

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

June 2023



**Lord of Life
Lutheran Church**
2100 Buffaloe Road
Garner, NC 27529

Email: LordofLife2100@gmail.com
Pastor's Email: pastorjlp3@gmail.com
Website: www.lordoflifechurchgarnernc.org
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Sundays: 9 am Adult Bible Study
10 am – In-Person Worship
& Virtual Worship via YouTube
(search for Lord of Life Lutheran
Church ELCA)

Eucharist: Every Sunday

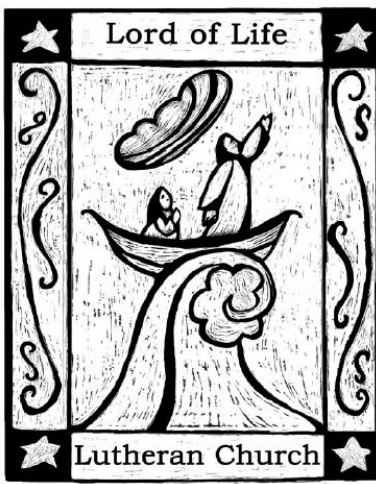
Thank you God

**For Your grace,
For Your mercy,
For Your forgiveness**



**For Your protection,
For Your guidance,
For Your peace,
For Your unfailing love
For being my savior.**

Amen



Life-Lines

June 2023



A FEW THOUGHTS ...

This coming Sunday, June 4th, we will gather for outdoor worship as we celebrate Holy Trinity Sunday. The last two Sundays we gathered for worship first for Ascension Sunday on May 21st and last Sunday, May 28th, for Pentecost Sunday. These three festive celebrations call us to action: **God has work for us** to be about - *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28: 18-20/The Great Commandment)

Our work is not for a/the few, it's for all of us!

The theme of the 2023 North Carolina Synod Assembly meeting in Greensboro this coming Friday & Saturday is:

"Who Do You Say That I Am?"

June 2023 is with us, it's the longest season of the *Church Year* which goes through summer and into late fall.

Now is not the time to loaf ... it's never the time.

How many homes and lives within 1 mile, 3 miles, and 5 miles of Lord of Life Church? If we are not interested in the community within our reach some other church will answer God's call.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For

everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds, and the one who knocks, the door will be opened.
(Matthew 7:7-8)



"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and we shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructs the hearts of the faithful, grant, that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in her consolations. Through Christ our Lord."

Amen. Amen. **Amen.**

+ John Petry,
Interim Pastor



From the Desk of Your Congregation Council

Your congregation council met on Sunday, May 21st. We had postponed our meeting one week due to the second Sunday of May being Mother's Day. Top agenda items included the Facilities Rental Policy, our partnership with Able to Serve, several facility improvement projects, status of the Love Garden, Congregation Study Results, and the Ministry Site Profile that is required to be completed so we can move forward with the Call Process.

We started the meeting with a topical devotion about spiritual risk... "List three spiritual risks you can take to expand your faith." Following the devotion and a short prayer, we proceeded to review and approve the April Minutes of Meeting and Financials.

We now have a rental policy for those groups who are currently using our facilities or plan to. As much as we would like to share our facilities with all at no cost, there is the cost of wear and tear of the aging infrastructure. A hardcopy of the policy and application form can be found in the church office or on-line. We will also be using this policy with La Voz de Dios and Iglesia Abundante Gracia.

Our brothers and sisters at Able to Serve celebrated their 20th anniversary on Monday, May 22nd. We discussed how we can support them with their Angie's fundraiser June 4th. We also spent time discussing the blessing that Able to Serve is to Lord of Life and how happy we are to see them thriving and growing.

The Property Committee / Men's Group have been very busy with improvement projects. I won't cover them all, but I will cover the top 3 – 4 projects. We committed to painting the pastor's office and the men's restroom which has now been completed. The lights in pastor's office have been replaced to make it brighter. We also discussed making it brighter in the sanctuary. We believe this will take a little more effort than just replacing the light bulbs, so stay tuned. As we continue to investigate and decide on a new sign located near the driveway entrance, we have

gone ahead and invested in repairing and making the current sign more visible. We discussed the need for an interior cleanup day, a day to clear a lot of clutter in the choir room, sanctuary, church office, and vestibule. Pastor John reminded us that interviewing potential pastoral candidates is a two-way street, so we need to present our facility so that it attracts the best. Finally, we discussed the state of the Love Garden. It was brought to our attention that the Love Garden needed to be spruced up now that Spring has sprung. We have a plan to address this right away and the Property Committee will monitor its state moving forward.

