
The Encourager



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

January 2025

(Deadline for the upcoming Newsletter submissions is on January 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

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

Click on the buttons below to view reports.

**Admin Support Meeting & Recommendations
December 2025**

SLLC Moving Update from Ami-Lusie

Income Statement

Budget: Year to Date

Income Statement by Month

Moving Forward: The Path Revealed

2025 Budget SLLC & Encouragement Center



In gratitude to God and in thankfulness for our shared ministry and mission across North Carolina, and throughout the world, our congregation intends to provide an investment of:

\$ 14,580 in 2025

which represents 4.5 % of our regular giving.

● This amount is an increase of \$ 1.5% over our share in 2024.

Congregation Name:

St. Lukes Lutheran Church

City:

Charlotte, NC

Primary Contact:

Ami Vucovich

Contact Email:

office@stlukeselca.org

Please return this statement of intent no later than Sunday, December 15, 2024 to Jenny Ramos by emailing to jramos@nclutheran.org or by mail at 1988 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury, NC 28144. You can also fill out online. nclutheran.org/missionsupport



CONGREGATION & WORSHIP LIFE



Watch us on YouTube

Recorded Services on YouTube

We have been having issues with the internet, causing lagging and buffering during the Live Stream.

Please check the recorded service button above.

CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY

January 5th at 10:00am
(Sanctuary)

“Go and Search Diligently”

Main Text: Matthew 2:1-12
(Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

We are following a chronological, narrative book series called “The Story” by Max Lucado, Randy Frazee and Karen Hill.

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 12th at 10:00am
(Sanctuary)

“Called You By Name”

Main Text: Isaiah 43:1-7
(Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

We are following a chronological, narrative book series called “The Story” by Max Lucado, Randy Frazee and Karen Hill.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 19th at 10:00AM
(Sanctuary)

“Activated By One and the Same Spirit”

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
(Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11)

with Noisy Offering - Juvenile Diabetes

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

We are following a chronological, narrative book series called “The Story” by Max Lucado, Randy Frazee and Karen Hill.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 26th at 10:00am
(Sanctuary)

“Strive For the Greater Gifts”

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
(Nehemiah 8:1-8, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-21)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

We are following a chronological, narrative book series called “The Story” by Max Lucado, Randy Frazee and Karen Hill.

Epiphany 2025

"We Act With Great Boldness"

Overall Theme: Christ has come into our world, not just a long time ago in a manger, but through the power of the resurrection he is born in us. We are the Epiphany of Christ in the world today. We are the incarnation of the Word. Where the world packs up the truth of Christmas with the decorations and gets back to way things were, we are called to act with great boldness. What does it mean to act with great boldness? During this Season of Epiphany, we will mine the lectionary scripture for guidance on how we make Christ known to the world through our boldness. We will see how boldness begins first with curiosity. As the Wise Men sought the Christ in the manger, we also seek Christ in our life and circumstances. We will see how we can act with boldness because we have been named and claimed, just as Christ was in his baptism. We will explore the greatest gifts we are to strive for that are activated by the one Spirit that empowers us to act with boldness. The greatest gift is not simply emotion and sentiment. The greatest gift is “telios” perfect love and comes from God. This is the love embodied in Christ. If we are to act boldly, we need to hold firmly to the message we have been given. The boldness with which we act is not grounded only in this life. Always before us is the choice of life and death. Choosing life is always the bold choice. Ultimately, we act with boldness as the image of the one who pioneered the path. We reflect the

boldness of Christ in all we do. That is how we make Christ known to the world. We act with great boldness!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

During service, we are going to be following a chronological, narrative book series called “The Story” by Max Lucado, Randy Frazee and Karen Hill. This book tells the story of the Old and New Testaments.

We are excited to share new songs and puppet skits, along with the stories of the Bible, that lay a foundation of the love of our Heavenly Father and the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

There is an adult novel in this series that you can read if you wish to follow along with the children as well.



