

The Encourager



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

June 2022

(Deadline for July's Newsletter submissions is on June 22nd!)

ST. LUKE'S HAPPENINGS!

ST. LUKE'S GRADUATES 2022



Hannah Berry

Graduated from Towson University in Towson, Maryland.

Received a Master's Degree in Forensic Science.

5/24/2022

Will be continuing her research on DNA extraction from bone fragments.



Cameron Lachacz

Graduating from the United States Navy Boot Camp and
United States Submarine School
3/18/2022 and 5/20/2022

Training to become a Missile Technician.



Seth Lachacz

Graduating from UNC Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Science in Biology
5/7/2022

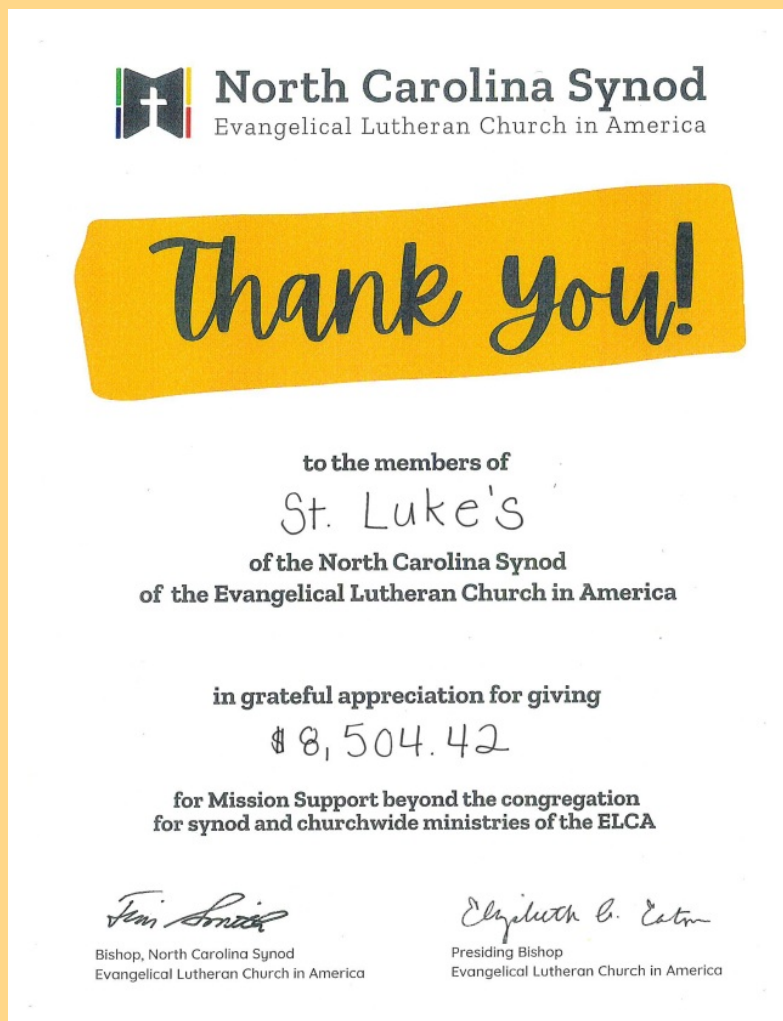
A LETTER FROM ROOF ABOVE

We wanted to share this letter with the Congregation

A letter from Roof
Above



FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA SYNOD



FROM BEHIND THE LENS OF

"MR. TERRY" CHEVILLE









**SOME OF OUR ST. LUKE'S KIDDOS
ALL GROWN UP!**



RACIAL JUSTICE ONLINE BOOK STUDY



Are you ready for another book?? Join us for a 6 week study. This book may be just what you need to continue your journey to become an ally to our brothers and sisters who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color - BIPOC, to learn more about this topic, or to join in fellowship with your faith family as we work for racial justice in our churches and our country.

We will begin on June 16, 2022 and continue through July 21, 2022. You can join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom.

SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE, by Ijeoma Oluo

So You Want to Talk About Race is a 2018 non-fiction book written by **Ijeoma Oluo**, an American author of Nigerian descent whose columns and news articles on race have appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Stranger*, and *Jezebel*, among other places. The title gestures to the **discourse** that is necessary to combat racial oppression in the United States. The book made *Bustle*'s list of 14 recommended debut books by women as well as *Harper's Bazaar*'s list of the 10 best new books of 2018. It was a *New York Times* bestseller. In her candid introduction to race and racism in America, Oluo frames each chapter as a question, which she explains and unpacks, interweaving personal experiences with critical terms and issues (quote from supersummary.com)

We welcome your participation! The sign up link is below. You can email Pam Petry at ppinncc@gmail.com with any questions.

