

March 2022



**Lord of Life
Lutheran Church**
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Garner, NC 27529

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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
Steven Brantley, Tim Clark, Gale Isaacs, Sylvia Lambert, Sarah Watkins

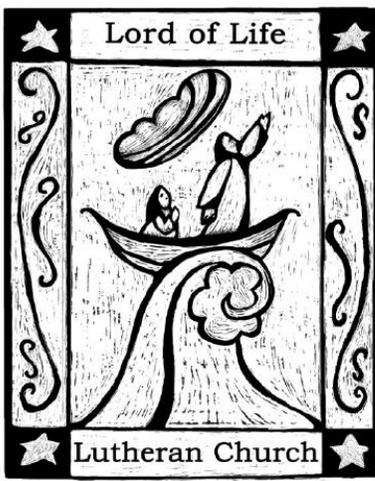


WORSHIP SCHEDULE

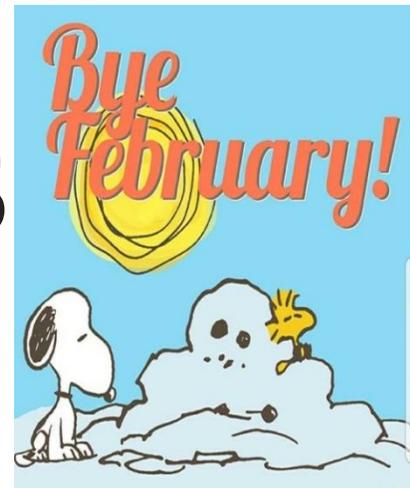
Sundays: 10 am – In-Person Worship
10 am - Virtual Worship via Facebook
Live <https://www.facebook.com/LoLLCGarner>

Eucharist: Every Sunday





Life-Lines



March 2022

WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

Together...
WE ARE A FAMILY

By the time this newsletter is sent out, the Dubnansky family will have officially been expanded. Josh DeLeon will have joined our family as husband to Jean Marie, brother in law to Claire, and son in law to Anne Marie and me.

This has reminded me to write about our Lord of Life Church family.

We know who our nuclear family as a church is. Those are the congregants whom we see at worship regularly.

However, our church family is not limited to those we see on a regular basis. Recall a gentleman a few weeks ago who stood up to speak before our worship on Sunday morning. That day onward, he has become part of our church family. I continue to keep him in my personal prayers.

When we instituted the Lord of Life express two years ago placing hymnals, palms, and communion elements on doorsteps, it was said that some people who received the "packets" were unfamiliar to the deliverer. Nonetheless, presently separated from active participation in the church, I still consider them part of the Lord of Life Church family unless they inform us differently.

At Jean Marie and Josh's wedding, some members of our family were unable to be physically present due to health or other reasons, but they are no less members of the Dubnansky or DeLeon families.

Locally, we are members of Lord of Life family of faith. Statewide, we are members of the North Carolina Lutheran Synod. Nationally we are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Worldwide we are members of the Lutheran World Federation. These are all different levels of the family of Christ. Thus, our extended family is far reaching.

Our church family is faithful, devoted to God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but also diverse and multi-racial. Our church family, at all levels, present or distanced, is about spreading the Gospel, the good news, of Jesus Christ through Word and Deed.

May our Lord of Life family continue to be blessed.

~ Pastor Wayne





From the Desk of Your Council President

We welcomed our new Council members to the Leader's Retreat on February 5th. Currently, Julie Bogle, Sylvia Lambert and Sarah Watkins will serve until January 2023; Tess Andrews, Steve Brantley and Alecia Harrison will serve until January 2024; and Terry Barnes, Tim Clark and Gale Isaacs will serve until January 2025. Thank you to everyone who is willing to serve in this way!!!

Along with our NC Synod Coach, Heidi Kleine, we spent 6 hours discussing Lord of Life's present and future! We identified our 2 biggest issues are Communication and the need to Grow our Membership, and we created the following 6 measurable goals for this year:

1. Write a job description for each committee by the end of March, so that potential new members to each committee will understand what they are agreeing to before joining. Potential new members are encouraged to attend a committee meeting as a guest.

