

Pastor ..... Rev. Dr. Wolfgang Herz-Lane  
Minister of Music (Interim).....Marsha Vanderwerff  
Office Manager/Web Master.....Laura Raun

#### Congregational Council

President..... Terry Barnes  
Vice-President ..... Shannon Thomsen  
Secretary..... Tim Clark  
Treasurer .....Lindsay Crocker  
Deputy Treasurer..... Tess Andrews  
Financial Secretary..... Terry Barnes  
Neil Brennecke, Sharyl Eggert, Linda Hash, Matt  
Himmegeer, Sylvia Lambert, and Enid Weatherwax

March 2024

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



Email: [LordofLife2100@gmail.com](mailto:LordofLife2100@gmail.com)  
Pastor's Email: [WolfgangHerzLane@gmail.com](mailto:WolfgangHerzLane@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.LOLGarner.com](http://www.LOLGarner.com)  
Office (919) 772-9044

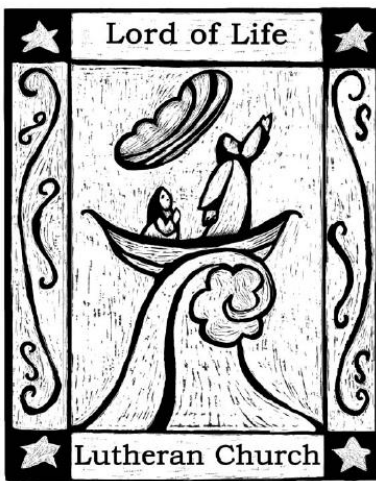


## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**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





# Life-Lines

March 2024



*Hence, I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control.  
2 Timothy 1:6-7*

Beloved in the Lord:

The Apostle Paul writes these words to Timothy, his young apprentice, praising the faith that Timothy has shown all along while working with Paul. Now that Paul is nearing the end of his ministry, he reminds Timothy of that faith and challenges him “to rekindle the gift of God that is within you.” God did not give Timothy a “spirit of timidity,” Paul writes, but “a spirit of power and love and self-control.”

It is these words of St. Paul that I want to lay on your hearts as we begin our ministry together. March 1 marks the first official day of my pastorate at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, and just as Paul gives thanks for Timothy, so I thank God daily for you and for the abundant gifts of faith that God has given you.

The good people of Lord of Life are indeed a hardy lot! Through many changes, transitions, and challenges, you have shown that far from an attitude of timidity, you have spiritual gifts in spades: loving hearts, a welcoming spirit, willingness to do the work of the Gospel, perseverance in the face of challenges, a love of God and neighbor that is so obvious!

In truth, God has given you all that is needed to move forward in mission and to become a growing, healthy, vibrant church community. You have a great location in a rapidly growing town, a handsome, well-cared-for building, a great relationship with Able to Serve, a promise of support from Christ the King Lutheran Church, the North Carolina Synod, and our national ELCA ... and, most importantly, you have shown an openness to change that you have expressed in calling me as your pastor and mission developer.

I am so grateful for Pastor John Petry who has led you over these past 14 months and who has planted many seeds within you, seeds that I believe are ready to sprout! Thank you for your confidence in me. I pray that God would abundantly bless you and the community of LOL in Garner.

Let's get to work!

Peace+Blessings,  
**Pastor Wolfgang**

PS: Feel free to call on me with any questions, concerns, or requests for pastoral services. You can reach me by email at [wolfgangherzlane@gmail.com](mailto:wolfgangherzlane@gmail.com) and via text/voice on my cell phone, 919-810-3534.



## From the Desk of Your Council President

I'm honored to serve as your Council President for 2024. We've had many changes over the past year; saying goodbye to retiring Pastor Wayne Dubnansky and hiring Interim Pastor John Petry, receiving resignation from our Music Minister, Dr. Brad Hunnicutt after 23 years. Our Call Committee searched out candidates via the ELCA Call Process, which led us to Pastor Wolfgang Herz-Lane. He then was selected as our Primary Candidate for our Pastor, was confirmed by our council and voted in through our Lord of Life congregation on January 21, 2024. Pastor Wolfgang was previously the Senior Pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cary, NC. Pastor Wolfgang starts his call with us on March 1, 2024 and will be installed as our Pastor on April 21, 2024 at 3:30 pm.

We currently have an agreement in place for an Interim Music Minister, Marsha Vanderwerff. Marsha has agreed to serve as our Interim until our new Music Minister, Gail Hrobuchak starts with us in June of this year. Gail is moving to The Triangle area from Pennsylvania.

