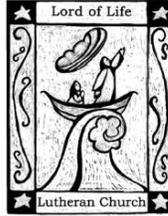


February 2022



**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

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

Congregational Council

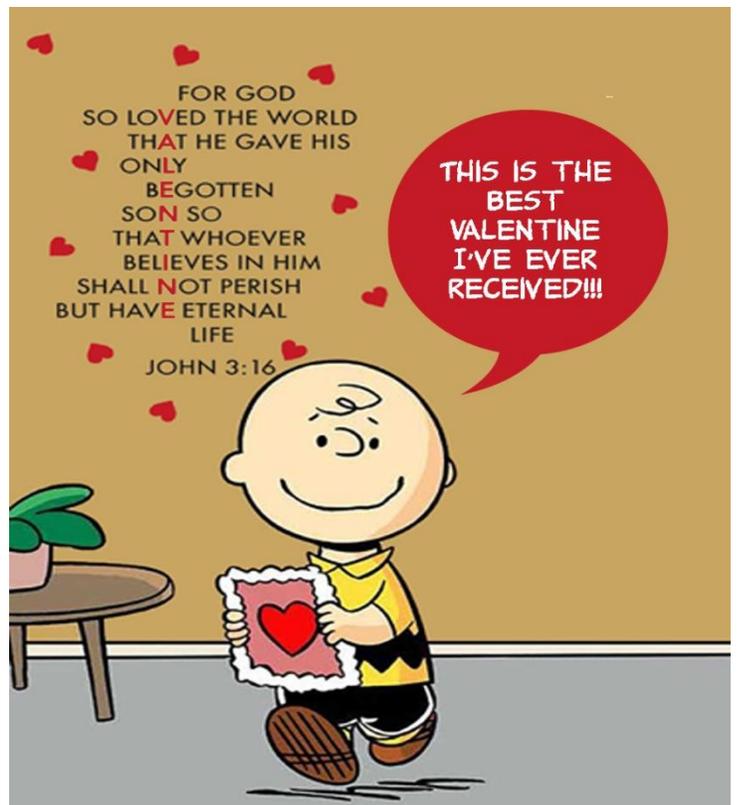
Alecia Harrison President
Julie Bogle Secretary
Lindsay Crocker Treasurer
Tess Andrews Deputy Treasurer
Terry Barnes Financial Secretary
Sarah Watkins, Steven Brantley

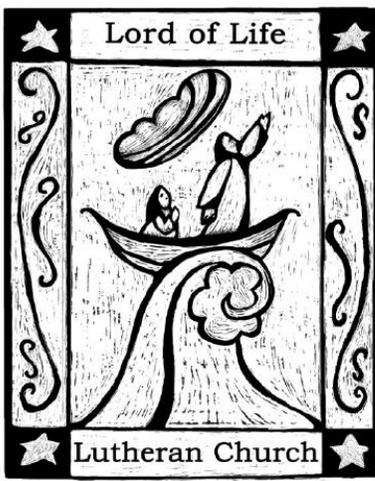


WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 10 am – In-Person Worship
10 am - Virtual Worship via Facebook
Live [https://www.facebook.com/
LoLLCGarner](https://www.facebook.com/LoLLCGarner)

Eucharist: Every Sunday





Life-Lines



February 2022

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

Having endured certain winter weather events recently, I thought it might be interesting to get a sense of what Scripture says about "snow". A passage from Job chapter 6:16 follows appropriately thunder and lightning "... as freshets that pass away which are dark with ice, and where the snow hides itself." We can remember this passage from Job as we hear of black ice on the roads.

For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth'; and to the shower and the rain, 'Be strong.' (Job 37:6) Snow that falls on the earth seems gentle; the rain is strong. Not having ever been in the Holy Land, this would give the impression that rain comes down hard and snow is something that is beautiful, something to enjoy, not to worry about putting down salt brine or sand.



