

The Encourager



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

August 2022

(Deadline for September's Newsletter submissions is on August 25th!)

PONDERING PASTOR



"Rise Heart thy Lord is Risen. Sing his praise without delays!" These are the opening lyrics of the song recital Jane Huber and I recently presented at the church. Oh, it was great fun! Jane is a wonderful accompanist and I love to sing, so the collaboration was an easy pairing between us and those who attended seemed delighted by the music we made together.

While enjoyable to sing the lyrics speak more importantly to a profound truth which, through the darkest patch of my career as a pastor, reminds me why I do what I do.

Jesus says in John 11:25, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."

We belong to a tradition which values the concept of "resurrection" and its holy implications. We structure our worship-life around the "resurrection". We acknowledge death and dying are a very present reality throughout our lives and can often drive us to experience a sense of hopelessness and despair, but as followers of Jesus, this tradition of ours which values the concept of resurrection, indeed the reality in faith of the resurrection's promises, delivers us from the stronghold of hopelessness and despair. 1 Peter 1:3 writes, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." We then can focus instead on new life, new opportunity, new hopes, and new dreams.

A former pastor of St. Luke's, Rev. Steven Lorimer, encouraged the congregation during his tenure not to be afraid. He was right! Fear stops us in our tracks. Fear emerges from too much focus on death and dying and loss. On the other hand, resurrection, not fear, frees us to be whatever God is leading us to be. This truth is

what sustains me through, as I say, the darkest moments of my 29 years as a pastor. I pray daily it sustains you, too.

So, the question remains, in what ways will we be motivated by a sense of resurrection? How will our life-giving faith in resurrection stir us to re-engage as a congregation in ministry? In what ways will we begin to pivot away from a focus on all that has been lost, and true to the dichotomy to which we often sing in the hymn Amazing Grace, will we lean into the expectation of all that can be found by God's mercy? Specifically, how will you "sing his praise without delays" as a vital member of this congregation and its ministry?

The pandemic exposed St. Luke's to a real sense of loss. We lost momentum. We lost confidence. We lost staff. We lost connection. We lost programming. We lost members. We lost financial support. We could spend a lot of time counting our losses which can easily feed into a languishing sense of hopelessness and despair. That's where fear grips us, but we must be encouraged in faith to remember not to be afraid.

Most importantly we must never lose our faith in resurrection. Christ Jesus emerged from the torment of crucifixion and rose again on Easter to resurrected life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

Rise Heart faithful people of St. Luke's, thy Lord is Risen. Sing his praise without delays! Let's get back to fearlessly being the church. Shall we?

Peace, Pastor Jeffrey Ingold

ST. LUKE'S HAPPENINGS!

COLLECTING FOR LOAVES & FISHES

St. Luke's is going to collect items for Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays

Their most needed items are:

Canned Meat
Canned Fruit
Pastas - Canned or dry boxed
Diapers - especially larger sizes
Low Sodium canned vegetables
Peanut butter

PLEASE NO GLASS!

Click on the button below to see their flyer.

Priority
Needs



BREAKING LIQUID BREAD 3rd TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

13 friends of St. Luke's enjoyed good company together at Legion in South Park, pictured here.

Join us in August for a second round (did you see what I did there?) of Breaking Liquid Bread for an intentional fellowship time together at local breweries.

Tuesday, August 16 we will be Brewers at 4001 Yancey Road.

Note, this brewery has a full kitchen so you may plan to eat a meal as many of us do, or just come for a drink of your choice and enjoy the friendship.

We will meet at 7:00pm and the reservation will be for St. Luke's Lutheran Church, or my name, Pastor Jeffrey Ingold.

Please email me to let me know you are coming, and I will make sure to reserve space for you
pastoringold@stlukeselca.org



Brewers at 4001 Yancey
Website

BREWERS AT
4001 YANCEY
CHARLOTTE NC

**Youth Group Cookout
& Indoor Pickleball Game**

Saturday, August 20 @ 4:00 pm
All Middle School and High School
Youth!

Please let Pastor know if you are
planning to attend
pastoringold@stlukeaselca.org or text
him at (919) 961-3850



Sunday, August 21 during Worship at 10:00am

It is that time of year for the blessing of the backpacks as well as all students, instructors, and administration returning to school this month.

We will have a special place during the service to bless student's backpacks, so bring them with you.