We had a successful Leadership Retreat in our Fellowship Hall on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had the icebreakers to get to know each other a little better, welcomed our new council members, elected officers and identified Liaisons to each of our ministries/committees. We had members of our congregation, Pastor John and Pastor Wolfgang. Pastor John and Pastor Wolfgang gave presentations and

offered encouragement for the future of LOL. Council Officers and Liaisons are:

Terry Barnes	President	Parish, La Voz de Dios
Shannon Thomsen	Vice President	Able to Serve
Tim Clark	Secretary	Property
Sylvia Lambert		Christian Education
Linda Hash		Christian Education
Neil Brennecke		Men's Group
Enid Weatherwax		Social Concerns, Outreach
Matt Himmeger		Property
Sharyl Eggert		Worship & Music, Altar Guild
Wolfgang Herz-Lane	Pastor	Pastor Reports, Congregation

The Parish Committee started updating LOL Member pictures in the Fellowship Hall. If you



have outdated pictures posted or no pictures at all, please

consider updating.

You can bring your own pic or request Tim Clark or Steve

Brantley snap a new

shot of you. The pics

with names are a great

help in determining "who is

who" at Lord of Life for our new folks and visitors.

NOTE: Our new easier path to get to our website is: <http://lolgarner.com>. The old way still works <http://lordoflifechurchgarnernc.org>, but I prefer a shorter route that's easier to remember.

I'm optimistic about a great year for Lord of Life. Please pray for each other, our leadership and the growth of our Church Family. Please pray that God would mold and shape us into his desire, and that we will be pleasing in his sight.

God's Peace,

Terry Barnes, Council President



## Greetings from Social Concerns



Thank you everyone for your generous donations of canned soup collected in the month of February. Able to Serve also collected a large donation for the Garner Area Ministry Food Pantry.

Also, thank you for your generous donation of children's books for Wake Up and Read.

We had a wonderful One Day Retreat on February 10<sup>th</sup> with 17 women from four area Lutheran congregations attending. Special thanks to the team from Trinity Lutheran in Sanford for leading the program, songs and crafts. We discussed how your prayer life changes in your life along with your seasons.

The Relay for Life, that supports Cancer Research, will be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 9 pm at Lake Benson Park. We will have a team fundraiser in late March or early April. More details coming soon.

Social Concerns, the Men's Group and the Parish Committee hosted the Pastor John farewell fellowship on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the congregation for rounding out the food offerings.



We continue to collect food for the GAM Food Pantry. Thank you for your generous donations.

Blessings,  
Alecia Harrison  
Acting Secretary



Bishop Tim Smith is leading a Bible Study on the book of Micah on Thursday nights. Anyone can join. Go to the NC Lutheran.org website and register at the bottom of the page. It is a Zoom event.

The NC Synod Gathering will be held at Lenoir Rhyne University on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Each day is a stand-alone event. This is NOT an Assembly where business is conducted and a lot of voting is done. This IS an Education event. So we will not need delegates this year. But if you are interested in attending, Tom and I will be going. It would be great to have several members of Lord of Life attend this statewide event.

To all who participated and enjoyed the luncheon last Sunday for Pastor John, give a Shout



Out to The Men's Club and Social Concerns for the Smithfield Barbecue. A special thanks to Terry and Grace for the set up Saturday afternoon, Helen for the pick-up and Becky, Steve and the Parrish Committee for all the additional help and clean-up that goes into feeding the multitudes. What a feast!!!

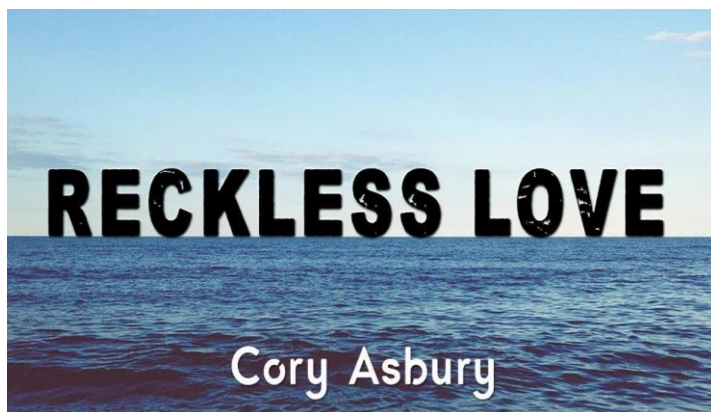
It was a joint effort by many of the congregation who brought in side dishes and desserts and stayed until the last crumb was cleaned up. We do some impressive work when we all work **Together**.

