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# The Encourager



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
"a church that encourages"

## June 2024

(Deadline for the upcoming Newsletter submissions is on June 25th)

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**The Mission of St. Luke's Lutheran Church is to  
Share God's Love Through  
Welcoming, Encouraging and Serving**

**Our Rule of Love**

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### **CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

Lisa Rhyne, President

Tom Ainsworth, Vice-President

Rebekah Woodward, secretary

Sara Mueller, Treasurer

Phil Brooks, Treasurer

Erin Pushman-Aldred, Pete Schmidt, David Sweet

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

**Click on the buttons below to view reports.**

**April Council Minutes 2024**

**Interim Pastor's Report April 2024**

## Admin Support Meeting & Recommendations April 2024

Bank Reconciliation

Income Statement

Budget: Current Month Vs Year

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## CONGREGATION & WORSHIP LIFE

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Watch us on YouTube

**\*\*\* If we do not have volunteers for Sunday services, we will be unable to Live Stream\*\*\***

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**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - June 2nd at 10:00am**  
(Sanctuary)

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**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - June 9th at 10:00am**  
(Sanctuary)

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**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - June 16th at 10:00AM**  
(Sanctuary)

w/ Noisy Offering Crisis Assistance Ministry

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**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** - June 23rd at 10:00am  
(Sanctuary)

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**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** - June 30th at 10:00am  
(Sanctuary)

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## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

We will continue to have Children's Church through the summer.

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## **WORSHIP NOTES PENTECOST TO AUGUST**

### **"Guide You Into All Truth"**

**Overall Theme:** As we enter a major election cycle, we will be bombarded with messages. These messages in many cases will be claiming possession of truth. Jesus Christ said in the Gospel of John, "I am the way, and the truth and the life." If Jesus is the truth, then it can't be our possession. The world tried that when they nailed him to the cross. The truth cannot be contained or possessed. It can, however, be discovered and discerned. The truth has not been lost, because we can't possess it and we couldn't kill it. During this first part of the Pentecost Season, we will explore how the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. As we mine the scriptures regarding truth, you are invited to join in a book study over the summer. The book is *"Trust: Knowing When to Give it. When to Withhold It. How to Earn It and How To Fix It When It Gets Broken"* by Dr. Henry Cloud. This will be a companion study to our prayerful exploration of scripture regarding truth. We pray that through this season, the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth!

### **June 2nd**

Second Sunday after Pentecost

### **"For Your Servant Is Listening"**

Main Text: 1 Samuel 3:1-20  
(2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6)

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### **June 9th**

Third Sunday after Pentecost

## “I Believed and So I Speak”

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
(1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20, (11:14-15); Mark 3:20-35)

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### June 16th

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

#### “The Lord Looks on the Heart”

Father's Day

Main Text: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13  
(2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34)

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### June 23rd

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

#### “Why Are You Afraid?”

Main Text: Mark 4:35-41  
(1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13)

### June 30th

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

#### “If The Eagerness is There”

Main Text: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27  
(2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43)

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## COPELAND'S CORNER

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body. (Proverbs 3:5-8)***

**Trust in the Lord with all your Heart:** Scriptural understanding of heart is more akin to an act of the will. The heart is not merely tied to emotion but action. Trust in the Lord is more than simply words, it is meant to show in our lives. Do you trust in the Lord with all your heart? How does trust in the Lord change your life? How does your trust in the Lord impact your relationships and show in your commitments?

**Do Not Rely On Your Own Insight:** To trust in the Lord with all our heart, puts our own insight in a different position. It is not that we do not have insight, it is that our insight should not be what we rely on. We should always be questioning our own insight. If our insight cannot hold up to scrutiny, then we have become wise in our own eyes, but have not trusted in the Lord with all our heart. As we approach this time of discernment, let us not rely on our own insight but together trust in the Lord with all our hearts. Let us fear the Lord and turn away from evil. Evil seeks to separate us from God and make us rely only on our own insight.

