

February  
MAY



February, Valentine's Month, has arrived:

Sunday, February 2, First Sunday Fellowship - Join us after church.

Wednesday, February 12, Lincoln's birthday.

Friday, February 14, Valentine's Day. A day of Love

Saturday, February 15, 9 am—4pm Quilters meet.

Monday, February 17, President's Day—office closed

Saturday, February 22, Washington's birthday.

Friday, February 28, 6 pm, BUNCO AND PIZZA night



**Lord of Life**  
**Lutheran Church**  
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St. Simons Island, GA 31522  
912-638-4673, [lollssi2014@gmail.com](mailto:lollssi2014@gmail.com)  
Pastor - Bob Kasting  
Music Director - Mary Monroe,  
Council President - Tom Comer



**FROZEN FOUNTAIN**

**THE BIBLE IS THE CRADLE WHEREIN CHRIST IS LAID.  
~ MARTIN LUTHER**



*From the Music Director*



It is very clear that no matter what version of the Bible you choose to read, God wants to drive home the notion of 'love'; HIS notion of love. Many times the word 'love' is contained in biblical text translations.

Here we are, once again, in a month where greetings cards and candy companies will fill store shelves with endless opportunities to tell someone "I love you"; and you and I will participate in this yearly ritual and find joy in it. The question is...where does that joy come from? How do we express God's love in this?

For God's children, it is not the words of affection or the sentimental notions we will communicate inside a card; and it is not the flowers or the candy that we pass along to a loved one that expresses His agape love. God's love is expressed in the response, the call, and the anticipation of joy that our loved one(s) will feel and receive in our desire to bind that relationship with them together, to build it up, and to hold on to it tightly. It is the same response we are compelled to express to one another and to our neighbor every day. We are called to be imitators of God's humble, relentless, loyal, and servant driven love. It is this love that unites us, binds us together, and allows us to feel its joy even in the midst of the storms that our lives will bring.

## **Crafty Christmas Cottage Contest**

Congratulations to the Lord of Life Sew Happy quilters.

Their cottage brought in the most in donations.

Thank you to all who took the time to create this display for our visitors to the Holiday Market.



# Bunco Night & Pizza

Friday, February 28th

6:00 pm

If you can count to 6, you can play.

\$7.00 per person

Sign up in the church hallway and invite a friend



**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, February 13

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](mailto:vlensch@bellsouth.net)).



# February 2020

## BIRTHDAYS

Carol Ferguson, Feb. 3  
 Becky Angelbeck, Feb. 5  
 Patrice Perry, Feb. 12  
 Jody Fraser, Feb. 18  
 Tim Lensch, Feb. 21  
 Gardi Wood, Feb. 21  
 Kelby Phillips, Feb 2/24  
 Nathan Long, Feb 2/25  
 Jasper Taylor, Feb 2/25

## ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Kathleen  
 Scheuerle, Feb 13  
  
 Renee & Joe Balka,  
 Feb 29

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 am, Service First Sunday Fellowship	3. 10 am, Bible Study	4 10 am, Tai Chi	5 9 am, Open Sewing	6 10 am, Tai Chi	7	8
9 8:15 am, Adult Sunday School 9:30 am, Service	<b>10</b> 10 am, Bible Study	11 10 am, Tai Chi	12. 9 am, Open Sewing 9:30 am, Children's Church Lincoln's birthday	13 10 am, Tai Chi Manna House	  Valentines DAY	15 Quilters meeting
16 8:15 am, Adult Sunday School 9:30 am, Service	17 10 am, Bible Study  Presidents Day	18 10 am, Tai Chi	19 9 am, Open Sewing 9:30 am, Children's Church	20 10 am, Tai Chi	21	22  Washington's Birthday
23 8:15 am, Adult Sunday School 9:30 am, Service	24 10 am, Bible Study	25 10 am, Tai Chi	26 9 am, Open Sewing 9:30 am, Children's Church	27 10 am, Tai Chi	28  6 pm, Bunco Night w/ pizza	

## ENDOWMENT FUND 2025

Many of you might not be aware or have an understanding of the Lord of Life Endowment Fund and how supports our mission. In 2008 setting up an endowment was an important step in the life of our congregation.

So, why was setting up an endowment so significant. An endowment is defined in the simplest terms as “an income or form of property given or bequeathed to someone.” However, for our use, let’s define it in stewardship terms.

The terms of the endowment state that the purpose of the Endowment Fund is *to receive and administer in a God-pleasing manner, gifts, and bequests to enhance and further the outreach work and ministry of Lord of Life Congregation, secondarily for the enhancement and extension of the outreach of ELCA thirdly, for the benefit of other worthwhile Christian and benevolent programs and projects, including the support of the seminaries within the ELCA.*

Our endowment is not merely a way to stockpile money; it is a powerful testament to our commitment to God's divine mission. A reminder that our talents and possessions are blessings entrusted to us, meant to be shared in God’s name. The endowment stands as a reminder to future generations that we will continue our outreach mission.

Each year, money is set aside from the interest to help our mission work grow. Members can then apply for grant funds for their special ministry. Last year, the endowment gave money to the ELCA Youth Gathering and Lutheridge Summer Camp so Lord of Life youth could attend; SOAR; Hand in Hand Glynn; House of Hope; St Simon Day School Bible Bites; St Francis Outreach Program and Manna House.