From your racial justice book study leadership team,

Pam Petry, Beverly Foster

Pastor Ward Misenheimer, Pastor Molly Kuekes, Pastor John Petry

Sign-Up for book
study

SEMINARIAN CORNER WITH THOMAS JOHNSTON



I went on a trip to Israel-Palestine with a group from school, and one of the things that I learned was the messiness of co-existence. The messy reality of co-existence is not only between Israelis and Palestinians, but this messiness also exists within Christianity itself and within the three Abrahamic religions. There is a web of interconnectedness between these three levels of complexities, and for the most part, these complex relationships exist beside each other. Different historical Christian traditions occupy the same holy space and manage their own affairs without imposing their views on the others, while Jews and Muslims occupy the same land. An example of this latter case is Mount Hebron. There is a mosque that shares the same land as the synagogue, and both the mosque and the synagogue share the same tombs of the patriarchs and matriarchs. However, Israeli Security controls the checkpoints for both entrances, which instills a degree of fear for Arab citizens. I also experienced a similar element of fear when the electricity didn't work as we left the mosque. This experience provided a glimpse of what the Arab citizens who live near Mount Hebron experience daily. There is no easy solution or fix to the problem within Israel-Palestine. The land exists in a stark both Israeli and Palestinian; Christian, Jewish, and Muslim; and oppressed and oppressor simultaneously. There is no immediate solution in sight. What we can do is pray. Pray for Jerusalem. Pray for Israel-Palestine. Pray for peace.

Salaam and Le Shukran,

Peace and Thank you in Arabic

FLOWER CHART TEMPORARILY RELOCATED

Due to the pandemic restricted activity in the office space where the flower chart is usually found it has been relocated temporarily to the narthex for the convenience of our worshipping community.

Please note there are lots of opportunities available for you to purchase flowers in honor or memory or thanksgiving of loved ones, friends, or simply to Give Glory to God.

Please contact Pam Moser if you have any questions about purchasing flowers, otherwise simply sign up on the date you would like, and Pam will contact you to remind you of the occasion.



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.



Email the
Office

GIVING THROUGH VENMO

Our Venmo account is live!

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](#)

Katarina Circle

The Katarina Circle will June 7 at Allie Lemons home.

McCauley Diehl Circle

The McCauley Diehl Circle will be meeting in the Conference Room on June 7, 2022 at 12:00 pm

Lutheran Men In Mission (LMIM)

The Lutheran Men in Mission will meet in the Conference Room on June 8, 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.

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.

We will teach you how to run our video, sound or both.

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 EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE



Many of you are torn on what to do over the plight of the people of Ukraine under these circumstances. The ELCA Disaster Response is a good way to help financially.

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](#)



HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

Host an exchange student

- Be a World Ambassador
- New International Family
- Learn About New Cultures
- Create Memories
- Volunteerism
- Diversity
- Forever Global Friends



Dear CMS Family,

After 2 years, we are able to place exchange students once more in CMS High Schools! We are looking for families interested in hosting a high school student for the 2022/23 academic year. Ask for our FAQ sheet on hosting, or attend a Zoom informational meeting this week! CAUTION: The life you change, could be your own!

Ms. Crystal Pope, Behavior specialist

For details contact:

Ms. Pope, Quail Hollow Middle
CPope.SMG@gmail.com or
Deby Sorensen, Regional Director
deby@student-management.com
Talk/Text: 706-202-1550



SMG
STUDENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

CMS are looking for host families for exchange students for the upcoming school year.

