



February 2024

A Message from Our Council President

I thought a letter was in order after all the turmoil we are going through with the deaths of spouses from key members of our team.

One of our prime Play Care Leaders, Brittany, lost her husband Steve due health complications from pneumonia. Brittany will be returning to her chores at Play Care this week. In her absence, Melissa and Karen Cullen, with some part-time help, filled the gap left by Brittany being away to care for her husband. We also lost one of our own members, Jerry Jennings, to a sudden heart attack. I knew Jerry from my association with him through our mutual overlap with finances and the council interface and meetings after church services. But I really got to know Jerry through our association with the Men In Mission Bible Class on Thursday mornings. When you spend an hour studying, reflecting, and discussing the Bible readings, your beliefs come through loud and clear. Jerry, like all the members, were true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Personal salvation of each one of us. Jerry lived his faith daily. I know that he is absent from his mortal body, but "face to face" with the Lord.

Pastor Angela has resigned from her call at Lord of Life and needs time to adjust to this shock in her life. I ask that all of you keep both of these families in your thoughts and prayers as they start a new journey in their lives without their spouses. Pray that Lord fills the void in their lives.

Please pray also for all our volunteers at LOL. They are the life blood that keeps our congregation and church running and providing for all our needs here at LOL. If any one of you wish to step up their service to LOL by volunteering, please just let me or any council member know. We would be more than willing to find a place where your service is best needed. Pam Duncan is asking to take time off from her volunteer duties with hospitality for personal health reasons. If any of you want to take this duty, please let me know. Please add Pam to your prayer list.

We are still in discussions with another church to share our facility with them using Luther Hall and other spaces. We will know more details in several weeks. We will always keep you in the loop, when we know more.

We have been in regular contact with the Bishop's office about our transition to an interim pastor. They continue to give us their leadership, prayers, and moral support.

Retired pastor Jim Dugan has agreed to do all the services from February 25th through Easter Sunday including all Holy Week services.

Until we get an interim pastor, both Jim and another retired pastor, Craig Boelke, have agreed to fill the void in the short term. Both of these pastors call Lord of Life their home.

All of the council members have stepped up their interface with the congregation and also with new visitors and new members as part of our renewed outreach to all our fellow Christians in the Bluffton community not just here at Lord of Life.

(Continued on Page 2)

Our Council President continued

Also, a big thank you to all the Men in Mission Bible Class led by Jack Young to take on the “Souper Tuesday” soup and devotionals before choir practice in Luther Hall on Tuesday nights at 5 PM. And another grateful thanks to Dennis Lollis for organizing a prayer day for all those suffering in war torn countries

I hope this letter finds you all well and in God’s good graces. I always want to write so that you are all aware of what is going on, but also to remind you that no matter what happens in life Our Lord knows about it and has it covered for our benefit.

I’ll end this letter with a reminder story about Horatio Spafford who lost his four year old son to Scarlett Fever and lost a fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Spafford then started a recovery business which was successful. Because of his new business, Horatio could not sail to England with his wife and four daughters. The ship they were sailing on sank, and only his wife survived. Horatio immediately set sail for England. At one point during his voyage, the captain of the ship, aware of the tragedy that had struck the Spafford family, summoned Horatio to tell him that they were now passing over the spot where the shipwreck had occurred.

As Horatio thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. He wrote them down, and they have since become a well-beloved hymn: When he was waiting to be reunited with his wife, he composed a song “It is Well with my Soul”

So, I close also with his words for LOL—that no matter what happens “It is well, It is well, It is well with our souls.”



Love always in Christ
Jim Cuff

Save These DATES

2024

Bring a friend or two or more!

Lent	Tuesday Lenten Soup and Devotions 5:00 pm in Luther Hall February 27, March 5th, 12th, and 19th
March 24	Palm/Passion Sunday 10:00am
March 28	Maundy Thursday 6:00pm
March 29	Good Friday 6:00pm
March 31	Easter 10:00am
April 7	Easter Cantata with church service 10:00am

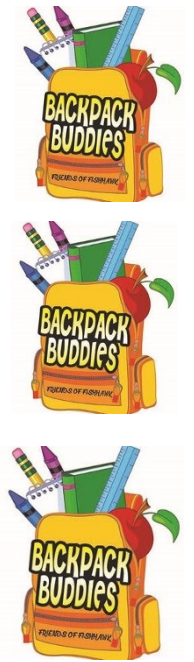
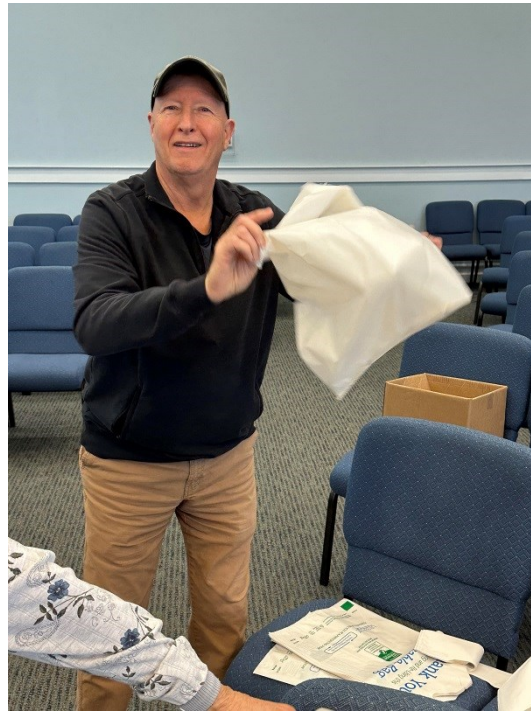
Lenten Soup and Scripture