**In All Your Ways Acknowledge Him:** How do you acknowledge God in all your ways? Tony Everett (Pastoral Care Professor at Southern Seminary Retired) used an acronym. WIGIAT. Where Is God IN All That. This is how we acknowledge God in all our ways. We need to acknowledge God in our accomplishments and our failures. When we acknowledge God, we are putting our trust in the Lord and we are seeking God's insight and not our own.

**It Will Be Healing and Refreshment:** Trust in the Lord brings healing and refreshment. During the summer, we are going to explore the book ***Trust: Knowing When To Give It, When To Withhold It. How To Earn It. And How To Fix It When It Gets Broken*** by Henry Cloud. I hope that we can grow in trust because trust is essential for community. We are created to trust. But first, we are to trust the Lord. This then leads us into trust that will be healing and refreshing.

Let us pray...*God of grace, you are worthy of our trust. As we continue in this time of discernment on the future of St. Luke's, we ask you to fill us with your truth. May we not rely on our own insight but truly acknowledge you in all our ways. As we do lead us into a new time of healing and refreshment. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer. Amen!!!*

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## SUMMER PENTECOST STUDY TRUST

**Invitation:** The Summer months are often considered a time of recreation. Break that word down and you see Re-Creation. We were created in the image of God. That means we are called to reflect the presence of God in and through our lives. What might re-creation mean for you? Where do you need to re-create in your life? We live in a society and culture that seems to be pulling further and further from the image of what God intended. Community seems to be breaking down into affinity groups with no relationship and no trust. We would like to invite you to explore trust, which scripture tells us is essential to relationship, community and life.

**Book Study: *Trust: Know When To Give It. When To Withhold It. How To Earn It. And How To Fix It When It Gets Broken* by Henry Cloud.**

Though not marketed as a Christian Book, it is filled with scriptural examples regarding trust. Dr. Cloud shows how trust is essential for life. He defines five essential of trust. He addresses how to grow in trust and offers a model for

repairing trust and moving forward. It is a great opportunity to reflect on how to re-create trust in your life. This trust is not blind trust that requires us to overlook dangers.

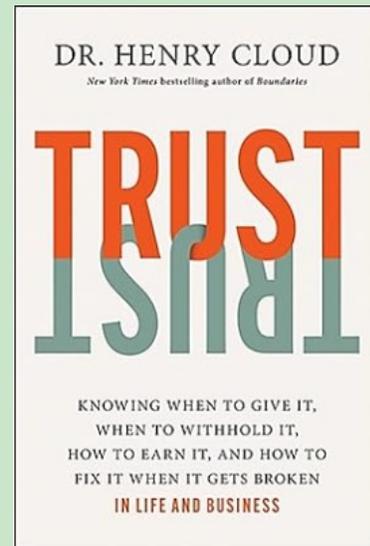
**Informal Conversation During the Summer on Zoom:** I would invite any who would like to discuss this to join me on Zoom Wednesday nights at 7pm. I will open the Zoom meeting and you are welcome to drop in anytime between 7pm and 8pm. Watch for more information coming. I am also glad to discuss any other time one on one if you would like. Just email, call or text and we can set something up.

<https://zoom.us/j/94221627894?pwd=eWFIQ0lxOVhXcmZKVytRM0FQdFITUT09>

Meeting ID: 942 2162 7894

Passcode: 307569

Buy your copy  
here



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## NOISY OFFERING

In May we collected for:

**ELCA World Hunger**

**This month we will be collecting for:**



Crisis Assistance Ministry helps stabilize Mecklenburg County families with life's basic needs: emergency rent and utility assistance, clothing, household

goods, and appliances. Customers experiencing hunger may also receive referrals to local food providers, federal food support programs, and access to an onsite emergency pantry.

For fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, more than 44,734 individuals were served in person or through local partnerships. On average, a family received \$578 in rent and/or utility assistance. Children under 18 made up 42% of those benefiting from Crisis Assistance Ministry services.