*Here comes Peter Cotton Tail  
hopping down the bunny trail*



Lent is a time for reflection and preparation. It is still overwhelming to me that God's plan for Salvation was to send His perfect Son to die on the Cross in my place. I am sinful and deserve punishment, but Jesus willingly became human and suffered the punishment of every human that ever lived or will live. OVERWHELMING!!!

The darkness and sadness of Lent will soon be over. Replaced by the excitement and joy of Easter morning. He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! A miraculous gift given to us! God, the Son, died on the Cross for all of us. God, the Holy Spirit, lives within us to help us grow to be more like Jesus day by day.

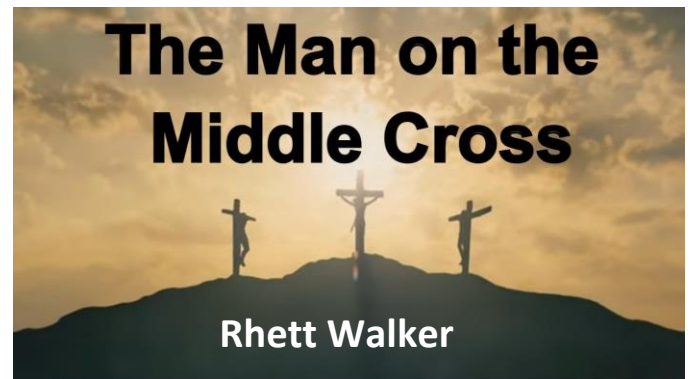


Before I spoke a word,  
You were singing over me  
You have been so, so good to me  
Before I took a breath,  
You breathed Your life in me  
You have been so, so kind to me

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending,  
reckless love of God  
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,  
leaves the ninety-nine  
I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it,  
still You give Yourself away  
Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending,  
Reckless love of God

When I was Your foe,  
still Your love fought for me  
You have been so, so good to me  
When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me  
You have been so, so kind to me

There's no shadow You won't light up  
Mountain You won't climb up  
Coming after me  
There's no wall You won't kick down  
Lie You won't tear down  
Coming after me



Heard the Preacher talking  
about three wood crosses  
Up on a hill everyone to see  
Two sinners on the outside  
couldn't save themselves if they tried  
All I could think is man that sounds like me  
I've been the one on the left  
full of guilt and regret  
Long gone on the wrong side of living  
I've been the one on the right always looking  
for a fight thinking I could never be forgiven  
I'm standing here today overwhelmed by grace  
'cause I know who paid my cost  
Thank God for the man on the middle cross



