



March 2024 Newsletter

LOL Joint Letter from Council President Jim Cuff and Pastor Craig Boehlke

We have been in regular contact with the Bishop's office about the status of them suppling us an interim pastor. All indications are that we will have an interim on board in May of 2024.

We are all pleased with positive growth of the attendance at our Sunday and Lenten services.

I, Jim, want you all to give kudos and thank yous to both Pastor Jim Dugan and Pastor Craig Boehlke for stepping up and filling the void left by Pastor Angela's resignation. Actually, commendations to you all for volunteering to fill up the many tasks of ministry. It is said that the true character of people shows in a time of crisis, and Lord of Life members and friends have been wonderful!

Pastor Jim will continue doing all the services between now and April 14,2024. Pastor Craig will pick up the remaining two services in April 21 and 28, 2024. Hopefully, we will have an interim to introduce on Sunday May 5,2024.

Just a reminder to attend on Easter Sunday, March 31 and the Easter Cantata on Sunday April 7,2024 featuring the Resurrection of Christ as the central theme. We hope you will find the Holy Week services deeply meaningful as well.

Pastor Craig has done the funeral services for Alfred Hoffman and for George Shock in addition to other pastoral care.

We have been blessed to have both of these "retired" pastors with over 100 years of service between them as part of our congregation.

We will keep every one abreast of what is happening, as soon as we know the details.

We will make articles from the council and pastor a part of each Newsletter going forward on a regular basis - providing updates to the congregation. We are committed to good communications and transparency in our mission.

Thank You for all your support,
Jim Cuff and Pastor Craig





HOLY WEEK

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

Letter from the Council President on Stewardship

The Council at Lord of Life has noticed an improved uptick in attendance at our services. We welcome all newcomers, as well as, all those returning from a prolonged absence.

Our Sunday service was averaging about 80 to 90 per week. The last couple of weeks we have about 110 to 120 per week.

Based on all this good news and encouraging news from Synod that we could have an interim pastor on board in May, I am writing this letter to encourage all those who have not filled in their Time and Talent sheets and /or their Estimate of Giving pledges to pick them up in the Narthex and please submit them.

We are still running deficits and all the contributions of your time, talents, and tithes go a long way in alleviating the deficits and filling in our vacancies on our committees.

Remember, we, the congregation, are the Church and nothing moves us forward except by your contributions of your time and money. Please consider this request as a prayerful reminder of all our roles as Stewards, entrusted with God's Work here at Lord of Life.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our Lenten services coming up with Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and finally, Resurrection Sunday. Please keep all those members who have lost a loved one and/or are suffering with an illness in your prayers. We are all God's Children by adoption through Christ, Our Lord and Savior.

Love always in His Service,
Jim Cuff



Give

Serve



Attend



Grow

Stewardship

Many Thanks to Men in Mission!

A special thanks to the Men in Mission Bible Study group for organizing the Soup and Scripture program during Lent. Also, a thank you to all of those people who supplied their delicious soups for the occasion!

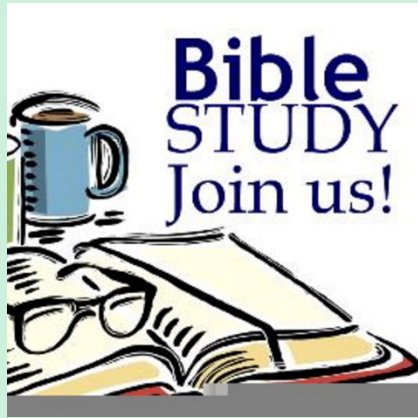
The Men in Mission Bible Group invites the men of Lord of Life to join their study group. They meet at 8:00 am on Thursday by Zoom and meet for breakfast in person every third Thursday at 8:00 am. Contact Jack Young for a Zoom link.



