Interim Pastor John Pe	etry			
Minister of Music 0	pen			
Office Manager Laura R	aun			
Web MasterGray Anth	ony			
Congregational Council				
Shannon ThomsenPresid	lent			
Terry BarnesVice Presid	lent			
Tim ClarkSecret	tary			
Lindsay Crocker Treasu	urer			
Tess Andrews Deputy Treasu	urer			
Terry BarnesFinancial Secret	tary			
Neil Brennecke, Steven Brantley, Alecia				
Harrison, Linda Hash, & Sylvia Lambert				

September 2023



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

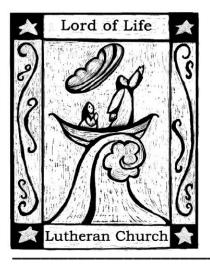
Email: LordofLife2100@gmail.com Pastor's Email: pastorjlp3@gmail.com Website: www.lordoflifechurchgarnernc.org Office (919) 772-9044



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





Life-Lines

September 2023



A FEW THOUGHTS ...



"Grace & peace" as I sit just outside of Glacier National Park with today's temperature high to be somewhere around the mid-50's and rain throughout the day.

I've checked on my Florida extended family members with the wind and rain of the perils of hurricane season. My 92 year old aunt assured me of her safety with, "me and my good 101 year old neighbor are just fine, because God keeps watch over us - rain or shine".

Through the ups & downs of our lives, the changing circumstances, the unknown surprises, and tragedies of life and death - together we join our sisters and brothers of all colors & cultures ~ all are beloved children of the Lord of Life.

+ John Petry, Interim Pastor

May your day be filled with happiness.

A teacher gave a balloon to every student, who had to inflate it, write their name on it and throw it in the hallway. The teacher then mixed all the balloons. The students were then given 5 minutes to find their own balloon. Despite a hectic search, no one found their balloon.

At that point, the teacher told the students to take the first balloon that they found and hand it to the person whose name was written on it. Within 5 minutes, everyone had their own balloon.

The teacher said to the students: "These balloons are like happiness. We will never find it if everyone is looking for only their own. But if we care about other people's happiness, we'll find ours too."





Our Parish Committee has continued to serve our congregation and visitors through our afterservice fellowships, sending cards to our LOL church family and helping to contribute to various events and activities. Our team on Parish often contribute out of our personal funding for fellowship expenses. We also recognize the other generous individuals and groups (Social Concerns, Altar Guild, Council) who host fellowship and those great people who bring in their contributions (and homemade specialties).

We will be facilitating our Annual Ministry Fair in October or November timeframe (Date TBD) and our Annual stewardship Campaign. Our church is going through many challenges simultaneously now as we're looking for a new Pastor, new Minister of Music and potentially selling some of our land to Able to Serve. These challenges might seem a little intimidating, however, I'd rather think that we'll be involved in and witnessing God's awesome will at work! Expect great things!

Our Church Council, Call Committee and Executive Committee have put in many long hours (above and beyond Sundays) on working on the challenges mentioned above. Our Call Committee Trainer (Roger) commented on what a beautiful facility and surrounding area we have. As I gave Roger the grand tour, one of the first things that he noticed were all the crosses in the Narthex. The crosses on the wall kind of tell their own story and noted that all the Lord of Life Saints get a cross and a cross for their family (compliments of the Men's Group). He also noticed the GAM baskets in the narthex, where the generosity of our church supports our local community.

Please observe the 2 large homemade posters on the kitchen storage area doors in the

Fellowship Hall. These were made by our Call Committee when we were given the task to tell "who is Lord of Life Church?." As our creative genius is displayed on the doors (Music, crosses, GAM baskets, fireworks, etc.), this is just a fraction of displaying who Lord of Life Lutheran Church is. This is why we should all be encouraged, hopeful and faithful in the plans our loving God has in store for us.

Parish Chair, Terry Members: Grace, Steve, Barbara, Clyde, Rena & Tim



We currently have a wonderful group of very dedicated workers.

