

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

**August 2023**



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

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Pastor's Email: [pastorjlp3@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjlp3@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.lordoflifechurchgarnernc.org](http://www.lordoflifechurchgarnernc.org)  
Office (919) 772-9044



## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**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

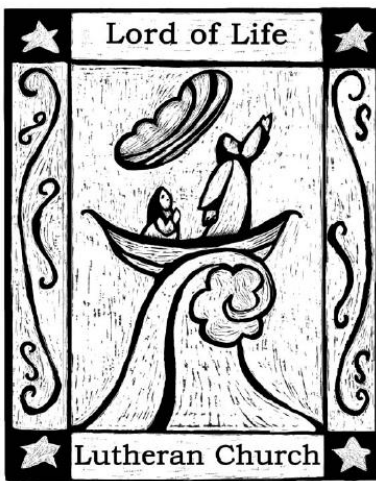
Have you ever stopped and  
wondered what God has done in  
your life that you aren't aware of?  
Maybe He healed you before you  
were even sick. Perhaps He saved  
you from a fatal car crash that  
never happened.

I feel like God has protected me  
more times than I can count, so  
I can only imagine the times He's  
rescued me when I wasn't  
aware that I was in danger.

I thank Him for watching  
over me, even when I didn't  
realize it. What an  
awesome God  
we serve.

**Amen!**

POSITIVITY  
IN LIFE



# Life-Lines

"HELLO"  
August

August 2023



## A FEW THOUGHTS ...

Wow - what's happened ... Is it August already? Do you ever get the feeling that 'life is on fast-forward' and you wonder how many things are happening too quickly around & with you? What keeps you grounded on a solid foundation?

"Change(s)" are often difficult in life if we're honest. Often we wonder if God hears our prayers of frustration & sorrow, or if God actually - cares.

In scripture the Book of Lamentations is filled with the cries of the faithful, and I believe God (already) knows what troubles us. It's often healthy for us to talk-about-what-troubles-us because in life individually: we default to the dark-side of life, feeling & thinking we are alone & abandoned.

You convince me Sunday after Sunday that there's a healthy core of faithful & faithfulness. I confirm the direction of Shannon and the Council getting to the basics of faithfulness grounded in hope, care and service. The path may be long and not-so-easy; however, it's worth the journey!

To borrow a verse from John's gospel: "we are set free" to choose the Good News of God - Father, Son & Holy Spirit, and often like the mother hen, we are sheltered by her safety by faith, hope and love - grace. **Amen.**

+ John Petry,  
Interim Pastor

## Social Concerns & the Early Morning Risers

This is a Thank You to all those who arrive at the church on Wednesday mornings at O'Dark Thirty (you know who you are)! You are the ones who are home napping by Wednesday afternoon. You are the cooks and clean-up crew who supports Helen and Becky making those great Wednesday morning breakfasts for the Rotary. This week a special thank you to the casserole and sweet breakfast bakers.

This is just a reminder, the monthly check Rotary presents to Social Concerns for their breakfast is in turn used to support local community needs and sometimes far reaching people in need.

For the month of July, our Social Concerns sent checks to Garner Area Ministries, Community of Hope and Capital Church Food Pantry all who support the needs of families locally. Also a check went out to The Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC, and as a far reaching endeavor: ELCA Good Gifts for drilling Clean Water Wells in countries where we can't imagine the living conditions.

Sooooo, if you are yawning and rubbing your sleepy eyes Wednesday mornings wondering WHY am I doing this? You are helping fill the shelves of local food pantries and contributing to a child drinking Clean Water.

If you have any questions you know where to find me on Sunday morning and I will gladly answer questions about the Social Concerns Committee of Lord of Life.

God Bless,  
Rita, Social Concerns Ministry



## *Leadership Circle Fireside Chat*

Featuring two of the ELCA's newest pastors  
"Leaders for Our Future Church"

**When:** Tuesday, Aug. 15, 3 pm

**Where:** Zoom Meeting

Dear Friends –

I'm excited to invite you to an exclusive, virtual "fireside chat" with the Rev. Charbel Zgheib and Rev. Katie Rode, alums of the ELCA Fund for Leaders and two of the ELCA's newest pastors. They will be interviewed by the Rev. Clair Burkat, interim bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod. During this intimate conversation you'll get a chance to hear both leaders talk about their unique call stories and the innovative ministries they lead. You also have the opportunity to submit questions ahead of time when you register at the link below.