We owe Pastor Ramos of Fountain of Salvation a big thankyou for marshaling many prompt volunteers to dig up the plugged underground drain lines and replacing with new underground drains to pop-ups away from the foundation, cleaning the gutters and roofs of pine needles, and cleaning the other underground PVC downspout drain to the street drain. They saved us a lot of money and did jobs that none of us "elderly" could have done in this short time line for the insurance inspector.

Care and Call for February 19—March 19

Calls: 4 Cards: 10 Grieving Book: 2nd
NHC Communion (2/15) 12 residents received communion as well as 5 folks from Lord of Life (Judy Moran, Linc Tumey, Glenda Mascia, and Mitzi Dube) We sang a few hymns and a brief devotion before sharing communion.

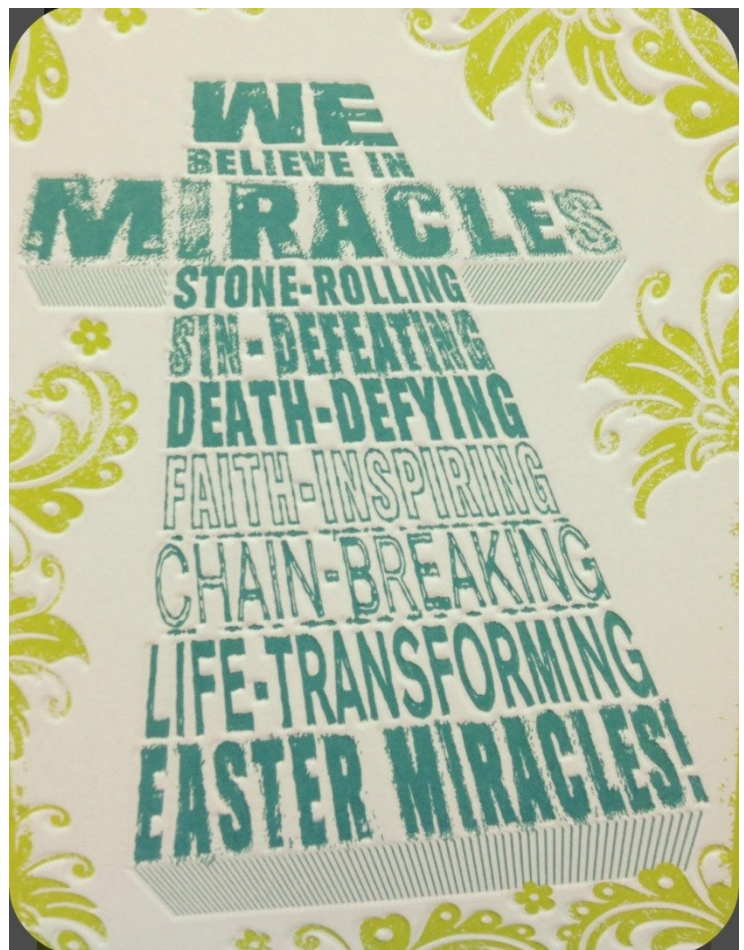


Bible STUDY
Join us!

Tuesday Bible Study
10:00 am in the café



The Altar Guild is always looking for volunteers to set up the altar, put up banners, and prepare the church for funerals. Can you help?



WELCA Ladies' Luncheon

Before the food was served, there were presentations about a church quilt square, possibly starting a WELCA Bible class, and the suggestion of having a salad dinner to accommodate working women who cannot come to the luncheons. Information was also shared about the Tanzanian "She Shed" project.



Service Ministry Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2024

We decided that we would wait until we have an interim pastor in place to ask the police officer in charge of Blessings for Bluffton to come make a presentation to the congregation.

Linda Roland spoke of her work at the Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen and a new project they are working on. Since there is no one at the kitchen over the weekend and hunger does not take a holiday, there is now a food box to be filled with non-perishable food. Linda has been asked to keep the boxes filled and has a budget of \$200/month to do so. She learned that our Outreach Ministry fund has \$9439.41 in it as of 2-25-24. She requested that Bunny Norell ask the council for \$1000 of that fund for the food tree specifically.

