

The Encourager

July 2022

(Deadline for August's Newsletter submissions is on July 25th!)

PONDERING PASTOR

When I was a kid playing hide and seek in the neighborhood we would call, “Olly, olly, oxen free” when it was time for everyone who was hiding to come back out of hiding and return to base without penalty of getting “caught”.



Well, it is time for us at St. Luke's to call “Olly, olly oxen free”. We need all members/players to return to base.

St. Luke's is suffering right now. I feel it. You feel it. The past two years of disruption and disappointment have negatively impacted our ministry life. It is increasingly difficult to muster the energy or enthusiasm to do all the things a church like ours needs to have done. Without you, though, it cannot be done.

Sunday, July 10th following worship we will hold our annual mid-year Congregational Meeting. This is an especially important check-in this year as it will provide us an opportunity to hear about the Sustainability Study and the progress it is making. We will talk about the budget because as much as we hate to associate money with the ministry, the truth is we cannot maintain a ministry without it. So, we will talk about where we are financially and where we need to be.

We, also, need desperately to hear from you...I need to hear from you about ways we can strive together to begin to reengage children, youth, young adults, families, men, women, and older adults. With your suggestions, though, need to come the willingness to help make it happen.

I cannot do this alone. The staff cannot do it alone. The council cannot do it alone. We need everyone to reengage to ensure St. Luke's success and vitality.

There are some fellowship events scheduled for July highlighted in this Encourager for youth, for adults, and for the congregation to fellowship. Without you

members/players returning to base, however, these efforts will fall short.

The most important place where we all need to be, especially, is in worship. It is there where we may together honor and praise God, celebrate the sacraments of Christ's real presence, and rejuvenate our individual and collective spirit for the tasks and challenges of life and this ministry.

"Olly, olly oxen free!" It's time for members/players to return to base!

We will see you July 10th at the Annual Congregational Meeting held in the sanctuary immediately after worship.

Peace, Pastor Jeffrey

ST. LUKE'S HAPPENINGS!

A RECITAL OF SACRED SONGS



Rev. Jeffrey Ingold, Baritone
Jane Huber, Piano

Wednesday, July 13 at 6:30 pm
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
3200 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209

"Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise without delays."
Five Mystical Songs by R. Vaughn Williams

Many of you know I love to sing. I have made it my hobby to engage in singing with local choral groups wherever I have pastored a church. The Blazing Star Choral Society of Butler, when I pastored in western Pennsylvania; The Nashville Opera chorus, when I pastored in Nashville, Tennessee; The North Carolina Master Chorale and Chamber Chorus, when I pastored in Fuquay-Varina; and recently I auditioned with our local Opera Carolina and have been offered a position to sing in the extra offstage chorus in Tosca this October.

Additionally, I have embarked on solo projects over the years often collaborating with someone from the congregation in which I am pastoring at the time. To that point Jane Huber and I have been working on preparing a program of solo sacred songs which I am excited to announce will take place Sunday, July 10th at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception of cookies and punch.

There will be a love offering received and proceeds to go to the "Be The Light" capital campaign for Lutheran Services Carolinas. Click on the logo to learn more about this important institutional ministry of our NC Synod.

The program will consist of the following songs:

- *Five Mystical Songs* by R. Vaughn Williams
- *Balm in Gilead; Deep River; Wade in the Water; Go Down, Moses; My Lord, What a Mornin'* all arranged by Harry T. Burleigh
- *Ah, Holy Jesus* arranged by Richard Walters
- *Brother James' Air* arranged by Brian Dean

Come, rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Enjoy an evening of sacred song.

Peace,
Pastor Jeffrey Ingold



BREAKING LIQUID BREAD

Come join members and friends of St. Luke's Lutheran Church as we meet monthly at local breweries to enjoy strictly fellowship time together.

No programming other than to enjoy one another's company. 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 19th @

Legion Brewing South Park

5610 Carnegie Blvd.
Charlotte, NC.

Let Pastor know so he can arrange for seating
pastoringold@stlukeselca.org
or text him at (919) 961-3850



YOUTH GROUP COOKOUT & INDOOR PICKLEBALL GAME



Saturday, July 23 @ 4:00 pm

All Middle School and High School Youth

Please let Pastor know if you are
planning to attend
pastoringold@stlukeselca.org
or text him at
(919) 961-3850

USING REALM IS VITAL TO OUR COMMUNICATION

It is our software platform that helps us manage the operations of the church and is
an easy way to stay connected to the church and other members.

Online Member Directory also available through Realm.

Try the QR code below for easy access.



NORTH CAROLINA SYNOD E-NEWS

Click the button below for several opportunities to participate in.

There's the Bible Reading on the Gospel of John that starts on July 3rd.
The Lutheran Services Carolinas is helping resettle Ukrainian refugees.
There's a Zoom call on July 20th that will provide more information.