2 ADULT SUNDAY BIBLE STUDIES

The Contemporary Bible Class will be led by Phil and Diana Brooks and Tracey Perez and will cover a variety of topics that include Bible studies as well as books and topics dealing with Christian living.

What do the Medieval saint and anchorite, Julian of Norwich, and contemporary queen of rap, Nicki Minaj, have in common? Join us for the new Contemporary Bible Class starting this Sunday at 9 a.m. to find out.

Facilitated by Tracey Perez, this series will dive into Amy Laura Hall’s *Laughing at the Devil: Seeing the World with Julian of Norwich* (no need to purchase or read the book). Hall (Professor of Christian Ethics at Duke Divinity School) engages in personal reflection on the writings of Julian and the similarities between her times and our own. Hall says of Julian: “She wanted people to think, see, sorrow, and laugh at the Devil with her.

This is my invitation . . . to join in this vision.”
Please join us as well!

The Adult Bible Study, led by Joy Cooper, will be a combination of the Ladies and Men's Bible Classes. Their Bible studies will be based on the "Augsburg Adult Bible Studies" series.

Their first topic will be God, Holy Spirit. The aim of these sessions is to examine what the New Testament says about the crucial role of the Spirit in creating the church of God and in nurturing the life of discipleship. The material is by Brian Peterson, who was a member of faculty in Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC at the time of this writing.

This class will meet in Room 106 near the sanctuary from 9:00-9:45am Sundays.

NOISY OFFERING

In December we collected for:

YWCA's Families Together Program

This month we will be collecting for:



Rachel Berry was diagnosed with T1D on December 21, 2011; the day she started her Christmas break in the 7th grade. For several months leading up to that, she had lost around 20 pounds. Mom and dad attributed that weight loss to her playing tennis on the tennis team at school. She would also wake up several times each night to drink water and go to the bathroom. Since her diagnosis, she has endured over 10,000 injections of insulin and over 25,000 fingersticks to check her blood sugar. JDRF supported Rachel the day she was diagnosed with diabetes. A representative met Rachel within her first hours in the hospital. JDRF has helped Rachel by developing new technologies that allow her to better manage her blood sugar. The Berry family continues to support JDRF in hopes that someday soon, a cure will be found.

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is an autoimmune disease that occurs when a person's pancreas stops producing insulin, the hormone that allows the body to get energy from food and controls blood-sugar levels. T1D develops when the insulin-producing pancreatic beta cells are mistakenly destroyed by the body's immune system. The cause of this attack is still being researched; however, scientists believe the cause may have genetic and environmental components. Onset has nothing to do with diet or lifestyle. There is nothing anyone can do to prevent T1D and presently, there is no known cure.

JDRF is driving research forward in two core areas: Cures and Improving Lives

of people burdened by T1D. From funding innovative research to advocating for government action to providing a support structure for our community, no other organization does more to fight T1D than JDRF. The Improving Lives Program is developing drugs, devices, behavioral health interventions, and their combinations, to improve outcomes and quality of life for people with T1D.

Learn more about

Meet our evolved brand: Breakthrough T1D

The organization powering T1D breakthroughs past, present and future

After two years of research and feedback from the type 1 diabetes (T1D) community, we're excited to introduce you to Breakthrough T1D. We are bringing our 50+ year history with us, while aligning our brand with who we are today—the leading global T1D organization working to accelerate life-changing breakthroughs to cure, prevent, and treat T1D and its complications.

“

Our name and look have changed, but our mission has not! We are executing an ambitious plan to drive cures, and our job won't be done until everyone can take their diabetes devices off for good.”