2. Training on Reader, Greeter, Usher, and Assisting Minister twice a year. We need to increase our worship assistants and want to alleviate any fear from accepting a responsibility. Please prayerfully consider signing up for one of these responsibilities once a month.

3. Small Group meetings twice a year in April and October. Our April meeting will be on ways to increase communication within our church family.

4. Have someone from each committee speak at the Annual Ministry Fair to explain what their committee does. This is another opportunity for increased involvement into the work of the church when a potential new member understands what each committee does.

5. Council President to give a Temple Talk EACH month after the Council meeting – an effort to improve communication between the Church Council and the congregation.

6. Develop a postcard mailer about Lord of Life to mail out by August, as an effort to reach the Lutherans and the unchurched that live nearby.

I recently attended a Bible Study through the NC Lutheran Synod entitled "Living through Covid". The principles of this Bible Study were:

1. Name your Obstacles
2. Be open to changes that need to be made
3. Have courage to rise up and step out in Faith

Everyone's life has been affected by Covid. We have found opportunities to make our worship better, such as our Live Stream service. We owe a great deal of thanks to Scott Lokken, Terry Barnes and Tim Clark for making our services available online.

Jesus asked the paralyzed man, Do you want to get well? That applies to us too. So no more excuses. Let's get going and work to make our worship better! When everyone helps, the burden is light! God grows us in our challenges. You can dream what a perfect worship might be. We probably won't have that but that doesn't mean that it wasn't meaningful! So dream big and keep trying to reach the goal!

Questions to ponder:

What do I need to let go of to achieve my goal?

What are my dreams?

What new opportunity should I rise up to?

"Listen to my words, "When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams." Numbers 12:6, NIV

"If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder," Deuteronomy 13:1, NIV

Blessings,

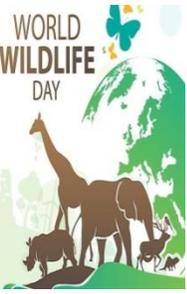
Alecia Harrison, Council President

**"Hear now My words:
If there is a prophet
among you, I the Lord
will make Myself
known to him in a
vision And I will speak
to him in a dream."**

Numbers 12:6



Hello March

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>		<p>1</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>7 am Rotary Breakfast</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>WORLD WILDLIFE DAY</p> 	4	5
6	7	8	<p>9</p> <p>7 am Rotary Breakfast</p> <p>Mid-Week Lenten Worship</p> 	10	11	12
<p>13</p> <p>SPRING FORWARD! Daylight Saving Time</p> 	14	15	<p>16</p> <p>7 am Rotary Breakfast</p> <p>Mid-Week Lenten Worship</p> 	<p>17</p> 	18	19
20	21	22	<p>23</p> <p>7 am Rotary Breakfast</p> <p>Mid-Week Lenten Worship</p> 	24	25	26
27	28	<p>29</p> <p>VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>7 am Rotary Breakfast</p> <p>Mid-Week Lenten Worship</p> 	<p>31</p>  <p><i>The last Wednesday in March is Manatee Appreciation Day!</i></p>		

Spring Forward into March-Giving Madness

*"No one has ever
become poor by giving."* - The Diary of Anne Frank

Social Concerns Ministry is marching right along as we work to acknowledge the premise upon which we operate. We are a small (in number) but mighty (in outreach) ministry. It is important, however, for us to note at the outset, that we have a great support system. If not for the charitable contributions from our primary revenue sources and from the generous donations from this supportive Congregation, our ministry efforts could not all be realized.

Our Annual **Wake-Up and Read** Book Drive will continue a few days beyond the February 20th deadline in order to amass more books for the children of Wake County. The goal from across the county is for every elementary school child to have a least three (3) books to own. If you have questions, please see Alecia.

For the month of February our donations to Garner Area Ministries (GAM) had the moniker of 'SOUP-er Bowl' month and we scored a touchdown in giving... (who played in the game?).

