

June 2024

Life-Lines

***“I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people:
Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters.
Your old men will dream, your young men will see visions.
I’ll even pour out my Spirit on the servants
men and women both.”
Joel 2:28, THE MESSAGE***

“Let’s plan and vision together ...”

Joel, one of the twelve so-called “minor prophets” of the Old Testament, relates a promise from God: The Holy Spirit will be poured out over all people, from all nations, from all walks of life. This all-inclusive Spirit will prompt everyone to dream new dreams and to see visions of the world as it could be and as God ultimately will make it.

If you ask me, this prophet isn’t so “minor.” In fact, I think it is a BIG DEAL to receive God’s promise, a promise that we as the people of God here at Lord of Life Lutheran Church will count on in a special way over these next few months. Our newly installed Visions & Dreams Team (which takes its name from this passage of the Prophet Joel) plans to begin with an intentional listening campaign. Questions like these are on our hearts and minds:

- How is God calling us into the future? What is God’s vision for Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Garner?
- What is our purpose as a congregation in this community? What are the guiding principles with which we will operate?
- What are three or four priorities we would want to set for the next two or three years?

Answers to these questions will be revealed through deep listening to God, to one another in the church, and to our neighbors in the larger community. Toward that end, the Visions & Dreams Team has mapped out a listening campaign over the summer months that will be introduced at a special congregational meeting on June 23 (see article “Strategic planning process now underway” elsewhere in this newsletter).

Lord of Life Church is at a crossroads, having declined to the point where just a few months ago, members spoke openly about when this church would be closing its doors. I truly believe



that closure is not part of God's plan for our beloved LOL Church; rather, God wants this congregation to grow and thrive and be a vital part of this community.

How to accomplish God's will is going to be at the center of the visioning process that has now begun. As your (still relatively new) pastor, I encourage you to engage in this process with a prayerful heart and an open mind. We need to hear everybody's voice, and we need everyone's prayerful support and participation.

Let's dream and vision together ...

Peace+Blessings,
Pastor Wolfgang

**Greetings
from
Social
Concerns**



Hello and welcome to June and the official start to the Summer! Your Social Concerns Team has been working hard in the Community! At our last meeting, we welcomed a new interested helper. Susan Hester popped in to check us out. It was very nice to see a new face!

Here are some of the exciting things we have been up to lately:

- * In April, thanks to you, our Church family, we helped Alecia pull together \$1700 for the American Cancer Society. Thank you for participating in



the BBQ, Silent Auction, and the Relay itself. We had a wonderful group show up for the actual event. We had a great time!

- * We are continuing to support several local and national organizations lending help where needed. Here are just a few: Mr. Clark delivered 60 pounds of food donations to Garner Area Ministries! We give donations to the Community of Hope church for their food pantry. Periodically, we give money for Samaritan's Purse and the ELCA disaster relief funds.



- * As we slide into July, we are gearing up for our annual July 3rd event. Come out for some spectacular fireworks, and some amazing food, as we celebrate along with Able to Serve! It is always a ton of fun!



- * The Rotary crew are going strong. See Alecia or Helen, if you would like to help!

Again, we send you our biggest thanks for all you help us with.



Our next meeting is June 2nd, right after church. Join us if can!

Yours in Christ's Love,
Sarah Watkins



From the Desk of Your Council President



Time flies! Once again, it's time for another Lifelines article and we're approaching the halfway point through the year...JUNE!

I'd like to acknowledge again how fortunate we are at Lord of Life to have such a hard-working and dedicated Office Manager as Laura Raun. Laura has started filling the role of Webmaster and updating and editing our church website, LOLGarner.com. Laura is editor of our monthly newsletter publication, "Lifelines". She also uploads Lifelines, bulletins and YouTube streams to our website. It's good to know we can reference back to these items if we missed out. Laura has been a great help to Pastor Wolfgang and myself in various capacities. Laura often looks for ways to save Lord of Life money when she notices high billing. She recently successfully challenged our Waste Management company on our bill, resulting in \$2,292 cost saving this year. After thoughtful consideration, our Council did approve a well-deserved pay increase along with her advanced responsibilities.

