

The Encourager



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

November 2021

(Deadline for November Newsletter submissions is on November 29th!)

PONDERING PASTOR



"Giving Thanks!"

November is the month in which we set aside a special day to give "thanks." Some families rehearse a meaningful ritual before eating a feast of traditional roasted turkey, cranberry sauce, dressing/stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, green bean casserole, and pumpkin pie. These families go around the table and individually articulate aloud those things for which they are

thankful before they devour their meal.

I am thinking about what I will say when it is my turn on that day. What will you say? With the backdrop of this unfortunate pandemic and the wide spectrum of ways in which we have chosen to deal with it individually, and communally, what has this past year revealed about you and me?

I think this past year has revealed for us perhaps more distinctly than ever that we have choices to make every single day, indeed, every single second. We can choose to let love, and hope lift us up or let hatred and despair weigh us down. I look forward to my turn at the table when I may express my list of things for which I am grateful because of my choice to let love and hope lift me up.

I will reflect aloud on my thanks for my family. While issues of both mental and physical health have challenged us this year, I am thankful I have people with whom I can exchange the phrase "I love you," and mean it. It's not always easy, in fact, sometimes it's downright difficult being family, but through the ups and downs I adore mine and I will name them in my litany of thanks on that day.

I will articulate my gratitude for being able to serve the Lord, Jesus Christ through this congregation. Though I am imperfect in my efforts, I know I am trying to be as faithful as I am able. This past year has exposed areas where I need to grow, for sure, but it reminds me, too, to always be learning and growing, and for that opportunity I am grateful.

I am thankful I continue to fulfill my promised tithe toward the funding of this ministry and all its efforts, which I truly believe in. I feel humbled and grateful that when I challenge members of St. Luke's to be as generous as each is able, I do so from the position of being one of the top ten financial supporters to St. Luke's ministry. I do not say that to brag, but to emphasize that I do not ask those whom I pastor to do something I cannot or will not do myself.

I will give thanks on Thanksgiving Day for living in Charlotte and the many opportunities available for experiencing a good quality of life. The restaurants, the entertainment centers, the retail options, the breweries, the townhome community in which I live, the proximity to mountains, and the beaches all add to helping me feel good about where I live.

I will, finally, give thanks to God for the grace shown to me every single day. While I know I do not deserve it, it is with great humility I recognize that Jesus makes me worth sacrificing his

own life. I am equally grateful that that same truth goes for each one of you, that accepting that extraordinary truth is life-changing and that I get to remind you of that every Sunday and sometimes in situations of confidence as part of my profession.

So, in this month in which we set aside a national holiday, Thanksgiving Day, I urge you to consider all the ways you will prepare yourself to give thanks from a position of choosing love, and hope. I pray St. Luke's Lutheran Church has a place on your list of things for which you are grateful.

Peace, Pastor Jeffrey Ingold

My Literary Leap of Faith

Hello, Everyone,

Quite early this year Pastor Ingold delivered a memorable sermon entitled "Like Ripples." In it, if you recall, he beautifully challenged us listeners to find ways to reach out to others, to "ripple" thoughts of Christ-like grace, mercy, peace and love in the hope of changing some hearts and minds. Such was precisely my thinking when I mustered the courage to put my own rippling self out there just months before in late 2020!

"Out there" is the publishing world. The pandemic's demand in early 2020 to shelter in place became my lemonade! Finally, I knew that this imposed time was my time "to fish or cut bait" with a manuscript that was 95% finished 23 years ago. You will agree that dreams get deferred for many valid reasons, but in truth some of those reasons are more like excuses. It seems that I had plenty of both regarding my "brain baby." Prayerfully, I sought God's help in finding a good-fit publisher, if such were meant to be, for my collection of inspirational essays. Long story short, Christian Faith Publishing in Meadville, PA reviewed and accepted my work. I got the call on July 9, 2020, in the waiting room of a radiologist where husband John was being scanned to determine if his prostate cancer had spread to bones. (It had not, thankfully, but I then knew for sure how it feels to harbor "mixed emotions"!)

