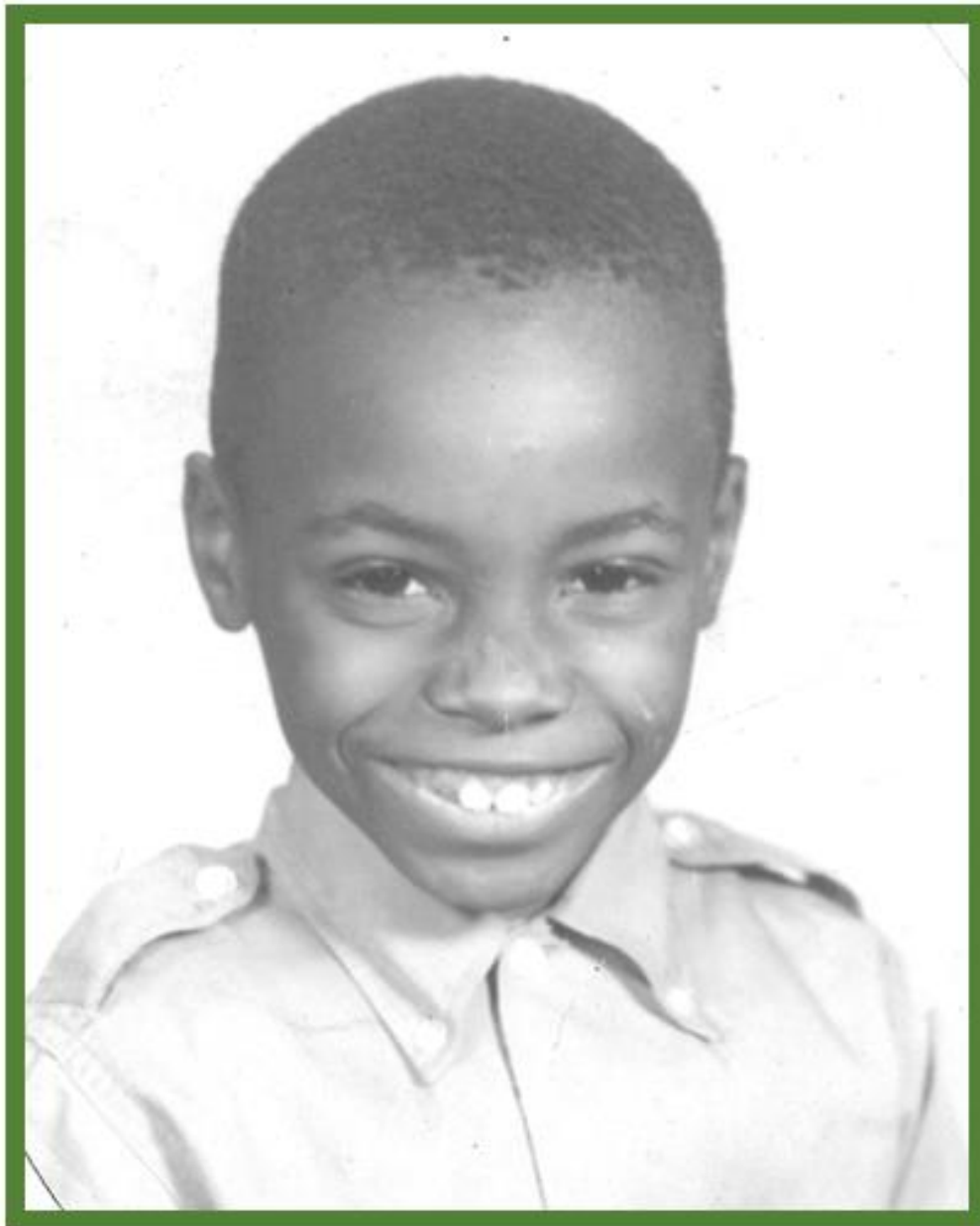


*A Celebration  
of Life*



*Thomas Raymond Isaacs*

**Prelude** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*, arr. Dan Forrest

**Welcome** Pastor Wolfgang Herz-Lane

**P.** Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother, Thomas, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

**Opening Hymn** *My Lord, What a Morning* ELW 438

**Greeting** Pastor Wayne Dubnansky

**P.** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C. And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day** Pastor Wayne Dubnansky

**P.** Let us pray.  
O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Thomas. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C.** *Amen*

**Romans 8:31 35, 37-39**

What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God. Word of life.

**C. Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 23**

Read in Unison

The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.

You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**Hymn of the Day**      *I'll Fly Away*

**Verse 1**      Some glad morning when this life is o'er  
I'll fly away  
To a home on God's celestial shore  
I'll fly away

**Chorus**      I'll fly away O glory I'll fly away  
When I die hallelujah by and by  
I'll fly away

**Verse 2**      When the shadows of this life have grown  
I'll fly away  
Like a bird from prison bars has flown  
I'll fly away

**Verse 3**      Just a few more weary days and then  
I'll fly away  
To a land where joys shall never end  
I'll fly away

## **Family Remembrances**

Gale Isaacs  
Antonio Smith  
Anaylia "Sam" Jones

## **Anthem**

*Higher Ground*  
by Charles Gabriel

Dr. Brad Hunnicutt

## **The Gospel**

Rev. Dr. Ronniere Robinson

**P.** The holy gospel according to John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **John 14:1-6**

"Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.

