

January 2026

Mast



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- Website: www.lolssi.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/LordofLifeSSI
- Vimeo Livestream: <https://vimeo.com/event/5036656/embed>
- Library (Vimeo Services as of April 2025): <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11648268>

Please note that all of the above links can be found on our Lord of Life website or Facebook

**Lord of Life
Lutheran Church**
2801 Frederica Road
St. Simons Island, GA 31522
912-638-4673, info@lolssi
Pastor - Bob Kasting





Now that the holidays are over, remember to pick up your casserole dishes, holiday plates and platters from the church kitchen. There is a limited amount of cupboard and storage space for these extra items.

If you borrowed an item from the kitchen, please return it. Those who use the kitchen on a regular basis count on it being there. Let's work together to keep our kitchen stocked, clean and user friendly.

Thanks!



MANNA HOUSE



We will need 8-10 volunteers to help prepare and distribute a meal to the folks who gather outside at Manna House on Thursday, January 8.

Kitchen crew: Please arrive by 9:00 AM to help assemble bagged lunches.

Distribution crew: Please arrive by 11:15 AM to hand out bags and drinks.

Please let Virginia Lensch know if you would like to help: (Phone: 912-638-3425, Email: vlensch@bellsouth.net).

**"The whole being of any Christian is faith and love.
Faith brings the person to God; love brings the person to people."**

Martin Luther



DID YOU KNOW?

The following two pieces of scripture represent the first and the last verses of the bible.

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth.....”

“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.”

In between these two verses the bible contains a total of 31,100 verses?

The shortest verse in scripture comes from John 11:35 which reads....”Jesus wept”.

The longest chapter of the bible is in the book of Psalms. Psalm 119 contains 179 verses!

The verse that is in the exact middle of the bible is Psalm 118:8 which reads....”It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in humans.”

The word ‘love’ is used over 500 times in scripture (depending on the version you read).

The bible contains over 185 songs!

The actual word “Trinity” is never used in the bible!

You would only need to read about 85 verses a day to get through your entire bible in a year!

Hello New Year Resolution!

Mary Monroe

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

Our study of the Minor Prophets has come to completion and I will no longer be leading the Adult Sunday school studies. If you or someone you know would like to conduct an Adult Sunday school class, please contact Pastor Bob or me. The class is a fun and inquisitive group!

Blessings,

Virginia Lensch

From the Treasurer...

CHURCH APPROVED 2026 BUDGET

GREAT NEWS! 2025 BUDGET HAD ANTICIPATED A -\$7,349 NET LOSS ,BUT WE ENDED THE YEAR WITH A POSITIVE NET GAIN.

2026 INCOME BUDGET: WE RECEIVED 19 PLEDGES TOTALING \$98,050.00, AND \$42,000.00 FROM THE USE OF BUILDINGS. WE PROJECTED ADDITIONAL FAITH REVENUE OF \$88,950.00 TO BRING OUR ESTIMATED INCOME TO \$229,000.

2026 ESTIMATED EXPENSES: \$228,793.00 WHICH SHOWS US A POSITIVE \$207.00 GAIN BY YEARS END.

PLEDGE CARDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE.

BOB SCHWANDT, TREASURER



15th Annual Holiday Market Craft Fair

Thank you to the approximate 30 volunteers who helped make the Holiday Market a success!! We profited over \$5000! A portion went towards Christmas gifts for 2 families and 4 patients at Heritage Oaks, a portion went into Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and the rest went into the Lord of Life Contingency fund.,

The church WiFi has been up dated and upgraded. We will be using Outlook instead of Google.

The log in for the Lord of Life WiFi is ...LordOfLife

Password

...AmenAmen2025

Most of the Staff have separate emails and you will know them all as they contact you.

January 2020

Mast



BIRTHDAYS

Susan Bacon, Jan. 2
 Thomas Edwards, Jan. 7
 Margaret Lensch, Jan. 9
 Allen Burns III, Jan. 12
 Veronica Perry, Jan. 12
 Kathleen Scheuerle, Jan. 17
 Kate Boyer, Jan. 29

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	End of Year Giving Statement If you would like a year-end Giving Statement, please notify Dave Erickson or Dona			1 Office Closed	2	3
4 9:30am, Service	5. 10 am, Bible Study	6 10 am, Tai Chi	7 9 am, Open Sewing	8 10 am, Tai Chi MANNA HOUSE	9	10
11 9:30am, Service	12 No Bible Study	13 10 am, Tai Chi	14 9 am, Open Sewing	15 10 am, Tai Chi 10 am, Tai Chi	16	17 Quilters meet
18 9:30am, Service	19 10 am, Bible Study Martin Luther King Day	20 10 am, Tai Chi	21 9 am, Open Sewing	22 10 am, Tai Chi	23	24
25 9:30am, Service	26 10 am, Bible Study	27 10 AM, Book Club in conference room 10 am, Tai Chi	28 9 am, Open Sewing	29 10 am, Tai Chi	30	31