Your generosity to the ELCA Fund for Leaders allows us to raise up and support leaders of our church. With your help, future pastors and deacons can go to seminary without financial barriers, exploring the types of ministry to which God is calling them. We look forward to an insightful conversation with you!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Marissa Krey  
Director, ELCA

Fund for Leaders  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America



Contact [events@elca.org](mailto:events@elca.org) for more information.

### **Speakers:**

**Rev. Charbel Zgheib**

*ELCA Arab and Middle*

*Eastern Ministries*

*Mission Developer, Sierra*

*Pacific Synod,*

*Sacramento, CA*

*ELCA Fund for Leaders, Class of 2022*

*Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary,*

*Class of 2023*



The Rev. Charbel Zgheib is a pastor serving as mission developer for Afghan refugees and Arab and Middle Eastern communities in Sacramento, Calif. He works with ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries and as treasurer of the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage. Through his work with Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries, and in partnership with the ELCA Innovation team, he has led the creation of Salam Radio Station, a streaming station for Arabic-speaking Christian communities.

Born in Lebanon, Zgheib was raised in a Catholic family during a difficult time, when the country was torn by civil war. Coming from a background in clinical social psychology, he worked as a counselor, a consultant to the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations on emergencies and psychosocial support, and as a volunteer for a local Christian radio station. Through a friend serving in the United States, Zgheib learned about Lutheranism and its core values of forgiveness and reconciliation, dignity, compassion and justice, inclusion and diversity, courage and openness to change, and faithful stewardship of God's creation and gifts. Through a few years of involvement with ELCA Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries, and encouragement from program director Rev. Khader Khalilia, Zgheib joined the

Lutheran family and pursued a call to rostered ministry by enrolling at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.



**Rev. Katie Rode**  
*Pastor, Immanuel  
Lutheran Church,  
Comfort, Texas  
ELCA Fund for Leaders,  
Class of 2019  
Wartburg Theological  
Seminary, Class of 2023*

The Rev. Katie Rode is a fifth-generation Lutheran pastor serving the community of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Comfort, Texas. Rode was a family ministry director for 10 years before answering a call to Word and Sacrament ministry. In fall 2019 she entered the Contextual Education & Internship program at Wartburg Theological Seminary; this new educational track allows the candidate to serve as a synodically authorized minister through all four years of the school's Master of Divinity program. In addition to serving as pastor of Immanuel, Rode is vice president of the Comfort Table & Food Pantry, director of the Comfort Education Foundation and a volunteer firefighter for the Comfort Volunteer Fire Department. She loves supporting her son's middle school football and baseball teams and spending time with her adult daughter, her son-in-law and her two grandsons. Her chosen missional style is passionately connected to food and language.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

The Social Concerns Committee had a very successful July 3<sup>rd</sup> experience. The glow in the dark necklaces and bracelets were the biggest hit. We also passed out Frisbees and water bottles. We tried to tie ribbons to a plastic tree to honor our military family members. This had limited success. As usual, we had a wonderful picnic with our Able to Serve families and thanks to ATS for providing all the hot dogs. There was plenty of food and the fireworks were amazing!!!



We continue to collect food for the Garner Area Ministries Food Pantry in the Narthex. Please consider buying an extra can or 2 of whatever you are getting for your family and



place in the baskets. We are also looking for a new DRIVER to deliver the collected food to the food pantry. Please see any member of the Social Concerns Committee if you can help!

The Morning Rotary Breakfast continues to go very well! Their new year started this month. It is exciting to see the new leadership step up to the challenge of keeping this vital group going.

We are still looking for more CASSEROLE cooks. We typically have casserole day on the last Wednesday of the month. Please let Helen Holderman know if you would be willing to be added to our rotation of cooks. We try not to ask the same people over and over.

Blessings,  
Alecia Harrison  
Social Concerns Committee

*I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."*

Romans 7:15-18, NIV

No one wakes up in the morning and says, "Today I am going to be REALLY bad!" I like to think that I wake up to a clean slate every morning. All the mistakes of yesterday are in the past and I have a chance to be better today. Sometimes I am successful, especially on those days when I made a LOT of mistakes. I am reminded that evil is always close at hand!