When you have mouths to feed, bills to pay, and little ones to clothe and keep warm, trying to manage it all during the busiest time of year seems impossible. Alex felt this pain deeply when they were barely getting by despite holding down three jobs. When their primary employer laid them off, Alex's budget was thrown into a tailspin with bills snowballing and no way to pay them. Doing everything they could to stay afloat, Alex picked up extra hours in other places, took any gig they could, and relied on loved ones for a little extra support while looking for more stable employment. They cobbled together as much as they could from friends, family, and even other organizations, but it still wasn't enough.

Frustrated with how difficult things were to make it through this setback, Alex turned to you and me, through Crisis Assistance Ministry, for help. Because of the **support of people like you**, a caseworker was able to issue an emergency rent payment directly to Alex's landlord to cover the remaining balance and avoid eviction. Just in time for plummeting temperatures and wintry weather.

## Crisis Assistance Ministry

### By the Numbers

fiscal year ending June 30, 2023

44,734

#### Individuals Served

More than 44,734 individuals were served in person or through local partnerships.

\$578

#### Average Financial Assistance per Emergency

On average, a family received \$578 in rent and/or utility assistance.

42%

#### Children Benefiting from Our Services

Children under 18 made up 42% of those benefiting from Crisis Assistance Ministry services.

1,119,738

#### Free Clothing, Household Goods, Appliances Distributed

Mecklenburg County residents received more than 1.1 million items free-of-charge.

\$4,924,556

#### Value of Free Clothing, Household Goods, & Appliances

More than 1.1 million items were distributed at a value of nearly five million dollars.

93%

#### Amount of Every Dollar Allocated toward Programs

More than 90 cents of every dollar donated directly supports services for our neighbors in need.

\$2,042

**Average Customer  
Income**

Families receiving financial assistance earned an average gross monthly income of \$2,042 compared to \$6,605, the average for Mecklenburg County.

63%

**Customer Income  
Obligated to Rent,  
Utilities**

On average, customers seeking assistance had 63% of their income obligated to pay rent and utilities.

\$4,438,216

**Emergency Housing  
Assistance**

Your generosity enabled families in need to receive \$4,438,216 in emergency rent assistance.

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## 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](mailto: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!



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## JUNE 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

- 1 Pam Atinga
- 2 Diana Brooks
- 2 Rebekah Woodward
- 4 Michael McCall
- 5 Todi Frick
- 6 Bonnie Jones
- 6 Karen Weston-Chien
- 8 Debbie Thalmann
- 9 Wesley Stolen
- 10 Katie Gilliland
- 11 Tom Ainsworth
- 13 Caroline Lemons
- 17 Duncan Ritchie
- 19 Riley Gilliland
- 20 Charlie Phillips
- 21 Dale Bartlett
- 24 Tracey Perez
- 25 Patrick Lemons
- 27 Pete Schmidt
- 29 Adley Murray
- 30 Rocky Perez

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### **Katharina Circle**

The Katharina Circle will be meeting on June 4th at 6:30pm  
in the Conference Room.

### **Anna Vee Circle**

The Anna Vee Circle will be meeting offsite on June 4th.  
Conference Room if rained out.

### **Lutheran Men In Mission (LMIM)**

If you need minor repairs, changing out smoke detectors, and batteries please  
contact the church office and we will get you in touch with Tom Frick.

The LMIM gents want you to know they are available for odd jobs with their "Congregation/Community Help Program".

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## GOD'S WORKS. OUR HANDS



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## ST. LUKE'S HAPPENINGS!

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### FAREWELL & GODSPEED TERRI WELLS

This Sunday, June 2nd, please join us as we bless one of our faithful servants as she follows the call of the Lord and in answer to prayer to worship with her family.

Terri has been a true blessing to St. Luke's.



## SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS JUNE 2nd

**Summer Time and the Living is Easy:** It has been the tradition of St. Lukes to lighten the liturgy during the summer. We will be continuing that tradition as the Choir takes a break. A few things to watch for:

- **Congregation Singing during offering**
- **Special prayers and Lord's Prayer sung**
- **Invitation for individuals or groups to share special music**

**We Do Not Break for the Summer – WE RECREATE:** Summer is not a time to take a break from Worship. It is a time for us to change things up a little and allow God to re-create us. If you travel, we hope you will find a place to worship. When you are home, join with your family of faith as we seek God's renewal.