Before turning our attention to the congregation study results and the Ministry Site Profile, we addressed some old business and Pastor shared his report. Within his report he highlighted our newest members Matt and Larissa Himmeger who officially joined us May 14th.

Regarding the results of the congregation study, I was very pleased to see, as a congregation, we had very similar input across all groups. It was easy to find common themes with each question. For instance, Question # 1: "Our most important ministries are...". It was extremely clear that our top 3 ministries at Lord of Life are Social Concerns, Parish, and Worship & Music. As a congregation we all did well highlighting specific examples to support this. For example:

Social Concerns Ministry:

- Local & Global Outreach
- Camp Agapé
- Garner Area Ministries (food bank)
- Rotary
- Local Schools
- Backpack Buddies (food for kids)
- Back to School Supplies
- Angel Tree
- Relay for Life

Worship & Music Report

- Dr. Brad & Choir
- Variety in worship
- Different settings used
- Lord of Life liturgy
- Worship with communion

Parish Report

- Fellowship
- Friendliness
- Congregational Care
- Outreach to sick & elderly

- Home visits
- Family emergencies – helping with meals
- Greeters

With the results from the congregation study the council will complete the Ministry Site Profile as a team on Saturday, June 10th. Following the submission of the Ministry Site Profile someone from the Synod will train the Call Committee. Our goal is to have the Call Committee trained and searching for our new pastor before the end of June. We agreed that this has not moved as quickly as we would have liked.

Finally, an update on our “keep it simple, back to basics” goal where we wanted to raise our weekly average attendance from in the 30’s to in the 40’s before June 1st. Currently we have a four-week average of 43.5. We have also welcomed four new members during this interim period.

Peace be with you all,
Shannon J. Thomsen
on behalf of your Church Council

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



Synod Assembly is June 2nd – 3rd in Greensboro. Pastor John, Alecia and Tom Harrison are attending as your delegates.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Asheville did a creative switch to the backpack buddy program. Instead of putting non-perishable foods for a family for the weekend, they put in a change of clothes for the Afghan refugees living in the community. Many of the refugees literally left the country with the clothes on their backs. And this is an effort to encourage church attendance and help the refugees not feel so different because they have nicer, neat clothes to wear to church. Cool idea! They call it Free Change Backpacks.

Retired ELCA pastor, the Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Wheeler, will offer a book reading and Q&A at St. Paul's, Durham, on **Saturday, June 10th** at 2:00 pm. After a career of service to the church, he shares his experience as a Black pastor in a majority-White denomination in hopes of helping us all to grow in love and justice together, freeing all of us from the evil of White supremacy. Come to help the ELCA become a more inclusive church.

Each year, the NC Synod has a Summer Bible reading plan. The 2023 Summer Bible Reading Plan is *Genesis Generations*! Brought to you by the synod's Engage the Bible Ministry Team, you'll read together a chapter of Genesis, a short devotional writing, a few questions to ponder, and a prayer. Devotions are written by NC Synod pastors and lay people. The readings begin on **Sunday, July 2nd** and continue through **Sunday, July 23rd** — through Chapter 25 of Genesis. (This summer will leave us with a cliff-hanger, poised to continue with *Genesis Generations II* for Summer 2024.) Receive the daily readings via the website or email.

**Tom & Alecia
are FINALLY
moving!!!**

Saturday, June 17th.

Disclaimer! It IS Father's Day weekend and many of you already have plans. BUT I also NEED your prayers for a smooth transition!!!

IF you are willing to carry a box or 2 of stuff either from the old house to the new house, to Goodwill or to the Dump, please let me know!

Old address: 1812 Creekview Dr,
Clayton, NC

New address: 204 Winston Wynd Place
Fuquay-Varina, NC

My cell phone number is 919-333-6734

We will be loading up at the old place around 10 am on Saturday, June 17th.

Thank you for your prayers!!!