Deby Sorensen will be hosting Zoom meetings to offer an overview of hosting along with a Q&A session for anyone interested in hosting.
Every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday evening at 7 pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81729246902?
pwd=WjNQZk1NWGdWcitVai9heFRINUJ4dz09](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81729246902?pwd=WjNQZk1NWGdWcitVai9heFRINUJ4dz09)

Meeting ID: 817 2924 6902

Passcode: HostingSMG

To contact Deby Sorensen directly for more information or questions please use the button below

Contact Deby
Sorensen

CONGREGATION
&

WORSHIP LIFE

LAST MONTH IN A GLANCE

Our Sharing OFFERINGS

	MAY 2022	YTD
Contributions	\$22,963.00	\$263,985.00
Facility Income	\$6,890.00	\$32,988.00
Worship	\$20.00	\$586.00
Relational Ministry	\$0.00	\$100.00
Outreach Ministry	\$522.00	\$3,153.00
Property	\$695.00	\$1,645.00

SPENDING

	MAY 2022	YTD
Administration	\$27,793.00	\$138,374.00
Worship	\$57.13	\$2,151.00
Relational Ministry	\$0.00	\$3,449.00
Outreach Ministry	\$531.00	\$2,821.00
Property	\$6,932.00	\$46,228.00

KATHY WEST'S FAREWELL & GODSPEED

This Sunday, June 5, 2022 will be Kathy's Farewell & Godspeed during our service with a small reception after in the Parish Hall.

NOISY OFFERING

In May we collected for :

ELCA World Hunger



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



**Creatively and
courageously working
toward a just world
where all are fed**

Thanks to your Noisy Offering we raised
\$ 194

This month we will be collecting for:

Crisis Assistance Ministry



Mission

The mission of Crisis Assistance Ministry is to provide assistance and advocacy for people in financial crisis, helping them move toward self-sufficiency.

Vision

Our vision is to inspire our community to justice and generosity as we provide help, hope, and understanding to people struggling with limited financial resources.

The mission of Crisis Assistance is to provide assistance and advocacy for people in financial crisis, helping them move toward self-sufficiency.

Betsy was a regional manager for a large phone company and had a stable life. She rarely had to worry about paying her bills or how she was going to put food on the table. **Her reality changed in an instant when she got the call that she was furloughed.** When the shock of that wore off, she got a retail job to stay afloat. It was a bit like starting over, but she kept pushing through. Until another unexpected evening phone call laid her off from that job too. Betsy was at a loss for what to do next, but she needed to be strong for her three children ages 10, 14, and 16, and her elderly mother. She applied for unemployment and began job hunting. Still, she fell further behind on her rent and utility bills. Her leasing manager referred her to Crisis Assistance.

Betsy was nervous when applying for assistance because it was unfamiliar and outside of her comfort zone to ask for help. **Donations from people like you allowed Betsy and her family to stay in their home with running water and power. That generosity was just the hope she needed to move out of her fear and build a new path to opportunity.** Betsy found a new job before long. But she never wanted to be in that kind of crisis again. She enrolled in the Economic Mobility program and worked one-on-one with a specialist to plan for the future. Betsy knew that *"If I didn't learn how to make changes in my budgeting and finances, I would be in the same position again."* She says the constant encouragement of her Economic Mobility Specialist Randee, helped her stay focused on her goals.

Nowadays, Betsy tracks her spending in her planner with different colored pens to stay on track. And every week, she shares what she learned with her kids. They all have bank accounts and they fill out the ledgers and analyze their spending weekly together. They work together as a family to hold each other accountable and work toward their financial goals.

Your donation changed my life and my children's lives.- Betsy

More information about Crisis Assistance Ministry can be found by clicking the button below.

Crisis Assistance
Ministry



The Flower Chart is updated for 2022 and 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.



DAY OF PENTECOST - June 5 at 10:00 am

THE HOLY TRINITY - June 12 at 10:00 am

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - June 19 at 10:00 am

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - June 26 at 10:00 am

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

[YouTube Channel](#)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Did we miss your birthday?

- 1 Pam Atinga
- 2 Rebekah Woodward
- 2 Diana Brooks

Email us
or
call us at
704-523-7981
so we can update our Birthday List.

Email the
office

4 John Brzorad
4 Sarah Ingold
4 Michael McCall
5 Todi Frick
6 Bonnie Jones
6 Kevin Lynch
6 Karen Weston-Chien
8 Debbie Thalmann
9 Wesley Stolen
9 Arden Wales
10 Katie Gilliland
11 Tom Ainsworth
13 Caroline Lemons
17 Duncan Ritchie
19 Riley Gilliland
20 Charlie Phillips
21 Dale Bartlett
21 Charles Mock
22 Meghan Flack
24 Tracey Perez
25 Patrick Lemons
26 Keever Howard
27 Pete Schmidt
30 Rocky Perez

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.

May Council
Minutes

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN JULY

This year we will be meeting on Sunday, July 10, 2022.

It will be in the Sanctuary after the morning service.

This meeting will be informational in nature and no voting is done.

