

The Encourager



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

April 2021

Pondering Pastor



Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed!!! Alleluia!

Jesus, having been crucified, was no longer constrained by a closed-up tomb in which his lifeless body was laid. Easter is the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord, risen from the grave, alive again! Alleluia!

In a lot of ways, we are beginning to get glimpses of what it feels like to have less and less constraints on us due to the pandemic. With our population getting vaccinated, mindful people continuing to cooperate on the importance of good social distancing protocols, and the change in seasons the feeling that we might soon emerge from the euphemistic closed-up tomb (the world of quarantine and social restrictions) to feel "alive" again as a society, feels closer and closer upon us.

I hope and pray that is true. I look forward to rediscovering what it feels like to worship together in our sanctuary and chapel. I look forward to experiencing anew sitting with you at table to enjoy Friendship Room after worship on Sunday. I look forward to regathering with you in-person to enjoy your mask-free face and the delight of our conspicuous smiles to one another. Yet, even with such hope and expectation I want us all to continue to be mindful of the reality in which we exist: COVID-19 still poses a threat.

Let us remember, even after the women jubilantly ran back to tell the disciples of Jesus of their discovery, that the tomb was empty, it was a little time before they met up with the risen Christ Jesus in Galilee. So, too, it will be just a little time longer before we are reacquainted with what life will look like post-pandemic. To that end let us spend these next moments, weeks, and perhaps even months with patient and hopeful expectancy for what our life together will be very soon when we are reunited as the whole people of God at St. Luke's. Meanwhile, have a blessed Easter season!

Peace, Pastor Jeffrey Ingold

St. Luke's Announcements!

40 DAYS OF GIVING – WORLD HUNGER DEVOTIONAL APPEAL



As I reflect on the devotional series, I offered throughout Lent, I am overwhelmed by your acceptance of the challenge to grow more knowledgeable about world hunger, and to consider ways for us to act together to address the crisis.

As of this writing \$2,575 has been given by many of you toward clean water projects, livestock and bees, and support which will all go through ELCA World Hunger to help people caught in unfortunate circumstances to experience hope. If you have not yet please return your coin collection boxes as soon as possible.

The following are comments provided by participants:

"I read your daily devotions and the study book, and found both helpful and hopeful. I am even more overwhelmed by the complexities of making any difference at the roots of the problem, however. I enjoyed coloring the box. Each day I place a \$5 bill in the box and pray for those suffering with hunger and for all people like me who have food to share and to find solutions. At the end of Lent, I'll go online to Good Gifts with him and make the donation to contribute 2 pigs, 2 goats, 20 chicks, and honeybees. I also donated \$100 for fresh water when you suggested it in the devotions."

"It is so very sad that we have this all over the world and even the USA, the richest country. I have gone into the gifts and had thoughts of chickens, goats, etc, and the gift you are giving. It's hard to decide when you live alone and don't have someone to offer their suggestions and you decide together...there are a lot of us in this predicament, and so many decisions to make in life. Most of the time, I would say to myself, what would my spouse do? Would it be a cow? Would it be the water problem? I have just decided to write a check to ELCA World Hunger and let them put the money where it is most needed."

"My siblings and I have been giving each other goats, chickens, bees, etc. for Christmas for the past few years. When the pandemic shut us down, I started giving a monthly gift to Lutheran World Relief and hope to continue that at least throughout the rest of this year. When we started making sandwiches for Roof Above, I also started giving a monthly gift to them. Once I started seeing the many references in scripture to caring for the widows and orphans (Bishop Tim's Isaiah study has been emphasizing this), doing justice, and loving mercy, I felt called to help locally and around the world. Giving to help others through these organizations is a way for me to share the gifts God has given me and to participate in God's Kingdom here on earth."

-Pastor Jeffrey Ingold

WORSHIP DURING HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday – On-Line Only

Pastor Jeffrey Ingold will host a devotional gathering on ZOOM at 7:00 p.m. The link has been sent by email to your inbox.

Good Friday – In-Person and Streaming

We will gather in the sanctuary to observe the tradition of the Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m. **PLEASE REGISTER ON SIGN-UP GENIUS** or call the church office: 704-523-7981.