CFP got the full manuscript from me on November 30, 2020. That four-month interim between manuscript acceptance and submission found me busily editing and seeking several necessary contractual reprint permissions, not the least of which was from Simon & Schuster, Inc., the current trademark/copyright holder for my work's iconic moppet muse, Raggedy Ann.

No, I have not written a book for children! Rather, I have "mined" Raggedy Ann's many literary adventures for children by her creator, noted artist and writer Johnny Gruelle, in search of nuggets within subjects and situations that parallel topics of substantive interest to adults. The resultant eight essays are replete with grown-up challenges and experiences. Too, the simple-to-sublime literary route allows any-aged adult to see that things often go awry for us just because we lose sight of the simplest attributes learned in our youth, especially kindness and goodness.

DOLLSPEL: A Raggedy Ann Collector's Collection of Inspirational Essays invites grown-ups to embrace for comfort's sake, not the doll herself, but rather what she preceptively espouses in relationships---caring and compassion. Further, a huge content clue lies within that title word dollspel, coined just for this venture. When pronounced correctly, it sounds like "gospel."

Such is the means by which this parishioner has reached out, "rippled," in a somewhat untraditional but universal way to glorify her Creator and be a part of the movement for Him. Finished product in print and on all digital formats is expected to market in early December or before. Thank you for reading this and allowing me to share this personal leap of faith, which is not my first and probably not my last, but perhaps my largest scope-wise!

Peace and love,

Micah 6:8 (epigraph for DOLLSPEL)

Cozette Nowak

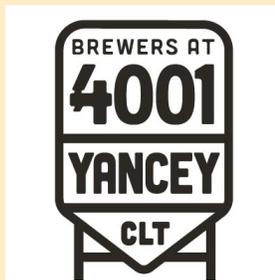
ST. LUKE'S HAPPENINGS!

St. Luke's Confirmation

Candidates International



Confirmation Candidates enjoy our first international session as we meet in person and simultaneously on ZOOM. 2 of our international members are participating because of this incredible technology introduced to us due to the pandemic. God makes good things happen in challenging times.



Beer & Bible

Come out for a good meal, good brews, and good conversations around living out our faith in daily life.

Brewers at 4001 Yancey
November 2th at 7:00 p.m.

Katarina Circle

The Katarina Circle will not meet this month.

McCauley Diehl Circle

The McCauley Diehl Circle will meet on November 2th
at 12:00 NOON in the Conference Room.

Connie Counts Circle

The Connie Counts Circle will not meet this month.

Lutheran Men In Mission (LMIM)

The Lutheran Men in Mission will meet on November 10th at 1:00 pm
in the Conference Room.

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.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you to everyone who helped make sandwiches, provide drinks and deliver meals to our homeless neighbors staying in motels rented by Roof Above. The hotels were being used while Roof Above was renovating and expanding its shelter on Statesville Avenue. The renovated facility reopened at the end of September and Roof Above began moving neighbors back to that facility, ending the need for the sandwich program. Thank you again for your help with this project during the last year. John Hofland



Crop Walk 2021- November 7, 2021

CROP WALK is right around the corner, and we still need your help!

Come and meet us at American Legion Memorial Stadium to continue the fight against hunger and poverty in our community as well as globally.

However, since COVID is still impacting our communities, teams and individuals can feel free to participate “virtually” if they prefer. (This means groups and individuals can walk

on their own in their neighborhoods.)

Below are links to St. Luke's CROP walk page and also for the Charlotte CROP walk page.

The length of the walk represents the average distance people in developing countries must walk to obtain clean water each day. The Walk benefits those who are poor and do not have enough to eat, both across the globe and in our own backyard.

There are 144,318 people living at or below the Federal poverty level in Mecklenburg County, including 46,259 children.

Church World Services does so much more than we realize. They assist in floods and hurricanes and all-natural disasters, in the United States and worldwide. They are an amazing organization.

In Charlotte, one-quarter of the money we raise goes to these fabulous organizations: Loaves & Fishes, Crisis Assistance Ministry, and Second Harvest Food Bank. These organizations have made a huge difference to so many people over the years, but this past year they have been even more amazing!