*He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:10*

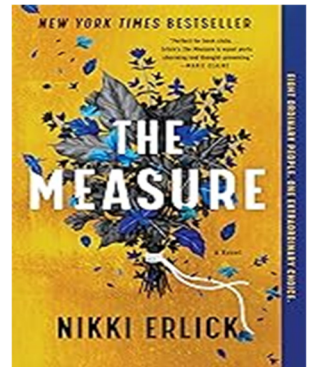
In your giving, remember the church endowment fund, a permanent investment that helps to support Lord of Life’s outreach mission. Donations are always welcome, so join us as we look to the future.

Pat Morris, Stewardship

## Lord of Life Literary Society

Lord of Life Literary Society—book club—will meet this month on February 25th at 10:00.

AND, January book club was postponed due to our once in 36 years snow/ice storm and will meet February 4th at 10 am in the conference room. Pictured is the “January” Book.



MARY MARTHA WILL MEET FEB.6th IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM@ NOON.BRING BAG LUNCH; ALL LADIES WELCOME'

Check with Vanessa for details



### ***Advent Offerings***

***Council voted to have our Advent offerings sent to World Central Kitchen***

***to help with food distribution in Los Angeles***

## Holiday Market Update

We have a final report of funds collected from the 2024 Holiday Market. Here is the breakdown of what each area brought in.

Vendor registration	\$1,420.00
Raffles - Painting	600.00
Raffles - Baskets	1,071.00
Bake Sale	1,018.00
Cafe	614.00
Books	<u>262.25</u>
	\$4,985.25

Pastor's Discretionary Fund and the replenishment of the Contingency Fund will be the recipients of the funds.

Thank-you all who donated and volunteered to make this event a success.

The Holiday Market Committee



**Let Us Pray**



*Faith grows by reading and meditating upon the Word of God. Most of all, faith thrives in an atmosphere of prayer.*

*E.M. Bounds*

Please lift the names of our Lord of Life members, families and friends to the Lord. Church directories are located in the office. Also, consider praying for those listed in our weekly bulletin.



Well Christmas is over; the tree is down and the decorations are down and put away for another 9 months till we break everything back out again. As we begin February and the season of Epiphany and looking toward Lent next month. As we look toward Lent, it's a season filled with soul searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:19, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?" SOS, these letters call forth a distress signal. This month of Lent, think of this season as, Stewardship Of Self, (SOS). Since we are clear that stewardship is management of resources, stewardship of self is management of ourselves. Let's take time to have an SOS of practices and behaviors for ourselves that are destructive, unhealthy and often not God honoring. What do we eat? What do we do for exercise? How do we manage our time? Are we gentle with ourselves? Do we attend to our need to pray, worship, study and read scripture? Overall consider rating yourselves on your SOS. I believe that leaders cannot write about something that they do not themselves practice. Thus, I offer to you that I am conscious of my own SOS and am working constantly to be attentive to behaviors that shorten and detract from my physical and spiritual life.

Lifestyle changes are never easy but that is the business of discipleship. Are you willing to make lifestyle changes? Use your time productively in ways that enhance your spiritual growth. Pray while you walk, or run or even bike, and even when you drive (just do not shut your eyes!). How you use your time is a work of praise for God. Take stock today and look hard at yourself, your behaviors, your time, talents and treasures. Remember that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. God saves us not because of the deeds we do or the good behaviors we exhibit but healthy habits make for a quality of life that enables us to give God great praise!

Your Brother in Christ

Pastor Bob

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## THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

### Lord of Life Version

Last year, during the Lord of Life Yard sale, a box was left in the check-in area while we were not there. Inside was a large Fontanini stable and figures; pieces that had been collected over the years. We knew that this set was not to be sold in a Yard Sale. The problem was, who donated it? We asked and no one had ever seen the box, nor knew who had left the Nativity. We made the decision to save it for the raffle for the next Holiday Market.

On the day of the market the Nativity was displayed and became one of the most popular items in the raffle. Someone approached me later that day and asked if I knew the story of "The Nativity". Finally, a clue as to where this had come from. I was grateful to get some answers. I was put in touch with Michael and Gretchen Negles. In 2016, the Negles moved to St. Simons. They had downsized and no longer had room for this grand Nativity. Being raised Lutheran, they thought our church would make good use of their donation. Since that time there have been a few turnovers in leadership and a pandemic. The box containing the Nativity had been stored since then, but it is still unclear as to who had it or where it was stored. Although Gretchen was surprised that their donation had been overlooked in such a manner, she understood, and was pleased that it came to be used as a raffle item. More recently, Gretchen read an article about the Sew Happy group. At that time, she donated a piece titled "Katie Quilting" in honor of their good work. It hangs on the wall in their sewing area.

A lesson was to be learned through all of this. We must be better stewards of the gifts we are given. Their origins must be documented and their praises be told in stories such as this.

But the Nativity story does go on.....

On the day of the Holiday Market, a woman who had attended every year was to be out of town. She loved the raffle prizes we offered over the years, so she sent a friend to purchase tickets. The drawing took place and she in fact won two baskets! The "Our Best Friend" basket was a collection of items needed for the dog in your life, and of course, The Nativity. She was elated to get the call telling her she had won. It was after she collected her prizes that I learned "The Rest of the Story".

When she saw the size of the Nativity she knew she didn't have space to display it. I was told that she had a connection to a church being built in a neighboring town, and at that moment, she knew it was to be given to them for their new sanctuary. I then found out that the friend she sent to purchase the raffle tickets knew that she had a brand-new puppy. A large portion of her tickets went into the doggie basket drawing. Then, thinking her friend may not have room for the Nativity at her home, placed only one ticket into that drawing. I think God knew where the nativity would end up. And now you know the rest of the story.