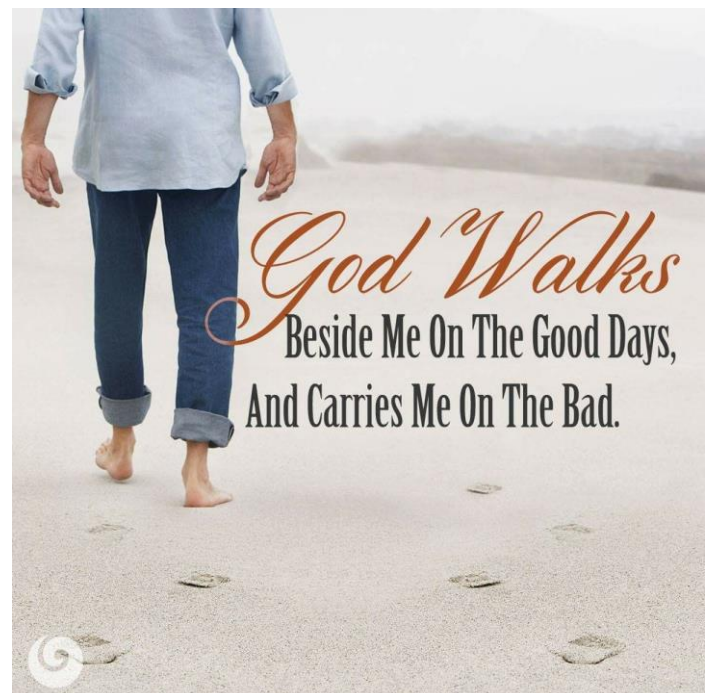
Fortunately, we serve a God of Love! He loves us in our sin and our obedience. Martin Luther instructed us that we are both Sinners and Saints. I feel this struggle every day! The Romans passage makes me laugh. I have this thought most days. I do what I hate and don't do what I know I should do. It is a constant struggle between our worldly self and our righteous self. Fortunately God loves us both! And he is ever present to encourage us when we are doing what we should do and pick us up when we do what we shouldn't do.

Our world is suspicious of those that don't constantly seek the excitement of following the latest trends and gathering the most stuff! Believe me, you can't take it with you! And I am still wading through a lifetime of stuff that no one wants but it means something to me. It all will not fit in our new place, so difficult decisions are being made. But remember that we make difficult decisions daily.

Pastor John reminded us to not let the things that you don't want have power over you. Do not focus on the things that are troubling you. Get out of your own way! Listen to God. He will always give you the best path. I just forget to ask Him to help me a lot of the time. One pattern for daily prayer includes thanksgiving, praise, lament and confession. I often forget the praise! God does so much for us all the time. Be careful not to take His work in your life for granted. Pray often that God will challenge you to move where the Holy Spirit needs you to go. Serious prayer comes from waiting on God's voice and not just checking the box on your "To Do" list.

Ask God for His Compassion and Discernment, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit! Christ loves us GREATLY! Remember that He left the comfort of Heaven to walk on earth for 30ish years so that He could die for your sins, and mine. What a GIFT! He is always walking beside us, through every difficulty. Don't be weary in the hard times. Know that God is with you and great things are about to happen through you!

Blessings,  
Alecia Harrison



## New Suit

When Billy Graham was 92 years-old, he was struggling with Parkinson's disease. In January, a month before his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, leaders in Charlotte, North Carolina, invited their favorite son, Billy Graham to a luncheon in his honor.

Billy initially hesitated to accept the invitation because of his struggles with Parkinson's disease. But the Charlotte leaders said, 'We don't expect a major address. Just come and let us honor you.' So he agreed.

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham stepped to the podium, looked at the crowd, and said:

"I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist who this month has been honored by Time magazine as the Man of the Century. Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train, when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets.

It wasn't there. He looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

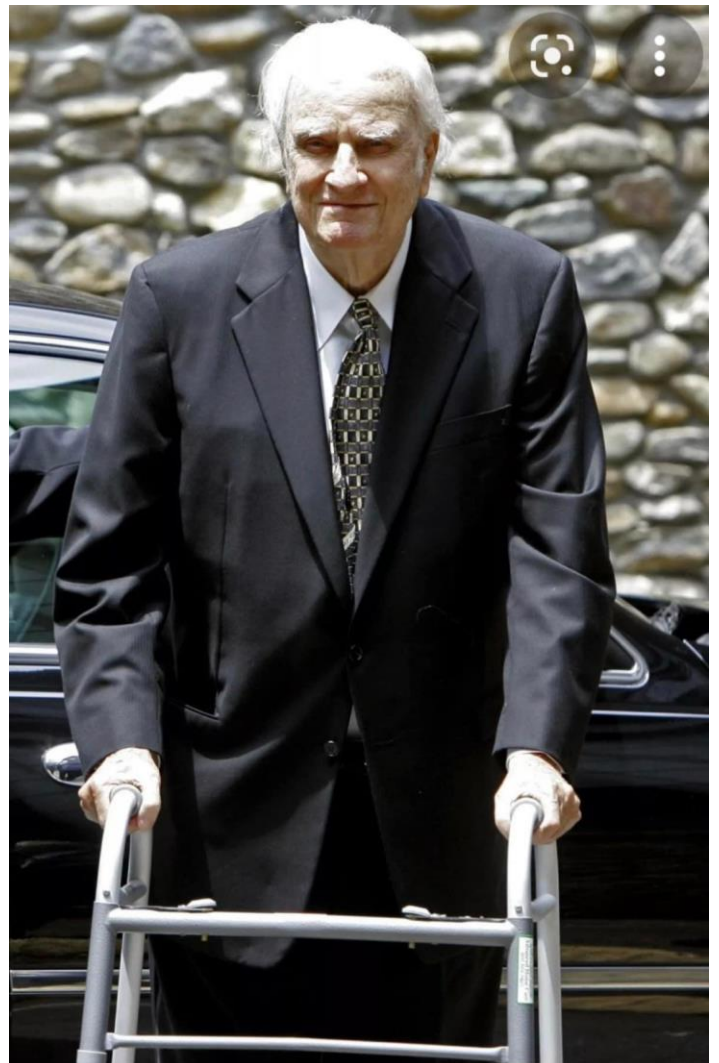
"The conductor said, 'Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it.'" Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket.

