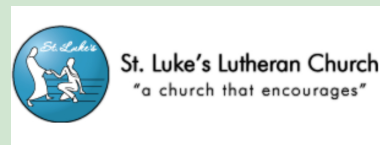


# The Encourager



September 2021

(Deadline for October Newsletter submissions is on September 29th!)

## Pondering Pastor



### "The Certainty of Uncertainty"

We enter now into our second September impacted by a pandemic. The annual hopes congregations have for starting up a fresh programming season is once again facing uncertainty.

The fallout for us is we decided to postpone reintroducing two worship services and Sunday school back into our weekly ritual. We are

currently averaging around 40 in weekly worship, so to split that into two events seems counterintuitive to building back momentum. Especially as we are currently requiring all visitors to the building and all worshippers to wear face coverings, again. Uncertainty seems to hold the upper hand right now.

But, as certain as the reality of uncertainty can be the idea that gives people of faith hope is that God knows the future. We do not, but God does! So, for us who are certain about uncertainty, God is certain about what God knows. That means we can trust that God's got this and we simply strive to keep going the best we can.

Our reality is that we have come a long way since last September. We are forging a plan to hold the **God's Work Our Hands Sunday** event in person on Sunday, September 12. We could not do that last year. We have consistently been able to hold quality live worship in person and also live-streamed on our Youtube channel. We have continued to serve the needs of our community, namely those without permanent homes and regular meals by our participation in the Roof Above Inc by providing 200+ bag lunches each month. We were not in a position to do our typical in-house outreach last year. Vaccinations and social distancing are efforts we continue to effectively employ with our eye on being as safely physically present, as possible. We have even welcomed visitors to worship regularly since the early spring. We were not doing that last year.

God's certainty about our future together is never uncertain. It behooves us to live each moment, then, participating in the life of our congregation as we are able, and as we are cautiously optimistic to offer what we can, most of all our praise to the Almighty.

So, what's certain about uncertainty is that we will not have in our immediate future Sunday school or two worship services. But, what we do have is faith and trust in God's knowledge of our future so that we may never lose hope. Let's continue to do what we can, certainly!

Peace, Pastor Jeffrey Ingold

## St. Luke's Announcements!



## Our New Office Administrator

We welcome Ami-Luise Vucovich as our newest Office Administrator. Those of you who have attended worship this past year will recognize Ami-Luise as one of our valiant video assistants. She and her husband Michael are part of the team to help ensure we are able to live-stream each week. Jan, Kathy, Archie, and I share in our excitement to welcome Ami-Luise to your staff at St. Luke's!

Office Hours = Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. - 12 noon

## God's Work, Our Hands

We are prepared for this year's return to an in-person service project on God's work. Our hands. Sunday!

On September 12<sup>th</sup> we will be putting together our Welcome Home Kits! We will gather at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary for a Worship Service. Afterward, Pastor will direct everyone to the Parish Hall to put together the kits for Roof Above. There will be 10 kits in total. Representatives from Thrivent will be present to assist as well. Once everyone has arrived, instructions will be given on how to pack our kits. Afterward, lunch will be provided by Thrivent! After lunch, our boxes will be delivered to Roof Above.

Should you have any questions please call the office at 704-523-7981 and we will put you in touch with Judy Hall.



## St. Luke's Pictorial Directory

Since our last pictorial directory was published in 2016, we have been joined by many new members, including Pastor Jeffrey. It's time for an update! We have the software to publish our own directory and Terry Cheville ("Mr. Terry" to most of us) will set up a photo studio in the Bride's Room. You will be able to make an appointment to have your photo taken before or after Sunday services. Or, if you prefer, you may email 'selfies' to Ami-Luise at [office@stlukeselca.org](mailto:office@stlukeselca.org). Look for more information in the next few weeks!

## September Sunday Morning Schedule

Due to the continued rise of the COVID-19 Delta variant, St. Luke's will continue to gather for worship at 10:00 a.m., requiring face-coverings when indoors, for all participants. The start of Sunday school is postponed until further notice. Confirmation sessions are being scheduled between the pastor and the families of eligible confirmands. A New Member Orientation session is being considered for October, as well as a Holy Communion Orientation for those seeking to learn about and receive the sacrament.

## Beer and Bible

Due to community spread numbers being elevated in our county we will postpone the



monthly Beer and Bible event.

### **Katarina Circle**

The Katarina Circle will not meet this month.

### **McCauley Diehl Circle**

The McCauley Diehl Circle will meet on September 8th at 12:00 NOON in the Conference Room.

### **Connie Counts Circle**

Connie Counts will meet on September 1st at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. Bring a sandwich. Dessert will be provided. Business meeting to plan 2021-2022.

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

The Lutheran Men in Mission will meet on September 11th 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.

