
The Encourager



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

August 2024

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

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

Our Rule of Love

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.

June Council Minutes 2024

Interim Pastor's Report June 2024

Admin Support Meeting & Recommendations June 2024

Facility Use Task Force

Income Statement

Bank Reconciliation

Budget: Current Month Vs Year

CONGREGATION & WORSHIP LIFE



Watch us on YouTube

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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - August 4th at 10:00am
(Sanctuary)

with Guest Thomas Johnston

TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - August 11th at 10:00am
(Sanctuary)

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - August 18th at 10:00AM
(Sanctuary)

w/ Noisy Offering Classroom Central

FOURTHEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - August 25th at 10:00am
(Sanctuary)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We start a new year beginning September 15th.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

New Adult Sunday School will be meeting in the Conference Room starting Sunday, September 15th from 9am to 10am.

WORSHIP NOTES PENTECOST TO SEPTEMBER

Building Up The Body of Christ

Overall Theme: Body building is not something you ever accomplish. Body building is a constant process of resistance training to build up the muscles and tone the body. When someone who has been a body builder stops working out, they lose both muscle and the tone of the body. What about body building of the body of Christ. What happens if we stop working out the body? What happens if we stop exercising the faith? What does resistance training look like as the body of Christ? During these next two months of the Pentecost Season, we are going to be exploring what it takes to build up the body of Christ. We will explore what promotes the body's growth. We will look at that which is useful for building up. We will consider our own lives and how we live. Equipment to help us build up the body include prayer, showing mercy, listening, and producing God's righteousness. We will be invited to push back on the resistance in order to draw near to God and we will be reminded of the call of all people to do this work of building up the body of Christ. As we focus on building up the Body of Christ, we will be strengthening ourselves for the work of Christ set before us.

August 4th

"Promotes the Body's Growth"

Main Text: Ephesians 4:1-16

August 11th

“Useful For Building Up”

Main Text: Ephesians 4:25-5:2
(1 Kings 19:4-8; John 6:35, 41-51)

August 18th

“Be Careful How You Live”

Main Text: Ephesians 5:15-20
(Proverbs 9:1-6; John 6:51-58)

August 25th

“Pray in the Spirit at All Times”

Main Text: Ephesians 6:10-20
(Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; John 6:56-69)

COPELAND'S CORNER

**And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something-now finish it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means.
(2 Corinthians 8:10-11)**

I Am Giving My Advice: We are saved completely by the action of Jesus Christ. The Corinthian church was a wealthy church with a lot of financial and economic resources. The Jerusalem church was hurting in those things. Paul is being clear that he is not commanding the Corinthian church to support the Jerusalem church because it will win them salvation. He is giving them advice on how they best can live into and share the gift freely given by God. With that gift it changes the way we see and use all other gifts. The Love of God is a gift we do not earn or deserve. Our mission to share it is not a command, but an invitation that comes from God's love changing our life first.

Not Only To Do Something but Desire To Do Something: It has been said that we are not called to be successful, only faithful. Paul is encouraging them not to give up or lose heart but to continue the course. Their desire to do something is just as important as what they are doing. Compulsion or desperation and fear will not work in this endeavor of responding in faith.

They need to want to do something. As we engage the opportunities and challenges before us, our desire to fulfill our calling must be what drives us to move forward toward the goals we have set. There is lots of talk of burn out. This can happen when we forget the inexhaustible gift of God, come to believe it is our burden and then lose our desire. When this happens, we are unable to complete what we have begun. To get our desire back, we must return to the source of all good gifts and once again be filled with the inexhaustible love of God. Then we will not only do something, but it will flow from our desire and passion.

Now Finish It: We also began an endeavor last year. That endeavor was to position the congregation and the building in a place that we can share God's Love through Welcoming, Encouraging and Serving. It is now time for us to finish it. We have a lot to do to make this happen. We will be moving the footprint of the congregation to the front, renovating the front of the church and areas we will occupy and then open the rest of the building to becoming a true neighborhood and community center of encouragement. There are also many other things we will need to do in positioning the congregation and building to pour out this treasure generously poured into us. Now the question comes. Do you desire to finish what was started?

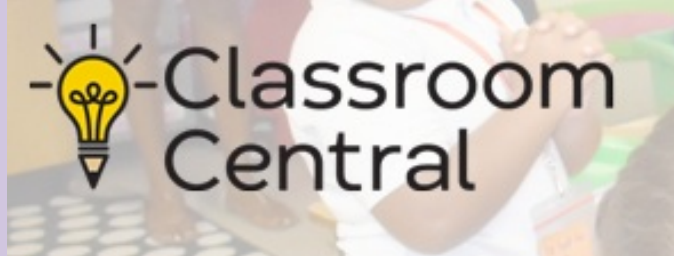
God of grace and love, you have called us to a new future. You have given us all that we need for this endeavor. Now, help us not only to do it but to want to do it. As we receive your infinite and unfailing love, make us want to pour out the grace you have given us. What we have begun, help us to finish it according to the grace you have given us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!!!