Alecia & Tom Harrison



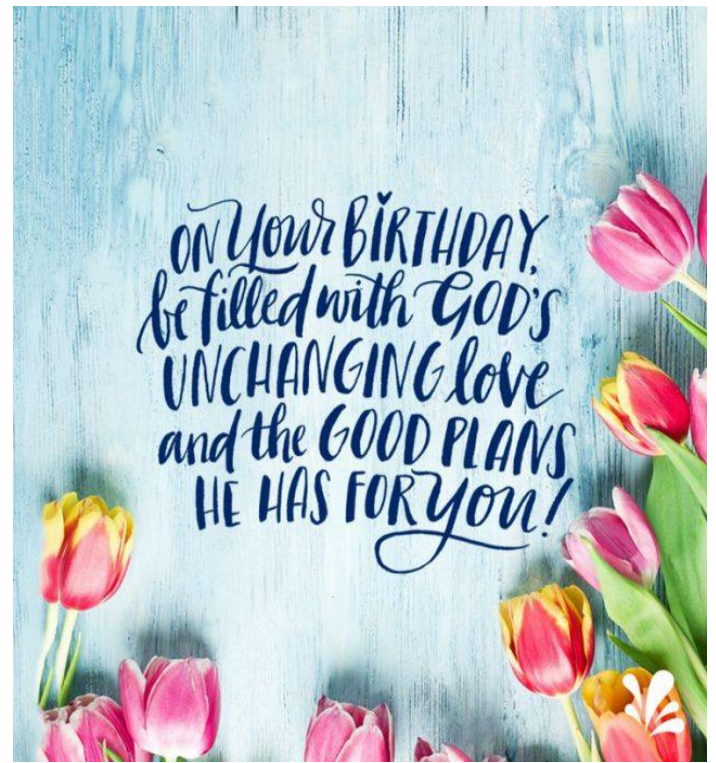


We pray for our world
and those in it with hope for
our future.

Families of Luke

Savolainen and Susie Lowe;
Julia Lochra's father, Albert
Lochra – stroke/seizure;
Julia Lochra's Father in Law,
Richard Suriano – multiple
health/heart issues; Sylvia
Lambert – surgery 6/12;

Sylvia Lambert's grandson, Ian Lambert – deployment
to Republic of Niger, West Africa; Clyde Cook & Daniel
Cook – both undergoing heart procedures; Diana
Havenstein; Mary Ann Jackson – brain tumor;
Dayshaun – sickle cell anemia/seizure/stroke/
recovering from surgery; Wendy Casey's mom, Barbara
– under hospice care; Lisa Hash-Burnett & baby Kyle;
Sheryll's friend, Tony – terminal cancer; Monna Stamm;
Judy Stewart – multiple health issues; Carolyn Watkins
– recovering from minor stroke; Carolyn Watkin's
neighbor, Mr. Smith; Clyde Bogle's sister-in-law, Wanda
– cancer; Father of Julia Mirro (Gale's friend); Gale's
friend, Ermin Patterson – massive stroke; Tim & Rita
Clarks sister-in-law, Jane Clark – breast cancer has
returned; Jim Powers; Sharon Vietri; Linda Hash's
brother, Charles Barlow, and sister-in-law, Beth Hash
Lennon; 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.



June

June 4	Karen Post
June 5	Wesley Patrick Niemann
June 8	Amy Cook
	Lori Harrison
June 10	Monna Stamm
June 20	Barbara Proper
June 24	Pastor John Petry
June 28	Ray Green

July

July 1	Jerry Hart
July 1	Laura Roscoe
July 9	Alice Austin
	Helen Holderman
July 13	Gavin Hans
	Joyce Havenstein
	Caleb Macurdy
July 21	Kieran King
July 30	Kathi Tichansky
July 31	Lauren Langworthy

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





*"Then they gathered around him and asked him,
"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the
kingdom to Israel?"* Acts 1:6, NIV

I can only imagine that Jesus' face fell when His disciples asked Him if now was the time that He would restore the Kingdom of Israel. Wow! The disciples had been with Jesus practically daily for three years and they had completely missed what He had been teaching them.

I can say that I feel this way sometimes too. I'm going along, living my life, think I'm going in a great direction only to find that I left God out of my plans... AGAIN! So where am I going?!? I feel like my life is a series of zigzag lines across the path that God would prefer that I travel. I try to remember that my biggest mistake is not realizing that I have strayed from the path... AGAIN! Fortunately we serve a God of second, third, etc. chances. He wants us to learn from our mistakes and try not to repeat those mistakes. But he also understands that we are human! God grants us MERCY – by not giving us the punishment that we deserve. Hallelujah!

The World is very flashy. I am easily distracted by "pretty" things. The World promises instant gratification but the thrills do not last. Following the plan that God has prepared for you brings peace, joy and everlasting life. The World cannot possibly compete with the promises of an Everlasting Life with Jesus. Why do I keep testing it? Because I am human. And God loves me, so I am welcomed back into His loving arms when I repent and return to Him.