"The conductor rushed back and said, 'Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are; no problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one.' Einstein looked at him and said, 'Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going.'"

Having said that Billy Graham continued, "See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand new suit. My children and my grandchildren are telling me I've gotten a little slovenly in my old age. I used to be a bit more fastidious. So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion. You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried. But when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you to immediately remember the suit I'm wearing. I want you to remember this:

"I not only know who I am. I also know where I'm going."

*May each of us have lived  
our lives so that when our  
ticket is punched we don't  
have to worry about where  
we are going.*





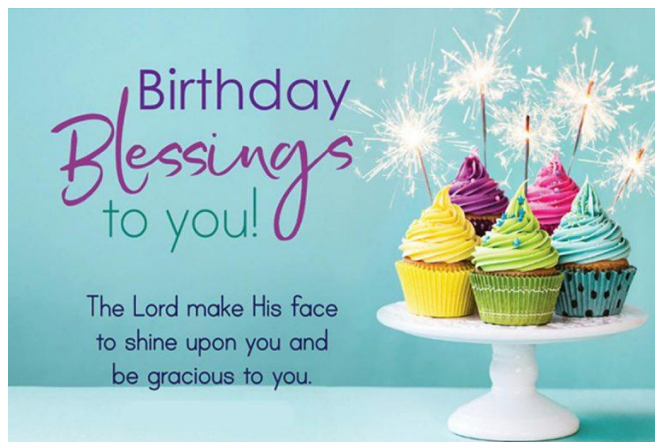
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sundays</b> 9 am Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship		1	2 7 am Rotary Breakfast  7 pm Choir	3 <b>NATIONAL WATERMELON DAY</b> 	4 6 pm – 9 pm Call Committee Meets	5 9 am – 3:30 pm Call Committee Meets
6 <b>Social Concerns Meeting after Worship</b>	7 <b>Purple Heart Day</b> 	8	9 7 am Rotary Breakfast  7 pm Choir	10 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY SNOOPY!</b> 	11 7 pm <b>men's group</b>	12
13 <b>Council Meeting after Worship</b>	14	15	16 7 am Rotary Breakfast  7 pm Choir	17 <b>BLACK CAT APPRECIATION DAY</b> 	18	19
20	21	22	23 7 am Rotary Breakfast  7 pm Choir	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 7 am Rotary Breakfast  7 pm Choir	31  <b>overdose awareness</b>		



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

Families of Monna  
Stamm, Luke Savolainen  
and Susie Lowe; 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;  
Judy Stewart – multiple health issues; 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.



## **August**

August 1	Aidan Johnson
August 5	Stacie Johnson
August 6	Abbey Renfrow
August 7	Sarah Weisenburn
August 12	Edie Craig
August 13	Dylan Rebbear
August 14	Sarah Watkins
August 15	Clyde Bogle
August 19	Sheryll Albert
August 20	Alisa Hart
August 24	Linda Hash
August 28	Sage Weatherwax
August 30	Don Craig
	Kathy Hart
	Chip Kyles
	Joe Ann Wilder

## **September**

September 1	Deanna Leuenberger
September 2	Gerry Havenstein
September 5	Nancy Clifford
September 7	Ben Harrison
September 8	Emma Terrazas
September 17	Kerri Blanchard
September 22	Mike Kestner
September 23	Shannon Thomsen
September 25,	Brian Stone
September 27	Esther Bredell
September 29	James Stewart
September 30	Adia Hans

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