NOISY OFFERING

In July we collected for:



This month we will be collecting for:



2023-2024 School Year Impact



\$10,581,019

in supplies were
distributed (based on fair-
market retail value)



2,752,301

items distributed to
students



248

schools were served in 6
school districts



\$663

average value of supplies
per teacher visit

Turning Pencils into Possibilities

Picture a child at school trying to write without a pencil, read without books or dream without the tools to put her ideas on paper. This is the reality for far too many students in our community. For thousands, basic learning tools are a luxury. In fact, more than half of the students in our region come from families that can't afford lunch, let alone school supplies.

Moved by this need, and the fact that many teachers spend \$500 – \$1,000 annually out of their own pocket on their students, Classroom Central was founded in 2002 with support from the Charlotte Chamber and the Carolina Panthers.

At Classroom Central, we believe every child deserves a level educational playing field. Because when teachers and students have the resources they need, every class becomes *world* class. We empower teachers and students in nearly 200 schools across six Charlotte-area school districts, providing supplies and resources through our Free Store, Mobile Free Store and several other community-supported programs.

Classroom Central's Free Store is a retail operation where teachers and other school personnel from [eligible schools](#) "shop" for free supplies throughout the academic year. All materials distributed are used to create inviting learning environments and to support the academic and personal growth of students whose families lack the resources needed to purchase school supplies.

Classroom Central



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!



AUGUST 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

2 Cheris Copeland
10 Andrew Gilliland
11 Adriane Brooks
11 Emily Phillips
15 Mark Fenton
15 Lorelei Schlick
17 Phyllis Burnett
19 Erin Aldred-Pushman
20 Dale McKee
22 Jim Gilliland
23 Amelia Mueller
27 Tony Lee
29 Charles Cushing
30 David Stolen
31 Nicholas Aldred
31 Melba Isley
31 Carol Richardson

Katharina Circle

The Katharina Circle please reach out to circle members for update.

Anna Vee Circle

The Anna Vee Circle will not be meeting this month.

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".

ST. LUKE'S HAPPENINGS!

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.***

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 or phone 704-523-7981. You can also contact Kathy West at west@stlukeselca.org.***

SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH WELCOMING NEW MINISTRY PARTNERS COMING THIS MONTH

Beginning this month, God is sending us two new ministry partners to share our space together in service to the Lord. Let us welcome them as they make this their home.

Unity Church of Charlotte: Unity Church will be holding their services on Sunday mornings at 11am. They will be using the Youth Suite for education purposes and the refrigerator. Once a month they will have a potluck lunch after worship. Their offices will be in the vacated Education Center office and adjoining room. You can learn more about this community through their website, click the button below. They are excited to not only continue their journey in our facility but also to join with us in service to the community. They will begin worship on August 7th in the Chapel. Please pray for them in this transition!

Unity of Charlotte

The Speech Garden Institute: The Speech Garden Institute serves children with hearing impairment. They provide a preschool to prepare them for their educational journey and a summer camp every summer. The Speech Garden will be renting the area recently vacated by the Counseling Center on the lower floor. You can check out more about this wonderful service for children and families in our community on their website by clicking the button below. Their hope is to grow significantly in that space as the need is great.

The Speech Garden Institute

THE ENCOURAGEMENT CENTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Much work has been happening in researching and developing a plan to move St. Luke's into a position where the building begins to serve the ministry of the Church as an Encouragement Center for the neighborhood and surrounding community. We may no longer be in the position to be the provider of resources and people as we once were, but our building can become a platform in which Not For Profit ministries and community activities can Share God's Love through Welcoming, Encouraging and Serving. There are some exciting developments toward that end. Here is what is happening:

Encouragement Center Management: St. Luke's has been offered a tremendous gift! Peter Hiltz from Hiltz Property Management has offered to consult with us for six months toward developing a facility audit, facility use plan and a management plan with income projections and expenses toward a budget that includes management. This will allow us to make a funding plan to move the Encouragement Center forward toward sustainability. **See separate article introduction of Pete Hiltz.**

Building Security: Three companies have now been contacted regarding building security and submitting a bid for consideration. This security will include zones, sensors on all the doors, motion detectors in the hallways, cameras outside and new entry systems that can be controlled and monitored remotely

Architect Team: The Architects are awaiting the City's review of plans. They have a contractor who has agreed to help price the proposed work to help us create a fundraising plan. This presentation should be shared with the team sometime in August.

