

February 2024

Interim Pastor John Petry
Minister of Music Open
Office Manager Laura Raun
Web Master Gray Anthony

Congregational Council

Terry Barnes President
TBD Vice President
TBD Secretary
Lindsay Crocker Treasurer
Tess Andrews Deputy Treasurer
Terry Barnes Financial Secretary
Neil Brennecke, Tim Clark, Sharyl Eggert, Linda Hash, Matt Himmeger, Sylvia Lambert, & Enid Weatherwax



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Lutheran Church**
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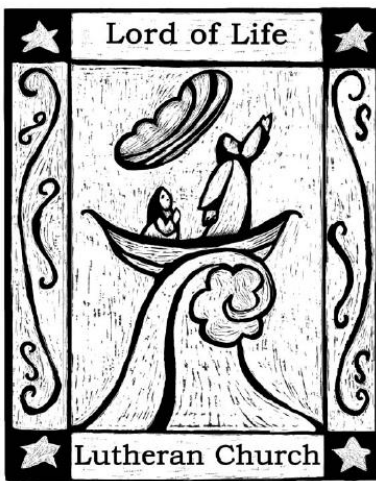
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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 seen,
they are felt by the heart

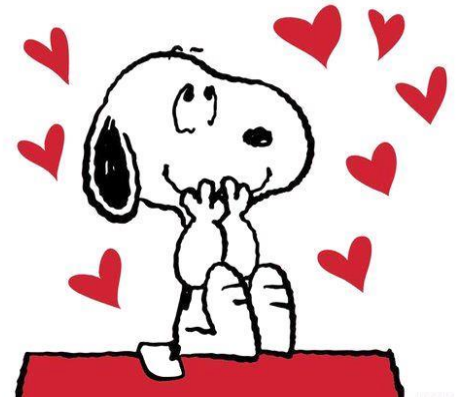




Life-Lines

February 2024

Happy February!



A FEW THOUGHTS ...

What's coming next?

How & why?

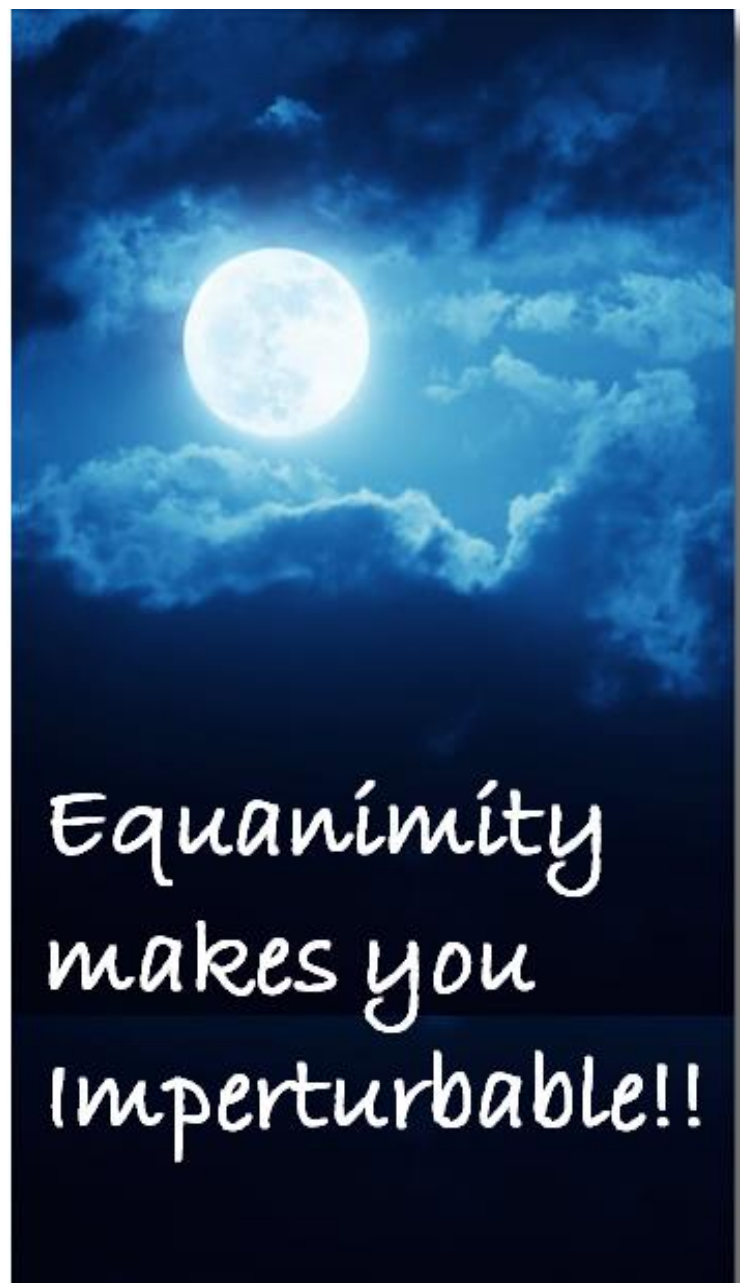
Who?