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## NEW ONLINE GIVING PROCESS A GREAT WAY TO GIVE!

**Easy Online Giving Form on Website:** You can now give securely online either as a one time gift or recurring gift using the form on our website. This form is very easy to use and self explanatory. Donors can give to the general fund or designate a gift for a specific purpose such as flowers or other specific mission priorities. Simply click on the link below. ***You can give by ACH Transfers from your Bank or Credit Card on this platform.***

**If You Are Currently Giving Through Vanco, Tithe.ly or Venmo** we will need you to cancel your EXISTING transactions before setting up on this new platform. Please be aware that **we will be unable to receive donations through these platforms as of May 20<sup>th</sup>**. Once you cancel your existing transactions, then set up anew using the below form:

SLLC ONLINE GIVING

**Please Consider Option to Cover the Fee:** There is an option to cover the fee of the transaction so that 100% of the gift goes to mission. Simply mark the box indicating the fees and it will be added in. Either way, we are grateful for your gift!

**If You Need Help We Are Here:** We commit to support you every step of the way and will be glad to walk you through it either on the phone or you can come to the office as well. ***You can reach us at the office by email at [office@stlukeselca.org](mailto:office@stlukeselca.org) or phone 704-523-7981. You can also contact Kathy West at [west@stlukeselca.org](mailto:west@stlukeselca.org).***

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UPDATE ON OUR JOURNEY TO THE FUTURE

**Architect Working:** The council has secured an Architect to develop drawings in support of the overall plan of moving the footprint of the congregation to the front part of the building. Ami has met with the team and the architect to provide the information needed regarding the needs of the office and will continue to work on this development.

**Encouragement Center Development Plan:** In addition to the plans by the Architect, there are other aspects of the Encouragement Center Development Plan that are being explored and researched. They are:

- **Plan to Move Offices:** Besides developing a plan and timeline for the move, consideration is being given to the needs in the new location including technology and communications in the new space. This plan will also include cost for doing this work.
- **Security Considerations:** In order for the building to be useful and safe, we will need a security system that covers the whole building and is useful for the planned use.
- **Management of Encouragement Center:** A team is working on clarifying needs for management of the encouragement center. A position description is being considered that includes three focal points of a Facility Manager. They are:
  - **Manage the Facility Maintenance and Repair**
  - **Manage the Facility Use and Scheduling**
  - **Manage the Facility Promotion**

The Team is researching potential compensation for this kind of position. Once identified, ***a year salary will be included in the plan.*** With a year salary, it will give this position time to develop income sources capable of covering the cost of the position as well as the costs of the facility. Other options are still on the table such as a management company.

- **Financing Plan:** A vital part of the plan needs to be options for financing. Once we have a clear and reasonable plan along with cost estimates, we need to have recommendations on financing this new direction. This plan will explore:
  - **Capital Campaign**
  - **Loans**

One of the greatest assets of the church is the building, even though it has felt like a burden. Without current debt, leveraging the building and including that debt in the Encouragement Center business plan, is a reasonable way of covering the work needed and providing for potential unexpected costs.

All of these things need to be in place before moving forward into this new future. It takes time to create the plan, but if done well it will make for a clearer path and smoother movement. ***We hope to bring a clear plan and path to the congregation by early fall.***

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# FACILITY USE TEAM

A Facility Use Team has been engaging several groups on leasing space in our facility. Conversations that are moving forward at this time are:

- **Unity Church:** Check them out on their website at:

[Unity of Charlotte Website](#)

- **Speech Garden Institute**
- **Freedom Park Request for Parking**
- **Extention Agreement with Child Care Development Center**

Watch for more information coming soon!

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## MUSIC DIRECTOR POSITION

The Search for a new Music Director has been delayed until Summer. We will then develop a team to begin work on a position description. We are thankful for the ongoing help of Monty Bennett who has been putting in the music into the organ. We are thankful for the leadership of Karen Smith who has been leading the choir. We are thankful for the choir. We are truly blessed! Watch for more information coming.