Move Planning: The Council has approved compensating Ami for any work over her regular hours in the development of a plan to move the offices and church footprint toward the front of the building.

Financial: Once we have a clearer understanding of costs for the move, the improvements recommended by the Architect and the Encouragement Center needs, we will have a better idea of financing needs. With those needs, we can then explore options in the final plan.

The goal would be to bring these things to the congregation for consideration and action as soon as possible in the fall. We will keep the congregation apprised of progress regularly.

If you have questions about any of these things or would like to join in the conversation and development, please contact the church office.

CONVERSION PEWS TO CHAIRS INVITATION TO CONVERSATION

All of the movements we are exploring, including renovations to the sanctuary entry and seating are not for our past needs or even our present. The changes being explored are in anticipation and hope of future church. We are getting it ready for the next generation of St. Luke's to live, worship and grow in faith and community. To that end, there have been two key factors that have been central to the plans being developed. **Those key factors are Accessibility and Flexibility.**

Pews have been an important part of worship for generations before. Pews, however, are bolted to the floor and are immovable fixtures. As accessibility and flexibility are key factors, a conversation has begun regarding the wisdom of converting our sanctuary from pews to chairs. Here is the rationale:

- **Pews already Removed in Front Space:** The purpose was to create flexibility. In our current setting, however, it has put distance between the people and the worship leadership. Moving the congregation closer will bring a closer sense of community that is very important in this time.
- **Pew Cushions Need Replacing:** No matter what, the pew cushions need being replaced. Before we put money into that, it is good to consider the alternatives of chairs.
- **Flooring Will Need Replacement:** The Current flooring will need to be replaced when the space is moved forward. Chairs do not need to be bolted to the new flooring, where pews would.
- **Flexibility of Space:** The area that would become the Welcome Center could be easily opened up to expand space for large events. The area can be easily expanded or tightened up with chairs rather than pews.

This is only initial conversation but the team working with the Architect would love your feedback, questions and suggestions.

Please contact the Church Office and Ami will share this with the team.



We will be blessing students, teachers and anyone is will be starting a new school year on August 18th.

FROM THE ANNA VEE CIRCLE

With Sandie and Mark moving to Pennsylvania to be near their family, it's no secret they will leave a huge hole at St. Luke's and in our hearts. Additionally, Sandie will leave very large shoes to fill as our gracious Circle Leader.

As we wish to continue the fellowship, activities, and charitable work of the Anna Vee Circle, it is important for us to make plans for new leadership.

Marilyn and Rebekah talked about the best way to do this and we wonder if splitting up the duties among ourselves might be a way to keep from overburdening any one member.

Marilyn is willing to continue as Treasurer. Would one of you feel led to take charge of continuing the card ministry to our shut-ins and those on our prayer list? (Sandie left a box of cards with an address list in the conference room credenza.) Would another be willing to organize volunteers for the devotional and refreshments for each meeting? Perhaps someone can take the lead in organizing what donations to bring each month. And maybe someone else is willing to lead the meetings? Do we want someone to be the point person for the Bereavement Committee? Please feel free to suggest any other leadership tasks we may want to add.

And please give some thought to how you might help our Anna Vee Circle continue to flourish. Remember, we will not meet in August which gives us a little time to regroup.

Marilyn and Rebekah are both available to hear your thoughts and input.

Thank you,
Marilyn and Rebekah

GOD'S WORKS. OUR HANDS



On **Sunday, September 8**, congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, **"God's work. Our hands."** This day continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

This year we also celebrate **50 years of ELCA World Hunger**. In commemoration of this milestone, our focus is on alleviating hunger by volunteering with Nourish Up (formerly Loaves & Fishes and Friendship Trays).

This year, we have four different ways to participate with Nourish Up. Please choose one or more options that fit your ability and schedule.

Food Drive

Our goal is to collect 300 pounds of non-perishable food between August 1st and September 8th.

Please bring canned goods and non-perishable items to the upper Narthex.

Items especially needed are:

- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, salmon)
- Canned fruit (no sugar added or in juice)
- Canned vegetables (no salt added or low sodium)
- Pasta (canned or dry boxed)
- Whole grain cereal

Nourish Up does not accept items that are unsealed, expired, loose without listed ingredients, unlabeled, or in glass containers.

Encouraging Messages for Grocery Delivery Boxes

During Children's Church, our children will draw happy pictures or write encouraging notes that will go into the grocery boxes delivered to families.