Aaron J. Kowalski, Ph.D.
Breakthrough T1D CEO

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!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Griffin Conner
- 5 Olson Lorminer
- 6 DeeAnne Marlow
- 6 Marty Schmidt
- 6 Michael Vucovich
- 10 Deborah Hager
- 11 Wade Aldred – Pushman
- 13 Annie Lemons
- 13 Bill Baldwin
- 15 Mary Fish
- 20 Gus Chien
- 20 Rob Smith
- 24 Karen Campagna
- 24 Carrie Graves
- 24 Harrison Mueller
- 27 Karen Berry
- 27 Judy Hall
- 30 Jim Lachacz

Katharina Circle

We will be meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 7th at the home of Karen Smith
at 7:00 for an annual planning session.

Anna Vee Circle

The Anna Vee Circle will be meeting on
Tuesday, January 7th at 12pm in the Conference Room.

Lutheran Men In Mission (LMIM)

Please reach out to LMIM for updates.

ST. LUKE'S HAPPENINGS!

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

COPELAND'S CORNER

"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins." (Mark 2:21-22)

What Happens When Old and New Wine are in the Same Skin?

There are churches that have done well retaining their historic roots and skin. There are also churches that have been built from scratch and completely designed and formed to grow with the new community being built. There are less examples, however, of old and new churches dwelling in the same skin. The established church often speaks of their desire for the new, but it comes with the expectation that the skin remain unchanged. The new church will often reject the skin of the established that can be very unflexible and unaccommodating to the different and evolving needs of the new.

Value of Both Old and New: We can see the challenge of old and new in the same skin. Unfortunately, that can lead us to valuing one over the other and creating a competition. If they can't be in the same skin and if you can't sew the new onto the old, then we often think the only answer is for one to win at the expense of the other. If, however, we affirm the value of both the old and the new, then it can be possible for both to be in relationship even if they are not in the same skin. The old brings a unique taste and texture following years of fermenting, just as the established church incorporates wisdom and gifts developed and tested over many years. The new brings an exciting flavor and evolving texture with unrealized possibility. Eventually the new becomes established and needs to make room for a new – new. Though they may be different, they are both of equal value.

Different Skin but The Same Party: St. Luke's is exploring a new and creative way to value both the new and the old without forcing them into the same skin. The New will be held in a new Not For Profit called the Encouragement Center. This new skin will not be focused on holding what we have, rather it will explore how it might grow with what God brings in through the mission of "Sharing God's Love through welcoming, encouraging and serving." The established church will remain in its same skin and provide the stability and support needed for the new to grow and expand in mission, relationship and connection. The New and the Old will be in different skins but will be served at the same party in the same building.

One Office of Pastor – Two Unique Skins Served: The connection and bridge for both the Old and the New will be found through the service of the full-time pastor shared by both. With clear expectations established and responsibilities for both the Encouragement Center and St. Luke's defined, the pastor will be the one who brings both the old and new into relationship as each serves the common mission set before us.

In this newsletter, you will find lots of information on how St. Luke's can operate with two different skins but serve the same mission. You will be introduced to the process that will lead us toward calling a pastor to serve half time with the Encouragement Center NFP and half time as pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church. The decisions needed to establish this relationship and define the position will be shared as will the timeline and steps to move this forward.

Let us pray for God to lead us onto this new path..***God of all time and place, we thank you for the gifts that have brought this congregation thus far in service to your Gospel call. We can see the new all around us that desperately need what we have to offer. Guide us as we provide for both***

the richness of what has been with the possibility of what can be. Lead us that we may serve the fullness of your grace and love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen!

MOVING FORWARD THE PATH REVEALED

God's timing is always amazing! After a call to Danielle DeNise, Director of Evangelical Mission of the NC Synod, the pieces that were missing came into view and the path forward was revealed. She provided clarity to both the Vision and Leadership questions as well as the Financial Resources options available to us. With her help we can begin to prepare for the following:

- **One Full Time Call – Two Distinct Focuses:** Instead of seeking one Full Time Pastor and a Full Time Director of the Encouragement Center, we will seek one Pastor who will serve half time in developing and directing the Encouragement Center and half time in service to the church as the Pastor.
- **Structure and Financial Resources:** Based on experience in settings throughout the country who have done similar moves, we can begin to structure the relationship with the Church and emerging Encouragement Center so that the Encouragement Center becomes the Mission Focus during the week and the Congregation continues to be the Worship Center on Sunday.