A passage about snow from Proverbs is just a passage with essentially no context. "Like snow in summer and like rain in harvest. So honor is not fitting for a fool." It seems now in summer and rain at harvest is not wanted, nor is honor for a fool. A passage at the end of Proverbs is included in the description of the good wife. "She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet." Prior to this verse the good wife is reaching out to the needy; following this verse the good wife is making herself clothing which we could see as actions that she undertakes during a snowfall. This reminds me of a carload of young people who jumped out of their car to help push cars up Vandora Springs Road during a substantial snowfall a few years back.



"He gives snow like wool, He scatters the frost like ashes." (Psalm 147:16)

Snow like wool gives warmth, comfort in a way only God can bring about. But the frost like two days after our storm is eventually scattered.

"Fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind fulfilling His Word." (Psalm 148:8) Lightning we have seen together with hail, snow originates from clouds, Stormy wind, all the natural events of nature come about from the Word that the gospel of John talks about, the Word that is God. That Word is God's Son, Jesus, Who can calm the storms, Who can bring sun to warm the frost, the snow, the hail. God's Son Who can calm the turbulence in the world, and bring peace.

Isaiah cites the culmination of rain and snow in God's Word. "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so will My Word be which goes forth from my mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)



Black ice, snow, gentle snow, snow in summer, snow not to be feared because we can keep ourselves warm with warm clothes. Snow like wool, frost, hail, and stormy winds. Extreme weather conditions are not unique to us, they affected God's people from the beginning, but like those same people; God's Word comes to us to bring us comfort and His Son to give us warmth.

Stay warm, stay well, and may God's Holy Spirit continue to be with us all.

~ Pastor Wayne





From the Desk of Your Council President

Your Church Council continues to work hard for you! Covid has again circumvented our Annual Congregational meeting plans. We are waiting for a significant decrease in Covid in our area before we reschedule the meeting. Thank you to the prospective new Council members Terry Barnes, Tim Clark, Gale Isaacs, Sylvia Lambert and Sarah Watkins for accepting their new role and participating in the Leaders' Retreat on February 5th. We will review goals for the congregation and work with our Synod coach, Heidi Kleine. Each committee will give a brief overview of their work and 2022 goals.



We are still so very thankful that Lindsay Crocker has stepped up to take on the Treasurer role for the Congregation. She has spent hours going through all the bank statements and properly loading our Parish Soft software. She has worked with Becky Babel, former Treasurer from 2 years ago, Harry Albert,

former Treasurer from many years ago, and Tess Andrews, current Deputy Treasurer to ensure everything is properly documented. As you have heard, our 2020 year was stable. While giving was down, our expenses also were down. BUT in 2021, our giving remained much less than 2019 AND our expenses returned to our 2019 level. We simply cannot continue with a pattern of spending more than we take in. That is a recipe for disaster. Something none of us want! I congratulate the Finance Committee of Lindsay Crocker, Tess Andrews and Terry Barnes for coming up with a new Stewardship campaign to allow each member to consider what they can contribute to our church. For your convenience, we now have on-line giving. There is a link on our website and Scott Lokken has added the link in our on-line streaming of services. There is however a 3% finance fee that is taken out before the church gets your money. This is just for your information.

I thank all who have contributed to the Infrastructure and the Kitchen Funds. I am pleased to announce that our Kitchen Renovation Fund is fully funded at \$40,000. Able To Serve has accepted this amount as a reasonable contribution from the church. So thanks again ever so much!!!!