Our Council voted on and approved a "Covenant of Collaboration" between LOL Garner and CTK, Cary. **A copy of the 3-year covenant is posted in the hallway across from the mailboxes.** Our council requested a minor edit to remove the term

"Anchor Church". Although this is actually an Anchor Church agreement, the term, "Anchor", could be interpreted as something weighing us down. This Covenant is the exact opposite and is NOT weighing us down but is lifting us up and is meant to "revitalize" us and encourage us with great support and assistance. Just to note a few of the wonderful things mentioned in the Covenant:

- Pray for one another regularly and publicly;
- Encourage both congregations to join Pastor Wolfgang's Prayer Partner Network;
- Develop a "Dreams & Visions Team" (Joel 28:2) consisting of three persons from each from CTK and LOL which will guide the development and implementation of the missional plan; (CTK members: Pastor Daniel Pugh, Paul Sovany, Cindy Wilke and Mark Dowell, LOL members: Pastor Wolfgang, Sarah Watkins, Alecia Harrison and Shannon Thomsen)
- Encourage CTK members who live in or near Garner and others who wish to do so to become LOL associate members for a period of time (1-3 years), providing human and financial resources in addition to their commitments to CTK;
- Provide consultation and support in all areas of ministry, especially vision casting, evangelism, worship, stewardship, technology & facilities
- Provide financial support from CTK for three years at \$10K/year

We will have a Signing ceremony on Wednesday, July 10th at CTK in Cary at ~ 5:45 PM, including a meal. All are invited to attend this event....

"All are welcome, no exceptions!"

Continued ...

LIBRARY & LOBBY RENOVATION (UPGRADE)

- Flooring in the Lobby/Library/Kid's Korner is being replaced
- After discussion and votes from Executive Committee and full Council, we voted to approve funding for:
 - * New commercial grade carpet tile for entire lobby (Narthex)
 - * New vinyl plank flooring for entire library/kid's corner
 - * TOTAL COSTS of flooring is \$7,310 (totally funded by Memorial Fund)
 - * Thank you for your generosity of all those donations for various people towards LOL Memorial Funds!
 - * Additional donation for new conference table in library has been pledged by Shannon Thomsen. Thank you Shannon!
 - * Anyone else wanting to pledge additional donations to Lobby/Library renovation, (for painting, new chairs, other furniture, etc.), feel free to let me or Pastor know OR simply note on donation envelope "MEMORIAL FUND".
- The library is no longer being used as a library; it's primarily a conference room for meetings and ATS uses for Bible Study. Positive changes are needed to attract new members, serving our church and our community. We need to make wise decisions for utilizing our space in our facility for the future.
- We will be **CLEANING UP & ORGANIZING** during flooring replacement project and donating the books via Duke Divinity School, GAM, etc. If anyone would like the books currently being kept in the library, please let Pastor, any Council member or I know.

WORTH NOTING:

- LOL had 108 people in attendance for our Easter Sunday service
 - * CBS 17 News was at our church covering Easter, interviewed Alecia Harrison
- LOL had 109 people in attendance at Pastor Wolfgang's Installation on 4/21/2024
 - * Thanks again to everyone, making it a memorable event
- LOL Men's Group had their Document Shredding fundraiser on May 11th taking in a total of \$1,416 in donations to help fund Camp Agape Camperships
 - * CBS 17 News was at our church covering our Event, interviewed Terry Barnes

God's Peace,
Terry Barnes, Council President



Parish
Committee

Thank you everyone for your wonderful support and great food for fellowship. We have a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall and encourage **everyone** to sign up for a Sunday! Just bring your favorite dessert or whatever you like to bring.

Thank you members of the parish council for all your help.

Your president,
Steve Brantley

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Pursuant to section C10.02 of the Constitution & By-Laws of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, the Congregation Council has called a

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, June 23, 2024

11:00 AM in the sanctuary

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- **"The State of the Church"** address by Pastor Wolfgang, reviewing the first 100 days of ministry with his leadership;
- **Visions & Dreams Team Report**, Listening Campaign and Time Line;
- **Presentation of the LOL logo and brand** by the Outreach Team.

Under the Constitution, no other business can be conducted by this special congregational meeting.

If you see this:
We are looking for **YOU**
to join our choir!



