

# The Encourager



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

May 2021

## Pondering Pastor



May is an important month in my family chalk full of family birthdays, including mine, as well as anniversaries. May is also that month when the seasonal transition into summer in North Carolina settles in. Less pollen to make us sneeze. Less extreme fluctuation from cool to warm. The HVAC system at our church can finally settle in to what to do to regulate the internal temperature. The early spring months give our system electronic fits as it tries to figure out whether to cool the inside or heat it.

Perhaps that offers us a fair analogy to where we find ourselves as a congregation as we begin to approach worship and congregational life post-COVID. Little by little folks are journeying back to our worship space to offer their prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. We began in mid-March worshipping 28 and have grown that number to over 75 on one occasion aside from Easter. And, we have done it safely!

As more and more folks receive the vaccine and as we continue to employ strategies to mitigate the potential spread of virus, covering our noses and mouths, and socially distancing, there appears to be a growing resolve on the part of many of you to no longer allow a pandemic to interfere with your desire to safely worship, and to gather in fellowship with your friends in the faith.

To that end I am hopeful more and more of you will consider testing the waters. To the extent it makes sense for you and risk to your immune health is low, try returning to the sanctuary for your weekly encouragement and spiritual renewal in Word and Sacrament. Many of you are growing more confident to venture out in public spaces for shopping, dining, and personal business. Let that be a barometer as to how confident you might feel about returning to the church's space. Sincerely, as the old saying goes for those who have not returned, "The C-H-\_\_\_-R-C-H is missing something. It's U!"

I am hopeful May will not only be an important month in my family for all the reasons I mentioned, but in this month of May, may St. Luke's settle into more regularity for your returning to worship, fellowship, study, and in-person meetings. We will continue to be restrained in some measure by safety protocols, but with a renewed confidence in re-entering into public worship and congregational life, consider what makes sense for you and just know May can be that settling in time not just in the transition from spring to summer, but in this season of the church, as well.

Peace, Pastor Jeffrey Ingold

# St. Luke's Announcements!



## BEER AND BIBLE Returns!!!

On Tuesday, May 11 at 7:00pm plan to gather at Brewers at 4001 Yancey Road for a return to our monthly connection to good beer and Bible study.

Please RSVP with Pastor Jeffrey at [pastoringold@stlukeselca.org](mailto:pastoringold@stlukeselca.org)

Brewers at 4001 Yancy

Bible Study Material

## Affirmation of Baptism Confirmation Ministry Returns

Pastor Jeffrey will be gathering the Confirmation candidates on Sundays throughout May for a return to this important milestone process of our youth affirming faith. They will meet socially distanced in the Parish Hall following worship, studying from a new engaging curriculum. Please pray for Annie, Aaron, Olivia, Clarissa, and Jessica as they grow in their faith.

**colaborate**  
Lutheran Confirmation

## ROOF ABOVE LUNCHES

Our next day for making lunches for our homeless neighbors is **Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**. There have been some changes made to the Sign-Up Genius. Please click the button to access the Sign-Up. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!



Sign Up Genius

Learn More About  
Roof Above

## Sunday School Bags

The trio doing Sunday School bags for our younger kids is not going to do bags for June, July and August, and hope we are back in regular Sunday School in September. We want to see the kids in person.

We do want to acknowledge summer birthdays and keep some contact but haven't yet figured out how we want to do that.

## What's going on at St. Luke's?

### Thank you

Dear St. Luke's Family

Thank you for the outpouring of Love for our Family upon the lost of Gary.

Your care, love and kindness have been truly amazing.

Most of all we appreciate your continued prayers.

We are so very blessed to have a church that cares so deeply.

With Grateful Hearts,  
Jan, Ben & Steven Brauer



**Baptism – Ami-Luise Badger**



### Congregational Record

Baptism:

Ami-Luise Badger - April 4, 2021 (adult)

Madelyn Grace Wolff – April 18, 2021

Wedding:

Michael Vucovich & Ami-Luise Badger –

April 10, 2021

Memorial Service:

Gary Russell Brauer – April 25, 2021

Inurnment Service:

Marvin Leroy Doerr – April 20, 2021

**Mr. & Mrs.  
Michael and Ami-Luise Vucovich  
Married 4/10/2021**



**Baptism- Madelyn Grace Wolff,  
daughter of Jon and Alex Wolff**



**Children's Messages are not just for young children, but children of ALL ages. "I just wanna be a sheep baa, baa, baa, baa!"**



**Park Road Clergy Group returns to  
monthly lunch meetings outdoors for  
now.**

(Left to Right)  
Dan McClintock, Park Road Baptist Church  
Jim Brookshire, Sedgefield Methodist Church  
Greg Brown, Holy Comforter Episcopal  
Church Amy & Russ Dean, Park Road Baptist  
Church  
Jeffrey Ingold, St. Luke's Lutheran Church









**Easter 2021: The Flowering of the Cross**

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## Spring has sprung in St. Luke's Garden of Prayer

### Ask Mother Nature

**Dear Mother Nature**, I want to do better by reducing my use of paper products in my home, but am not sure where to begin. Any suggestions would be helpful.  
signed **Wanta be a good steward**

**Dear Wanta be**, you made my day! First, I'd like to share some facts with you that I hope will encourage you to start today reducing your use of paper products. Paper towels and napkins are one of the biggest problems of waste in the world. In the Th. US, 51,000 trees are cut down each day just to supply us with our dependence on paper towels!! Are you shocked? Do you use paper towels to dry your hands? Check out Joe Smith's "shake, shake, fold method" on the internet and teach your children this method. Consider switching to microfiber or bamboo cloths in your kitchen. According to a study published by the EPA, microfiber cleaning cloths dampened with water can disinfect better than most conventional cleaning techniques. And, they are used routinely in hospitals. Do your research on the internet on where to purchase. Paper napkins are one of my biggest pet peeves! When you go to a fast food restaurant do you take more paper napkins than you need just in case? What do you do with the unused napkins? Throw them in the trash? Think about this the next time you grab more than you need. What you can do at home is switch to cloth napkins. Start by using them for dinner and gradually introduce them to your family at all meals. Guess what? Most of the time they can be used more than once! Next you will say "I hate to iron". You don't have to use linen napkins every mealtime, try cotton or woven cotton. They don't wrinkle and all cloth napkins last for years and years. Again, research cloth napkins on the internet. Once you start going green it gets easier and easier. Good luck and get going green and keep sending me your questions.

### Connie Counts Circle

Connie counts circle is not meeting until our church opens for worship and meetings.