Linda then discussed a WELCA project called "She Shed", whose goal is to bring needed farming equipment to women in Tanzania and to store it in a shed that WELCA provides. Since most of the women have very small farms, they cannot afford equipment and need to do their farming by hand. The idea is to locate equipment that can be loaned to the women for their work and to store it in the shed. Karen Meyer will see about making a presentation at the women's' luncheon March 14, hoping to collect \$ to share at the convention in June.

Georgia will again take the lead on the school uniform drive in July/August.

Karen Meyer will check on whether or not the local outlet can accept more blankets for Project Linus. If so, we will set up a work day in the fall.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Tonya was able to stop by Family Promise and get up to date on that

program. There has been a complete turnover of staff. Family Promise has plans to establish a permanent facility instead of using local congregations to house families so it was decided that we can clean out our storage closet of air mattresses, lamps, clocks, flashlights, toys, blankets, pillow cases, etc. The program director asked to look over our items before we sell them to see if there are any items they can use. We will sell to congregants and then donate the profit to Family Promise, as they purchased the air mattresses in the first place. The program can still use Food Lion gift cards (they don't sell alcohol), toilet paper, napkins, diapers, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, etc. It's time to have someone from Family Promise come speak to the church.

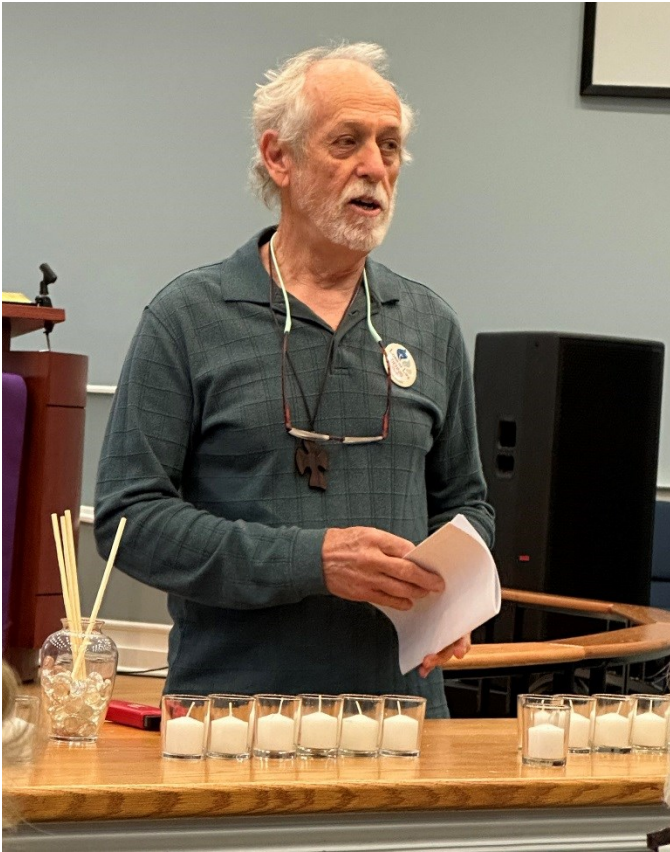
Mary Lee noted that someone is needed to teach people how to usher, to be a worship assistant and to light candles since we no longer have acolytes. This is the responsibility of the Worship and Music committee, but she is willing to assist.

New Member Reception for Dee Biteniaks, Judi Harlow, Bob Ruger, Ruth Anne James-Maciag, Sandy Lindell, Glenn Moyer, and Jane Moyer. A special thanks to Rich and Colette Mayer from the Come and See Committee for opening their home to the new members and Council for the reception.



World Day of Prayer

A special thanks to Dennis Lollis for organizing Lord of Life's World Day of Prayer service. Congregation members read scriptures about peace, lit candles, sang hymns and prayed silently. It was very meaningful gathering.