Address for this event:

American Legion Memorial Stadium
1218-1238 Armory Drive
Charlotte, NC 28204

Or, walk with the Confirmation Candidates in Freedom Park beginning at 12:15 p.m.

St. Luke's CROP
Walk

Charlotte CROP
Walk



November's *Noisy Offering* will go Loaves and Fishes - Friendship Trays of Charlotte. Click on the image to access their website and learn more about this important feeding ministry. October's *Noisy Offering* collected \$119.00.



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

CONGREGATIONAL & WORSHIP LIFE

Altar Flowers

The Flower Chart is back up in the hall outside of the main office. 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!

Poinsettias 2021



Till the season for Poinsettias and orders are due by **November 7th**.

\$11.50 each please attach a check with your order in the offering plate or to the church office.

Order forms will be in Sunday bulletins till November 7th.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - November 7 at 10:00 am

Members may light a candle in memory of loved ones who are now with All the Saints in eternity! Worshipers are encouraged to wear white or gold, the color of the day.

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - November 14 at 10:00 am

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY - November 21 at 10:00 am

1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT - November 28 at 10:00 am

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

[YouTube Channel](#)

GREEN TEAM UPDATE

Our Green Team has dwindled to a precious few and we thank DAVID SWEET, FANCITA LORIMER and neighbor, AL DOWSOM for their continued efforts to keep our church grounds looking good and welcoming. Both David & Al are masters of shrubbery pruning and it's hard to know how many hours they spend each month to keep the Prayer Garden and church grounds looking beautiful. Thanks guys you are so appreciated!! And, Fancita, whose morning walks take her by St. Lukes each day brings along her bottle of vinegar spray and tackles the weeds one by one. Thanks Fancita for taking on the the most thankless job all...you are wonderful!!

November Birthdays

2 Cameron Lachacz

5 Chris Aldred

5 Vanessa Infanzon

7 Rodney Marlow

7 Courtney Trent

8 Samuel Hofland

9 John Nowak

11 Michael Behm



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

11 Emma Campagna
12 Pam Moser
14 Walter Cooper
15 Harper Rosti
16 Briana Atinga
16 Aaron Beckham
17 Janet Hutchins
18 Betsy Brunner
18 Caroline Cox
18 John McClave
20 Joy Cooper
20 Julius Lorimer
23 David Woodward
24 Beth Borachok
25 Ben Wicker
26 Dawn Rennick
26 Oskar Watson
27 John Nerison
28 Nick Matthews
28 Ainsley Sullivan
29 Carol Cash
29 Janet Henderson
29 Van Milton
30 Michael Loadholdt
30 Joel Moser

COUNCIL LIAISONS

The work of St. Luke's reflects our mission together and is organized into different ministry areas. These areas are effective through the collaboration among pastor and staff, council, and members of the congregation (committees). There is a place for you to share your gifts in one or more of these ministry areas. Please contact the Staff Member or Council Liaisons for the ministry area(s) of interest to you to begin sharing your gifts and building the body of Christ here at St. Luke's.

Worship (Music, Altar Guild, Worship Adjunct Groups)

Staff Member - Jan McCoy
Council Liaisons - Terri Wells and Pete Schmidt

Nurture Faith (Sunday School, Confirmation, New Members, VBS, Mid-Week Learning, Youth/Young Adults)

Staff Member - Pastor Jeffrey Ingold
Council Liaisons - Alex Jenkins and Jonathan Wolff

Community Care (Social Awareness, Outreach Ministries, Benevolence)

Staff Member - Pastor Jeffrey Ingold
Council Liaisons - Emily Phillips and Lisa Rhyne

Member Care (Bereavement, Homebound Ministries, Visitors/Prospective Members, Archives, Communications)

Staff Member - Ami-Luise Vucovich
Council Liaisons - Rebekah Woodward and Julie Fosbinder

Operations (Building and Grounds, Finance, Stewardship)

Staff Member - Kathy West
Council Liaisons - Kristen Conner and John Hofland

Planning (Sustainability & Vitality, Personnel)

Staff Member - Pastor Jeffrey Ingold
Council Liaisons - Wanda Ebright and David Sweet

To access the October Council Meeting Minutes click on the button.

Congregation Council
Minutes