### **St. Luke's Women's Fall Retreat**



Due to the rising COVID cases reported daily, the decision has been made to act with the utmost caution and to cancel the Women's Retreat this October. We have rescheduled for October 21-23, 2022, and we hope to see all of you ladies then!  
Diana Brooks

### **Crop Walk**



There has been a date change for the Charlotte Crop Walk. Please mark your calendars for November 7, 2021. The in-person walk will take place at Memorial Stadium. Folks are welcome to walk virtually, at a time and place that works for them, if that is their preference.

The in-person walk will start with Registration at 1, Opening ceremonies at 2, and the Walk at 2:30. Parking is easy at the stadium and usually well-marked.

Twenty-five percent of the money stays here in Charlotte and goes to Crisis Assistance Ministry, Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays, and Second Harvest Food Bank. The balance of the money is used worldwide by Church World Services to relieve the tragic results of catastrophic events such as earthquakes, flooding, and famine.

The Charlotte Crop Walk began in 1979 and had raised over 9 million to relieve hunger, \$2 million staying right here in Charlotte.

We know the need is great. Let's help make this an outstanding success!

Marilyn

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### 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 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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### Noisy Offering for August netted \$177 given to Classroom Central.

#### 70 pounds of new diapers collected!!

Rebekah shared a conversation she was having with her neighbor, a confessed atheist, who has become passionate about gathering and delivering new diapers to Loaves and Fishes Ministry. Apparently, there is a huge need for new diapers. So, you were invited to aid this humanitarian effort and this is what you did. Thank you, generous St. Luke's!



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### Seminarian Spotlight

Wanted to give a brief check-in. I am currently doing my Clinical Pastoral Education at Prisma Health Baptist Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. My week consists of spending 25.5 hours in the clinic, making rounds and visiting patients on the floors. I also spend 6 hours a week in my educational group, learning different theories and reviewing patient visits. The clinical portion feeds into the education portion and vice versa. On top of all this, I spend one day a week on-call in the hospital. What is unique about my setting is that I am also on-call at a hospital in Irmo, South Carolina. When on-call, I am the chaplain for the whole hospital. During my time in CPE, I have learned (and currently learning) how to conduct spiritual assessments and become more confident in my pastoral identity. I am being richly formed by my experience. After CPE, I return to seminary to begin my second year. I hope to be back in the wintertime to possibly preach for the congregation. Thank you for your continued prayers and blessing along this journey of formation. One last thing, and I am growing into accepting this: I don't know is a very powerful and faithful answer. I don't know doesn't signify ignorance: it simply means that I don't know the answer. And guess what? That's fine if you don't know.

Thomas Johnston

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

On September 12, 2021, "God's Work. Our Hands Day," St. Luke's will provide furnishings for homes to people now living on streets and in cars in Charlotte through the ministry of the Roof Above Center. We will be joining with many of the 8,900-plus worshipping communities in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) who are doing similar ministry projects on that day.

Our congregation shares the ELCA's vision to participate in "a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation" ([www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)). Nearly 3.3 million members across the 50 states and the Caribbean region belong to the ELCA, making it one of the largest Christian denominations in the U.S. The ministry of the ELCA is organized into three interrelated expressions: churchwide, synods (65), and congregations. With offices located in Chicago, Illinois, the churchwide organization's work is guided by Churchwide Assemblies, the Church Council, and its elected officers. Churchwide staff, some of whom are deployed throughout the US and the world, provide resources to support the ministries of both synods and local congregations.

For example, the Lutheran Immigration and Resettlement Service is in Afghanistan now helping with the recent crisis, as reported on CNN. Lutheran World Relief immediately began delivering food and medical care in Haiti following the earthquake in August. ELCA World Hunger works with local organizations to provide microloans, water wells, animal husbandry, and advocacy to the 10% of the world's population in extreme poverty. Additional ministries also carry out Jesus' call to care for all of God's children in need.

The churchwide expression of the ELCA, furthermore, provides resources for congregations to enrich worship and music, education, youth ministry, outdoor ministry, social ministry, evangelism, ethnic and multicultural ministry, racial justice, inclusivity, and more. They work alongside 27 colleges and universities, 7 seminaries, and numerous other agencies and institutions in the U.S. St. Luke's is connected to the world ecumenically through the ELCA in the National Council of Churches, World Council of Churches, and Lutheran World Federation, all of whom are dedicated to embodying Jesus' prayer that all may be one. We support these ministries through a portion of our budget that is sent to the NC Synod. Together, our hands do God's work in Christ's name for the sake of the world.

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## September Birthdays



Alice Bostic 3  
Patricia Sweet 3  
Chris Behm 4  
Sue Setzer 6  
Archie Hayes 7  
Riley Lynch 7  
Patsy Schober 11  
Jo Sigmon 11  
Rosalie Steinitz 12  
Ruth Heberlig 16  
Mark Elgart 18  
Jack Eve 23  
Julie DuToit 24  
Rhonda Crisp 25  
Virginia Floyd 25  
Taylor Stolen 25  
Pat Thorne 27  
Elijah Ingold 29

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## St. Luke's "Knights" out at the Ballgame in August



### 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

