheran World Federation represents more than 77 million Lutherans in 99 countries, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (our church body), and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. The LWF Council elects a general secretary to a seven year term.

F.R.I.E.N.D.S

Friends... Distinctly Different & Equally Treasured

What is a Friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies. – Aristotle

I have great friends... really, I do... and I'm pretty weird about friendship. In fact, this wasn't the topic I planned to write for September (I'm always doing this – changing focus- I think it's called getting "side-tracked"). The catalyst this time was that a friend sent me a card that arrived in the mail less than two hours ago. It was a thanks for being "someone to laugh with, someone to cry with, someone to be 'bad' with" inscription ... that made my day! Anyhow, by no small degree, my friends and I seem to measure each other by the same yardstick ... no exceptions, even on the flip side. And, please, if it ever crosses your mind that friendship is an all-out lovefest, THINK AGAIN! The bonds of friendship actually do stretch, bend, spiral, and twist but, thankfully, not break.

We all have special people in our lives but 'special people' and 'friends' aren't interchangeable even though your friends are special. Look, I think you know this, but we need to pull our sentiments off the back burner every now and again and stir them up (if needed). Sure, your friends know they can count on you, but do you ever actually say it out loud? Or do they have to rely on sensing/knowing how you feel? When you get mad with a friend, do you tell them, or do you just sulk and cryptically communicate one word at a time? Friendship is one of the greatest gifts a human being can receive. My friends aren't duplications of each other; they are different in personality and temperament that are accompanied, though, by a characteristic we all possess: a bit of wit (no humor intended).

I'm sure that your friendship saga is similar... we don't necessarily share the same backgrounds or common adult interests, but it's bond stronger than, say, Gorilla Glue! It is deep... it is intimate... it

transcends fate! It's that 'thing'! I get excited about friendship and about the utter certainty of knowing that my back is covered 24/7. When I consider that I've had a friend since I was born, that I didn't even know about, who loves me unconditionally, the entity of friendship seems surreal.

Yeah, you know of whom I speak, and He has gifted me with loving human friends. So, when I refer to my friends as they, Jesus the Christ is included. He placed these friends in my path... created this unity of souls and granted it to all of us so that we can experience this state-of-being called friendship. It is to be with another in joy and sorrow, even when we cannot increase the joy or decrease the sorrow... it gives nobility and sincerity to love... it is a song of the soul. Friendship makes all of life shine brightly and Jesus's friendship is the example He set for us to follow. Remember a while back when *WWJD* (What Would Jesus Do) was all the rage? Well, even then that acronym seemed to be a lesson in friendship, and not a 'to-sin-or-not-to-sin' singularity.

When Jesus said "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13), He was telling His disciples how much He loved them, and further explained, "You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (verses 14 & 15). Awesome! What a friend we have in Jesus, as Hymn 742 declares and as we remember He said, "You are my friends if you do what I command." Heavenly Friends are forever... Be blessed.

Gale J. Isaacs

