The Encourager July 2024



(Deadline for the upcoming Newsletter submissions is on July 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.

May Council Minutes 2024

Interim Pastor's Report May 2024

Admin Support Meeting & Recommendations May 2024

Unity of Charlotte Rental Proposal

The Speech Garden Institute Rental Proposal

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***

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - July 7th at 10:00am (Sanctuary)

with Guests Messiah Lutheran Youth

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - July 14th at 10:00am (Sanctuary)

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - July 21st at 10:00AM (Sanctuary)

w/ Noisy Offering Urban Promise

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - July 28th at 10:00am (Sanctuary)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We will continue to have Children's Church through the summer.

WORSHIP NOTES PENTECOST TO AUGUST

"Guide You Into All Truth"

Overall Theme: As we enter a major election cycle, we will be bombarded with messages. These messages in many cases will be claiming possession of truth. Jesus Christ said in the Gospel of John, "I am the way, and the truth and the life." If Jesus is the truth, then it can't be our possession. The world tried that when they nailed him to the cross. The truth cannot be contained or possessed. It can, however, be discovered and discerned. The truth has not been lost, because we can't possess it and we couldn't kill it. During this first part of the Pentecost Season, we will explore how the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. As we mine the scriptures regarding truth, you are invited to join in a book study over the summer. The book is "Trust: Knowing When to Give it. When to Withhold It. How to Earn It and How To Fix It When It Gets Broken" by Dr. Henry Cloud. This will be a companion study to our prayerful exploration of scripture regarding truth. We pray that through this season, the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth!

July 7th

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

"I Will Be Speaking the Truth"

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 (2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Mark 6:1-13)

July 14th

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

"Before the Foundations"

Text: Ephesians 1:3-14 (Amos 7:7-15; Mark 6:14-29)

July 21st

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

"One New Humanity"

Text: Ephesians 2:11-22 (2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56)

July 28th

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

"More Than We Can Ask or Imagine"

Text: Ephesians 3:14-21 (2 Samuel 11:1-15; John 6:1-21)

COPELAND'S CORNER

He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be Still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

(Mark 4:40-41)

What are You Afraid Of? The storm was raging, and water was coming into the boat. They were moments away from being swamped. All these experienced fishermen were panicked and afraid. You can imagine it would take a lot to make them that afraid. What are you afraid of? What makes you panic? Where do you feel the storm is raging and the water is coming into the boat?

Do You Ever Feel Jesus Is Asleep in the Storm? They were in imminent danger, yet here was Jesus asleep in the front of the boat. He was not afraid of the storm. He was not afraid of the threat. He was not afraid of what they were afraid of. Do you ever feel like Jesus has been asleep in the

boat, while the storm threatened everything? Have you ever yelled at God to wake up and help?

Do You Want a God Who Is Afraid of What You Are: Jesus was asleep in the storm because of a very important difference. He was not afraid of the same things we are? He asks them, "What are you afraid of?" We are afraid of a lot of things. They are very real threats and beyond our abilities and understanding. We often have little to no control over that which we fear. The question that helps in times of great fear and panic is simple. Do you want a God who is afraid of what you are? Do you want a God who is overwhelmed and threatened by the same thing you are afraid of? Jesus was not afraid, because what frightened them was under Jesus' control. He cried out and said, "Peace! Be Still!", and it obeyed. God is not afraid of what we are.

How Does Faith in God Change How We Approach Our Fears? If

God is not afraid of what we are, and if we have faith in God, then maybe we should not allow ourselves to be afraid and panicked. Maybe we should learn how to view that which we fear through the eyes of God, rather than through our own. This is in no way easy, but like first responders we can practice faith over fear. We can run in when everyone else is running out, because we know God is greater that what threatens us.

We are living in a time of great threat and danger. There are threats to our lives, livelihood, families, church, communities and world. How might our approach change if we truly believe that God is greater than all. He is not asleep; he is just not threatened. Because of his love and the resurrection, we also need not be afraid.

God of strength and peace, open the eyes of our hearts that we might view the challenges and dangers before us with the eyes of Christ. Make us then bold to respond not with panic and fear, but with faith, conviction and assurance, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

NOISY OFFERING

In June we collected for:



This month we will be collecting for:



THE MISSION OF URBANPROMISE CHARLOTTE IS TO PROVIDE CHARLOTTE'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH THE SPIRITUAL, ACADEMIC, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NECESSARY TO BECOME CHRISTIAN LEADERS DETERMINED TO RESTORE THEIR COMMUNITIES.

UrbanPromise Charlotte takes youth and their families on a 20-year leadership journey. From ages 5 to 25, we walk with youth as they maneuver through each stage of their life. We operate with the vision: Reach a Child. Raise a Leader. Restore Community.