Next Steps: With this clarity, we will begin to move forward through the following steps:

- **Establish Not For Profit Status for Encouragement Center:** We will create a Not For Profit under the 501(c)(3) Group Exemption of the ELCA. This will allow the Encouragement Center to secure a separate EIN, provide articles of incorporation and open a number of options for grants. It creates the distinction of both entities while also preserving relationship. **A reversion clause** would be included in the Articles of Incorporation that ensures that all assets of the Encouragement Center would revert to St. Luke's should the corporation be dissolved.
- **Create a MOU (Memorandum of Use):** This document would clarify the relationship between the newly formed Encouragement Center and the congregation. This would include responsibilities, authority and costs related to the building and its management.
- **Job Descriptions:** We will begin to develop job descriptions for the new staffing model. Special attention will be given to the Pastoral Position shared with the Encouragement Center. This Position Description will give clarity to time and responsibilities as half time in both.
- **Applications for Grants and Loans:** We will begin immediate application for two grants.

(1) Michael Peeler Fund: This fund could provide up to \$40,000 a year for

three years to help cover the Encouragement Center Director salary.

(2) ELCA Vitality Fund: This fund through the ELCA could provide an additional \$20,000 for salary for this new mission and position. It also can be applied for each year for 3 years.

(3) Loans and Other Options: We can begin to explore options for lines of credit, loans and other financial resources available to both the church and the newly created Not for Profit.

- **Facility Audit and Recommendations:** It is still important to move forward with a thorough facility audit regarding mechanical and maintenance needs. This includes protentional improvements that could lower costs and improve function and usefulness of the facility for the mission.
- **Welcome Center Plans:** It will be a very important message regarding St. Luke's commitment to the future to affirm the plans presented regarding renovations and improvements. This does not mean that the work needs to move forward before funding is secured. It is an affirmation of the plans. This would include a key decision regarding pews or chairs. It also opens the ability to raise the funds.
- **Call Process for Pastoral Call:** This process would begin in the New Year to identify a Call Committee and write a Ministry Site Profile. This is an important spiritual process. It will be aligned with the above work.

Time Line: Below is a projected timeline for these steps.

- **Immediately Begin Developing:**
 - Establish Not For Profit and Articles of Incorporation
 - Apply for Grants Available for salary and others
 - Facility Audit and Recommendations
 - Develop Memorandum of Use
 - Develop Pastoral Job Description
 - Moving Offices End of December/Beginning of January
- **January Begin Call Committee Selection Process**
- **Presentation to February Congregational Meeting:**
 - Memorandum of Use
 - Job Descriptions
 - Presentation of Architectural Plans for Project Approval
 - Updates and Reports
- **Congregational Meeting to Easter:**
 - Process to Write and Review Ministry Site Profile
 - Install Call Committee Easter Sunday
 - Training of Call Committee scheduled by Synod
 - Decision regarding extending Interim Agreement with Pastor Keith month to month by March 15th or 60-day notice

Copies of the full Transition Plan can be found in the narthex and through the following link online.

NOMINATIONS FOR CALL COMMITTEE SPECIAL E-NEWS COMING JANUARY 15TH

Please watch for a special email inviting the congregation to make nominations for the Call Committee. A Call Process is much more than a job search or to fill a position. The search for a pastor is first and foremost a spiritual endeavor to seek the one God is calling. A special e-news will be coming that will guide you in prayerfully recommending names to be considered to serve on the Call Committee. It is important to remember that:

- **This is not a popularity contest (It is spiritual discernment)**
- **The Council will be recruiting for the Committee after a careful and prayerful process.**
- **If you are asked – consider this an honor and prayerfully consider this a call for your service.**
- **Ongoing prayer will be essential by the congregation**

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 15TH

We are gathering annual reports for submitting to the Congregation at our meeting in February. If you are part of an organization and would like to have a report included in the annual reports to the congregation, please send them to Ami in the office by January 15th.

