

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Vision Statement: to love God and His creation as a Christ-centered/family-oriented ministry.

Website: lord-life.org/Facebook: [Facebook.com/LordofLifeAlpharetta](https://www.facebook.com/LordofLifeAlpharetta)



Sunday, July 26th
9th Sunday after Pentecost
WORSHIP – 10:30am



Sunday, August 2nd
10th Sunday after Pentecost
Blessing of the Backpacks
WORSHIP – 10:30am
*Worship service also available
live on Facebook*



Reminders and Announcements

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 2nd 10:30am



Join us Sunday, August 2nd for Blessing of the Backpacks during worship service for all students, teachers and school staff followed by a pulled pork lunch and Sundaes on Sunday to kick off the start of a new school year! Sign up in the Narthex or let Tiffanie know if you plan to stay for lunch.

We are collecting school supplies for the Drake House through August 2nd. They are especially in need of backpacks and lunch boxes. Any other supplies are also welcome. We also continue to collect non-perishable food items as well as toiletries, paper products and clothing. Thank you for sharing from the heart.



The next Peace by Piece Quilting gathering will be Tuesday, July 28th at 9:30am.

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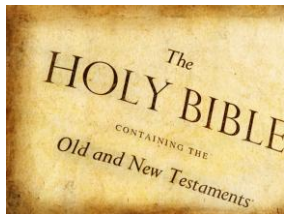
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Join us Sunday, August 16th for Quilted Sunday! The Peace by Piece quilting group has over 120 quilts to be prayed over before being shipped to those in need. We need your vote on which quilt will be displayed in the Narthex for the next year! Plus, you don't want to miss the drawing for a chance to win one of three quilts made by our Peace by Piece Quilters!

Tithes and offerings can be sent via Venmo at any time. @LordofLifeChurch-LordofLifeChurch

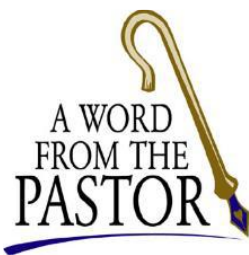


The Lessons for Sunday, July 26th – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12
Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Lessons for Sunday, August 2nd – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-5
Second Lesson: Romans 9:1-5
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:13-21



The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like . . .

A string of parables describe the kingdom of heaven, and then we hear Jesus' question: "Have you understood all this?" The mustard seed, yeast, hidden treasure, pearls—these bring good news of growth and joy and riches. Then come the fish, the furnace of fire, and the weeping and gnashing of teeth. Once again this week we hear of a God of mercy and justice. Once again there is good news to be heard in Paul's letter

to the church at Rome—nothing will ever separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. How will we reconcile these two images of God?

"Kingdoms" are not common in our world. When most of us think about kingdoms, we call up images of British royalty—Queen Elizabeth, jeweled crowns, a palace. At the time the Gospel of Matthew was written, the people were subject to the empire, or kingdom, of Rome. Perhaps the writer wants us to contrast the oppressive rule of Rome with a vision of heaven's kingdom of love and mercy. The writer of Matthew may have used the expression "kingdom of heaven" instead of "kingdom of God" in order not to offend Jewish Christ-believers who honored the word for God by avoiding its use. King Solomon asks God for the wisdom to discern between good and evil, for the understanding to live out both justice and mercy as a ruler of God's people. God was pleased with Solomon's request. The wisdom Solomon seeks to rule his earthly kingdom reflects the wisdom of the kingdom of heaven. King Solomon was variously successful in his discernment of good and evil, as are we.

Hope to see you in church on Sunday.