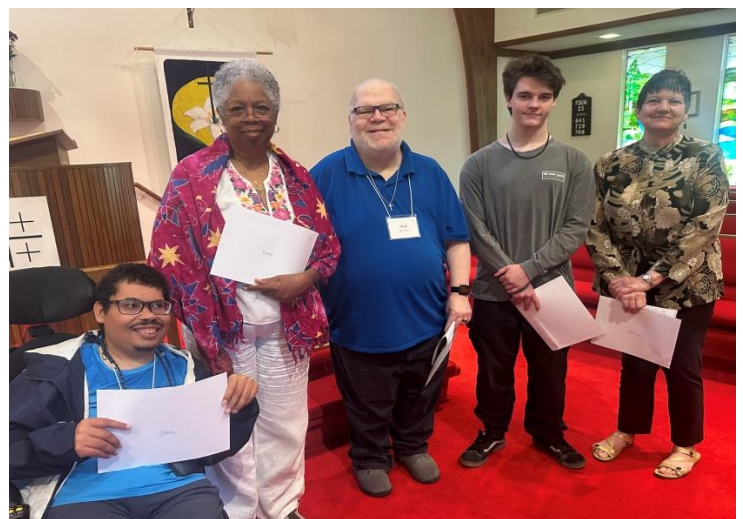
WE WANT YOU!

All talents and ages accepted. No experience necessary! All are Welcome – NO EXCEPTIONS!

Look for your special invitation on Sunday mornings. See Marsha Vanderwerff – or ANY choir member – for information and questions!

Our rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm and we sing on Sunday Mornings.

We would love to have YOU join us!!



*Welcome to New Members:
On April 28, Lord of Life Church received five new members, from left: Josef Herz-Lane, Pastor Margaret Herz-Lane, Robert DeVito, Christopher Eagan, and Julia Lochra.*

Casseroles Anyone???



We served a whopping 60 people at our 6th annual Able to Serve Mother's Day Brunch held on May 7th. That's a lot of people and a lot of food!!

This year's theme was butterflies. Angie, Sandy and several other moms with Able to Serve decorated the room with flower arrangements crafted by the participants. Why butterflies? Here's how Rachel Barnes, Program Coordinator, describes it: "As you can see around you, we focused on butterflies as the symbol of our brunch this year. An animal found in creation that represents gradual development. To us, butterflies remind us of the stages that we all have been through to become the beautiful unique people we were created to be."

The moms, sisters, aunts, caregivers and friends enjoyed the meal and socializing with one another which is the original intent of the brunch. There were several new moms to the program which was very special.

Pastor Wolfgang, Margaret and Josef celebrated Able to Serve with us. We told the moms that this is our love letter to them and we support, honor and celebrate them.

Special thanks to Alecia and Tom Harrison, Rena and Clyde Bogle, Becky Roof, Linda Hash, Mary Cook, Becky Von St Paul and Rita Clark for another successful event.

~ Helen Holderman

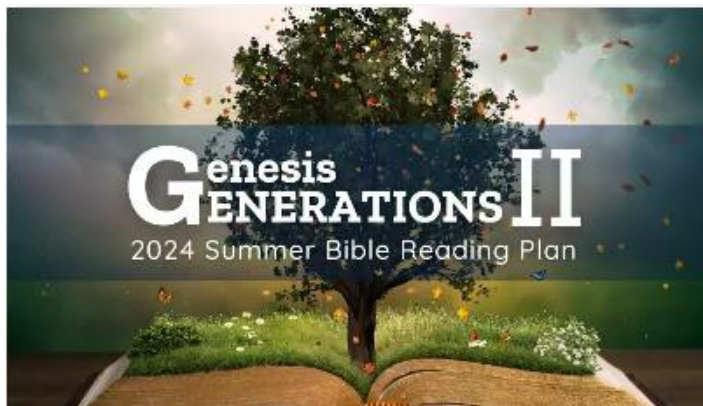


Who likes casseroles? Obviously Lutherans do, but also Rotarians.

We serve four breakfast casseroles on the designated Wednesday once a month and we could use a little help. In addition to the Rotary Crew, we've been helped by Gale, Barbara, Becky V, Mary, Julia, Tim, Ginny, Connie and Lindsay.

Rotary meets all 12 months per year and so does your Rotary cook crew. Sometimes we need help when one of us goes on vacation, has health issues or is traveling. We have already sampled some of your casseroles at Fellowship and hope you would be willing to share. Here's how: You can bring your casserole to church on Tuesday for us to reheat; request a pickup; or even bring it hot at 6:45... but that's mighty early.