We reach a child during elementary and middle school where youth are campers receiving academic, spiritual, and emotional support through year-round, neighborhood-based out-of-school programs. We raise a leader as high-school teens have the opportunity to be employed as StreetLeaders leading our elementary and middle school campers. They are the heartbeat of UrbanPromise.

We also provide college access support to our StreetLeaders, and we've seen 100% of our first nine classes of senior StreetLeaders receive college acceptance. Once graduating high school, we support our StreetLeader Alumni with their pathway to ensure their success as they transition to post-secondary education and young adult life. It is our hope that they become active community members determined to restore their communities.

Urban Promises Charlotte



URBANPROMISE CHARLOTTE TAKES A 20-YEAR LEADERSHIP JOURNEY WITH STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

This journey has three stages: Reach a Child, Raise a Leader, Restore Community.

From ages 5-13, students attend UrbanPromises' AfterSchool and Summer Camp programs.

During *high school*, students are employed as "StreetLeaders" (mentors and counselors for the younger children in our programs) and receive college access support themselves.

From ages 18-25, StreetLeader Alumni receive support so they graduate college and find meaningful post-graduate employment.

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!



JULY 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

- 4 Jane Huber
- 5 Steve Hubbard
- 6 Earl Schmitke
- 10 Jessica Behm
- 11 Karen Lyons
- 13 Charlotte Fairman
- 14 Eva Franz
- 17 Neil Sidlovsky
- 19 Terri Wells
- 20 Lynn Sidlovsky
- 24 Jan Brauer
- 24 Sara Gilliland
- 24 Seth Lachacz
- 25 Fernando Shine
- 29 Cynthia Shine
- 30 Ben McCall

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".

GOD'S WORKS. OUR HANDS

God's work. Our hands.



JOIN GENESIS GENERATIONS II

Our congregation is invited to join with folks across the synod to read the Bible in this year's Summer Bible Reading Plan: *Genesis Generations II*! Last summer's *Genesis Generations*, took us through the first half of Genesis; we now pick up where we left off beginning on **Sunday**, **July 7**.

Click here to learn more

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.**

If You Are Currently Giving Through Vanco, Tithe.ly or Venmowe will need you to cancel your EXISTING transactions before setting up on this new platform. Please be aware that we will be unable to receive donations through these platforms as of May 20th. Once you cancel your existing transactions, then set up anew using the below form:

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.

RULE OF LOVE REVISION

As the Rule of Love is meant to be a living document, it is important that it be open to revision. After some feedback, the council recently approved the following changes that make a section much clearer.

- Original: In what we do by listening in kindness and acceptance. Seek common ground, learn and adjust. If necessary, we disagree with love and respect.
- Revision Suggestion: In what we do by listening in kindness and acceptance. Seek common ground, learn and adjust. We can still disagree as long as we preserve love and respect.

The entire Rule of Love revised can be viewed by clicking on the button below.

SLLC RULE OF LOVE

NEW MINISTRY PARTNERS COMING IN AUGUST

Beginning in August, 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 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 below. Their hope is to grow significantly in that space as the need is great.

The Speech Garden Institute

THE ENCOURAGEMENT CENTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Lots of work is going on behind the scenes in preparation for the future of St. Luke's. These plans will be bold and ambitious and will put this community of faith in a position to enter the next 100 years of ministry and mission to Share God's Love through welcoming, encouraging and serving. Here is what is happening:

Encouragement Center Management: A team is exploring options and developing a vision for how the building can be managed in a way that encourages sharing God's Love through welcoming, encouraging and serving. This will mean not only a home for not-for-profit ministries but also community activities. The cost of this will be part of the financial plan with the hopes of providing a year of funding to develop this into a sustainable venture.

Building Security: This is also being explored to provide a plan and costs to add into the plan. We can't make the building available for use and activity at the level hoped for without safety and security being factored in. This is not the responsibility of those using the space. The church is responsible for providing adequate security for the building and those who use it.

Architect Team: A team is working with the Architect in developing plans for the space we will occupy focused on accessibility and welcoming. These drawings are currently exploring improvements to our entry area that will

include a circular drive in the front with a few handicap access spots and a covered entry. The narthex would be expanded to include a welcoming area for receptions and other gatherings we hope to call "The Jan McCoy Welcome Center." There will be ongoing discussion regarding how to use the sanctuary space to make it more intimate and flexible including the difference of pews and chairs. Watch for more opportunities to join in this discussion and exploration as we move forward.

Move Planning: Ami has agreed to discuss contracting with the church for extra time in order to serve in planning and coordinating our move into the new footprint. The cost of the move and plan will be part of the overall plan presented to the congregation this fall.

Financial: Research is ongoing regarding options in financing available for the congregation. This will include both a capital campaign, fundraisers and outside funding to including loans. This will all be factored in the plan for the congregation and the Encouragement Center.