"But they need not account for the money entrusted to them, because they are honest in their dealings."
2 Kings 22:7, NIV

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison, Council President



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Every Sunday</p> <p>9 am Coffee & Old Testament Bible Study</p> <p>10 am Worship</p>		1	<p>2 7 am Rotary Breakfast</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> 	3	4	<p>5 10 am– 1 pm</p> 
6	7	8	<p>9 7 am Rotary Breakfast</p>	10	11	12
<p>13</p> 	<p>14 Happy Valentine Day!</p> 	15	<p>16 7 am Rotary Breakfast</p>	17	<p>18</p>  <p>NATIONAL DRINK WINE DAY</p>	19
<p>20</p> 	<p>21 HAPPY PRESIDENTS DAY</p>	22	<p>23 7 am Rotary Breakfast</p>	24	25	26
27	28	<p>Happy Valentines Day!</p> 				

*"You, Lord, are
forgiving and good,
abounding in love to all
who call to you."*

Psalm 86:5, NIV



We continue to look for opportunities to support our community of faith locally, nationally and internationally. Our February focuses will include gathering children's books for Wake Up and Read. \ Last year we collected 250 new and gently used children's books. We have a goal of collecting at least that much but I apologize for the late notification of this event. Life happens! We will collect children's books until February 20th. The goal of Wake up and Read is to give each child 3 books that they can take home and call THEIR books.

We also will sponsor the popular SOUP-er Bowl for Garner Area Ministries. Canned soup is one of the most popular items requested at the GAM Food Pantry because it has a pop-top and can be drunk out of the can, i.e., doesn't require heating. I know, that's a little gross, but desperate times lead to desperate measures. We continue to try to donate around 100 pounds of food each month to Garner Area Ministries. Thanks to Terry Barnes, our GAM food deliverer, we have a running total on the white board in the narthex. Great job everyone supporting GAM as you are able! They are always in need of ANY non-perishable foods and are able to accept a few large meat items to go in their freezer as space allows.

And it is never too soon to be thinking about Summer Camp. We will again offer camp scholarships this year, see details below.

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison and Gale Isaacs
Co-Chairs, Social Concerns Committee



For **2022** we are offering an abbreviated process to obtain a scholarship to Camp Agapé for Summer Camp!... all you have to do is:

- 1) go online to Camp Agapé, choose your summer camp, and register directly on their site
- 2) Write a **letter** to Social Concerns and **(A)** tell why you want to go to camp; **(B)** request a scholarship award to help you get there.

That's it! "no sweat" 2022

REQUEST (LETTER) DEADLINE is **Sunday, April 10th**



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

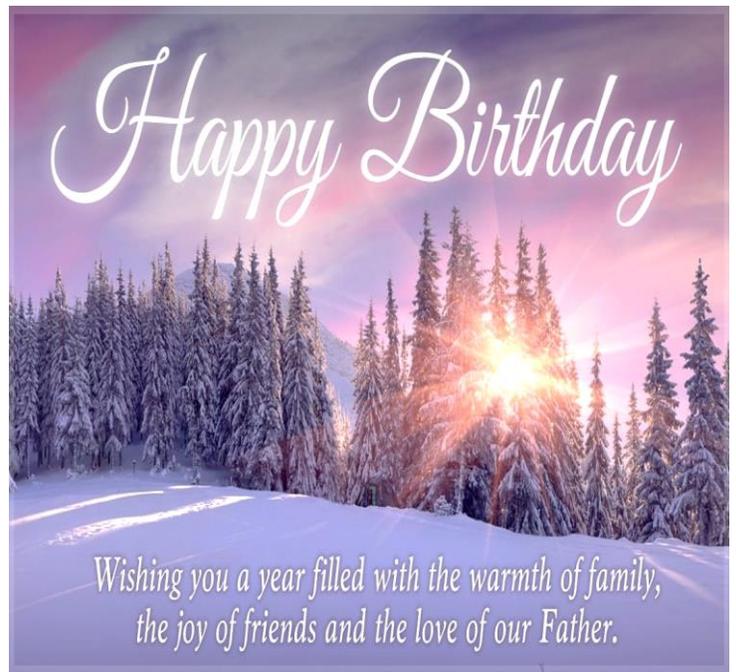
Alecia Harrison – recovering from knee surgery on 1/26; Kathi Tichansky’s friend, Sarah