Thank you to Helen Holderman for serving this month and baking bread, and to Sylvia Lambert for serving in July. Sarah Watkins served in June and Barbara Kyles in May. Grace Barnes will serve in September. Thank You Ladies!! Also Thanks to Sheryll and Harry Albert for updating the banners. We all appreciate the work you do in our worship center to make it inviting. We serve the Lord with gladness.

> Ginny King (919) 763-0445



Summer is almost gone, and Fall is almost here...



As I was pondering what to talk about in September's newsletter article from Social Concerns, a few things came to mind. One was this quote from Carol Ryrie Brink, "The most truly generous persons are those who give silently without hope of praise or reward." This struck m as a reminder of the true spirit of giving. We do not give for the purpose of what we can get out (it, we give in the hope that, out of our meager gifts, we can lift someone up and bring light to someone's darkest place. Another inspiration that popped up was a truly inspiring song by Matthew West, titled "Do Something". The first lines are someone crying out to God to Do Something about what is going on in the world. God, why don't you DO SOMETHING! The next line always gives me chills. God said I did do something...I CREATED YOU! Social Concerns always tries to be the hands and feet of the Lord with your help and support, but now is not the time to rest. Here are a few things we are doing now and upcoming!

We continue to collect monthly donations of food and toiletry items for Garner Area Ministrie: August's theme was Back to School Lunch Box items and Snacks. Keep your eyes and ears peele for September's theme! As always, any donation is welcome!

Rotary Breakfasts are going well. A big thank you to everyone who is helping out!

Over the summer, we got out of our building and down to the park crosswalk to give out wate to any soul who wanted a refreshing drink, including our four-legged friends. Once people realized we did not want anything from them, the chatting began. Once it got really hot, though, the number of people went down. We are rethinking this idea, so stay tuned. Maybe a sign... Hello from Lord of Life! Come have a drink on us!

We are looking into having a mini Food Truck Rodeo on October 15th, after church.

As always, we give locally and to our greater global community. Let's get out and DO SOMETHING!

Come join us for one of our monthly meetings on the firsSunday of every month, right after church. We would love to see you there!

> Thank you for your continued support, Sarah Watkins – Chair, Social Concerns

Our family would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone for all of your thoughts and prayers during this sad time. We would also like to thank all those that provided food, desserts and paper goods for after the service. We had a wonderful dinner with family and friends.

> The extended family of Monna Stamm



The NC Lutheran Synod has experienced some growing pains -- Bishop Tim Smith continues with his cancer treatments but is working as much as possible for our congregations of North Carolina; Pastor Sara Ilderton resigned from the Bishop's staff to accept a call as a Parish Pastor; Deacon Wendy Roberts will be the Candidacy Coordinator; And Pastor Cassie Overcash will become an Assistant to the Bishop.

Pacifica Synod ELCA and Lutheran Disaster Relief have set up a fund to benefit those affected by the wildfires in Maui, called Hawaii Wildfire Relief. Online donations will be accepted.

LDR Carolinas has set up a relief fund for the members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Rocky Mount affected by a tornado on July 19th. They have requested gift cards, preferably to Walmart, for no more than \$50 each. Pastor Alice Curl is supervising the collection and distribution.

A prayer of Archbishop Desmond Tutu: Creator God, you have called us to be keepers of your earth. Through greed we have established an economy that destroys the web of life. We have changed our climate and we drown in despair. Let oceans of justice flow. May we learn to sustain and renew the life of our Mother Earth. We stand with indigenous people worldwide who are demanding restoration of their ancestral lands. We pray for our leaders, custodians of Mother Earth,



that they may negotiate with wisdom and fairness. May they act with compassion and courage; and lead us into the path of justice for the sake of our children and our children's children. Amen.