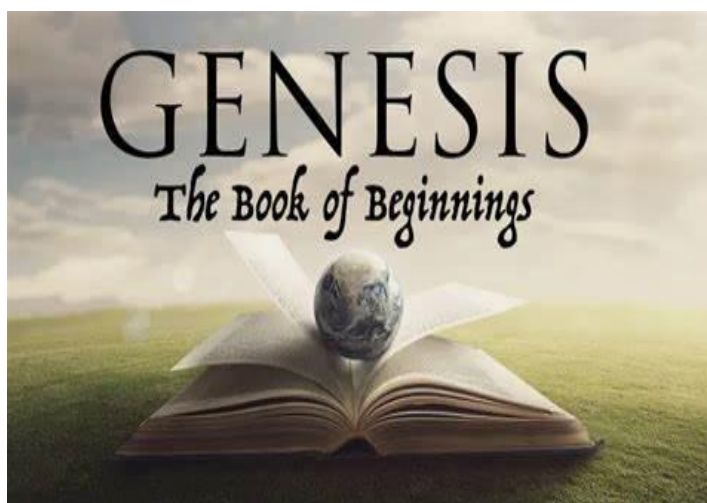
Please contact Helen Holderman at helen.holderman@yahoo.com or call 919-632-2692 if you can help us out.



Genesis Generations II

Join others across the synod in this summer's Bible Reading Plan: *Genesis Generations II (GGII)*. Perhaps you joined last summer—for *Genesis Generations I (GGI)*—and you've been waiting all year with bated breath for the conclusion! Or, you missed last summer but are ready to encourage your congregation's participation this year. Super! You can definitely participate in GGII even if you didn't join GGI. What's more, the synod's Engage the Bible Ministry Team would like you to consider a creative response to the devotional readings this summer. That might mean an intergenerational art show or a colorful, crafty chance for creativity. The readings will begin in July and include a devotional based on a section of Scripture, a few questions for reflection, and a prayer. Make plans now to join **July 7-23!**

Register on the [NC Lutheran.org](http://NC.Lutheran.org) website.



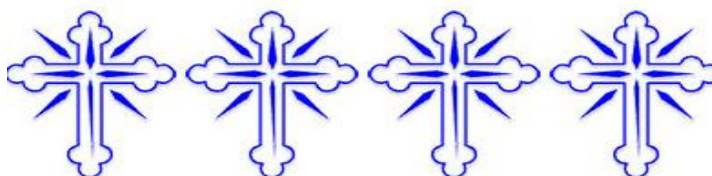
The MUCH anticipated NC Synod Gathering was held at Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory May 30 - June 1st. Pastor Wolfgang and his family and Tom and I were able to attend. Sorry I can't give you details at this time since I am writing this before I go! Ha! I hope to tell you much more about the Gathering in the future.



This is the second attempt for a Synod GATHERING versus Synod Assembly. We voted at the Synod Assembly 5 years ago to alternate years of the Assembly with a Gathering. There is no voting at the Gathering, and many more service projects. Two years ago, during Covid-19, the Gathering was virtual. So I am excited about actually seeing people....greeting old friends and making new ones. It is good to remember that we are connected to a larger group; all the ELCA Lutherans in North Carolina.

The NC Women's Gathering will be June 21-23, 2024 at Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory. See Alecia if you want more information. The theme is *Women of the Word*. Dr. Jaqueline Bussie will be the keynote speaker and Pastor Denise Henry will serve as chaplain.

The ELCA Youth Gathering this summer will be in New Orleans.