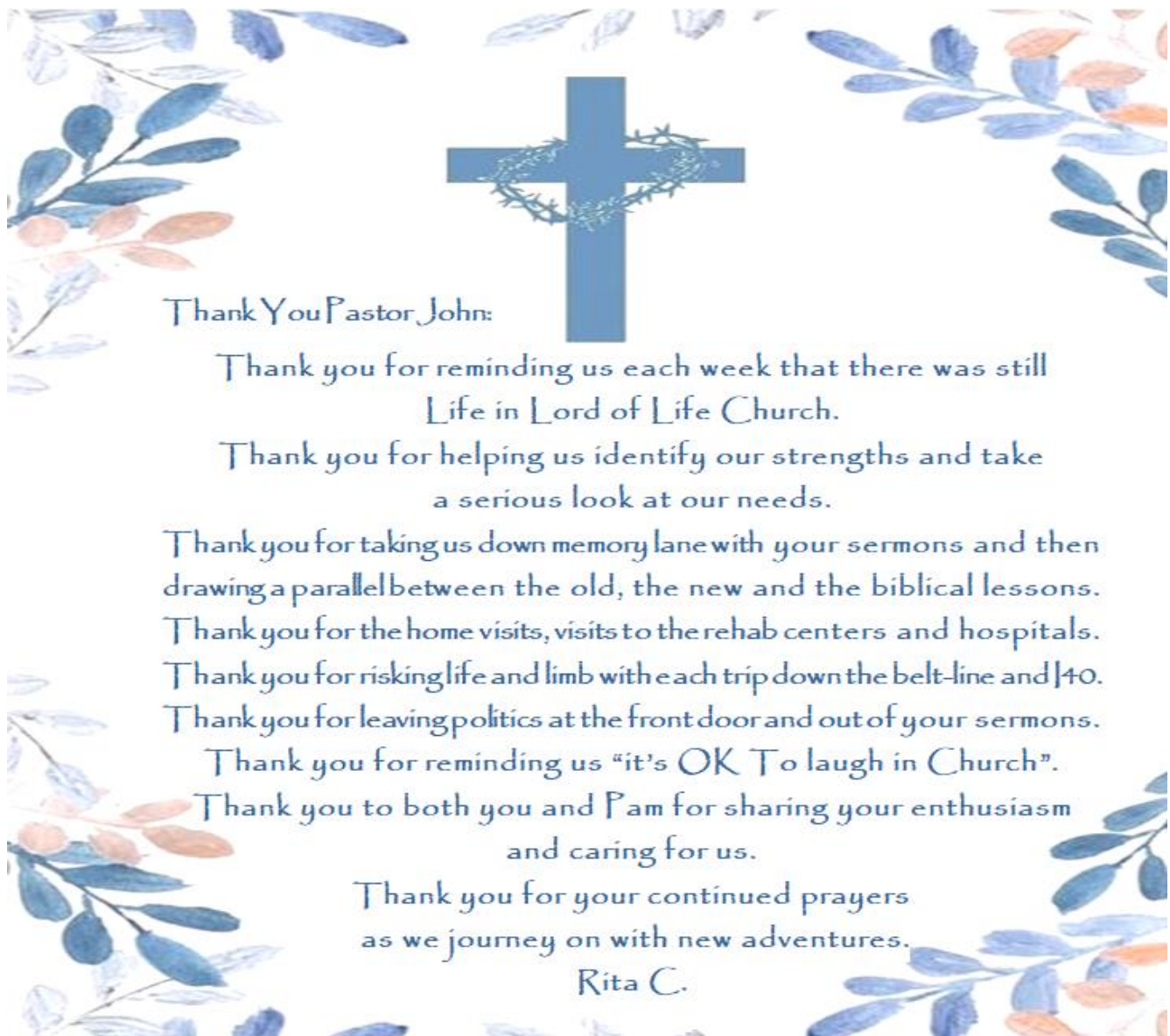
He didn't have to do it  
But for me He went thru it  
A love like that I'll never understand  
Lord knows I don't deserve it  
And I know I couldn't earn it  
Let mercy rain down on this desperate man

The cross is where He went  
Oh but that ain't where He stayed  
He brought me back to life  
when He rose up outta that grave  
Someday I'll stand before Him  
And I'll see Jesus face to face  
I'll worship and adore Him  
For a life forever changed

Happy Easter everyone!  
Alecia Harrison



Three Crosses  
One man died in his sins  
One man died with his sins forgiven  
One man died for the sins of the world



Thank You Pastor John:

Thank you for reminding us each week that there was still  
Life in Lord of Life Church.

Thank you for helping us identify our strengths and take  
a serious look at our needs.

Thank you for taking us down memory lane with your sermons and then  
drawing a parallel between the old, the new and the biblical lessons.

Thank you for the home visits, visits to the rehab centers and hospitals.

Thank you for risking life and limb with each trip down the belt-line and I40.

Thank you for leaving politics at the front door and out of your sermons.

Thank you for reminding us "it's OK To laugh in Church".

Thank you to both you and Pam for sharing your enthusiasm  
and caring for us.

Thank you for your continued prayers  
as we journey on with new adventures.

Rita C.

## A Few Ending Thoughts From Your 'Interim' . . .

We made it together ~ 14 months!

Time passed by and the Holy Spirit guided each moment & month (as she always does along with what God the Father ordains and Christ Jesus keeps inviting us to follow – the *Lord of Life*).

Each of you stand together awaiting Pastor Wolfgang's leadership and guiding March 2024. He's a blessing and a faithful visionary of exactly: what, where, how and when ~ NOW.

Pam & I will continue to lift-up-our-prayers for your discipleship knowing that: ***following Jesus is a/your journey:***

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and your departing generosity!*

"God crazy loves you (each)."