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.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 355

Barbecue

Boy Scout Troop 355 "Best in the Galaxy" Barbecue

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
3200 Park Rd. Corner of Park and Marsh

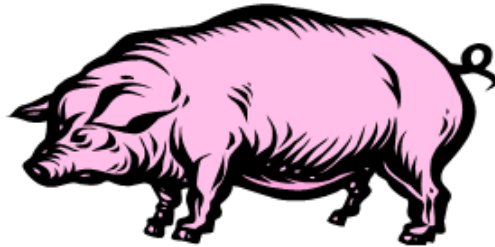
Plates (BBQ, Slaw, Beans): **\$12**
Hickory Smoked BBQ: **\$14.00 per pound**
Brunswick Stew **\$14 per quart**
Red Slaw **\$5.00 per pint**
Barbecue Sauces: **\$5.00 a bottle**
Eastern Mild, Eastern Hot, Western

Friday January 24th

All Items: 11am to 6pm

Saturday, January 25th

Plates: 11am to 2pm & All Other Items: 9:30am to 3:00pm



www.facebook.com/Troop355CharlotteNC

INSTALLATION OF THOMAS JOHNSTON

On January 12th at 3:00pm at St. James Lutheran Church.
Let's support this son of St. Luke's.

ROOM IN THE INN

Despite a few hurdles, our first Room in the Inn took place beautifully on December 15th. Because of the support of so many St. Luke's members we were able to provide a home-cooked meal and a safe, warm bed to 8 neighbors on a cold night. Our guests included six single women and a mother with her teenage son. Our efforts were particularly appreciated by Roof Above, because there were only 4 churches in Charlotte hosting that night.

This was a church-wide effort, and we have so many people to thank. After church that Sunday, we had a group of people come down to help us set up and make up beds as well as tables and chairs and to clean the kitchen. Thank you to Julie Bartlett, Marilyn Schuster, Patsy Shober, the Micci family, the Brooks family, the Behm family (including brother Nick), and Pat Sweet.

Heather Micci once again served as the van driver to pick up our guests from Roof Above center and return them on Monday morning. When our guests arrived that evening, they were greeted by Julie Bartlett and Cindy McKee, who introduced them to our spaces, helped them settle in and meet their individual needs, and then served them delicious hot soup (made by Cindy) and hot beverages as they relaxed before dinner.

The Anna Vee Circle served as the host team to provide dinner and breakfast items for the following morning. They prepared a delicious pasta bar with three different spaghetti sauces to choose from as well as garlic bread, salad, and wonderful desserts of brownies and a cake. There were even gluten free and vegetarian options available. Those members physically present to prepare, serve, and clean up after the meal were Rebekah Woodward, Dreema Brunnemer, Patsy Schober, and David and Pat Sweet. Food prepared by the circle and donated included dishes by these members as well as Cozette Nowack, Janet Eve, Pam Moser, Marilyn Schuster, and Brenda Shuping. Fancita Lorimer provided lunches for all of the guests to take with them when they left the next morning. Brooks Frick signed up for lemonade, tea, ice, and water. She even bought enough water to last us the entire season! (Thanks, Brooks!). Sofie Merritt, Phil and Diana Brooks' granddaughter, provided extra hands the whole night to set the table, prepare the lunches for distribution, pack the breakfast items, serve food, and help wherever needed.

A special thanks is extended to Paul Sullivan and Rob Llewellyn who served as overnight hosts and who coordinated the morning's breakfasts, breaking down the cots and tables, packing away all of the items used, and escorting our guests to the van for their return trip to Roof Above.