Cans and packages of soup, pasta, and canned meats appeared in the donation boxes. March Madness is the designated month for the collection of personal care and household items.

What that really means is that ANY & ALL donations aside from the month's theme are welcomed and greatly appreciated.



March 23rd is the American Red Cross Giving Day and we support this effort yearly.



Camp Agapé is ready to go for Summer 2022! Summer Camp scholarship applications were announced electronically, in the Newsletter, and voiced via church announcements. We are again using the modified application process that we introduced last year; it is easy to comprehend and nearly effortless to complete. There ARE children that you know! They can take advantage of the wonderful, enriching, and spiritual aspects of this faith-based camp experience that also integrates church ministries. There are various camp experiences for EVERY age and grade from elementary to high school! Choose one! Camp Agape has it all! There is nothing finer in Carolina... they can swim, hike, find bugs, sing, meet new friends, and reconnect with the camp staffers; it's a grand time! 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! We urge you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Unfortunately, Social Concerns has opted to no longer sponsor a major income aspect of our ministry... the Annual Yard Sale. There are many factors involved in this decision and should you desire more information please ask any member. As a unit, Social Concerns could not function without your strong congregational support; thank you... we're all in this together.

Gale Isaacs & Alecia Harrison, Co-chairs

Save the Date



Silent Auction | Reverse Raffle | BBQ Sandwiches

Please be on the lookout for Silent Auction items!

All money raised will be donated to ACS.

Thanks for your support!



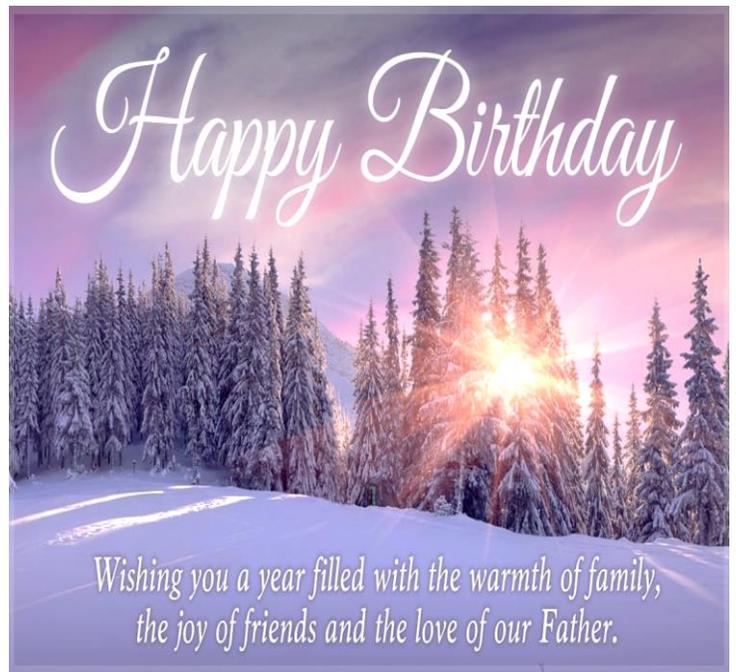
We pray for our world and those in it with hope for our future.

Alecia Harrison – recovering from knee surgery; Linda Hash’s brother, Charles Barlow – liver cancer; Agnes Beecham; Kathi Tichansky’s friend, Sarah Bell – bad fall and broken vertebrae; Antonio’s baby brother Ashton (2 yrs.) - surgery January 6 to repair a hole in his heart; 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 all the Americans and Afghan allies who were needlessly left behind in Afghanistan and EVERYONE in the Ukraine.



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

April

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



The Perfect Church... Meeting Our Needs

“Stop looking for the perfect church. Go worship a perfect God today with a congregation of flawed people who need grace as much as you do.” - Unknown

The focus of my existing mindset will become less in time (maybe?) ... but, not this month. I suppose that I am still coming to grips with the conundrum posed last month. Of course, you’d have to have read the February Newsletter to make the connection (I am certain that you did).