> Blessings, Alecia Harrison



I know you're hurtin', I can see it in your eyes So pull back the curtain and take off your disguise Whoever told you, you ain't worth the fight The cross tells a story that'll change your mind

'Cause there's only love in the heart of God No room for shame in His open arms There's beauty from ashes, so come as you are And there's only love in the heart of God

Come, prodigal children, it's never too late Run home to the Father, let Him clothe you with grace And bury your burdens, break free from your fear Step out of the shadows, there's no judgment here

No, He's not sittin' there shakin' His head Writin' you off, leavin' you lost He's not sittin' there shakin' His head Wishin' He'd never went to that cross He went to that cross, He went to that cross

There's only love in the heart of God No room for shame in His open arms There's beauty from ashes, so come as you are And there's only love in the heart of God

There are times when you feel so far away from God, but Zack's words above remind us that we had a loving God that is standing right beside us. He has always loved us and just wants us to acknowledge that He is Lord our life. Yes, we try to do things our way and mess them up daily! Hand your problems over to God and He will answer your prayer in unexpected ways. Sometimes He says Yes, but more often He says No, with a qualifier. No never, No not yet, or No I have something better. It is hard to be patient, but our Loving Father wants the best for you. So take a deep breath and listen for the Heart of God!

Blessings, Alecia Harrison



The Center of the Bible

Did you know?

The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117. The longest chapter in the Bible in Psalm 119. The very center of the Bible is marked with alm 118

Psalm 118.

There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118. There are 594 chapters after Psalm 118. Add these numbers and you get 1,188.

What is the center verse in the Bible? Psalm 118:8. "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man."

This verse says something very significant about God's perfect will for our lives. We're told to trust in him rather than people. If we do that, we'll find it much easier to stay in the center of his will.

When are you tempted to place your trust in people rather than Christ? We often tend to trust what we can see and feel. Placing our trust in God when we can't see him is where faith comes in.

Many times we can't see or feel the sun. But we don't doubt its existence simply because it's

hidden behind the clouds. And there are times we can't feel the wind. Do you still believe that the air exists even when you can't feel or hear it? To stay in the center of God's will requires faith, and faith is trusting without seeing.

The next time someone says he'd like to find God's perfect will for his life . . . or that he wants to be in the center of God's will, just send him to the center of God's Word!

Isn't it odd how this works out . . . or could God be in the center of it?

Know It!

What often seems a coincidence to us is divine provision from God Almighty. Allow him to help you stay grounded in the center of his will.

Read It!

Psalm 118:8; Luke 18:1-8; Ephesians 6:10; 2 Thessalonians 3:5; Hebrews 11:1

Pray It!

Ask forgiveness for the times you stray from God's will, and ask him to give you the discipline you need to stay grounded in his Word.

Heloseptember

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays 9 am Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship			7 am Rotary Breakfast At YMCA		1	2
3 Social Concerns Meeting after Worship	4 LABOR DAY	5	6 7 am Rotary Breakfast At YMCA	7 NATIONAL BEER LOVER'S DAY	8 7 pr	i's Ip
10 Council Meeting after Worship	NEVER FORGER PATRIOT DAY 9/11	12	13 7 am Rotary Breakfast	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 7 am Rotary Breakfast	21 Able to Serve Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction	22	23
Gold Star Mother's Day	25	26	27 7 am Rotary Breakfast	28 NATIONAL COFFEE DAY	29 29	30



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

Family of Monna Stamm; Kathy Hart's brother, Dan Stamm; Ginny King's sister, Mary Anna Strickler – broken hip/hip replacement;

Sylvia Lambert's grandson, Ian Lambert deployment to Republic of Niger, West Africa; Diana Havenstein; Mary Ann Jackson – brain tumor; Dayshaun – sickle cell anemia/seizure/ stroke/ recovering from surgery; Wendy Casey's mom, Barbara – under hospice care; 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; 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, and her nephew, Dr. David Shaefer; Lora Clark's friend, Rebecca Bowman, recovering; Peg Stamp, myeloma and severe back pain; 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.





<u>September</u>

September 1 September 2 September 5 September 7 September 8 September 17 September 22 September 23 September 25, September 27 September 29 September 30

Deanna Leuenberger Gerry Havenstein Nancy Clifford Ben Harrison Emma Terrazas Kerri Blanchard Mike Kestner Shannon Thomsen Brian Stone Esther Bredell James Stewart

Adia Hans

October

October 1 October 2 October 5 October 8 October 10 October 14 October 25 Kristin Hayduk Tim Clark Connie Fortmeyer Keara Grayson Avery Britt Scott Lokken Tom Harrison Amy Macurdy Thomas Isaacs

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