I've enjoyed serving with every leader & member of Lord of Life church; however, I have been especially devoted to members of the Property Committee. I've 'warmly' related to all the groups that care for the facilities and grounds, mainly because of my grandfather and father, they both were "get up and get-it-done" fellows. "First impression looks" goes a long way inside and outside. (My first day serving as an ordained Pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Vale, NC, I asked the Property Committee to meet with me at 6 am. Three members brought homemade bacon, cheese and egg biscuits and Stanley thermoses and apples.) Attention to the details.

Transfiguration and the beginning of Lent - including Ash Wednesday - are in February. The dates don't always appear the same year after year. Pastors of churches change with & without a pattern.

My hope & prayer: faith, hope & service; equanimity. May God bless & keep you, and may you have and share abundant life.

+ PJ, Interim Pastor



FEBRUARY

THE MONTH OF

LOVE



February is often considered the month of Love. It is a short month. Maybe that is attractive to some people that they only have to be affectionate for a few days per year. I PRAY that is NOT you! Tom and I will celebrate our 40th Wedding Anniversary on Friday, February 9th. 1984 wasn't that long ago. Fortunately, we still love each other. It would be pretty terrible if we didn't!

"We have a God-given appetite that makes us hungry for love and attracted to goodness." Melissa Overmyer, Born to Soar; Unleashing God's Word in Your Life.

We are called to be God's hands and feet. We are attracted to goodness. We have a purpose to bring honor and praise to God daily. How are you doing? I need your prayers that I will meet this goal.



Lyrics to The Heart of God

"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

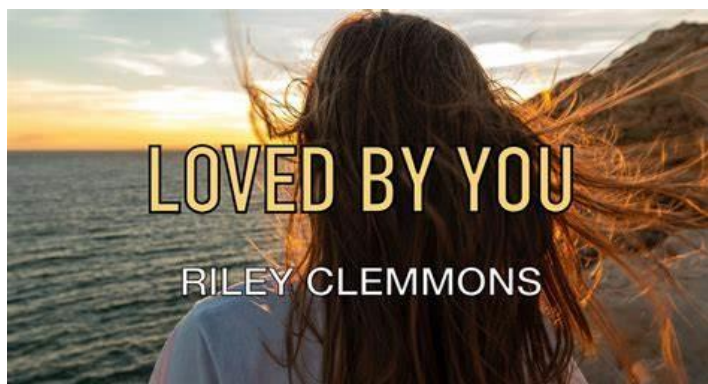
Come prodigal children, it's never too late
Run home to the Father, let Him clothe you
with grace

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"

God wants the best for you. He is patiently
waiting for you to quit trying to work your plan
and become part of His. How are you doing?



Loved By You - Lyrics by Riley Clemmons

"Sometimes I feel like I'm alone
A bit too broken, unseen, unknown
Sometimes the doubt starts creeping in
So come remind me once again

I am believed in, I am held on to
Don't have to wonder who I belong to
I'm always wanted, always known
And always treasured, it's true
I am loved by you

Hmm, it's in your blood, it's in your scars
How far you'd go to reach my heart
You call me chosen, you call me yours
And that's all that matters forevermore

I don't deserve it, I never could
But you're just that faithful, you're just that
good
How lovely it is to be loved by you
I don't deserve it, I never could
But you're just that faithful, you're just that
good
How lovely it is to be loved by you, yeah!"