Men and Mission has volunteered to sponsor the Lenten Soup and Discussion on Tuesdays in Luther Hall at 5:00 pm. The dates for Soup and Discussion are March 5th, 12th, and 19th. **Bring a Friend!**



What is the Backpack Buddies program?

The Backpack Buddies program provides elementary school children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals a sack of healthy and easy-to-prepare foods. The sack is for the weekend when students are not at school and don't have access to the free-meal program. For many of these children, school meals may be the only reliable meals they eat during the week.



Choir Preparing for the Easter Cantata Performance on April 7th



Souper Bowl Food Collection: We achieved our goal of 500 pantry products!



Service Committee Report

We discussed taking a short hiatus from requesting any donations for any projects since Jim Cuff had advised the congregation at the congregational meeting on January 7 that we all needed to step up our giving when at all possible in hopes that it would make a difference in the church's financial situation. At our December meeting Bunny had gotten information on the Blessings for Bluffton program run by the Bluffton Police Department and we thought we might implement the program at Lord of Life. We decided to put that on hold for now.

Karen Cullen brought up the WELCA personal care kits project and we might get that started again in May.

We also discussed the successful Project Linus that Karen Meyer orchestrated last November, and perhaps we could think about doing it again this year. Karen was out of town for this meeting so we'll get her input next month. She did a fantastic job and we had a wonderful turnout of volunteers.

Tonya will try to get a definitive answer on the future of the Family Promise being hosted at Lord of Life. If we are no longer going to host families here, she suggested we donate all the bedding and miscellaneous items being stored in the closets at church. There are 16 air mattresses, and if they are still in good condition, we could offer them to interested members of the congregation who'd like to make a small donation to the church.

World Day of Prayer

On Friday March 1st, (World Day Of Prayer), we will be having a prayer service for those in Palestine, Israel, the Ukraine and Russia who have been affected by war. We will be praying for the children, mothers, fathers, wives, husbands and grandparents and families that have had their hearts and souls broken because of war. **Please consider coming to Church at 10 am, Friday March 1st** and join with your brothers and sisters in Christ to lift these people, and their circumstances to the LORD.



Care and Call

Following is a list of activities handled by Care and Call for the dates of January 15—February 16

Calls:4

Cards:14

Walker bag: 1

Emails: 1

Grieving booklet: 1

NHC communion: two times

1/18: 10 residents and family plus 4 from Lord of Life

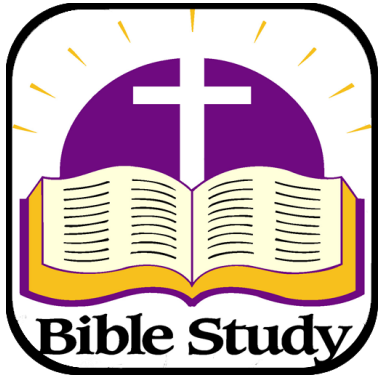
2/15: 20 residents and 5 from Lord of Life

Music was provided by Sue Ellen Johnson and Judy Moran. Linc and Mary Lee Tumej and Glenda Mascia distributed communion after a scripture reading and a brief devotion presented by Mitzi Dube.



Tree Dedication

The Dwarf Redbud was given in memory of Howie Wilson who was a dedicated choir member and in Bible Study. Additionally, Howie was devoted to his immediate and extended family: his wife Haila, his daughters Holly and Heather, and his grandchildren Matthew and Andrew. The tree was dedicated on Christmas Eve.



Tuesday Bible Study 10:00 am in the café

Thursday Lutheran Men in Mission @ 8:00 am

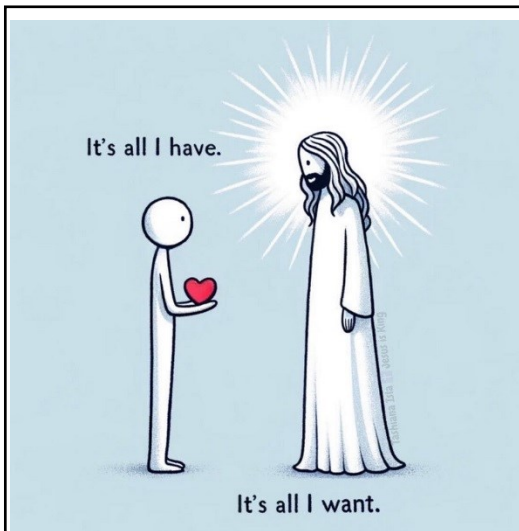
*Currently meeting by Zoom.