The gospel of the Lord.

**C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Homily**

"Thomas' New Room"

Pastor Wolfgang

## **Anthem**

*Soon and Very Soon*, ~ Andrea Crouch    Choir

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Pastor Wayne Dubnansky

**P.** Let us pray for consolation:

Almighty God, source of mercy and giver of comfort, graciously be with us who mourn, that casting all our sorrow on You, we may know the consolation of Your love. Lord in Your mercy

**C. hear our prayer**

**P.** Let us pray for strength:

Merciful Lord, You heal the broken in heart. Strengthen us in our weakness, calm our troubled spirits, and help us to look to You for support and strength. Lord in Your mercy

**C. hear our prayer**

**P.** Let us pray for hope:

In Christ's rising from the dead, You conquered death and opened up the gates to everlasting life. Give us the sure and certain hope of the resurrection that by the power of Your love, we shall be brought together again with our brother, Thomas. Lord in Your mercy

**C. hear our prayer**

**P.** We offer these prayers to You, Lord God, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord of Life.

**c.** *Amen*

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

**P.** The Lord be with you.

**C.** **And also with you.**

**P.** Lift up your hearts.

**C.** **We lift them to the Lord**

**P.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C.** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Words of Institution**

**P.** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power  
and the glory, forever and ever.

*Amen*

**Communion Distribution today will be by INTINCTION.**

**(Come to the Pastor & Communion Assistant  
to receive the bread to dip into the wine)**

**Holy Communion is open to everyone.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

**P.** Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.  
Everyone is invited, no exceptions.

**C.** *Amen*

### **Communion Music**

*Amazing Grace* ELW 779

*Lead Me, Guide Me* ELW 768

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

**P.** The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
strengthen us and keep us in His grace and peace.

**C.** *Amen*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**P.** Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed  
us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome  
others and to be at peace with one another, through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C.** *Amen*



## Commendation

**P.** Let us commend Thomas to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer. Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Thomas.

Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

**C.**

*Amen*

## Blessing

**P.** The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

**C.**

*Amen*

**Closing Hymn**

*When Peace like a River*

ELW 785

**Postlude** *I was There to Hear your Borning Cry* Gail Hrobuchak  
John Ylvisaker, arr. Reflet des Nuages



*We, the loved ones of Thomas,  
wish to express publicly our thanks to  
ALL who have provided support and  
comfort during these past two weeks.*

*Your acts of kindness provide a  
continued source of strength for us.*

*Please join us for a reception  
in the fellowship hall.*



The altar flowers are given for the glory of God  
and in loving memory of our brother, Thomas,  
by the congregation of Lord of Life Lutheran Church,  
Social Concerns Committee.

*Thomas Raymond Isaacs, Jr.* was born in Chestertown, Maryland on October 26, 1957; he died at Rex Heart & Vascular Hospital on September 26, 2024.

*Thomas* was employed by the City of Raleigh, Department of Parks and Recreation.

*Thomas* was a member of Lord of Life Lutheran Church for over twenty years. He participated in the Men's Choir each summer during the month of June, parked cars during Independence Day Observance, and occasionally performed usher duties.

*Thomas* loved the all-American pastimes of baseball and football. He played semi-professional baseball and later played league baseball after moving to North Carolina. However, his very essence of sports began and ended with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Regardless of which teams were playing in the Super Bowl, Steelers' banners and paraphernalia filled the house at his yearly Super Bowl Party.

*Thomas* was a music lover. He played bass guitar in a rock band called the "Rotations" and was a connoisseur of his favorite musical genre, R&B. He enjoyed playing the games of Backgammon, Pictionary, and Scattagories, often using questionable methods to score big.

*Thomas* was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas R. Isaacs, Sr. and Dorothy Brooks Isaacs, and a sister, Dr. Mareasa R. Isaacs.

*Thomas Raymond Isaacs, Jr.* leaves to cherish his memory, his best friend and wife Gale; his brother James and sister Vanessa (Alvin) both of Maryland; his Love Family: Ashton, Antonio (Tony), Anaylia (Sam), Cierra, and Jackie; one nephew, Jemyle; three nieces: Chantelle, Candice, and Soraya; and many, many loving friends whom he considered family.

### **Participants in today's service:**

Rev. Dr. Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane - Pastor and Mission Developer, Lord of Life

Rev. Wayne Dubnansky - retired ELCA minister and former Pastor of Lord of Life

Rev. Dr. Ronniere Robinson - Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Smyrna, Delaware

Gail Hrobuchak - Minister of Music, Lord of Life

Dr. Brad Hunnicutt - guest musician and former Lord of Life Music Director

Tim Clark, Neil Brenneke, Randy King - Ushers

Sylvia Lambert, Shannon Thomsen - Communion Assistants

### **Memorials**

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Lord of Life Memorial fund (make checks to "Lord of Life" with memorial Fund in the memo line or electronically at lolgarner.com)



# Lord of Life

LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)  
GARNER, NC

2100 Buffalo Rd, Garner, NC 27529  
(919) 772-9044 | [www.lolgarner.com](http://www.lolgarner.com)

Sunday worship at 10 am  
All are welcome, no exceptions