

Interim Pastor John Petry
Minister of Music Open
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

December 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



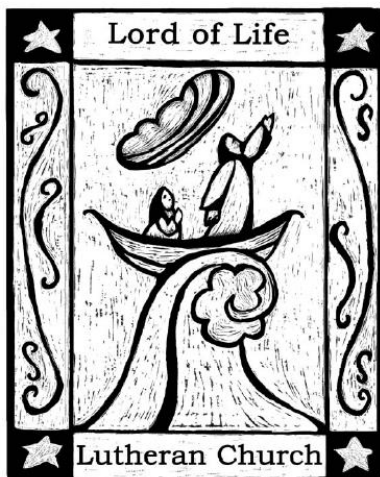
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



The most beautiful
things in life are not things.
They're people and places,
memories and pictures.
They're feelings and moments
and smiles and laughter.



Life-Lines

December 2023



Sunday Morning Worship

December 2nd - First Sunday of Advent
December 10th - Second Sunday of Advent
December 17th - Third Sunday of Advent
December 24th - Fourth Sunday of Advent
10 am

Wednesday Midweek Worship

December 6th
December 13th
December 20th
7 pm

ALL are WELCOME in this
HOUSE!



at

Lord of Life Lutheran Church



**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship**

Join Us Sunday, December 24th

10:30 pm

2100 Buffaloe Road, Garner, North Carolina



(We are located next to Lake Benson Park)

Telephone: 919-772-9044



Reverend John Petry, Interim Pastor
Dr. Bradley Hunnicutt, Pianist/Organist

A FEW THOUGHTS ...



Happy new year ...that is - new Church Year!

We begin a new year with the Gospel of Mark, leaving Matthew's ridged text as the primary reading of Jesus' birth, ministry and resurrection events. However ... Matthew's account ends with glory: *"I've received all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age."* Mark's Good News is quick 'to the point' - "Jesus Christ, the Son of God". Mark's manuscript is embedded in Matthew & Luke's texts.

With all the rush of activities this month, please make a faithful effort of the prophet Isaiah: *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"* and invite: family, friends, church members you haven't seen recently, neighbors, and someone you have never invited to worship this Advent & Christmas (you could hand someone a flier with just a smile ...'tis the season).

"Priesthood of the Lord of Life" sisters & brothers: *Look, you are sent as messengers, God will prepare your way!*

+ PJ, Interim Pastor



*Invite
Someone
to Church*



Greetings from Social Concerns To Our GENEROUS CONGREGATION:

It has been a busy month for Social Concerns. We move into high gear for the weeks prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas. As you may have noticed in the narthex, the blanket distribution has been met with great success, thanks to our **Generous Congregation**. A special thank you to Gale Isaacs for making the display and printing the tags, Julia Lochra for finding the best prices for the blankets, and Alecia for the warm gripper socks. We plan to deliver 39 gift bags with a blanket, socks, and daily toiletries to the Lawndale Assisted Living facility for the residents before Christmas. Also a gift basket will be presented to their staff.

In November Social Concerns made our yearly contribution to the ELCA Good Gifts who distribute small farm animals and honey bees to third world countries.

Thanksgiving Food: Prior to Thanksgiving, our own Sarah Watkins and Helen Holderman shopped for the families in need of a holiday feast, including turkeys and lots of trimmings. This was in response to the request from the Social Worker for Timber Drive Elementary. The Thanksgiving feast was picked up at the church by a representative from the school, prior to the Thanksgiving Break.

Garner Area Ministries, Holiday Foods: In addition to the monthly checks sent by Social Concerns, our **Generous Congregation** supports Garner Area Ministries (GAM) with the recent food drop offs made to GAM in November. The second November drop weighed in at just over 90 pounds! Thanks to Tim for the delivery and Thanks again to our **Generous Congregation** for filling the boxes.

Let's keep this momentum going as we approach Christmas. Let's see if we can fill those empty boxes near the front doors with cans, boxes, applesauce and snacks. Hey, **Generous Congregation** let's see if we can go beyond the 90+ Pounds of food for local families in need this December.

There are so many things going on at Lord of Life in the month of December, check and recheck your calendars. Just to mention a couple: YOU don't want to miss out on the **Men's Christmas Party** - Friday night, Dec. 8th. And YOU CERTAINLY don't want to miss the wonderful **8th Annual Mary Jo Albert Memorial Christmas Concert** when Dr. Brad and Ray Greene return to play the songs of the season for our congregation on Monday night, December 18th. Come out and bring a neighbor. I heard there may be some Christmas Cookies & punch after the concert, thanks to Helen and our new member Becky Roof.

Mary Jo Albert
8th Annual Memorial
Christmas Concert
December 18th at 7:00 pm



Looking forward to the New Year –

In January there is a focus on Children's Reading. The Wake Up and Read Program will be collecting new or gently used Children's Books. See Alecia if you have questions.