The Encouragement Center will be developed as a ministry of St. Luke's but financially separate. All the costs associated with the building and income from use as well as staffing requirements will be budgeted and accounted for separately. This will allow for the possibility of it becoming a not-for-profit ministry in the future. It will also allow the church and the building to be separated financially and both to become sustainable and focused on mission in unique ways.

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

BAKE SALE & CONCERT

On June 15, Easterseals Ashcraft Group Home hosted an outdoor concert with Josh Daniel, a local musician. St. Luke's photographer Terry Cheville took photos of the event and the 65 family, friends and neighbors who attended.

The bake sale raised more than \$1200 for 11 group home residents to go to Carolina Beach this September. Ben McCall, a long-time member of St. Luke's, lives at the group home on Ashcraft Lane, 5 minutes from the church. His parents Vanessa Infanzon and Ryan McCall have been members since 2003.





















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 DIRECTOR POSITION

The search for a Music Director and Organist is currently on hold. We have been served well in this transition by Monty Bennett who has been putting the service music in the organ and volunteers pushing the buttons. We have also been blessed with volunteers directing the choir and helping to plan anthems and other music. In our current transition and with our current financial condition, we will continue in this manner for the foreseeable future. This does not preclude having guest musicians or responding to opportunities that may arise. Please continue to pray for God to lead us!

CALLED TO SERVE

One of our own (Erin Alred Pushman) has been feeling a call to enter into the candidacy process to become a chaplain in the ELCA. Her hopes are to serve as a Hospice Chaplain in the future. This is a very large undertaking. There is a lot of uncertainty on the journey and a lot to figure out. After a lot of prayer and

conversation with the synod, she has decided to take that step and will be going before the candidacy committee for an initial interview in August. Our support is essential for her as she makes this journey. She will need not only our prayers but all we can do to support her and her family. **Below is an invitation to join in prayer:**

God of surprises, you have a way of entering our lives and calling us on paths we did not anticipate. You are doing so with Erin as she hears your voice calling her to public service as a chaplain. She has boldly said yes to moving forward not knowing where she is going, but only knowing that you are going to lead the way. We ask you to lead her and provide all she needs to follow in the path you are calling her toward. Be with her family as they support her in this venture. Be with us as her family of faith that we also may be a part of your provision for her as she steps out in faith where you lead the way. In Jesus name we pray. Amen!!!

SUBMITTED BY TOM AINSWORTH

Thanks PBS! I am now officially an "antique" according to you and I resent it! I never used to think of myself as one but apparently the American Public Broadcasting System thinks otherwise. When I used to watch "Antiques Roadshow" back in the day, the junk.... er, antiques, that these hapless souls used to drag down from their attics and up from their cellars hoping to have a priceless artifact discovered were normally what I considered to be actual "antiques". They were usually at least around the turn of the 20th century or before and some even many more centuries older. You could usually count on folks bringing in items from at least the very early 1900's, the 1800's and 1700's and sometimes earlier (although they had to be told that the vase they brought in was not from the 1880's but the 1580's) and those items were what I would legitimately call "antiques". You've probably seen that PBS promo where a woman from Raleigh several years ago brought in a pale translucent green bowl thinking it was maybe a hundred years old but it was actually from 16th Century China, made for the Emperor, and worth over a million bucks! And she'd been putting Cheese Doodles in it as a snack bowl! Yowza, who knew? But at least THAT'S a legitimate antique! Anyway, now when I watch the show, these idiots are bringing in things like movie posters from the 1960's, Playboy Magazines of the early 1970's and toys I used to play with from the 1950's! Are you kidding me? When did these things get to have the stature of "antique"? I'M from the 1950's and I don't consider myself an "antique"! C'mon PBS, don't let these yokels drag down to the taping venue Aunt Bessie's flour sifter which she was using during the Truman Administration and call it a beloved artifact of history! Have some dignity and keep anything that wasn't made until after WW II away from the "antique" moniker. Leave ME a little dignity so that I'm not categorized as an antique before I'm ready! I will NOT put myself in the same classification as the earliest Elvis salt & pepper shaker Uncle Bud got when he visited Graceland in 1959. I refuse to have myself in the same bracket as Cousin Edna's souvenir spoon from Niagara Falls which she fawned over during her honeymoon in 1962. And I will NEVER group myself in what some moron thinks is an "antique" like an "All the Way with Adlai" Stevenson Flasher Campaign Button from 1956! Estes Kefauver be damned, but keep me at least a 100 years apart from these so-called "antiques". Have a heart, if not a brain people! My dignity lies in believing that

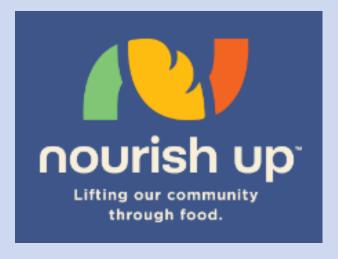
the Colonial period is just this side of being old!