Donate Financially

Click here to donate to
Classroom Central.

DINNER AND A SHOW

You are invited to "come and see" Jesus, the Teacher at NarroWay Productions.

Jesus was born, crucified and raised to life. But tucked between those history-changing events is the life-changing message of Jesus. Sit in the crowd as Jesus tells the world's most famous stories and see them come to life! Watch with excitement as Jesus multiplies a little boy's lunch. Then GET READY FOR THE MIRACLE OF a delicious fried fish dinner with fresh baked loaves - all served to your seat as part of this fun show.

Space is limited so please RSVP by **August 12th!**

Is sponsoring a special fun event to honor teachers.

Consider signing up for this Dinner Theater event and support Classroom Central.

Click on the button and register for your free tickets today!

Event Tickets

thrivent

GODS WORK. OUR HANDS.



Plan to join us for God's Work Our Hands on **Sunday, September 11th!**

Watch for the announcement and Sign-Up Genius inviting you to collect articles for Roof Above's *Welcome Home and Fresh Start Kits*.

We will also collect boxes of size 4 and 5 diapers for Loaves & Fishes.

Fresh Start Kits

Welcome Home Kits

CROP WALK OCTOBER 16, 2022

"Since first Crop Walk in 1979, Charlotte has raised over \$9 million to relieve hunger, with \$2 million staying in the community for Crisis Assistance, Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays, and Second Harvest Food Bank."

Registration on October 16, begins at 1:30 at the American Legion Memorial Stadium. Once registered, you can start your walk, if you are at the stadium. You have the choice again this year, of walking in your own neighborhood, if you prefer.



St. Luke's raised \$4384 in 2021. Let's use that as a target and raise even more this year. An email from Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays this week indicated they have seen a 113% increase in neighbors needing help this summer. This example indicates the need is greater than ever.

Marilyn Schuster

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.



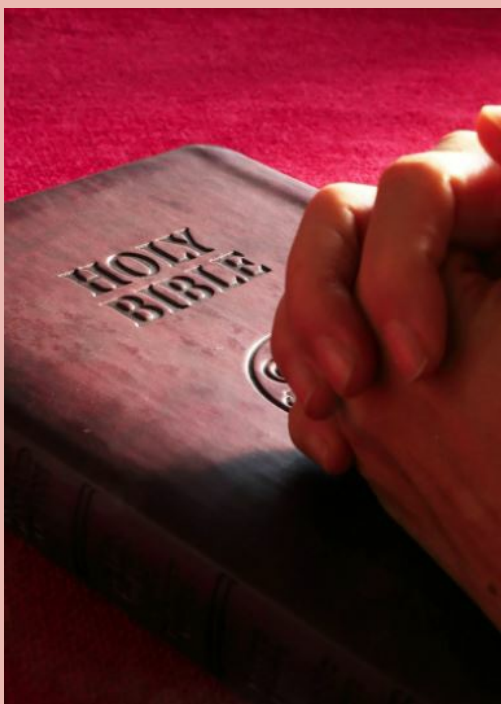
CONGRATULATIONS

OFFICER AARON BECKHAM

On July 20, 2022 Officer Aaron Beckham was sworn in to the Monroe Police Department. He is a wonderful addition to the Police force.



SEMINARIAN CORNER WITH THOMAS JOHNSTON



Having the conversation

I am going to preface this post by saying that I do not, in any way, speak for those in my age range nor those below me. And this post will include politics. And this post will include science. And this post will include talking about young adults. And this post will include college. We are in the season, or the un-season, of the return to college campuses where bright-eyed first-years are walking into their first college classes with the eagerness to learn. These young adults have ideas in their mind on the world, and maybe have been involved with different activities in high school that broadened their horizons. And then, they enter the college classroom and are hit with viewpoints that are different than theirs (maybe encountering an atheist for the first

time) , or they are challenged with a political perspective that is not like their own or what they knew.

I am speaking in hypotheticals, though I have also witnessed encounters like this during my time in undergraduate studies. This is also the same time when young

adults are learning to figure out the faith they grew up with on their own, and more specifically, what does their faith mean to them? And this is where churches have the tools to live into their mission as community. Not simply bringing young adults and their families into the fold as mere replacement parts but bringing in young adults and their families into the journey of faith by having the conversations. The church is place for the community to have tough conversations together. The community discerns together the workings of the world outside the walls and lives into the mission of proclaiming the gospel and having the conversation. The community functions as vehicles of grace by means of faith. We gather in mutual conversation and consolation with one another.