God's Work Our Hands Day on September 11th.

Synod e-News

SEMINARIAN CORNER WITH THOMAS JOHNSTON

During the summer, some church professionals like to publish their reading list. This reading list can consist of hobbies and interests, and the list can also contain continuing education opportunities.

My reading list for this summer is:

- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *The Uncontrolling Love of God: An Open and Relational Account of Providence* by Thomas Jay Oord
- *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough
- *That All Might be Saved* by David Bentley Hart
- *Paul: Apostle to the Nations* by Walter Taylor
- *Language of God* by Francis Collins
- *The Silmarillion* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *Missional Economics: Biblical Justice and Christian Formation*
by Michael Barran
- *A Multitude of Peoples: Engaging Ancient Christianity's Global Identity*
by Vince Bantu

These are a few reads for the summer. What is on your reading list?

For those who are interested in participating in the Gospel of John Bible Study, here is the link for registration. The bible study is produced by members of the North Carolina Synod.

[Sign Up for Journey with John](#)

Katarina Circle

The Katarina Circle will be meeting on Saturday July 2nd at Kristy Elgart's home.

McCauley Diehl Circle

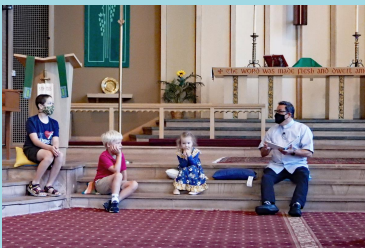
The McCauley Diehl Circle will not be meeting this month.

Lutheran Men In Mission (LMIM)

The Lutheran Men in Mission will meet in the Conference Room on July 13, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

The LMIM gents want you to know they are available for odd jobs with their "Congregation/Community Help Program". If you need minor repairs, changing out smoke detectors, batteries, and transportation needs, please contact the church office and we will get you in touch with Tom Frick.

FROM BEHIND THE LENS OF "MR. TERRY" CHEVILLE



Children's Message



Collecting Noisy Offering



Add your caption here



Thank you Pastor Carl Yost
for supplying on June 12th.



Seminarian Thomas shared
The Word in sermon



A children's message journey
in Following Jesus



In 1992, at age 65, John proposed to Cozette and included this statement (which he based upon the Nowak lineage longevity):
"If you'll marry me, I can guarantee you 30 years!"
Though somewhat incredulous, she said "Yes."



On Monday, June 20, they celebrated their 30th year of sharing and caring.

God is great and good.

BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES

Pastor Carl Yost filling in for pastor during his illness Blessed our 2022 Graduates



Duncan Ritchie, Sean Borachok, Tyler Stolen



Ritchie's



Stolen's



Borachok's



Graduate Reception



Thank you to the McCauley-Dielhl Circle for Reception



A Special Day, Indeed!

BAPTISM OF HARRISON MUELLER



In the name of the Father...



Harrison Michael, child of God.



Welcome to the mission we share in Christ.



Sara and Justin Mueller



Harrison's Baptismal Entourage

GUILTY AS CHARGED?

You know, there are a LOT of stressful things going on in the world today that normally we have no control over: mass shootings with automatic weapons; the war in Ukraine; the Covid epidemic that keeps hanging on with new variants; devastating illnesses; the cost of gas, food and consumer items; rising interest rates; the supply shortage; the attack on our democracy by certain elements in the country; the crumbling infrastructure; the fact that the Atlanta Braves have won 14 games in a row as of this writing (I'm a Phillies fan); etc. But actually I have been very lucky to have been left, for the most part, unscathed by these adversities in that, for example, I have been waxed, vaxxed and boosted against Covid and, as far as I know, have not contracted the disease; I have not been devastated by any wars; I have not been a victim of a mass shooting horror; I can handle – at least for now – the price hikes on gas and food; and I have not been affected by any shortages, such as infant formula, which have complicated many people's lives (the Braves however are a different story—I'm using voodoo dolls for that). In fact I was able to afford to go last month for a week-long visit with my daughter who lives in England. I was treated recently by my girlfriend to a weekend (well, just Saturday and Sunday) trip to Charleston for my birthday. My trivia team and I have won Monday night trivia contests two weeks in a row now at Edmond Halley's. I have been fortunate enough to have settled some automobile accident cases recently in order to support my wanton lifestyle. In other words, I can't complain.