Property Committee Report – March 2024

1. Review our positive responses to the 4 items requiring action by the property insurance inspectors. We should have all the invoices and reports necessary to satisfy the insurance inspectors' requirements by Monday, 3/11. Marshall will create a document containing all these positive responses for Jim Cuff to sign and return to the insurance inspector.

2. Re-keying of the church.

All outside doors have been re-keyed. A few people have been given new keys. Others will be given access to an external, digital access key box. Their digital access code will be changed regularly.

3. A broken wire on the range exhaust fan on the roof needs repair. Who/when/how?

Steve Meyer repaired the frayed wire on the roof near the fan housing. Unfortunately, when powered on the fan hummed but did not turn. It appears to be rusted/frozen in place. Marshall is pursuing a service call to repair/replace the fan from Coastal Air Technologies who service Captive Aire range hoods.

4. Replacement of bad ballast transformer and fluorescent tubes in the offices.

After the property committee meeting, we replaced the bad ballast transformer in the pastor's office, and the ceiling light is now functioning properly. We also replaced three fluorescent tubes in the Men's restroom of the sanctuary area. The next day while Marshall & Steve were repairing the bad wire to the roof top range exhaust hood, we noticed several fluorescent tubes out in the kitchen and café. Marshall & Steve replaced 29 additional fluorescent tubes in the kitchen and café area. There is a bad ballast in one of the café lights. A new ballast transformer has been ordered.

5. Review the Council decisions on Playschool improvements and FOS final staining, and clean-up of old wood replaced.

The Council chose not to spend any money refilling the sandbox with sand, nor building a permanent sunshade above the sandbox. The sandbox feature is being abandoned. The Council did approve \$250 to add a French drain in front of the landscape timbers to the play gym to address a chronically muddy area in this location, but we decided to wait to see if the new downspout extension near the playschool resolves the muddy playground area problem. The play school area showed no signs of standing water after the recent very heavy rains. FOS has re-stained/weatherproofed the play gym and carried away all the rotten wood replaced on the play gym. The play gym area looks great!

6. Video system outage status.

The video support team has been able to restore the video system to operation.

7. The oven on the kitchen stove does not light.

The pilot light is out and can't be relighted. Marshall placed a service call with Ace Appliance for Monday 3/11.

(Continued on Page 10)



Property Report Continued

8. Johnson Controls

Jim Lewis had sent Marshall a link to a comparison of fire protection system support companies. That comparison rated Johnson Controls in the middle to lower half of the scores, particularly in cost. Marshall found one higher ranked supplier in our area, Siemens, who does fire systems inspections and reports. Marshall will be meeting with Siemens next week to review our systems so they can provide a quote to support our system that we can compare with the costs from Johnson Controls.

9. Lawn Maintenance

Pastor Ramos noted that there are members of his congregation that do lawn maintenance similar to what Greenery does for LOL. Jim Lewis will provide a description of the services that Greenery provides LOL to Pastor Ramos so that he can get comparison/competitive quote alternatives to what Greenery provides us.

We noted that there are still sprinkler heads that need repair in our lawn irrigation system. We will make these repairs in March or April and set up an appropriate lawn irrigation schedule for the zones that are still functional.

10. Other:

Pastor Ramos was made aware of damage to the walls behind the altar near the sinks caused by A/V equipment movement out into the sanctuary area. In the future Pastor Ramos agreed to have this equipment carried out toward the A/V equipment booth rather than behind the altar/sink where the clearance is very narrow causing damage to the walls. Pastor Ramos agreed to have the wall damage repaired.

We passed the 2024 Bluffton Fire Inspection which was conducted on 3/12/24

Board Books for PlayCare



Karen Cullen, from the Service Committee, realized after helping out in PlayCare that the children's books on the shelves were not in good shape. So, she has asked for donations of gently used board books for the children. These twenty books pictured were donated in memory of Alfred Hofmann. There is a basket in the Narthex for board book donations.