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS PROJECT

The Christmas Blessings Project provided Lord of Life members the opportunity to shop and wrap Christmas presents for ten people. The shoppers and wrappers included: Kate Boyer, Karen Cate, Jan Ciotti, Cathy Erickson, Carol Ferguson, Virginia Lensch, Mary Ellen Long, Susanne Paskins, Diane Rancourt and Gail Speich. In addition to these ladies, there were also individuals who donated additional money for this project which added to the \$800 from Lord of Life. The shopping and wrapping were completed by December 19th and presents were given out before Christmas. With all the craziness many of us feel during the holiday season, the tasks involved in this project was all completed with one focus in mind...which was to provide Christmas for people in need. However, the individuals who participated added one more ingredient...which was "love". We could only hope that each person who received a gift felt the prayers, love and good wishes that was wrapped up with each present. Thank you for all who participated!

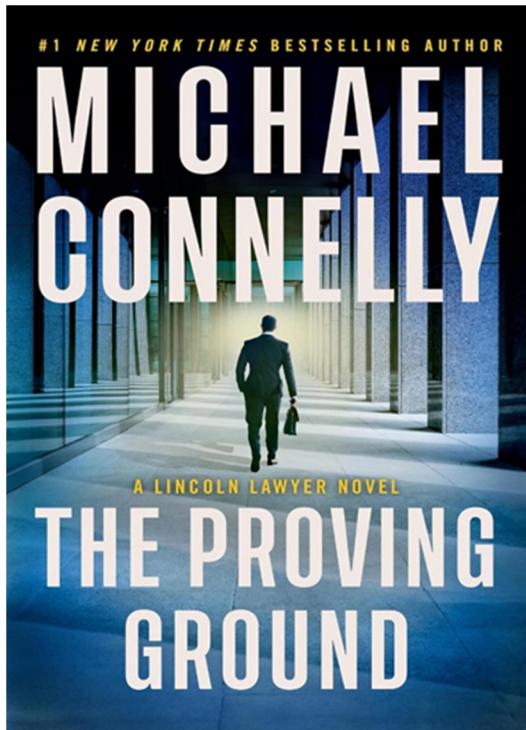
In His Service, Mary Ellen Long



Christmas Blessings
Project Pictures



Lord of Life Literary Society



Our January meeting will be hosted by Diane Rancourt, in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, January 27, at 10:00 AM.

January's selection is *The Proving Ground*, by Michael Connelly. The book is available at local bookstores and/or online at Amazon.com and Thriftbooks.com. A Kindle edition is also available.

RSVP to Diane and join us for discussion and fellowship. All are welcome. Bring a friend

"Come, Let Us Pray



What looks impossible to man is possible with God...and it all starts with a single prayer. *I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Isaiah 38:5.*

As we enter the New Year, let us give the gift of prayer for each other by praying through the church directory and lifting the names of each member to God, aloud or silently.

Directories are available in the church office.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

From the Pastor's Desk;

Pastor's Year End Report 2025

Grace and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to begin my report by saying thank you. Thank you to all of you, you have blessed Kelly and myself, beyond what words can say. Thank you for the gifts you have given us this Christmas. 2025 didn't start out as Kelly and I hoped it would, but you all blessed us with your prayers and love as I healed from surgery. It has been a very trying year getting through everything health wise. Thank you again for your prayers.

2025 represented some rather hard, economic times for not only our country but also here at Lord of Life. Our community and families feared and experienced job loss and the hardships that go along with unemployment. As with many of our checkbooks and personal finances, we too at Lord of Life, had to watch our finances. Our budget was stretched tightly but you as a congregation realized the importance and purpose of the needs of the church and continued to support Lord of Life. Not only did you financially support our congregation, but you also provided loving support to those in need. It was once said, "*That a congregation without a budget problem was a congregation not doing the Lord's work.*" We as a congregation remained faithful to proclaiming and rejoicing the Good News of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Having reflected on the happenings of this past year, you as brothers and sisters of Lord of Life have accepted many challenges other than financial concerns. You have been stretched in your spiritual growth. You were challenged through sermons to look at your own lives and where you see yourself now and in the future. You were challenged to become stronger Disciples of Christ and began to look deeply into your prayer life. You have accepted these challenges and are helping others carry the load. You have taken the initiative to care for God's church using your many talents and gifts. Continued to give of yourselves unconditionally, at work, at church, in our community, and in the world, just as the Lord has done for all of us.

There are so many areas of our ministry to give thanks for in our congregation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave of their time and volunteer to serve on our various committees and behind the scenes work. Without your support, the congregation would be a hollow, cold, shell. Your support has continued to make us a loving, nurturing, warm and active congregation.

There are so many areas to reflect upon that I fear I may forget to mention someone or something. Please know that this is in no way intentional and that everyone deserves to be thanked. As fellow members, please remember to thank one another as well.