As a Christian, if a church ever meets ALL our needs, it’s probably off-mission. You see, the church was never intended to meet all of our needs. The church was designed to glorify God and show his love to the world; at least that’s the universally accepted impression that the Bible and His teachings give us. A church that is only about meeting *OUR* needs is a church that’s focused on insiders while the world outside is quite literally, to embellish a phrase, going to hades. Somehow, we’ve gotten the idea that the church exists to meet the individual needs of individual members. It’s sort of like that short-lived movement of a few years back called “Consumer-Christianity” which was akin to the focus of the “Me” generation

“There is no perfect church, and if you ‘find’ one, don’t join it because you’ll ruin it.” Okay, I don’t recall where I first heard or read that sentiment, but it speaks volumes to me. All churches are strong in some areas and less so in others. Hopefully churches are always aware of (not obsessed with) those weaker areas. However, if we can’t settle for anything less than perfection, then I suggest we all pack up and travel to some alternate universe because we’re in real trouble (and you thought COVID was bad! OR perhaps you were one of those who didn’t give it a second thought!)

It seems that a *‘the-grass-is greener-on-the-other side-of-the-fence’* mentality, is ever present in our society, and last month I was made sorely aware that churches are no exception. Sadly, many of us go through phases of thinking that the perfect church is just around the corner. And once we think we’ve found it and start attending our dream

church, we find that -- WHAT?! It too has weaknesses! Wow! This is just like my old church... same confusion, different day! Who would have thought such a thing? The honeymoon period does indeed wear off... now the work begins!

Figure out exactly what it is we think we need but aren’t getting as we attempt to glorify God, and also in that instant, figure out if we (as individuals) are ‘trying and contributing’ OR ‘I want it this way complaining.’ There are soooo very many ‘reasons’ for all of us to fall by the wayside every now and again; we’re human. However, it should not be because the church doesn’t move forward in a direction that we personally want, or the Council does something that not all members like, or that you don’t like the songs the Choir sings. There will always be something... the church is too small; the church is too big; the church doesn’t have enough young people; the church doesn’t have enough older people who will mentor you or invite you over for meals... the list goes on and on. Perhaps they are valid concerns BUT are they valid issues for you and me?

My Fairy Tale Time: There was once a couple who didn’t like their pastor because she told stories about her horse from the pulpit before beginning her sermons. Quirky? Yeah, kinda; Sinful? Nah; Illegal? Nope; Harmful? Nada; Sacrilegious? No, I think not! These are silly questions and we’ve really got to weed-out the difference. Then there was the gentleman who wore eyeglasses with very thick lenses; he complained every Sunday that he couldn’t see the people in the pulpit... yet he continued to sit on the very last pew in the church!

And while old ways won’t open new doors, we don’t want to miss out on true community because we’re searching for that perfect church... it’s right here if you make it so. We’re here for the Glory of God, not the glory of self. Be Blessed.

Gale J. Isaacs



THE VOICE OF THE MARTYRS 2022 Global Prayer Guide:

On our “information” table in the narthex are 20 copies of the VOM (Voice of the Martyrs) Global Prayer guide. It lists in alphabetical order 60 nations and describes how Voice of the Martyrs serves persecuted Christians.

First, VOM provides practical and spiritual assistance.

Second, VOM equips Christian leaders to expand God’s Kingdom in restricted nations and hostile areas.

Third, VOM is committed to providing Bibles, God’s Word, to every believer in a restricted nation or hostile area.