Bell – bad fall and broken vertebrae; Antonio’s baby brother Ashton (2 yrs.) has a hole in his heart and had heart surgery January 6; Sylvia Lambert’s niece, Lori Wise – cancer; Sheryll Albert’s father, John Pope, and his wife, Barbara Pope; Jim Powers; Shirley Poole; Eric & Julie Roeser; Julie Roeser’s brother, Paul Panek; Jonathan McCoy; Bob Savoysky – pancreatic cancer; Gary Dubnansky; Karen Morassi, cousin of Anne Marie Dubnansky; Ingrid Albee, long-time friend of the Dubnansky’s; Joan Stuart – broken hip; Rebecca Swanson’s nephew, Dr. David Shaefer, and her great niece, Hope Emmaline; Mary Langworthy’s mother, Evelyn Peterson – broken femur; Mary Langworthy’s brother, Tom Schmidt; Lora Clark’s friend, Rebecca Bowman, recovering; Kevin & his family, stage 4 cancer; Dennis King; Ginny King’s niece, Robin Littleton – recurrence of breast cancer; Peg Stamp, myeloma; friend of Julia Lochra, Tom Chism – ALS; Kathryn Lochra, Julia’s sister; Tess Andrews brother, David Van Benschoten,

multiple myeloma; John Driggers – heart surgery; Lindsay Crocker’s Nephew, Daniel Harman, health and healing; Pam Klawiter’s co-worker,

Carolyn Harbertson, breast cancer; Holly Hans’ sister, Heather House and her family; Holly Hans’ mother, Carol Hardy; Don Wallace’s nephew, Chuck Wallace - health problems; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe.

Please say a special prayer for the 1,400 Americans and thousands of Afghan allies who were needlessly left behind in Afghanistan.



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 6	Patricia Elder
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



REALITY CHECK

A Reality Check for Us All

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. - [Ephesians 4:32](#) -

Well, we're counting down (or up as be your preference) to almost 30 days into 2022. We met it with relative joy in anticipation that 2021 would quickly become a speck in our rearview mirror because, we surmised, that we had entered the flip side of *survival-mode-endurance* into a different, better, and more manageable *new-day-existence*. In our delight, we may have unintentionally overlooked that, by God's Grace, we lived to see another year. Oh, the unimaginable gratitude we must feel, armed in the cloak of God's Grace! We seem to have moved beyond the general idea of making materialistic resolutions, but I'm certain that we maintained the concept in our focus toward the spiritual as we reaffirm the pathways of our Spiritual lives.

Yeah, we all have things to work on and believe me, nobody's need-to-work-on list is any more or less important than the person sitting next to you in the pew; or the person watching virtually on a sofa; or the person fretting about a particular church-aversion, from home! To be ultra-clear, it's difficult to deal with blind arrogance... you know, that self-superiority factor which falsely allows us to think we know what's best for all other earthly beings. Galling is it? Yes... annoying, irritating, exasperating... all of the above! Conceptually, if you can ignore the behavior, that kind of personality fog seems easy to cope with. It becomes more difficult, however, if it's smashed in your face like those old slapstick pie routines.

Recently, I attended a themed get-together in a place not too far from here, that I personally didn't realize was 'themed.' It appeared that there was an unwritten agenda

of which the attendees were aware... I wasn't. It wasn't some intentional slight, it just was sooooo off my radar! It reminded me of old movies (yes, movies) wherein a few people of self-importance met to determine the chastisement (not to weigh the fault or absence thereof) of an individual. They became judges based on what they wanted to transpire. I fully understand this philosophy in principal, however, what about that "cast the first stone" verse in the Book of John? We all make a choice when we decide how to react to any given situation. If we choose (sometimes subconsciously) to 'go with the flow' to complain and spout disapproval, then oftentimes the natural reaction will be to foster discontent in every situation associated with a particular individual... even how she combs her hair!

