

Interim Pastor John Petry
Minister of Music Dr. Brad Hunnicutt
Office Manager Laura Raun
Web Master Gray Anthony

Congregational Council

Shannon Thomsen President
Terry Barnes Vice President
Tim Clark Secretary
Lindsay Crocker Treasurer
Tess Andrews Deputy Treasurer
Terry Barnes Financial Secretary
Neil Brennecke, Steven Brantley, Alecia
Harrison, Linda Hash, & Sylvia Lambert

April 2023



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

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Office (919) 772-9044



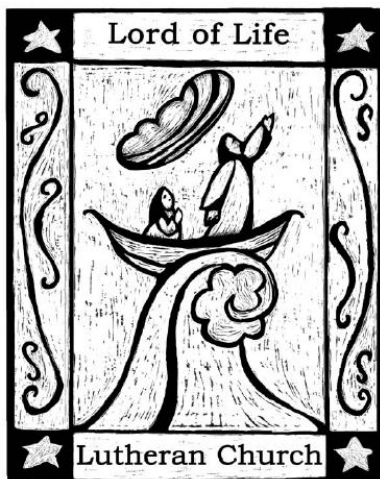
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 10 am – In-Person
Worship

10 am - Virtual Worship via
YouTube (search for Lord of Life
Lutheran Church ELCA)

Eucharist: Every Sunday





Life-Lines

April 2023



A FEW THOUGHTS ...



Holy Week

begins with Palm/Passion Sunday - April 2nd, 10 am

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Services -

April 6th & 7th, 7 pm

Easter Sunday Service...April 9th, 10 am

Exciting musical & choral plans have been prepared.



**Invite: Experience & see for yourself,
your family, the community!**

I have shared the honor to be with you for the first quarter of 2023. As you read Shannon's Council Report (article in this newsletter & emails) Lord of Life is alive! The month of April offers YOUR participation in many ways toward spiritual renewal... and it begins with this Sunday and the Sundays after through this year!

Pam & I invite you (during the fellowship time after Sunday worship April 16th) to share some of your most burning desires for your community & this congregation. Pam & I have been trained by ONE WAKE to facilitate **Mixed Listening Sessions**. ONE WAKE is a strictly non-partisan, multi-racial, multi-issue group of 46 religious congregations, associations, and other non-profits in the Wake County area with membership totaling in excess of 50,000 residents.

Our highest hope & goal will be a "warm-up" to assist Lord of Life Lutheran congregation for the upcoming April 30th Ministry Profile which includes conducting a/your Congregational Study.

+ John Petry,
Interim Pastor





From the Desk of Your Congregational Council

There is a new energy at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Garner North Carolina. I can feel it when I attend Sunday morning worship. I can feel it when I attend mid-week Lenten Services. I can feel it when I speak with you. Maybe it is because the pandemic is behind us. Maybe it is because we are all on our Lenten Journey. Maybe it is because we have an interim Pastor who forces us to think differently about the Gospel. Whatever it is, there is a new energy at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Garner North Carolina.

Sunday, March 12th the Congregation Council was installed at the beginning of Worship Service. Following the Worship Service, we conducted our monthly business meeting. Although there was a lot of business to address, we focused on two main topics. The first topic was reviewing demographic study information within one mile, three mile, and five-mile radius of Lord of Life Lutheran Church. We concluded that the local community has a lot of new member potential, and that Lord of Life is in a prime location with its proximity to Lake Benson Park, White Deer Park, and those exercising daily. The next step is gaining better visibility as Lord of Life Lutheran Church and capitalizing on this potential. This will be a focus moving forward.

Our second topic was the call process which includes a Ministry Site Profile. Prior to our meeting, we were provided resources from the North Carolina Synod to help guide us in our discussions and decisions. Regarding our direction as Lord of Life we first had to decide between choosing transformation, choosing partnership, or choosing resurrection. During our meeting we had a virtual call with Pastor Dannielle DeNise of the Synod, who helped explain these three different options. We agreed that we “choose transformation” and requested that we start the call process for a part-time Pastor. We also agreed that if we are not having success after six months we will meet again and reassess our options.

Now that we had decided to call a part-time Pastor, the next step was to form and finalize our Call Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Harry Albert, Terry Barnes, Julie Bogle, Rita Clark, and Sarah Watkins for agreeing to be part of this very important committee. I invite each one of you to also personally reach out and thank them. I trust that this is a very diverse committee and will bring different experiences and perspectives to the process.

With the decision to call a part-time Pastor and the Call Committee formed, our next step is to develop a Ministry Site Profile which includes conducting a Congregational Study. Following our April 30th, 10am Worship Service, Pastor Phil Tonnesen from the Synod will be on site to lead this study.