But should I feel guilty in that so far my basic existence has been unaffected by many of the woes that plague other people? Can I just accept the fact that I am lucky as hell and leave it at that? I think for the most part, yes. Take, for example, the Covid epidemic. According to Dr. Ram Mahato, MD, medical director for the Center for Behavioral Health at Hackensack Meridian JFK Medical Center, "There are many types of guilt people may feel because of the pandemic. Different types of guilt may be overlapping, but can be categorized into three basic kinds of guilt:

1. **Natural guilt** – a normal reaction and feeling of remorse over something we did or failed to do. This form of guilt passes quickly and could result from something as small as forgetting someone's birthday and feeling bad for a short period.
2. **Free-floating, or toxic guilt** – this form of guilt could come from a sense of not being a good person, feeling like a failure or that you let other people down.
3. **Existential guilt** – this is a negative feeling that may be associated with trauma and arise out of a perceived injustice in the world. A form of existential guilt would be survivor's guilt and during the COVID-19 pandemic, it may affect people who survived the virus while others didn't."

Dr. Mahato's basic message is, however, "Don't beat yourself up over it!" Guilt is a natural feeling. Guilt is normal, particularly when you experience guilt feelings that you've been spared pain or loss that others are going through. Many reactions are normal under current circumstances. It may be difficult to accept, but we have little control over much of what is happening around us right now. Talk to family and friends. Even if it cannot be in person, connect by phone or a virtual visit on a smartphone or iPad. Take a break from the news and allocate time away from the constant barrage of negative news stories. AND, c'mon, help people who aren't as fortunate as you. The obvious and self-evident reason why not everyone is touched

by misfortune is that we fortunate ones are available to help those who aren't so lucky. Don't get weighed down by guilt, but instead channel it into a positive experience of helping others overcome the adversity they face. Give your time, give your money, give even just your basic support to help others cope with misfortune. Guilt never solves problems, we lucky ones do.

Submitted by Tom Ainsworth

BBQ STILL AVAILABLE

Boy Scout Troop 355 still has BBQ to sell!

\$ 13 per container

\$ 4 per sauce

Please make check payable to:

Boy Scout Troop 355

You can reach out to the office to place an order.

Email the Office

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP THE *LIVE STREAM* GOING

We are asking for your help in order to
keep the *Live Stream* going for
Sunday's services.

We are looking for anyone who would
like to learn something new and give
back to the church.

Would also be a great opportunity for
high school student to get involved and
earn volunteer hours.

Any questions or to sign up please
reach out to the church office and ask

for Ami-Luise.

Church Office Email

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me . . . to bind up the brokenhearted . . .
to comfort all who mourn."*

From Isaiah 61: 1-2



If you are looking for a way to live out St. Luke's motto, "*Living and Sharing God's Love*," this opportunity may be for you. The ladies of the Katherina and McCauley Diehl Circles are reorganizing the Bereavement Committee. Guidelines are being written and teams are being formed. Any member of the church is welcome to join a Bereavement Team.

If you want to know more about how you can live and share God's love through this opportunity, please see or call Rebekah Woodward at 704-614-8254 for more information.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



Since the beginning of Russia's war against Ukraine on Feb. 24, millions of people have fled the country and are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including

Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many people fleeing their homes in Ukraine need shelter and basic necessities such as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Moldova, as well as ecumenical partners such as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis created by Russia's war against Ukraine.

These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Your gifts will support people impacted by the war. Gifts designated to "Eastern Europe Crisis" will be used in full (100%) for direct response to assist those affected.

Thank You to individuals and groups including Eric Hillestad, Joel & Pam Moser, Lutheran Men in Mission (\$250) and McCauley Diehl (\$300) have contributed to the refugee crisis in Eastern Europe.

Click on the button below and connect to the website enabling you to contribute directly and your offering will flow swiftly to where it needs to go.

ELCA Eastern Europe Crisis Response

ASSIST M.E.



Assist M.E. is a non-profit [501c(3)] organization in the Charlotte, North Carolina area. We take in gently used medical equipment and gift it to low-income, uninsured patients in our community. Assist M.E. gets wheelchairs, bedside commodes, walkers, shower chairs, and other medical equipment from individual donors and organizations.

If you have any unused, or gently used medical equipment to donate, simply call our church office 9-12pm M-F to make arrangements to drop your equipment off so that it may be reused by someone in need.

Visit Assist M.E. website for more information



HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

Host an exchange student

- Be a World Ambassador
- New International Family
- Learn About New Cultures
- Create Memories
- Volunteerism
- Diversity
- Forever Global Friends



Dear CMS Family,

After 2 years, we are able to place exchange students once more in CMS High Schools! We are looking for families interested in hosting a high school student for the 2022/23 academic year. Ask for our FAQ sheet on hosting, or attend a Zoom informational meeting this week! CAUTION: The life you change, could be your own!

Ms. Crystal Pope, Behavior specialist

For details contact:

Ms. Pope, Quail Hollow Middle
CPope.SMG@gmail.com or
Deby Sorensen, Regional Director
deby@student-management.com
Talk/Text: 706-202-1550



August 1, 2022 is the final date for placing students!