I dare say many of us are sufferers of this condition of negativity. We fail to realize that keeping everybody happy is not the goal but keeping everyone happy in Jesus should be. We're on our mission together and the mission is not a problem nor a task for a few! We're steering the same ship. What it really comes down to is satisfaction, and dissatisfied folk have a negative outlook on whatever sparked their dissatisfaction in the first place.

It's true that often times, we experience hurt or disappointment by someone who has absolutely no idea that their action was seen as an unforgivable deed to us. In such instances, we remain silent and hold onto what we perceive to be an injustice... we simply add another name to our formidable hit-list! What can we do instead?? Well, how about following the teaching of Christ according to Matthew 18:15, "*If another member of the church sins against you, go*

and point out the fault when the two of you are alone." The scripture goes on to offer additional solutions toward de-escalation.

So, being that all that we have comes to *US* by the Grace of God, who forgives *ALL* our sins, we must work harder at being a bit less superior in judgement. I certainly don't want to be identified as a perpetually unsatisfied person, Christian or otherwise... neither do you! Be blessed.

Gale J. Isaacs





WEST SIDE STORY: A Review

West Side Story, the movie, is based on the musical written by Arthur Laurents first on Broadway in 1957. Although it will be compared with the original 60 years ago, this version stands up well. Recently, I featured “gifts of the Spirit” in a sermon. The singing and dancing in this film can truly be described as Gifts of the Spirit.

My first surprise is that the male lead, Tony, is played by Ansel Elgort who played Gus in “The Fault of Our Stars”. He is able to showcase his singing talent in this film. Ariana Debose from Raleigh is being touted for an Academy Award Best Supporting Actress role as Anita for which Rita Morena received the award 60 plus years ago. The female counterpart of Tony, Maria, is played by Rachel Zegler.

The story quite simply is two gangs, the Sharks, led by Bernardo, and the Jets, led by Riff, who are competing for territory. But it is also a love story because a Jet falls in love with the sister of Bernardo, leader of the Sharks.

However, as you watch it, you may forget about the actual plot because the singing and dancing are just “over the top”. There are twenty songs and few of them are with stationary, non-dancing singers. All were composed by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim who recently died. Bernstein and Sondheim both “live” through this masterpiece.

Movie reviewers who critique movies for a living extend their superlatives much better than I.

Movie critic Rob Weinert-Kendt states in his review that he wished someone would get “West Side Story”

right, and that he was overjoyed that filmmaker Stephen Spielberg has essentially cinched the deal. He goes on to say that with a fresh new script by Tony Kushner, brilliant choreography by Justin Peck, and a mostly stunning cast, Stephen Spielberg has at last made a “West Side Story” in which every element sings and dances, and every element counts.

I do not think I need to fear about giving anything away... most people know the story. It is the singing and dancing that are the success of this film. Let me mention a few of the songs: “One Hand, One Heart” - a duet expressing the powerful feelings between Tony and Maria; “America” - in which our Raleigh native, Anita, tries to convince Bernardo that the mainland has much more to offer than their island home of Puerto Rico; “Somewhere” - sung by now 90 year old Rita Moreno; “Tonight” - in the modern Romeo and Juliet balcony scene where Tony and Maria sing to one another; “Maria” - in which Tony reveals his love for Maria whom he has just met; and “I Feel Pretty” is Maria’s stand out solo number where by she reveals her love for Tony.

“The Dance at the Gym” is the musical way by which the Sharks and Jets exhibit their dislike for each other. A side note, if only people could actually express themselves through dance instead of violence.

I quoted Rob Weinert-Kendt earlier. Let me end with a quote from critic Justin Chang. “Stephen Spielberg’s ‘West Side Story’ will make you believe in movies again.” If you have not been to a movie in a while, perhaps this is the one to “Bring you back to the movies.”

~ Pastor Wayne