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## EASTERSEAL CONCERT & BAKE SALE

# Concert + Bake Sale!

Join us at the Ashcraft group home for a free acoustic concert featuring singer/songwriter **Josh Daniel**. The show will be outdoors, so bring a chair or blanket for the lawn. While you visit, be sure to check out our **bake sale**, where you can purchase (Cash/Venmo) homemade brownies, cakes and cookies to help send our group home residents to the beach this fall.

## WHERE:

1351 Ashcraft Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28209

## WHEN:

Saturday, June 15  
4PM

*For more information, contact Vanessa  
at [vanessainfanzon@gmail.com](mailto:vanessainfanzon@gmail.com)*



[joshdanielmusic.com](http://joshdanielmusic.com)

## VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We need help in these areas:

- Video (Live Stream)
- Sound
- Organ
- Sunday Offering Counters

**If we do not have volunteers for Sunday services,  
we will be unable to Live Stream.**

Please reach out to the office.

# BOY SCOUT TROOP 355

The Scouts still have some BBQ left to sell.

**Smoked BBQ, Brunswick Stew, Red Slaw & BBQ Sauce are still available.**

Hickory Smoked BBQ \$14.00 per pound

Brunswick Stew \$14.00 per quart

BBQ Sauces \$5.00 a bottle  
*Eastern Mild, Eastern Hot, Western*

**Please make checks out to Boy Scout Troop 355.**

Please call the office regarding purchase.

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## FROM BEHIND THE LENS OF "MR.TERRY" CHEVILLE















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## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

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### MISSION POSSIBLE WORDS OF HOPE MINISTRIES

We had some production delays, hence we're a little late in delivery and distribution.

We have transmitted 100 newsletters in multiple institutions across the NC Dept of Corrections together with a few via regular mail.

Sadly, 1 of our readers, John K., has passed away. We pray for his loved ones. I'm happy to report the release of James P.

We have \$70.75 on our account at Text Behind. Thank you again for St. Luke's faithful support of this ministry.

[May MP Newsletter](#)

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### NOURISH UP

We are continuing to collect items for our neighbors in need.  
You can bring items on Sunday or during office hours.

**This month we donated 88lbs of food items.**

# Priority Needs

- Canned Meat - Tuna, Chicken, etc.**
- Canned Fruit - No Sugar Added**
- Canned Vegetables - Low Sodium**
- Pasta - Canned or Dry boxed**
- Cereal - Whole Grain**

**No Glass Please**



**nourish up**  
Lifting our community  
through food.

## New Name, Same Mission

Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays is now **Nourish Up**, providing the same mission to nourish our neighbors with food and compassion.

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF COFFEE

Lutheran World Relief Farmers Market now offers chocolate in addition to coffee!

Mountain Harvest works with roughly 850 farmers in eight communities on Mount Elgon, Uganda with each farm growing between 600 and 1,000 coffee trees. We pay farmers up to 30% above local market prices allowing them to better provide for their families, invest in their crops and land, and ultimately, drive the local economy to benefit their community.

Latitude Craft Chocolate signs long term contracts with their suppliers to grow organic cocoa, promote biodiversity and ensure fair labor practices on all the farms. Over half of their contracted farmers are women. Latitude pays on average 50% higher than prices in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, the world's leading cocoa producing countries.



LWR Farmer's Market  
Coffee

## Assist M.E.

We take in gently used medical equipment and gift it to low income, uninsured patients in our community.

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 9-12:30pm 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

List of donation needs

## FAMILIES IN CRISIS NEED YOUR HELP

Your love will reach your neighbors who feel so alone as they continue to fight for their lives.

You'll provide frightened, cold and hungry children, mothers and seniors with:

- Shelter from the deadly cold with beds, pillows and heaters.
- Warm meals and clean water.
- Mobile medical clinics that provide health care, critically needed medical supplies and mental health support for PTSD and trauma.
- Essential supplies, like soap and toilet paper.

- Comforting quilts made by members of our caring Lutheran family.
- Love, support — and most importantly — hope for a brighter tomorrow.

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.

Lutheran World Relief



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

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