As you can see, it's a massive undertaking requiring the help of many people. Thank you , St. Luke's, for your continued support of this important ministry. We were reminded of the significant impact on the lives of our homeless neighbors when we were leaving for the night. Several of our guests stopped us to say,"Thank you for doing this for us. May God bless all of you." Those words were followed by a big hug. That hug was meant for you, St. Luke's. What a wonderful way to share God's love!

Phil & Diana Brooks

NEXT RITI WILL BE JAN. 19th.

Sign - Up Genius will be sent out next week.

A NOTE FROM MELBA & JOE ISLEY

Dear Members and Friends at St. Luke's,

Joe's brother, Ronnie, peacefully entered The Church Triumphant on December 21st, and a service celebrating his life was held on December 27, 2024 in Burlington, NC. Your thoughts, prayers, and notes were such a comfort to us all as we walked with him on his final journey in this life. Thank you all for your support.

Melba & Joe Isley

SUBMITTED BY TOM AINSWORTH

Well, Christmas Day came and went quickly just like any other day, but I hope you spent it with family and/or friends who made its passing seem longer than the ordinary day. Now on to January and a brand new year. I'll admit that I'm not looking forward to a change in Presidential Administrations, especially since Canada, Panama and Greenland are already crossing us off their friends list and I was hoping for a pleasant trip to Quebec City this next year. But there's nothing I can do about it short of shaking my head and rolling my eyes. I know that change is inevitable, but I just hope it's not too radical. I like to ease into change gradually and allow different circumstances to settle in at a leisurely pace, not suddenly and violently. The older I get, the more I appreciate the status quo. That's not to say that I don't like new relationships or experiences to come into my life which greatly enhance its meaning and make life worth living, only that I relish a daily routine that I can rely on. There's a lot to be said for having a set routine to go by every day; it's normalcy which makes you feel secure, and there's a lot to be said for having a sense of security. We have to have people or things in our life which we can depend on, and that we know will be there when we need them. We need to know that we can always get a cup of coffee in the morning to start our day off with essential caffeine surging through our blood vessels; that our car will start without some warning light going off and potentially costing hundreds of dollars to fix; that the police lights and sirens in our rear view mirror are for the car up ahead, and not for us; that our place of employment hasn't burned down in the middle of the night (and that we weren't the cause); that our favorite TV shows haven't been canceled or reached the end of their run and are going off; that the weekend will always arrive when it is supposed to so that we can collapse and recharge; and that we always have St. Luke's to be there when we need to regain our sense of direction. We have lots of things in our life which help us regain our center or our spiritual compass, so lets try and keep those going in the coming year as best we can.

BOTTLES FOR BOONE SERVICE PROJECT



**FROM BEHIND THE LENS
OF "MR.TERRY" CHEVILLE**

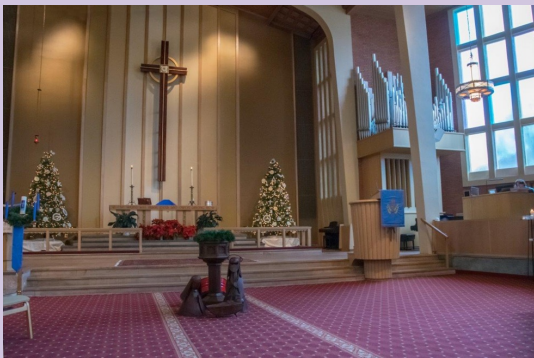
















**A Special Edition will be coming out next week
with photos from Christmas Eve.**

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.

When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need



NOURISH UP

Last month we donated 203 pounds of items to help our neighbors!

THANK YOU to David & Pat Sweet for dropping off the donations.

OUR PRIORITY NEEDS

Please no glass containers.



nourish up
Lifting our community
through food.

formerly Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays



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



beans
canned or dry



peanut butter



rice



diapers and wipes

Visit nourishup.org for more information about how you can get involved.

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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