HI, EVERYONE,



Looks as if Raggedy Ann has already made her first summer escape! Ah, yes... summertime! That precious anticipated time when oceans and mountains and all creation in between (both God-given and man-made) become welcome panaceas for routine-induced human stress. For a relaxing and informative summer read, please consider my faith-based book for adults, DOLL SPEL: A Raggedy Ann Collector's Collection of Inspirational Essays. I can guarantee that you will see yourself in (and easily relate to) the essay on nature. Here is an excerpt:

"I was just thinking more about this escaping thing and how really necessary it is for us real-for-sure people. We work hard. It's stressful, strenuous even for some. We play hard. It's fun but physically demanding. We love hard. It's why we're here, but it charges the emotions in more ways than one. The human mind, body and soul are in constant need of replenishment. . . What can Mother Nature offer us that can save us from ourselves?" ~DOLL SPEL, p. 127

The surprising answer to that question awaits you in DOLL SPEL, available on all major bookseller sites, as Amazon [here](#):

Thanks for reading . . . this and DOLL SPEL!

Dollspel: A Raggedy Ann Collector's Collection of Inspirational Essayson
Amazon

https://www.amazon.com/dp/1639037772/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2XYI60U50TDZ2&keywords=9781639037773&qid=1641935862&sprefix=9781639037773%2Caps%2C137&sr=8-1

Katarina Circle

The Katarina Circle will be meeting at Judy Hall's on
Tuesday, August 2 at 7pm
and will be putting together water filters for *Wine To Water* project.

Wine to Water
Website

McCauley Diehl Circle

The McCauley Diehl Circle will not be meeting this month.

Lutheran Men In Mission (LMIM)

The Lutheran Men in Mission will meet in the Conference Room on
August 10, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

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.

FROM BEHIND THE LENS OF "MR. TERRY" CHEVILLE "Children's Messages are for Everyone!"





BAPTISM OF COOPER CLAIRE CONNER



"I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!"



"Meet your family of faith! Together we are on a mission to Live and Share God's Love!"



Kristen, Pastor, Big Brother Griffin, Brittany and Lauren Baptismal Sponsor!



One big beautiful family, indeed!

RECITAL OF SACRED SONGS & SPIRITUALS



Thank you to all who came out for an evening of Sacred Songs & Spirituals as we collected \$827.00 for Lutheran Services Carolinas *Be the Light* Campaign.



BBQ STILL AVAILABLE



Boy Scout Troop 355 still has BBQ to sell!

\$ 13 per container

\$ 4 per sauce

Please make check payable to:

Boy Scout Troop 355

You can reach out to the office to place an order.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP THE *LIVE STREAM* GOING

We are asking for your help in order to keep the *Live Stream* going for Sunday's services.

We are looking for anyone who would like to learn something new and give back to the church.

Would also be a great opportunity for high school student to get involved and earn volunteer hours.

Any questions or to sign up please reach out to the church office and ask for Ami-Luise.

Church Office Email



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



Since the beginning of Russia's war against Ukraine on Feb. 24, millions of people have fled the country and are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many people fleeing their homes in Ukraine need shelter and basic necessities such as food, water and

toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

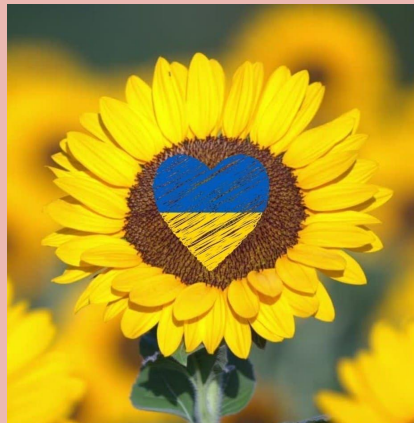
Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Moldova, as well as ecumenical partners such as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis created by Russia's war against Ukraine.

These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Your gifts will support people impacted by the war. Gifts designated to "Eastern Europe Crisis" will be used in full (100%) for direct response to assist those affected.

Thank You to individuals and groups including Eric Hillestad, Joel & Pam Moser, Lutheran Men in Mission (\$250) and McCauley Diehl (\$300) have contributed to the refugee crisis in Eastern Europe.

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.