It's really not hard to see God all around
you. He always wants the best for you. He is
just waiting for you to ask. God loves you JUST
the way you are. How are you doing?

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison



"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God."

[1 John 4:7](#), NLT

Lord, Thank you for loving us when we were very unlovable! While we were sinners you died for us ([Romans 5:8](#)). We have offended you deeply, yet you loved us still. So much so, that you gave your life in our place and defeated death so that we could live with you forever in eternity.

Lord, I admit that type of love doesn't come naturally to me. The last thing I want to do when someone offends me or upsets me is to love them, much less invite them to join my family forever. But that's exactly what you did. Lord, forgive me for not loving others the way you showed us to love. God, would you help us to love you and grow in the knowledge of you and your Word? Would you help us to relate to others in a way that shows them that we belong to you? Lord, would you make your people grow in love for you and others so that onlookers would know that you exist and that you love them too?

God, would you forgive us when we allow petty annoyances to distract us and make us forget the good news of the gospel and our roles as your ambassadors? Holy Spirit, would you convict us when we overreact to the shortcomings of others? Would you strengthen and equip us to love others well? Thank you that this is possible because you loved us and love comes from you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Greetings from Social Concerns



Can you believe it is February already?!! It is hard to believe that we are into our second month of 2024. Thanks again to all who made our Christmas Drive, concert, and Christmas service possible! We appreciate all who jump in and help! Together, through the Holy Spirit, we help make Christmas special for all. We hope everyone is having a great year so far and staying healthy.

A few announcements for February from Social Concerns:

1. Wake Up and Read is going on now. Get those new or gently read children's books in soon.



2. This month's GAM collection theme is SOUP - R - BOWL!! Donations of soups or stews needed!!



3. We are again hosting the Annual Women of the ELCA Gathering, here on February 10th!! Social Concerns is providing breakfast and lunch. Registration is \$10.

Ladies, this is a wonderful event and we always have a fun time.



Come Join Us!!

We are very excited for our new chapter with Pastor Wolfgang and what this new year will bring. Pastor John, thank you for preparing us to think outside the box! If you would like to join Social Concerns, we meet the first Sunday of the month, right after church. We would love to have you and all are welcome!!

Love In Christ,
Sarah Watkins



When Ash Wednesday falls
on Valentine's Day





Hello Lord of Life!! Greetings and love to you from the new Outreach Committee. Right now it is a committee of one, which I



hope will change very soon.

Shannon asked me to Chair this first year, and I am so excited for our growth potential!! If

you would like to join and be on

the forefront of some exciting challenges, come find me, Sarah Watkins. I am in the choir, on the Social Concerns Committee, and Worship and Music/Altar Guild. I know we are all wearing a lot of hats right now, but let's put on one more. I would love to have a representative from every committee and the council join, along with anyone else interested. We will have loads of fun and laughter, while we get out there and help our church grow and bring more of God's children to Christ. I know I have tracked down a few potentials, so don't make me come find you ... hahahaha! Just kidding...but not really!



Our first meeting will be sometime!!

Love to you all!
Sarah Watkins

The Orange Cup

Before I begin, this post is not seeking sympathy. It is merely trying to shed a little light on the total weirdness and unpredictability of grief. Those who have experienced deep loss already know. But for those who have not ...

I washed the orange cup today. 'The orange cup' is not a metaphor. It's a small, plastic cup—one of several in a multicolored set. It is perfect for the bathroom sink. It's just big enough for a sip of water in the middle of the night, or to wash down daily meds. I had not washed it since before January 1st. Before you get too grossed out, I had not used it either. You see, that little orange cup is the last thing in the house that Mark's lips touched on January 1st, before he was loaded into an ambulance, never to return. I had picked up the orange cup several times before, thinking it was time to wash it and put it away. But each time it wasn't. I would hug that little cup, cry a little (or a lot), and return it to the counter next to the sink. It wasn't time to wash it—until today. Today, I washed the cup. When my mother died, her house coat (bath robe) was hanging on the back of the door in the bathroom. When my Dad died 5 years later, it still hung in the same spot. He had given away or tossed a lot of Mom's items, but just not that house coat. Had he lived another 10 years, I think it may still have been there... or maybe not. Deep, profound grief is just weird. So, keep that in mind when you wonder why grieving people do (or don't do) what you think they should do, or what seems normal. Grief is really weird. They're just not ready to "wash the cup".