Your Call to Action: Please plan to attend the Congregational Study on Sunday April 30th. I want the Synod to see that Lord of Life is committed and invested in its future. This is also your opportunity, as a member of the congregation, to participate and make your voice heard. As part of the study please be prepared to provide responses to the following four questions:

1. Our most important current ministries are:
2. In the next few years, I hope we can:
3. Our next Pastor should be someone who:
4. It is important that the bishop / staff know:

Please be thinking and capturing your responses to these questions prior to April 30th.

Last month we communicated that we wanted to raise our weekly average attendance from in the 30's to in the 40's before June 1, 2023. Currently we have a four-week average of 39.75 which includes 44 who attended the March 19th Worship Service. In the spirit of this goal, I have a vision. I have a vision that we will have very good attendance at all Holy Week services beginning Palm Sunday. I have a vision that we will have a packed Resurrection Sunday Worship Service with people parking in the grassy area as if it is the 3rd of July celebration at Lake Benson Park. Holy Week is a great opportunity to put into practice what Pastor has been sharing with us during his weekly sermons; being bold and inviting members of the community to worship with us.

Peace be with you all,

Shannon J. Thomsen, on behalf of your Church Council

Tess Andrews	Neil Brennecke	Linda Hash
Terry Barnes	Tim Clark	Sylvia Lambert
Steve Brantley	Alecia Harrison	



Are You Looking For a Deeper Way To Experience Holy Week?

This year, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, you may receive text messages in real-time so you can walk with Jesus during his final days. When we say 'real-time' we mean it! Some text messages will arrive early in the morning or late at night as we truly walk with Jesus and experience the events leading to His death and resurrection. As you read the texts, our hope is that you'll live the Easter story as if it were happening in the moment.

https://www.trytank.org/holyweek.html?mc_cid=ec4cc7e4a2&mc_eid=027d139343



NC Lutheran Synod News

The 2023 NC Lutheran Synod Assembly will be held in Greensboro, NC at the Koury Conference Center on June 2-3rd. There is also a Pre-Assembly workshop on Mutual Ministry on Thursday, June 1st also at the Koury Conference Center.

Lord of Life will send Pastor John and hopefully 2-3 delegates. Please let Shannon Thomsen, our Council President, know if you would like to be a delegate. Registration fees can be paid by Lord of Life if needed.



After our last Social Concerns Meeting on Sunday morning, I was the last of our group to leave. I was picking up my papers and ready to walk out the door when the next service (the 12:30 Hispanic group) was coming in. Just as we do, they had a greeter meeting and greeting those walking thru the front doors. But there were a couple of differences. This greeter was very young, about 6 years old, and she was full of the enthusiasm of a young child. Her excitement that only a young child can exhibit, included hopping around and flipping.

Yes, she did a flip across the floor of the narthex after she finished her first greeting task!

As I drove home I was thinking about the enthusiasm of this young church participant and how I miss the youth in our congregation.

We all know our greeters do a fantastic job. I love it when Steve opens the door, smiles, calls us by name and makes us feel welcome. If you Google Narthex it notes: a place of welcome. This initial approach is so important, especially for any new visitors. That friendly greeting sets the tone for the morning.

However, I have yet to see any flips from our Lutheran crew. Since we are all thinking of ways to bring the enthusiasm and excitement back into our worship, it is my suggestion that anyone who wants to try doing a flip should practice first. In the interest of safety, you may want to practice outside in the grass the first couple of times.

Looking for Soft Landings!

God Bless all our Greeters for their most important task.



Rita Clark

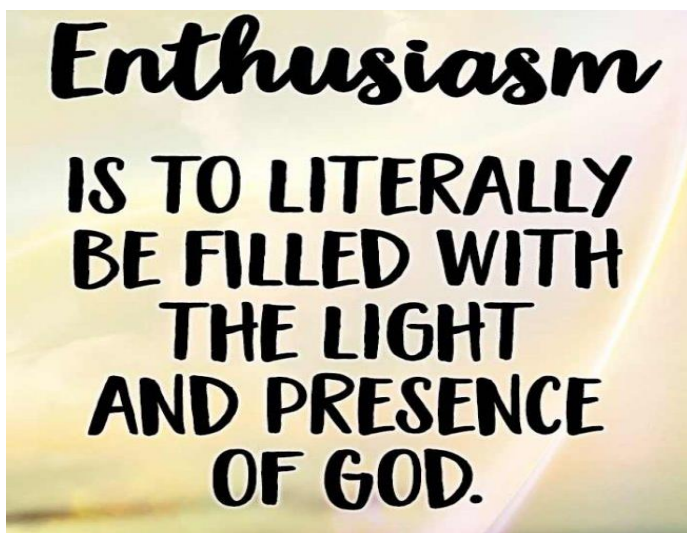


Parish Committee

Our Parish Committee met on February 26th in the Library. We talked about our current membership directory and the need to get updated once again. We will update directory and follow through with reaching out to people who may desire to become members or return after long absences.