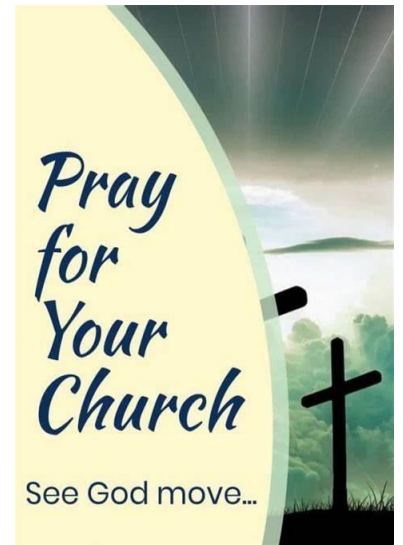
We have so much potential as a congregation. So much to offer our new Pastor. Are you praying now

for God to prepare the heart of the one He will call to lead us in the new year? Please start if you have not!!! We are very good at helping each other and welcoming the stranger. Keep up this wonderful attitude! Continue to look for ways to reach more people in our community. Invite

someone to church every month, or every other month if you a little shy. You will get some "no's" but you might get a yes! Pastor John has asked us to reach out to our former members. Talk to your friends. I find that it's easier to invite them to a fellowship activity, like the Christmas Party. But the outdoor worship is an easy, non-threatening event. I challenge you to bring a guest!

We are in a relationship with God. We can only help others and we get to live another day. We need to lift up God daily in our community. How can you do this? I don't know. Everyone's answer will be different. You can sit around and complain that we don't have any new members – which is NOT true! We have Brian, Amanda, Larissa and Matt. Or you can do something. So what will it be? And where are you going? What does God want Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Garner to be? What are you doing about it?

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison



What are **You** Going to Do about **IT**?

Hello June



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays 9 am Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship	D-Day Anniversary History – D-Day is a day of awareness and appreciation for all the people that fought in Normandy to defeat the Nazis and re-establish freedom. Normandy will bear the scars of this moment in history. Every year on June 6 the world pays tribute to all veterans that bravely fought the Nazis.			1	2 7 pm men's group	3
4  OUTDOOR WORSHIP Social Concerns Meeting after Worship	5	6  6 JUNE 1944 D-DAY ANNIVERSARY	7 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Choir	8	9	10
11 Council Meeting after Worship	12	13	14 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Choir	15	16	17
18  Happy Father's Day!	19	20 WORLD REFUGEE DAY 	21 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Choir	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Choir	29	30	



Progress has been made in sprucing up our church property. The men's room ceiling was patched and stripped of the popcorn finish. The men's room was painted the same color as the fellowship hall, we had the paint.

The pastor's office was also primed and painted Dynasty Marquee, a light gray. The old sign received a much needed facelift by a sign company. We continue to work on the construction of a new sign to be located near the driveway entrance. The defibrillator in the fellowship hall has been updated.

The outside doors have not yet been painted, as we plan to repair the bottom section of one door and the lock on another. When the repairs are completed, we will then paint the doors. We are also considering repair of the hardware of some inside doors. We plan to paint the parking lines in our parking lot this summer, clean up the outdoor chapel area, the love garden, and improve the lighting in the sanctuary.

Tim Clark, Chairman



A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and asked his father when they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car." The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair." To which his dad replied, "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"



Just Wondering from Social Concerns

Have you ever wondered: **WHAT** does Social Concerns do? Let me fill in some brief details. Our Social Concerns Ministry makes significant contributions to local food banks, hurricane and weather related disasters, the American Cancer Society, Scholarship dollars for Camp Agapé, Christmas gifts for young kids in our community and a monthly contribution sent to Garner Area Ministries – just to name a few.

If you are still wondering, **WHERE** does this money come from? Currently our funding comes from the Rotary as payment for the early morning Breakfast provided by Helen, Alecia, and the Early Morning Risers.

Now you are wondering, **WHO** are the Early Morning Risers? The Early Morning Risers are the team of volunteers who stepped forward when Helen made a passionate request to our congregation for help. These volunteers who arrive at the church at O'Dark Thirty on Wednesday mornings deserve a huge



Like a well-rehearsed team directed by Helen, the kitchen crew goes into full swing every Wednesday to be ready for the Rotary arrival at 7 am.

So if YOU have ever made a casserole, a breakfast dessert or shown up at the church early on a Wednesday morning to help or clean up, YOU have made a contribution to Social Concerns. In turn, You are part of our Lord of Life Social Concern Ministry.

WHEN?? If you would like to join us our next meeting will be Sunday, June 4th, immediately following worship. We also plan to hand out water bottles to the walkers in the Park that afternoon. Feel free to join us!

Rita Clark, Treasurer
Social Concerns Ministry