Credit: Amy Boardman Rejmer



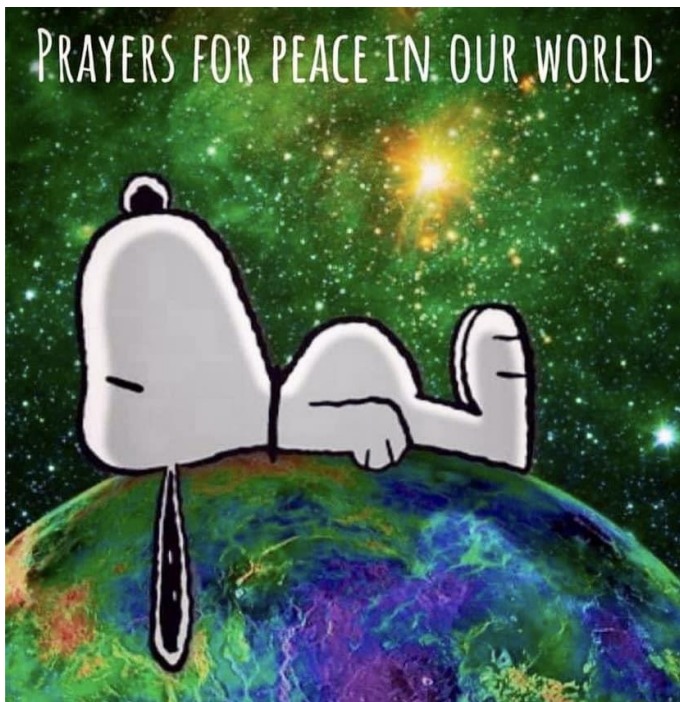
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays 9 am Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship				1	2 	3 
4 Social Concerns Meeting Following Worship	5	6	7 Rotary Breakfast	8	9 7 pm 	10
11 NO Council Meeting This Month	12	13 	14 Rotary Breakfast 	15	16	17
18 Worship & Music Meeting After Worship	19 	20	21 Rotary Breakfast 	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Rotary Breakfast 	29	LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT 	



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

Family of Jim Powers;
Nick Vietri – rehab
following surgery for
broken femur; Becky
von St. Paul – oral
surgery 1/2; Richard

Suriano, Julia Lochra's father-in-law –
hospitalized; Jerry Hart – heart valve
replacement 1/26; Kathy Hart – knee surgery
12/20; Josef Herz-Lane; Shirley Lewis, friend of
Laura – ALS; Hannah Kestner Bockover; Mike &
Tina Kestner; Diana Havenstein; Rob
Havenstein; Donna Hanna; Mary Ann Jackson
– brain tumor; Dayshaun – sickle cell anemia/
seizure/stroke/ recovering from surgery; Rita's
co-worker, Elizabeth Alexander – colon cancer;
Carolyn Watkin's neighbor, Mr. Smith; Clyde
Bogle's sister-in-law, Wanda – cancer; 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; the Hans'
family.



February

February 3	Daniel Cook
February 5	Pam Petry
February 9	Paul Finger
	Lisa Hash Burnett
February 12	Daniel Jordan
February 15	Clyde Cook
	Vince Wright
February 16	Josh Kestner
February 17	Antonio (Tony) Smith
February 21	Patrick Niemann
February 24	Helen Reeves
February 29	Paul Blanchard

March

March 4	Holly Niemann
	Sophie Nora Clark
March 5	Daniel Klawiter
	Patricia Elder
March 7	Steven Babel
March 8	Larry Langworthy
March 14	Bryce Douglas Lowe
March 15	Gale Isaacs
March 20	Brandi Bredell
March 22	Lora Clark
March 24	Harry Albert
March 28	Michael Hayduk
March 28	Heather King
March 30	Camille Morris