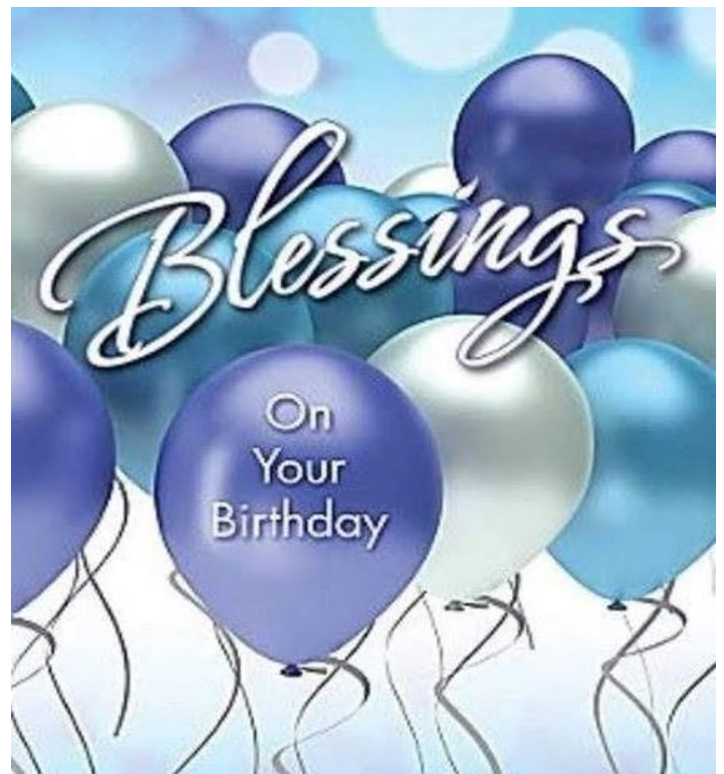
Hello June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>Sundays</p> <p>9 am Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship</p>	<p>John the Baptist – The birth and life of John the Baptist is celebrated exactly six months before Christmas Eve on June 24. For Christians in the Northern Hemisphere, these two dates are deeply symbolic. John said that he must decrease as Jesus increased. According to tradition, John was born as the days are longest and then steadily decrease, while Jesus was born as the days are shortest and then steadily increase. In many countries this day is celebrated with customs associated with the summer solstice.</p>					1	
2 Social Concerns Meeting After Worship	3	4	5 7 am Rotary Breakfast 6:30 Choir Practice	6	7 7 pm  MEN'S GROUP	8 Pastor Wolfgang on Vacation 6/8 – 6/13	
9 Council Meeting After Worship	10	11	12 7 am Rotary Breakfast 6:30 Choir Practice	13	14	15	
16  HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	17	18	19 NO Rotary Breakfast TODAY 6:30 Choir Practice	20	21	22	
23 Worship & Music Mtg. 30	 BIRTH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST JUNE 24		25	26 7 am Rotary Breakfast 6:30 Choir Practice	27	28	29



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

Family of Tyler, Susan and Miles Campbell; Family of Shirley Lewis; Rossley Family – sudden death of 34 year-old son; Martina Himmeger, Matt’s mom; Becca, a young woman with a husband & 3 small children – stage 4 cancer; Mary Lou Johnson – breast cancer; Ella Fairchild – heart condition; Sarah Watkins, Gerry Havenstein, 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; Tess Andrews brother, David Van Benschoten.



June

June 4	Karen Post
June 5	Wesley Patrick Niemann
June 8	Amy Cook Lori Harrison
June 20	Barbara Proper
June 24	Pastor John Petry
June 28	Ray Green

July

July 1	Jerry Hart
July 2	Matt Himmeger
July 9	Alice Austin Helen Holderman
July 13	Gavin Hans Joyce Havenstein
July 20	David Hash (the son)
July 21	Kieran King
July 30	Kathi Tichansky
July 31	Lauren Langworthy

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





Strategic planning process now underway: Visions & Dreams Team begins its work

“Lord of Life Lutheran Church has great opportunities for mission, and you have a critical mass of people to accomplish what God is calling you to do,” said Rev. Dr. Dave Daubert, a Lutheran pastor and founder/president of Day8Strategies, a consulting firm for churches and non-profits in Elgin, Illinois. He is the author of “Living Lutheran,” a 2007 book that lays out a simple and effective process for strategic planning that we are using in the visioning that is now underway at LOL.

Dr. Daubert, who worked with Pastor Wolfgang back in the 1990 and 2000s, joined our newly installed Visions & Dreams Team at their first meeting May 23 via zoom. The team consists of members from Lord of Life and from our partner church, Christ the King in Cary. Its task is to lead the congregation as together we discern how God is leading us into the future.