PASSING THE TORCH

We are looking for someone to take over dropping off donations to the new location of Nourish Up once a month.

New location at 901 Carrier Drive, 28216 (zip code)

If you are able to fill this need please reach out to the office.



FRIDAY AFTERNOON GARDEN CLEANUP

Come join us to get your hands dirty. Each Friday starting at 12:30pm Ami-Luise and Marilyn will be working around the property.

We will be meeting for no longer then 2 hours.

We are also looking for brown cardboard for an upcoming garden project. Drop off can be done during office hours and on Sunday mornings.

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

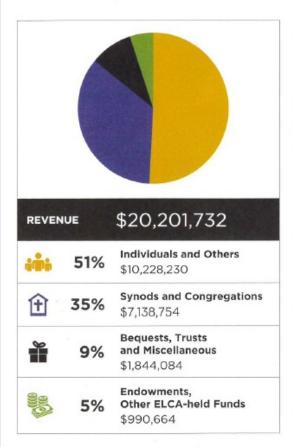
Brunswick Stew \$14.00 per quart

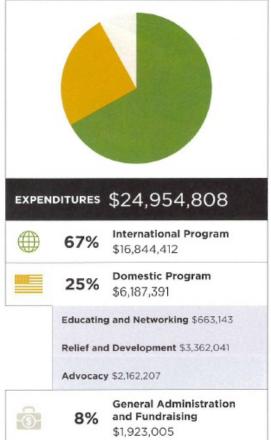
BBQ Sauces \$5.00 a bottle Eastern Mild, Eastern Hot, Western

Please make checks out to Boy Scout Troop 355.

ELCA World Hunger

2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS





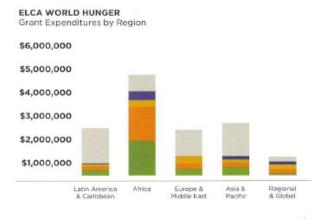
ELCA WORLD HUNGER International Grants by Sector



- Food, Agriculture and Livelihood
- Health
- Education and Vocational Training
- Relief and Preparedness
- Peace, Justice and Human Rights
- Program Services

Note: Expenditures that exceed income are made possible by generosity in previous years.

Unaudited financial highlights for the fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2024.



ELCA.org/hunger

Lutheran Disaster Response

2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

BY SOURCE		\$13,698,753	HIGHLIGHTED EXPENDITURES UNITED STATES		
iii	60%	Individuals and Others \$8,210,536	6	38%	Hurricanes
①	40%	Synods and Congregations \$5,488,217	9	18%	Capacity Building, Core Support, Emotional and Spiritual Care
BY DE	SIGNATION				Spiritual Care
.o.	54%	General Undesignated Support \$7,395,318	44	18%	Wildfires
0	46%	Specific Designated Support	2	16%	Severe Storms, Tornadoes, Floods and Other Disasters
	1070	\$6,303,435	青	6%	Migration
EXPE	IDITURES	\$18,325,596	À	4%	Operations
ву ту	PE			NATIONA	
	62%	International \$11,503,633	T.	50%	Europe and Middle East (war in Ukraine, refugee crisis)
	33%	United States \$6,008,478	-	18%	Africa (drought, conflict, health crisis, hurricane,
0.0	5%	Fundraising and Administration \$813.485	W4 2		refugee crisis) Latin America and Caribbean
BY FU	ND		9%		(earthquake, flood, COVID-19, drought, hurricane, migrants — including AMMPARO)
0	52%	Specific Designated Support \$9,537,810		8%	Asia (flood, disaster preparedness, hurricane, refupee crisis)
_	48%	General Undesignated Support \$8,787,786		8%	Global Grants
٠.٠.			rein .	70/	
٠.٠٠				1%	Operations

FROM BEHIND THE LENS OF "MR.TERRY" CHEVILLE



















































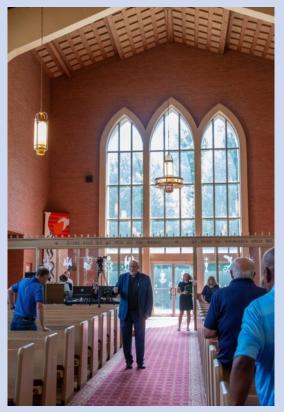














OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

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 77 pounds of food 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



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

Assist M.E.

We take in gently used medical equipment and gift it to low income, uninsured patients in our community.

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 9-12:30pm 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

List of donation needs

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

<u>Unsubscribe</u> | <u>Update Profile</u> | <u>Constant Contact Data Notice</u>



Try email marketing for free today!