We discussed our after church Fellowship and having a rough schedule of coverage, including Rena & Clyde for last Sunday of month, Steve & Barbara for 3rd Sunday of month, Grace & Terry and Tim to fill in. Parish members get a break for Sunday Fellowships that are provided by others on our signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

We all shared enthusiasm, positivity and a renewed energy about the future of LORD OF LIFE LUTERAN CHURCH. We shared our appreciation of Pastor John's leadership and optimism for our church. We're looking forward with hope and faith for a new Pastor who will unite our church when the Lord blesses us with that special person!



In writing this, I just left the church on a Thursday morning and witnessed Tim, Neil and Clyde working on Facility related work including work on exit signs and installing bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall. Grace was cleaning up in the Sacristy and I was facilitating the installation of 8 new thermostats by a local HVAC company. Today was preceded by Wednesday

morning, where multiple volunteers with Helen hosted the Rotary breakfast for our Garner Rotary. Later in the day on Wednesday, Barbara Kyles prepared a delicious Simple Supper prior to the Lenten Service, both the Supper and the Service were great being surrounded by a great church family! My point is that our little church is comprised by many dedicated hard workers who all contribute to LOL's success. We definitely need more dedicated workers to help us for our future.

One other tidbit of information, Lord of Life donated a total of 552 pounds of food to Garner Area Ministries in 2022... GREAT JOB!

We have our old bulletin board up in the Fellowship Hall with many of our pictures. We would like to update these pictures, as some are outdated. Anybody wanting updated pictures taken, please notify myself or Tim Clark, or submit your own photos if you prefer.

We're in the Spring of another year and can be thankful for all God has done for us and will continue to do for us!

God's Peace,

Terry Barnes/Parish Chair

Parish Committee Members: Grace Barnes, Steve Brantley, Barbara Kyles, Tim Clark, Clyde & Rena Bogle



Altar Guild –

The Altar Guild of Lord of Life is a group of dedicated Christians guided by the Holy Spirit and called to the mission in our daily lives and the ministries we share.

Thank you to Sylvia Lambert who worked weekly in January; Helen Holderman who served in February and baked altar bread; and Grace Barnes who served in March.

We appreciate new members Sheryll Albert who has volunteered to work with our banners, and Sheryl Eggert.

April is a busy month as we celebrate Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter! Alleluia!!

Ginny King



SATURDAY,
April 29, 2023
1 pm – 10 pm
Lake Benson Park

FUNDRAISER

I need help with campsite set up and tear down.
Also we need to have someone sitting at the
campsite at all times

AND someone walking on the track at all times.

Please let me know what you will be able to help
with!

Luminaries and Torches are available but they are
asking us to sign up for these on-line. Let me know if
you need help doing this.

Hope you can join in the fun!

Blessings,
Alecia



For **2023** 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" 2023

REQUEST (LETTER) DEADLINE is **Sunday, April 9th**



Peace and Hope

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:1-11, NIV

We have been going through Lent for the last several weeks. It can be a dark time where we reflect on our relationship with God and intentionally try to take it to a deeper level. This passage in Romans gives me GREAT hope. And in fact Romans was one of Martin Luther's favorite books of the bible, especially chapter 8. Romans 5 tells us that SINCE we are justified by faith, WE have PEACE with God through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Justification is when God moves a willing person from the state of SIN into a state of GRACE. We GET this grace from God who in His mercy, gives us grace as a FREE gift. Wow! I know that I disappoint God daily and He still has the mercy to give me grace! Mercy is not getting the punishment that I deserve and grace is the underserved gift of divine favor.

Because of God's mercy and grace, we can boast in the HOPE we receive in the Glory of God. I am grateful every day for the hope that God showers on me, even in my darkest days, He is there to show me how big and powerful He is. I take for granted that God is always working in my life. I usually remember this when the "problem" overwhelms me and I can't figure a way out. God in His infinite mercy, sees my little issue, waits for me to ask for help and then solves my annoyance in a way that I could not have considered on my own. God does not always answer our prayers the way that we think would be a perfect solution. But trust me, God's way is ALWAYS better! Another thing that I struggle with is being patient. Again, God's timing is nothing like our timing. God has a different set of rules for time. And I look forward to being in Heaven with Him and not worrying about time anymore. I feel very tied to a clock currently.

The next part of this scripture is a little more difficult. God wants me to glory in my suffering? The human part of me tries to avoid suffering. But suffering is inevitable. We are human. We will disappoint ourselves and those around us. We even disappoint people that we don't actually know. A misunderstanding and misinterpreted action can leave another person feeling obscure or unseen. Suffering leads to perseverance which leads to character which leads to HOPE! Wow! Such a convoluted path to get to Hope. But we ALL need HOPE! And we can only get satisfying hope from God. If you are having trouble feeling this hope, pray that God will reveal to you how He is working in your life right now. We don't call Him the God of Hope for nothing! And HOPE does not disappoint!