[ELCA Eastern Europe Crisis Response](#)



ASSIST M.E.



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 for more
information



CONGREGATION & WORSHIP LIFE

LAST MONTH IN A GLANCE

Our Sharing

	Actual M.T.D.	Budget M.T.D.	Actual Y.T.D.	Budget Y.T.D.
Revenues				
Regular Contributions	\$21,870	\$35,546	\$307,474	\$248,821
Facilities Usage & Interest	\$6,120	\$5,792	\$45,028	\$40,542
Program Fees				
Worship	\$0	\$333	\$586	\$2,333
Relational	\$0	\$717	\$100	\$5,017
Outreach	\$401	\$817	\$3,786	\$5,717
Property	\$0	\$229	\$1,645	\$1,604
Total Program Fees	\$401	\$2,096	\$6,117	\$14,671
Total Revenues	\$28,391	\$43,433	\$358,619	\$304,034
Expenses				
Salaries and Benefits	\$24,333	\$25,105	\$166,072	\$175,736
Administration	\$6,697	\$7,410	\$36,821	\$51,869
Worship	\$194	\$1,071	\$2,618	\$7,496
Relational	\$0	\$621	\$3,449	\$7,346
Outreach	\$2,309	\$1,450	\$7,163	\$10,150
Property	\$11,390	\$12,813	\$67,183	\$88,938
Total Expenses	\$44,588	\$48,469	\$282,803	\$341,534
Net Total	-\$16,197	-\$5,036	\$75,816	-\$37,500

USING REALM IS VITAL TO OUR COMMUNICATION



It is our software platform that helps us manage the operations of the church and is an easy way to stay connected to the church and other members.

Online Member Directory also available through Realm.

Try the QR code above for easy access.

GIVING THROUGH VENMO

St Luke's Lutheran Church

@StLukes-LutheranChurch-1



venmo

Scan this code to pay

We are now able to take Offerings from your phone. Go to your App Store to download the Venmo App and sign up. Once you are signed up, you can use your camera and our QR Code (the image to the left) to make your offerings.

If you have any questions please ask Ami-Luise Vucovich in person or during church office hours.

“I learned to GIVE not because I have much but because I know exactly how it feels to have NOTHING.”

GIVING THROUGH *Tithe.ly*



You can also use Tithe.ly either using the link below or by using their app

[Make a Donation](#)

NOISY OFFERING

In July we collected for :

Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita Support, Inc.



Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita Support, Inc.

Thanks to your Noisy Offering we raised
\$ 287.00

This month we will be collecting for:



Classroom Central fosters equity in education by providing teachers and students with the free resources they need to succeed.

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.

Many teachers spend \$500 – \$1,000 annually out of their own pocket on their students.

Classroom Central was founded in 2002 to support students and teachers in Mecklenburg County. It has since expanded into six school districts in surrounding counties.

Teachers and other school personnel are eligible to receive free supplies if 50% or

more of their students receive free or reduced-price lunch. In addition to essential school supplies, teachers can receive \$1,200+ worth of free cleaning supplies, personal care items, STEM and literacy materials and lesson plans, books and much more.

[Classroom Central Website](#)



Classroom Central Introductory Video



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - August 7 at 10:00 am

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - August 14 at 10:00 am

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - August 25 at 10:00 am

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - August 28 at 10:00 am

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

[YouTube Channel](#)

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 Rod Heintz
5 Joey Beckham
5 Jennifer Lynch
8 Emily Wales
10 Andrew Gilliland
11 Adriane Brooks
11 Emily Phillips
15 Mark Fenton
15 Lorelei Schlick
16 McAllister Heintz
17 Phyllis Burnett
19 Erin Pushman-Aldred
19 Noah Campagna
20 Dale McKee
22 Jim Gilliland
27 Tony Lee
29 Charles Cushing
31 Nicholas Aldred
31 Melba Isley
31 Jan McCoy
31 Carol Richardson

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Terri Wells, president

TBD, vice-president

Rebekah Woodward, secretary

Kristen Conner / Pete Schmidt, co-treasurer

Julie Fosbinder, Alex Jenkins, Emily Phillips, Lisa Rhyne,
David Sweet, Jon Wolff

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

Please contact Terri Wells, Council President (tkwells@comporium.net),
or the church office if you have anything you wish to bring to Council.

July 6, 2022 Council
Minutes

July 10, 2022 Council
Minutes