In February we celebrate Super Bowl Sunday by asking our **Generous Congregation** to make a donation of canned Soup (Soup R Bowl) - did you get the pun? Place the cans in the boxes near the front door. Any offers from members of our Congregation to deliver these to GAM (Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings) will be appreciated! You deliver to the back of building and wait while their helpers weigh it. It's no surprise that GAM tells us the food donations after the holidays, take a significant dive. Let's show how generous Lord of Life can be!

If you have any questions for Social Concerns please let us know. You know where to find us on a Sunday Morning.

God's Blessings for the Christmas Season,
Rita Clark
Treasurer, Social Concerns



We are starting a new liturgical year! Thank you to Sheryl Eggert, our newest member, for setting the altar for November. And thank you to Helen Holderman for baking communion bread.,

We will have a meeting at church Saturday December 9th at 10 am. After we meet we will set up the Christmon tree in the narthex.

Happy Holidays to all!!

Ginny King
(919) 763-0445

ADVENT

PREPARE THE WAY



Advent is a time for waiting, to prepare for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

But Jesus did NOT start at the Manger. Jesus ALWAYS was!

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:1-5, NIV

Jesus is the light of the world. Especially today, our world seems very dark. We have wars, famine, poverty, sickness, homelessness, apathy, atheists, people in need with nowhere to turn. But as believers in Jesus as our Savior, we have HOPE! This world is just a blip on our screen of life. We have so much more waiting for us in Heaven. No pain, no tears, no worries.

While we are still here on this side of Heaven, we have work to do. We are God's hands and feet. God gently whispers to you what He wants you to do for Him. Sometimes we hear and think that we are not capable of

that task. Know that God will equip you if He has truly called you to do something for Him. Sometimes we are too busy to hear. This is where I struggle. I need to slow down so that I can hear "God's still small voice".

We have many opportunities at Lord of Life to celebrate Christmas and enjoy the season of preparing for the Birth of Christ. The Hanging of the Greens and the Chrismon tree, put up by the Alter Guild. The Advent Adult Sunday School held in the Fellowship Hall at 9 am on Sunday mornings. The Angel Tree to support Lawndale Assisted Living. The Mary Jo Albert Annual Christmas Concert. The Annual Adult Christmas Party sponsored by the Men's Group with the White Elephant Gift Exchange. Midweek Advent Services.

There is so much excitement with searching for a new Pastor and a new Minister of Music. This is a very good time to be at Lord of Life. Look for your light. Enjoy your family and friends. Think on your relationship with God. Where is it good and where can you improve? And keep looking for the LIGHT. Christ Jesus loves you so very much!!

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison

Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter



In 1927 in Plains, Georgia, a three-year-old boy named Jimmy Carter lived next door to an auto mechanic, Francis Smith, and his pregnant wife, Allie. That August, Allie went into labor, and Jimmy's mother, a nurse, helped deliver her daughter. The next day, little Jimmy went next door and peered into the crib. The baby inside was named Rosalynn.

As a teenager, "Rosie" had a fierce crush on Jimmy, but he was three years older, and apparently took little notice of the shy kid next door. During WWII, he left town to join the Naval Academy. One day in the summer of 1945, Jimmy returned to Plains on vacation. While riding in the rumble seat of a friend's Ford, he looked toward the United Methodist church and saw Rosie, now seventeen and all grown up, standing out front. He was gob smacked. Jimmy hopped out of the rumble seat and asked her to the movies. She jumped right in. He came home that night and told his mother that the baby she'd delivered seventeen years earlier was the girl he was going to marry.

The marriage of Jimmy and Rosalynn was the longest in presidential history. Before Rosalynn's death, they had known each other for almost one hundred years.



Every minute someone leaves this world behind. Age has nothing to do with it. We are all in "the line" without knowing it. We never know how many people are before us. We cannot move to the back of the line. We cannot step out of the line. We cannot avoid the line. So while we wait in line:

Make priorities. Make moments count. Make the time. Make someone smile. Make your gifts known. Make a nobody feel like a somebody. Make your voice heard. Make the small things big. Make the change. Make love. Make up. Make peace. Make sure to tell your people they are loved.



Make sure to have no regrets.

Make sure you are ready . . .