Warehouse Volunteers

Who: 10 to 25 Warehouse Volunteers shift age 14 years or older (ages 14 – 17 must be accompanied by a parent)

What: Warehouse Volunteers will pack grocery boxes

When: Friday, September 6th; Meet at St. Luke's by 8:45 am to carpool; we want to arrive by 9:15 am; our shift is from 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Where: The new Nourish Up warehouse at 901 Carrier Drive Charlotte, NC 28216

Use this Signup Genius link to let St. Luke's know you want to participate in this event. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48A8A82AA0F85-50427457-stlukes>

Grocery Home Delivery Drivers

Who: 11 Grocery Home Delivery Drivers - additional people (including children with their families) may ride along but only the driver is counted as one of the 11

What: Use your own vehicle to deliver grocery boxes to people/families

When: Saturday, September 7th; 10 AM - 12 PM pick-up time, with routes taking about 1-2 hours

Where: Pick-up in front of the Nourish Up warehouse, [901 Carrier Dr., Charlotte, NC 28216](#)

Requirements: Reliable transportation, cleared trunk/car space, a valid driver's license, and the ability to lift 25 lbs. repeatedly

As a volunteer driver, you will experience the joy of directly helping those in need by delivering groceries to their doors. Your contribution of just a few hours can significantly improve someone's week!

Use this Signup Genius link to let St. Luke's know you want to participate in this event. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48A8A82AA0F85-50427457-stlukes>

CROP WALK OCTOBER 6th

Just a reminder that Crop Walk is scheduled for October 6. Put it on your calendar. It is going to be a hybrid "Walk in your neighborhood" or at the "Memorial Stadium" whichever you choose.

T-shirt orders are due August 31. Go to charlottecropwalk.org and click on t-shirts at top of main page to see the design for this year, "walk local, impact global".

We also have some shirts left from last year, "Be the change".

Let me know if you have questions.

Marilyn

Charlotte CROP is a poverty-fighting organization that honors the call to improve the quality of life of people suffering from poverty and hunger. We educate, inspire and empower the Charlotte community to become agents of change through fund-raising events with local and international impact.

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.

MUSIC

Music is important for the life of the church as it binds us together with each other and connects us to the Lord in praise. We all have felt the tremendous loss of Jan McCoy in all areas of church life. One area especially noticeable is in our music. Unfortunately, selecting a new Music Director can be difficult if not impossible in this very volatile time of transition. It will be much easier to secure the position once a new pastor is called and the uncertainty about the future direction in terms of worship in music is resolved.

We still, however, need to provide quality music for our worship going forward. In that effort, God has blessed us with some wonderful resources to bless us in this time.

Thanks to Monty Bennett: In honor of Jan McCoy and in love for St. Luke's, Monty has agreed to continue to help us with our music needs moving forward. This will include:

- **Regular recording of hymns and anthems for Sunday morning.**
- **Play for Funerals and Services as able when not in conflict with his church position.**
- **Assist in identifying and securing special music and musicians.**
- **Be of resource and guidance as we navigate this transition.**

Anthems and Choir Selections: Karen Smith and the choir has done a fantastic job in the spring with picking and sharing anthems. We gratefully look forward to their full return after a well-deserved rest. The congregation has

been filling in with singing hymns during this time.

Hymn Selection Team: A team is being formed to help in planning the music between now and the end of the year. They will work with Pastor Keith and Monty in selecting hymns appropriate to the Word shared and singable by the congregation. Watch for more coming about this team.

Special Music and Musicians: Special Music will be planned to celebrate special services and times.

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.

BEN MCCALL'S BIRTHDAY

Terry Cheville enjoyed homemade ice cream at Ben's 21st birthday party, a break from taking photos.



FROM BEHIND THE LENS

OF "MR. TERRY" CHEVILLE











OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

NOURISH UP

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

Last month we donated 50 pounds of 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



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

FAMILIES IN CRISIS NEED YOUR HELP

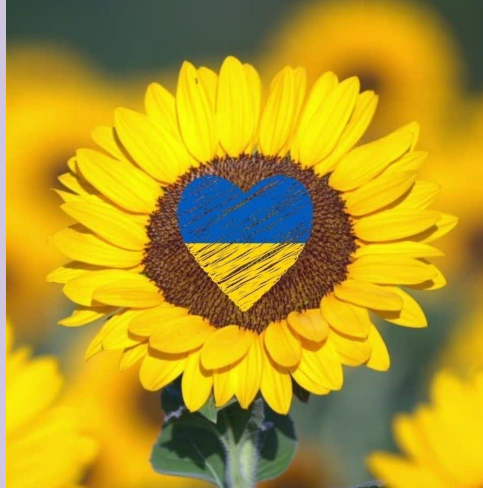
Your love will reach your neighbors who feel so alone as they continue to fight for their lives.

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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