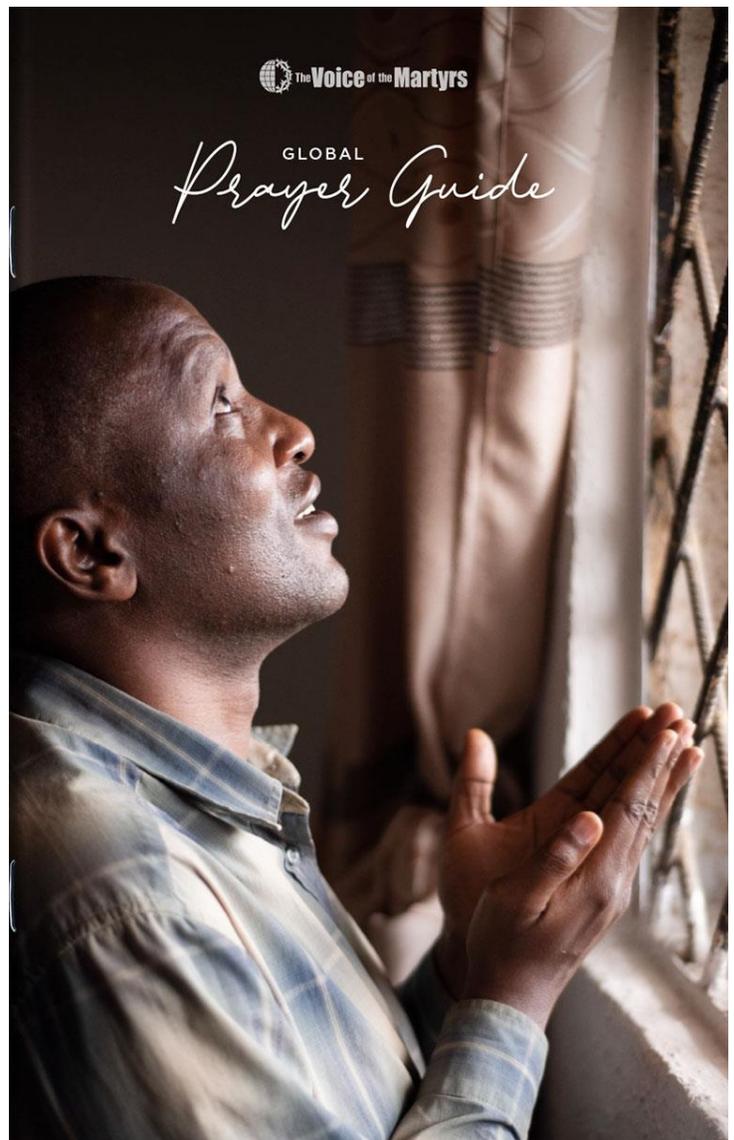
Here is simply one example of what is happening in china which just hosted the Winter Olympics amidst controversy. I quote from the Prayer Guide, “The government has installed more than 170 million facial recognition cameras, many in or near churches, to identify those who attend worship services.”

The opening paragraph of the Prayer Guide describes its purpose. “The VOM Global Prayer Guide is designed to help you pray more specifically for our brothers and sisters in Christ who risk rejection, imprisonment, violent attacks and even death as they worship God and faithfully witness for Christ.”

I purchased the prayer guides as a result of seeing the film “Sabina” which I have reviewed in a previous Newsletter arguing that Sabina Wurmbrand and her husband, Richard, are two of the most remarkable Christians of the 20th century, witnessing for Christ during World War II in Romania and Communist Romania despite persecution and imprisonment.

The opening page of the prayer guide quotes Hebrews 13:3 “Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them; and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.”

I do have two cautions, however, when using this prayer guide. Firstly, often Islamist groups are listed as persecutors of Christians. They, like the 911 terrorists, are the extreme elements of Islam; and the notion of devout Muslims persecuting Christians does not carry over into our country or in most countries in general. Secondly, this guide certainly makes no secret of the fact that it distinguishes “evangelical” Christians as the Christian leaders in these countries which is remarkable since Richard Wurmbrand was a Lutheran pastor in Romania. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America continues to extend our ministries across the globe



through our Global Missions which I know Pastor Wurmbrand and Sabina, who lived their golden years in our country, even speaking in congress, would support.

I will end as the prayer guide ends with a quote from Ephesians: “Keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. (Ephesians 6:18-20)

~ Pastor Wayne