Easter – In-Person and Streaming

We will gather in the sanctuary for the Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday at 10:00 a.m. **PLEASE REGISTER ON SIGN-UP GENIUS** or call the church office: 704-523-7981.

One of our most loved times together each Easter is the gathering for the Blooming of the Cross. This year we ask that you bring flowers, and maybe greenery, that can be a part of this celebration. Mark and Sandie Fenton, along with Wes and Taylor Stolen, will be at the cross at 9am to help and assist you in any way they can. Please take an opportunity to get your Easter family photos before and after services.

We will have more chairs in the front of sanctuary for Easter to help with proper and safe distancing. Please, if asked, be willing to come forward to help make sure that all of our attendees are safely seated.

We are very excited to Celebrate this special Festal Day with each of you!

[Good Friday Sign-Up](#)

[Easter Sign-Up](#)

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday/Passion of Our Lord Sunday

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, the people who greeted him expected a powerful hero. They did not understand that Jesus' power was not physical strength, but the power of love.

Maundy Thursday

Jesus showed us that we are to remember him and follow his example of caring for and serving others. We remember him in the gift of bread and wine that becomes the body and blood of Christ in promise. It is the time when we know Jesus is present with us.

At the time of the Last Supper, we see Jesus' example of humbly serving others in love in his washing of the disciples' feet.

Good Friday

Jesus proclaimed God's forgiveness from the cross as he was dying. He forgave Peter, who had denied him, and those who caused his death, and he will forgive us for all that we do that hurts others. That's why Good Friday is good. As God was with Jesus in his suffering, God is with us when we suffer.

ROOF ABOVE LUNCHES

Can you believe that our previous Bagged Lunch Project fed over 200 people? WOW!

Our next day for making lunches for our homeless neighbors is **Sunday, April 11th**. There have been some changes made to the Sign-Up Genius. Please click the button to access the Sign-Up. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!



[Learn More About Roof Above](#)

[Sign Up Genius](#)

\$2,000 DONATION RECIEVED!

Boy Scout Troop #355, which meets at St. Luke's, had its annual fund-raiser recently. After they produced in our kitchen and Parish Hall thousands of pounds of delectable BBQ and awesome sauces, savory slaw, and banana pudding that will drive your taste buds bananas, the Troop donated \$2,000 to St. Luke's. We are grateful for their generosity!

[What's going on at St. Luke's?](#)



Thank you from the staff!

A HUGE thank you to EVERYONE that sent the staff cards over the last month!! The cards truly brought us many smiles. (Some are even posted in the office!) We are thankful for your support and thoughtfulness!

A thank you to the St. Luke's family

I want to Thank my St Luke's Family for their cards and calls of condolences that I received after my Blessed Mother's sudden passing. Your words and phone calls were lovely and meant a lot to me and Tony during this very difficult time

God Bless You All
Vilma & Tony

Kind words

To the congregation and staff of St. Luke's: Thank you so much for the worship service yesterday. It was so meaningful and invigorating. What a blessing to stumble upon such a friendly group of people. A real blessing to me it was. It brought tears to my eyes to be back in a traditional Lutheran Church setting--the liturgy, the congregation, the traditional hymns and the pipe organ. This past year of quarantining has starved me of connection in an environment that I once knew and longed to find again. Thank you again.

Blessings, Mark Fox

Thank you for all you do!

A special thank you to Marilyn Schuster, Terry Cheville, and Patsy Schober for all they do to keep the Children's Sunday School up and running. They work tirelessly to keep the children engaged and learning! Great job!





Staff Luncheon

Thank you to Rebekah Woodward and Pam Moser for setting up and providing a wonderful lunch for the staff! Beautiful AND delicious!



Get Ready to release the "Alleluia" from the tomb!

On Transfiguration Sunday Rachel, Charlie, Wade, Nicholas, Lucille, George and McAllister helped our congregation virtually *Bury the Alleluia* in preparation for the season of Lent. Traditionally we suspend the use of the word Alleluia during Lent as it is a word with the Easter event. Pictured here with their homemade tombs, we were able to engage the children even during this pandemic in this sacred ritual. This month, April, we will bring those Alleluias back to life, release them from their burial places, and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ waving our Alleluia ribbons all the while! Thanks be to God!!! Christ is risen, Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Ask Mother Nature

IS THERE ANY KITCHEN WASTE I CAN USE IN MY GARDEN?