*Breakfast in person every Third Thursday at 8:00 am



Offering Counters

Did you ever wonder what happens to your offering after a church service? Well, the Church Counters assigned for that Sunday take the offerings into a room after the service and methodically work through the envelopes and checks and cash. All the money is verified by the Counters before the money is bagged up for the bank deposit. Volunteers are always needed. Please contact Coleen McBourne if you are interested.



With the generous contributions from the December ladies luncheon: a herd of goats; honeybees + vegetable garden; and a month of necessities for a disaster survivor (in the USA) were provided through ELCA Good Gifts!





**Welcome
To our Church**

Welcome to Our New Members!

Dee Bitenieks

Judi Harlow

Bob Ruger

Ruth Anne James-Maciag

Sandy Lindell

Glenn Moyer

Jane Moyer



**Sophia Kalemkerides
Schade Wins Award at
“Double Vision” Sun City
Competition**

Congratulations to Sophia for her award in the “Double Vision” competition. This is a unique challenge. The person on the left took a photograph and Sophia did an artistic creative version of that photo. Beautiful work!

Property Committee Report

Minutes of the 2/9 LOL Property Committee meeting are in Red.

1. Thanks to FOS for replacing rotten boards and reconfiguring the play school play gym:

We looked at the repairs that were done, and asked that FOS make the following additional repairs:

- 1) add a beam support under where the horizontal ladder fastens to the play gym,
- 2) The support beam under the elevated platform on the Buckwalter side is only fastened with one small screw. It needs two through carriage bolts,
- 3) The beam supporting the swings is rotten resulting in the swing bolt anchors pulling down into the beam. The whole beam needs to be replaced and the swing chain anchors reattached with new through galvanized carriage bolts.,
- 4) In order to keep the play gym old wood from further rot and protect the new wood, the entire play gym needs to have a new coat of exterior wood preservative stain. We observed that there is a pile of both new and old rotted wood piled just outside of the playschool fence. The new wood may be useful to make some of the additional repairs above. The old wood can be deposited into the LOL Dumpster.

2. Summary review of the final agreements for various insurance policies and significant savings realized

Jim Cuff and others on the Church Council have been negotiating for cheaper insurance through our new local insurance agent, Rhonda. Our liability insurance will be with Philadelphia Insurance, and our property, wind and hail insurance will be with Ategrity Insurance. The net saving with these new insurers is \$5, 593/ year. We have just had our initial (final?) insurance inspection this week. Our property committee will be responsible to handle any property, wind, or hail insurance claims in the future.

3. Next phase sprinkler system inspection and testing planned for March

The next phase of Johnson Controls work that comes up every 5 years will be the testing of a sample of sprinkler heads beginning in March. Johnson Controls will drain and dispose of the old antifreeze from the system, replace about 13 sprinkler heads, refill the system with water, and send the 13 old heads to UL labs for testing. If the heads check OK, then Johnson will just drain the water from the system and backfill with fresh antifreeze. If heads don't checkout, we may have to replace all heads before refilling with new antifreeze.

4. Door lock issue at the office entrance.

The AA folks mistakenly tried to use a key on the outside of the exit door when locking up after their meeting. The key broke off. The locksmith came and made repairs.

5. Possibility of FOS picking up lawn care from Greenery to save us money.

Pastor Ramos clarified that FOS is not taking over lawn maintenance from Greenery. However, FOS does have some members with contacts in the lawn care business. FOS will seek quotations to see if we can find a less expensive lawn care maintenance contractor.

6. Lawn Sprinkler head repair planning.

We are postponing repair of the irrigation system until later in the spring when the weather warms. At that time, we will determine which zones still work, which we want to continue using, make repairs to those we want to use, and then program the system accordingly. Clearly there are some flower beds and landscape bushes that we will want to continue using the irrigation system.

7. Examine the complaint from Don Cullen that we need to do something to mitigate the muddy ground between the play gym perimeter timbers and the playschool building.

The remedy we propose is to add an underground drain from the corner downspout along and beyond the playschool fence so that the roof water is expelled beyond the playground. Further we propose to dig a shallow ditch about 6" wide and 8" deep along the front playground timber and beyond the playschool fence toward Buckwalter, install a perforated corrugated pipe in the ditch, backfill the ditch with crushed stone, and then cover the gravel and the first couple of feet in front of the timbers with pine mulch. Pastor Ramos has volunteered his folks to do the work, if approved. LOL should pay for pipe, mulch and gravel. We'll await the decisions and recommendations of Jim Lewis, the Council, and Don Cullen.