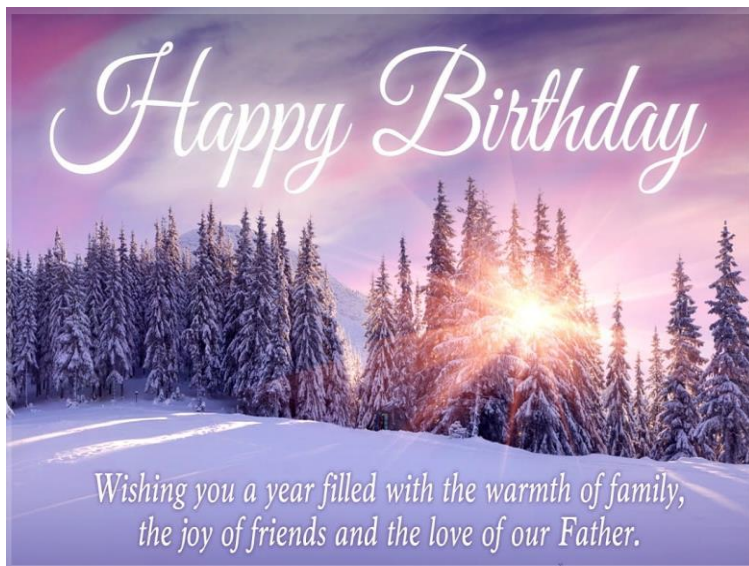
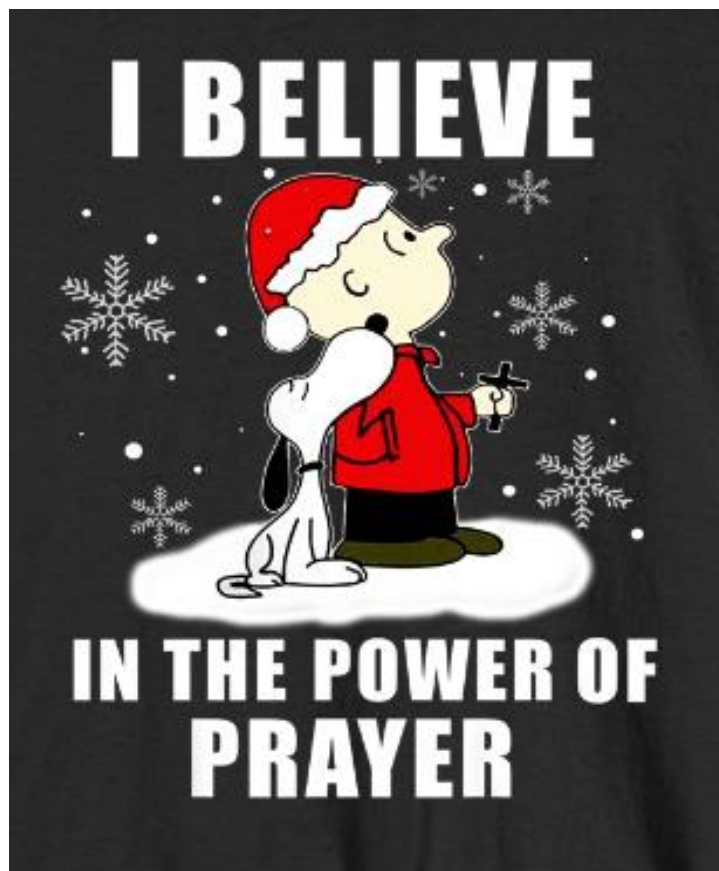
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays 9 am Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship		Wednesdays 7 pm Advent Midweek Worship			1	2
3 Social Concerns Meeting after Worship	4	5	6 7 am Rotary Cook Appreciation Day Breakfast 7 pm Advent Worship	7	8 7 pm CHRISTMAS PARTY	9
10 Council Meeting after Worship	11 		12 13 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Advent Worship	14	15	16
17 Worship & Music Meeting after Worship	18	19	20 NO Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Advent Worship	21	22	23
24 10:30 pm Candlelight Service	25 Happy Birthday Jesus	26	27 NO Rotary Breakfast	28	29	30
31 NEW YEARS EVE!						



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

Families of Susan
Cocchiola, Peg Stamp, Ellis
(Tony) Guedel, and Monna
Stamm; Hannah Kestner
Bockover; Mike & Tina
Kestner; Kathy Hart's

brother, Dan Stamm; Diana Havenstein; Rob
Havenstein; Mary Ann Jackson – brain tumor;
Dayshaun – sickle cell anemia/seizure/stroke/
recovering from surgery; Rita's co-worker,
Elizabeth Alexander – colon cancer; Wendy
Casey's mom, Barbara – under hospice care; Judy
Stewart – multiple health issues; Carolyn Watkin's
neighbor, Mr. Smith; Clyde Bogle's sister-in-law,
Wanda – cancer; Jim Powers; Sharon Vietri; Linda
Hash's brother, Charles Barlow, and sister-in-law,
Beth Hash Lennon; Rebecca Swanson's sister in PA
– Post Polio Syndrome, and her nephew, Dr. David
Shaefer; Tess Andrews brother, David Van
Benschoten; Pam Klawiter's co-worker, Carolyn
Harbertson - breast cancer; the Hans' family.



December

December 5	Rebecca Swanson
December 7	Amanda Babel
December 8	Lisa Grayson
December 9	Neil Brennecke
December 17	Laura Raun
December 25	Rena Bogle
December 26	Becky Babel
	Drew Cook
December 28	Karen Wright
December 30	Verity Eggert

January

January 6	Holly Hans
January 7	Becky Roof
January 8	Grace Barnes
January 9	Anne Marie Dubnansky
January 14	Jamie Bredell
	Becky Von St. Paul
January 15	Rita Clark
January 18	Gere Savolainen
January 19	Amanda Childress
	Amanda Hempel-Stone
January 21	Ryan Macurdy
January 24	Barbara Kyles
January 25	Pastor Wayne Dubnansky