The key is listening! Over the summer, we will be engaged in a listening campaign that utilizes “The Three Great Listenings” as articulated by Rev. Dr. Steve Bouman in

his book, “The Mission Table,” another resource the team is using. Those Three Great Listenings are:

- Listening to God through communal bible study, prayer, and guided conversation;
- Listening to one another in the church through focus groups, intentional one-on-one conversations, a survey provided by the ELCA called “Congregational Vitality Survey” and group planning exercises;
- Listening to the larger community around us through demographic studies, one-on-ones with community leaders, and reports and analysis of the Garner community.

By the end of the year, this process is expected to produce a new purpose statement, underlying principles that guide our ministry, and a list of three or four priorities for the coming two or three years.

Plan now to attend the special congregational meeting that our Congregation Council has called for Sunday, June 23, at 11am, to learn more about the team’s plans and upcoming activities. Watch out for a congregation-wide email later this month that will invite you to complete the online Vitality Survey.



The Visions & Dreams Team at their first meeting, from left, front row: Sarah Watkins, Cindy Wilke, Alecia Harrison; back row: Pastor Daniel Pugh, Shannon Thomsen, Mark Dowell, Bob DeVito, Pastor Wolfgang Herz-Lane, Paul Sovany.



¹ Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ² The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. ³ Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

Genesis 9:1-3, NIV

June is a month of new beginnings. It is still the most popular month to get married. Recent college graduates are starting their new jobs. And High School students are graduating and planning their next chapter. Some will continue their education while others will start working. Either way, all these events can be stressful and exciting. It is a good time to remember that we have a Heavenly Father who loves us and will guide us with each step. Our responsibility is to remember that He is there and call on Him frequently.

I was recently reminded of the practice of thinking of 5 to 10 good things that happened to you yesterday BEFORE you get out of bed. This sets the tone of the day to be a positive one. We all are disappointed in something every day. But if you are looking for blessings, it will seem more like a minor inconvenience instead of a major disruption that can disassemble

your whole day. God never promised us a rose garden; oh wait, that was a song, not a bible verse, but it still applies! God promises us unexpected blessings, His constant presence, and eternal life with Him when we believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Thank you Lord for all that you are doing for me right now!

Spring is my favorite season, with all the new blooms and warmer temperatures. We get April showers and May flowers. Our campus is certainly blooming with so much. I feel God's presence when I am in nature. Daily walks are very beneficial for my mental health. And I get some alone time with God. This is when I do most of my talking. Then I read my Bible. This is when I hear God talking back to me. Also, sometimes when I am praying, He will nudge me in a new direction. Something I had not considered. Often it seems like the perfect solution to a current problem.

God is all around us. Take a moment to "smell" the roses and consider how God is leading you this very moment.

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison





2024's "Shredding Event" Yields \$1,400+

The Lord of Life Men's Group sponsored this year's "Community Shredding Event" on May 11 and raised more than \$1,400, enough to cover the cost of the shredding truck and provide a full scholarship for Camp Agape this summer so one of LOL's youth can attend camp for a week. The Outreach Team greeted visitors as they arrived with their boxes full of documents, handed out granola bars as a small gift, and provided invitational postcards. Terry Barnes, president of the LOL Congregation Council and chair of the men's group, was interviewed by CBS17 News which featured the shredding event on the evening news.





This year's **Relay for Life** at LOL raised about \$1,700 for the American Cancer Society, thanks to Alecia Harrison and dozens of volunteers who sponsored a raffle, silent auction and dinner on April 6 and then participated in the Town of Garner's event at Lake Benson Park on April 27. LOL's new members Bob DeVito and Pastor Margaret marched in the cancer survivors' parade.



Building updates: New office, conference room, lobby carpeting



Look for big renovations in our building soon: Congregation Council has approved new carpeting for the lobby (narthex) and new vinyl flooring for the library and Kids' Korner rooms. The plan is to transform the former library into a conference room with new furniture. In April, we completed the relocation of the pastor's office which now provides both office space and a comfortable meeting/sitting space thanks to the donation of two couches and arm chairs.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who contributed to our "Show the Love" appeal to benefit Agape+Kure Beach Ministries and to help our beloved Camp Agape in Fuquay-Varina complete its new swimming pool. Members and friends of Lord of Life Church contributed over \$2,400 as part of the campaign which is supported by seven other ELCA congregations in the Triangle. On May 5, Agape's program director, Lucas Welsh, attended worship and provided information on the upcoming camp season.

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

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 Himmeger, Sylvia Lambert, and Enid Weatherwax