Council: I would like to thank your church council: Tom, Kate, Susanne, Lucy, Virginia, Carol, & Bob. I would like to thank those who were on council in the beginning of the year and have served their terms: Cathy, Pat, Mary, Jack, Rick. All of them have worked hard and to ensure that the church is doing God's mission.

Worship and Music: You have truly had a spectacular year. Our choir & bell choir and ringing with their talented voices have added to the Glory of praising God in our worship. Thank you to Mary, for her leadership, direction, and talents God has given her. A thank you also goes out to you as a congregation for continuing to attend worship regularly and work through the many changes as well. I realize some of these were not easy changes, but we tried, and we have grown because of them. To the ushers, greeters, acolytes/crucifers. To Pat and all altar guild prepares, assisting ministers, and anyone else that I may have forgotten, thank you.

Christian Education: Our students and teachers have been very busy. It is my prayer that we will be even busier this year, and our class will be overflowing with new faces. Many thanks go out to Virgina and Patrice who have graciously volunteered their time to prepare and teach during Sunday school. You all have enriched everyone who has attended with the knowledge of God's love through this gift. Thank you to all who participated and assisted with Sunday School.

Finance and Stewardship: Thank you to Pat, Dave, Mike, Renee, Sharon, and Don for working tirelessly throughout the year. Thank you for your time, dedication, and leadership to our congregation. Your encouragements to stretch our faith to meet budget and to continue to proclaim the gospel were truly heard.

Prayer, Support and Fellowship: All of these areas of ministry are greatly appreciated by everyone. Please continue to pray for one another, and offer support, not only in times of need but also in times of celebration.

Property Committee: Thank you to Rick, Dave, Tom, Bud, Bryon who give of their time to maintain the church properties. I realize that only a few people volunteer their time to do the upkeep and maintenance that the properties require. The upkeep you provide enables us to give Glory to God and welcome visitors into a clean, loving environment. I pray that in the future more of us will take the opportunity to volunteer to clean, mow, repair, and prepare the church property.

Streaming: Thank you to Jim who started our streaming of services years ago. Your hard work helped us at LOL over the years. Thank you to Luck and her brother Paul, for the upgrade to our streaming service. Thank you to all who have helped with sound and streaming on Sundays. I know there have been some glitches, but you all are valuable to our ministry here.

Community Service: We continue to share God's word and use our gifts that He has given us in our community and in our congregation to support not only to the greater church, but also to our synod by maintaining our benevolence of 100%. This support continues to assist local organizations and enable church wide projects for the Glory of God. As I look back, I smile, with the community outreach: Manna House, Sparrows Nest, SOAR, Holiday Market, Second Harvest, Pancakes at the Pier, Seafarers Boxes and OCC. Plus, the community that uses our building: Ti Chi, Cub Scout Pack 227. To our quilting ladies who have given of their time to make the beautiful quilts for not only our homebound but also those who are ill. The quilts they made for North Carolina after the hurricane and floods in the areas up there. The quilts that were made and sent for LWR.

Witnessing: We are called to share our hope and peace, through our faith in Jesus Christ, to those in our community and globally who live in hopelessness. As we continue to seek God's Word, let us continue to care for all people of the world, loving them as we love each other. I pray that you will continue to share the hope you have inside and proclaim with your words and glorify with your actions the love of Jesus to everyone you meet.

Again, I would like to thank all the committees and each of you as brothers and sisters in Christ in your diligence to proclaiming the Gospel of our risen Christ. I pray that in 2026, the Holy Spirit will be able to move more freely in your hearts and the awareness of the church, and its people will become real in all of you. Let you light shine before others, so that the entire world may know your Lord Jesus Christ and the magnificent gifts he has bestowed upon you.

Statistics for 2025

Sermons preached & Services Participated with	55
Other Worship Services (Weekly Advent/Lenten Service, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday. Community Weekly Lenten Service, Community Good Friday Service Community Easter Sunrise Service)	25
Meetings attended (Committee, Council, outside meetings, Bible Studies)	74
Baptisms	1 (Nolan Flowers)
Funerals	1 (Lynn St. Clair)
Weddings	2 (Lofving & Long)
New Members	3 (Karen Cate, David and Carla Temple)
Pastoral Visits (Home, Nursing Home & Hospital)	61
Pastoral Counseling	20
Vacation	4 weeks
Synod/Conference Meeting (Monthly Conf. Meeting, Synod Assembly)	10
Continuing Education, Ministry Enrichment & other Pastoral Activities (Bishops Convocation, Peer Ministry Workshop, SE Synod Bounty Training, VP Seafarers Board/ Volunteer Chaplin, Manna House, Maritime Day @ Pier with Seafarers, Pancakes in the Park, weekly devotions and communion at Heritage Oaks)	25

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob Kasting