Dear Mother Nature, I am a first time gardener and am wondering if there is any use for my kitchen waste. What can and cannot be used?
-Novice Gardener



Dear Novice Gardener:

I am so pleased to learn that you are interested in becoming a gardener. If you are fortunate to have a yard, you could purchase a composter and “feed” it vegetable and fruit peels, etc. Do not compost meat or chicken bones, citrus fruits or anything with seasoning added to it. Worms love torn shreds of newspaper too. In a short time you will have rich compost to add to your garden. There are many websites that have info on how to compost.

If you are gardening in raised beds or pots, think egg shells and coffee and tea grounds. Egg shells are an excellent source of calcium for tomatoes and roses and also are a deterrent to slugs and snails. Place rinsed egg shells in a tray on top of the ‘frig and within a day or two are dried enough to crush or grind. The crushed egg shells can be placed around roses and plants in a pot or in the ground. Slugs and snails don’t like to go across them. If you grow tomatoes, put your egg shells in a coffee grinder and grind to a powder and then place about a teaspoon in the hole when you plant your tomatoes and work into the soil. Plants purchased in small pots need to be planted deep meaning the first bract of leaves should be planted almost level with the soil.

Coffee and tea grounds can also be sprinkled around plants in pot or in the ground to deter slugs and snails. Because coffee grounds are very acidic do not work into the soil.

Good luck! Keep those questions coming, Mother Nature



Bunny Patrol

The Bunny Patrol has been visiting some of our homebound folks via Zoom. Virginia Floyd, Anna Vee Rice, Elsie Robinson, Eva Franz, and Betty Paysinger and Julia Passmore were all thrilled to see Bunnies Fancita Lorimer, Karen Smith, Sandie Fenton, and Rebekah Woodward and enjoyed favorite hymns the choir recorded especially for them. Once again, Pat Thorne's daughter, Becky Tin arranged for the Bunnies to see her mom in person. Mark Fenton joined the Patrol when we visited Pat and even donned bunny ears for the occasion! 🐰



Top photo: Left to right - Pat Thorne (and her dog, Gracie), Fancita Lorimer, Sandie and Mark Fenton, Rebekah Woodward, Karen Smith
Bottom photo: Pat Thorne

Connie Counts Circle

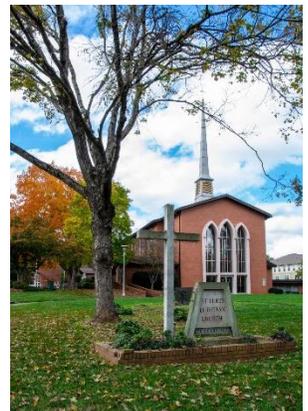
Connie counts circle is not meeting until our church opens for worship and meetings.

St. Luke's Green Team

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THIS HARDWORKING GROUP THAT TAKES PRIDE IN MAKING OUR GROUNDS BEAUTIFUL?

Mark Fenton and his harem of 'young at heart women', **Fancita Lorimer**, **Marilyn Schuster** and wife **Sandie** and, occasionally our neighbor **Al Dowsom**, have been hard at work this past month digging and pulling weeds and trimming shrubbery and raking fall leaves and etc., etc., etc. We know you have your own yard to take care of too, but folks we are talking about our very visible church at the corner of Marsh & Park Road where 100's of cars, trucks and buses pass by every single day. We need help showing pride in our church and make it welcoming to all!!!

Boy Scout Troop #355 has offered their assistance on a Saturday and we plan to take advantage of their generous offer! **HOW ABOUT YOU??** If you can help out just one Saturday or any other week day, let me know. Surely there are some St. Luke's members that can spare a few hours once or twice a year. Don't forget fathers and sons that we will soon have 10 cubic yards of wood chips to spread. **THINK ABOUT IT AND CALL OR TEXT ME OR EMAIL ME AT 803.230.1726** or msfenton@gmail.com. Can't wait to hear my phone buzzing with offers of help!



Sandie Fenton