CMS are looking for host families for exchange students for the upcoming school year.

Deby Sorensen will be hosting Zoom meetings to offer an overview of hosting along with a Q&A session for anyone interested in hosting.

Every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday evening at 7 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81729246902?
pwd=WjNQZk1NWGdWcitVai9heFRINUJ4dz09](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81729246902?pwd=WjNQZk1NWGdWcitVai9heFRINUJ4dz09)

Meeting ID: 817 2924 6902

Passcode: HostingSMG

To contact Deby Sorensen directly for more information or questions please use
the button below

Contact Deby Sorensen

CONGREGATION & WORSHIP LIFE

LAST MONTH IN A GLANCE

GIVING THROUGH VENMO

We are now able to take Offerings from your phone. Go to your App Store to download the Venmo App and sign up. Once you are signed up, you can use your camera and our QR Code (the image to the left) to make your offerings.

If you have any questions please ask Ami-Luise Vucovich in person or during church office hours.

***"I learned to GIVE not because I have much but because I know
exactly how it feels to have NOTHING."***

GIVING THROUGH *Tithe.ly*

You can also use Tithe.ly either using the link below or by using their app

[Make a Donation](#)

OUR NEW BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR TOM APPLGATE

My family came to St Luke's in 1960, on East Blvd (from Saint Mark's) I was the last conformation class at "Old" St Luke's. I was married here and both children were baptized here. My wife Jenny and I moved to Incarnation in 1978.

I am enjoying getting reacquainted with members from both congregations.

I now have 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, most live in the Charlotte area.

Please stop by the church office
and say Hello.

NOISY OFFERING

In June we collected for :

Crisis Assistance Ministry



Thanks to your Noisy Offering we raised
\$ 236.00

This month we will be collecting for:



Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita Support, Inc.

Our Noisy Offering for July will go to support AMCSI
(Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita Support, Inc.).

This organization supports families with children who are born with a rare neuromuscular disorder that causes fixed joints and missing and weak muscles in many areas of the body.

We have had the privilege of watching Gaila Fosbinder, who was born with AMC, and her mother, Julie, as they navigated their journey through many surgeries and years of physical therapy. Today, Gaila is a beautiful, successful young woman. We are in awe of her determination and transformation which is nothing short of a miracle. Your noisy offering in July will go to support other families on their journey to overcome the obstacles of AMC. More information about AMCSI can be found at

[Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita Support, Inc. - NORD \(National Organization for Rare Disorders\) \(rarediseases.org\)](http://www.rarediseases.org)

About AMC Support



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - July 3 at 10:00 am

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - July 10 at 10:00 am

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - July 17 at 10:00 am

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - July 24 at 10:00 am

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - July 31 at 10:00am

Live streaming worship is available on our YouTube Channel.
Click on the button for the link.

YouTube Channel

FLOWER CHART IN THE NARTHEX

If you would like to beautify our church sanctuary, honor someone, or commemorate a special day, please add your name to the chart!

We are now using Starclaire House of Flowers. They can be contacted at 704-553-2435. Payment is by credit card or check in advance to the florist.

Remember to tell the florist the date you are giving.

Call Ami-Luise at the church office at 704-523-7981 or email office@stlukeselca.org with the information you would like put in the bulletins by Wednesday morning of the week you are giving.

If you have any questions, call Pam Moser at 704-552-0996. Thanks!

JULY BIRTHDAYS



Did we miss your birthday?
Email us
or
call us at
704-523-7981
so we can update our Birthday List.

Email the office

5 Steve Hubbard
5 Earl Schmitke
7 Pat Eatman
10 Jessica Behm
10 Stan Hager
11 Karen Lyons
13 Charlotte Fairman
14 Eva Franz
17 Neil Sidlovsky
19 Terri Wells
20 Lynn Sidlovsky
24 Jan Brauer
24 Sara Gilliland
24 Seth Lachacz
25 Fernando Shine
26 Gary Williams
29 Cynthia Shine
30 Ben McCall
31 Peggy Koury

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Terri Wells, president

TBD, vice-president

Rebekah Woodward, secretary

Kristen Conner / Pete Schmidt, co-treasurer

Julie Fosbinder, Alex Jenkins, Emily Phillips, Lisa Rhyne,
David Sweet, Jon Wolff

Members are encouraged to bring any questions, suggestions, or
concerns to Council .

Please contact Terri Wells, Council President (tkwells@comporium.net),
or the church office if you have anything you wish to bring to Council.

June Council Minutes

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN JULY

This year we will be meeting on Sunday, July 10, 2022.

It will be in the Sanctuary after the morning service.

This meeting will be informational in nature and no voting is done.



St. Luke's Lutheran Church | 3200 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209

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