God's love has been poured into us through the Holy Spirit. God sent the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to live within us and guide us. The Holy Spirit is working overtime on me. Sorry that I keep Him so busy, but fortunately there is enough of Him to go around. Because He IS God! God can be in all places at all times. Unlike Satan, that can only be in one place at a time. Satan relies on using others around us to create doubt or tempt us to do something that isn't exactly right or block our path.

Where we are weak, God is strong. Hallelujah! And another blessing, Christ died for the ungodly! I do not deserve a Savior but yet I have one. And so do you! Christ died for everyone's sins. You just have to believe that He did this for you too! The weight of my sin is very heavy, more than I can bear. I cannot imagine the agony of carrying the sin of every human of all times at once when Jesus was on the cross. He had already sweat drops of blood while thinking about carrying the sin of the world in the Garden of Gethsemane. And that was just thinking about it! And Jesus knew before He was born to Mary what the outcome would be, and He came anyway. That is a level of LOVE that I struggle to understand. God proved His love for us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Therefore friends, we are saved from the wrath of God. This is the punishment that we deserve. It is our sin. The punishment is death. But Jesus bore the weight of our sins so that when God looks at us, He sees the righteous Jesus Christ. Wow! And finally, we can have a relationship with God because Jesus removed all the barriers. We can pray to God at any moment and He will hear our prayers. Do not be discouraged when your prayers are not answered quickly or how you thought they should be answered. God is ever present. He hears the prayers of His children. And He is standing right beside you right NOW!

What an awesome God we have!

And soon we will say, He is Risen Indeed!

**Silly
rabbit,
Easter is
for Jesus**

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison

The Social Concerns committee has moved their monthly meeting time to the second Sunday of the month after worship. We DO plan to meet on Palm Sunday. If you are interested in finding out more about what we do, please join us! We meet in the Library.

We are currently accepting camp scholarship applications. See any member of the committee to get an application. The completed applications are due soon!

We added a donation to the Capitol Food Pantry, hosted by the Capitol Church on business 70 in Garner. We also support the Community of Hope food pantry and the Garner Area Ministries food pantry.

The Social Concerns committee hosted the One Day Retreat for the NC ELCA Women on Saturday, March 18th. We had 33 people attend from seven different Lutheran congregations in the area. We had an excellent program led by several women from Trinity Lutheran in Sanford entitled "Becoming a Butterfly". The committee sponsored the LOL women in attendance. And of course, we had delicious food.

Submitted by Alecia Harrison





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays 9 am Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship			1			1
2 11 am - Social Concerns	3	4	5 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir	6 	7 	8
9 	10	11	12 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir	13	14 7 pm 	15
16 Council Meeting after Worship	17	18 	19 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir	20	21	22
23 	24	25	26 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir	27	28 	29



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

Family of John Nalepa;
Family of Susie Lowe; Monna
Stamm; Judy Stewart –
multiple health issues;
Carolyn Watkins; Carolyn
Watkin's neighbor, Mr.
Smith; Richard Suriano. Julia
Lochra's Father in Law,

Richard Suriano; Julia Lochra's cousin, Lester Salmon;
Julia Lochra's friend Betty – coping with husband's
rehab from a stroke; Clyde Bogle's sister-in-law, Wanda
– cancer; Father of Julya Mirro (Gale's friend); Gale's
friend, Ermin Patterson – massive stroke; Tim & Rita
Clarks sister-in-law, Jane Clark – breast cancer has
returned; Paul & Geri's son, Luke Savolainen – battling
cancer; Jim Powers; Sharon Vietri; Linda Hash's brother,
Charles Barlow, and sister-in-law, Beth Hash Lennon;
Kathi Tichansky's neighbor, Ms. Frances – broken hip
and shoulder; Sylvia Lambert's niece, Lori Wise –
cancer; Sylvia Lambert's daughter-in-law – major
surgeries; Jonathan McCoy; Rebecca Swanson's sister in
PA – Post Polio Syndrome; her nephew, Dr. David
Shaefer, and her great niece, Hope Emmaline; Lora
Clark's friend, Rebecca Bowman, recovering; Peg
Stamp, myeloma; Tess Andrews brother, David Van
Benschoten; Pam Klawiter's co-worker, Carolyn
Harbertson - breast cancer; Holly Hans' sister, Heather
House and her family; Holly Hans' mother, Carol Hardy.



April

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

May

May 6	Carla Niemann
May 10	Mary Cook
May 11	Leslie Hash
May 14	Sharyl Eggert
May 17	Virginia King
May 22	Tucker Britt

*If your name is missing from our
Birthday list, please let Laura
know! Thanks!!!*