+ PJ, Interim Pastor

## Join Pastor Wolfgang in weekly prayer for LOL

Our new pastor, Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, is inviting us to pray weekly for him, for Lord of Life, and for our ministry together through a new Prayer Partners network that he is beginning this month. Prayer Partners are members and friends who commit to pray each week on a day they select. In return, Pastor Wolfgang will send a short email update to all the Prayer Partners each Sunday evening. To sign up, please send an email to [wolfgangherzlane@gmail.com](mailto:wolfgangherzlane@gmail.com); remember to indicate which day of the week you will pray.

"Prayer is the way God invites us into God's mission for the sake of the world," Pastor Wolfgang writes. "Prayer will sustain and guide us in our efforts to make Lord of Life Lutheran Church the welcoming, vibrant, and growing congregation God intends.

Thank you for joining him in praying that God's Holy Spirit will be with us as we begin this exciting ministry together."

Two little boys, ages 4 and 5 were excessively mischievous. They were always getting into trouble, and their parents knew if any mischief occurred in their town, their two boys were probably involved.

The boys' mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The preacher agreed, but he asked to see them individually.

The mother sent the 4-year-old in the morning, and the older boy was to see the preacher in the afternoon. The preacher, a huge man with a deep booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Do you know where God is, son?"

The boy made no response, sitting there wide-eyed with his mouth hanging open. So the preacher repeated the question in an even

sterner tone, "Where is God?". Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. The preacher then shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "WHERE is GOD?"

The boy screamed, bolted from the room, ran directly home, and dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?"

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time! GOD is missing, and they think WE did it!"





# A Squirrely Tale

In a small American town, a band of squirrels had become quite a problem.

The Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

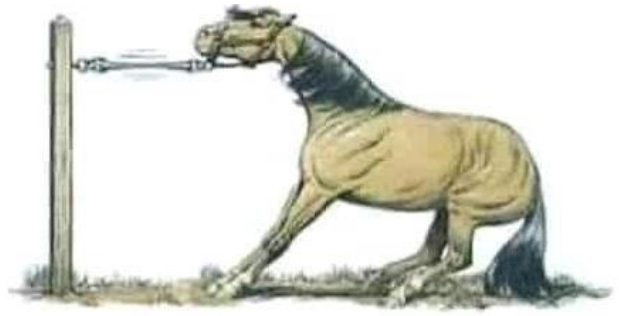
At the Baptist Church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Methodist Church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Catholic Church tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunken squirrels can do!



But the Lutheran Church came up with a very creative strategy. They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.



Once upon a time, a horse was tied up and pulling to be let go, and a demon came and released him. The horse jumped into the farmer next door's field and began to eat the farmer's crops. The owner of the farm got angry and got his rifle and killed the horse.

Then the horse owner also got mad. Set on revenge he got his rifle and killed the farmer.

After seeing this, the farmer's wife got angry, grabbed her gun and killed the horse's owner.

Then the horse owner's son became enraged and killed the farmer's wife.

Angry, the neighbors killed the horse owner's son and burnt his house down.

They then asked the devil; why did you do all that?

The devil replied, "I only let the horse go. The End."

Moral of the story: The devil does simple things because he knows the evil in our hearts and that we'll do the rest.

That's why it's a good reminder to think before you act, lest a thing of unimportance causes much damage.

Remember, the word has the power to give life and to give death - To bless or to curse.

\* think before you act

\* think before you speak

\*\* pray before you do anything\*\*

**DON'T  
JUST DO IT  
PRAY  
FIRST!**



# HELLO March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Sundays</u> 9 am Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship			<u>Wednesdays</u> <u>During Lent</u> 7 pm Midweek Lenten Worship		1 7 pm 	2
3 Social Concerns Meeting Following Worship	4	5	6 Rotary Breakfast	7	8	9
10 Council Meeting Following Worship	11	12	13 Rotary Breakfast	14	15	16
17 Worship & Music Meeting After Worship	18	19	20 Rotary Breakfast	21	22	23
24 	25	26	27 Rotary Breakfast	28 	29 	30
31 	<i>He is not here; he has risen,            just as he said.            Come and see the place where he lay.            Matthew 28:6</i>					



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

Family of Jim Powers; Nick Vietri – recovering from surgery for broken femur; Richard Suriano, Julia Lochra's father-in-law; Shirley Lewis, friend of Laura – ALS; Hannah Kestner Bockover; 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.



## **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

## **April**

April 7	Gray Anthony
April 15	Enid Weatherwax
April 19	Arthur Kyles Roland Kyles
April 21	Jeannie Stang
April 26	Sara Melanie Bollinger
April 29	Alecia Harrison Chris Thomsen