
The Encourager



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

November 2025

(Deadline for the upcoming Newsletter submissions is on November 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

President: Lisa Rhyne

Secretary: Tom Ainsworth

Treasurer: Phil Brooks

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

Click on the buttons below to view reports.

SLLC October Council Minutes

October Admin Support

**SLLC Council Minutes Special Meeting w/ Call
Committee**

SLLC Income Statement

Encouragement Center Income Statement

Combined Income Statement

Driveway Painting

2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Amendments to
Constitution

2026 Budget Draft

2026 Working Budget - SLLC

2026 Working Budget - Encouragement Center

2026 Working Budget - Combined

CONGREGATION & WORSHIP LIFE



Watch us on YouTube

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 2nd at 10:00am
(Sanctuary)

Contemporary Bible Class: Bible Basics
Conference Room at 9:00am near the Parish Hall.

Children's Church: Fruit of the Spirit

"One Body, Many Saints"

In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints "who from their labors rest." In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today's gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior's body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God's glory.

22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 9th at 10:00am
(Sanctuary)

Contemporary Bible Class: Bible Basics
Conference Room at 9:00am near the Parish Hall.

Children's Church: Fruit of the Spirit

"Easter Echoes Every Week"

We worship on the first day of the week because Jesus was raised on that day. Every Sunday is a little Easter. This Sunday feels more like Easter than many as the appointed texts celebrate the reality of the resurrection. Live it up this Lord's day. Our God is the God of the living.

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 16th at 10:00am
(Sanctuary)

Contemporary Bible Class: Bible Basics
Conference Room at 9:00am near the Parish Hall.

Children's Church: Fruit of the Spirit

with Noisy Offering: *Global Refuge*
(Formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services)

"Baptized for These Days"

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The

tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

CHRIST THE KING

November 23rd at 10:00am
(Sanctuary)

Contemporary Bible Class: Bible Basics
Conference Room at 9:00am near the Parish Hall.

Children's Church: Fruit of the Spirit

"Love Reigns from the Cross"

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30th at 10:00am
(Sanctuary)

Contemporary Bible Class: Bible Basics
Conference Room at 9:00am near the Parish Hall.

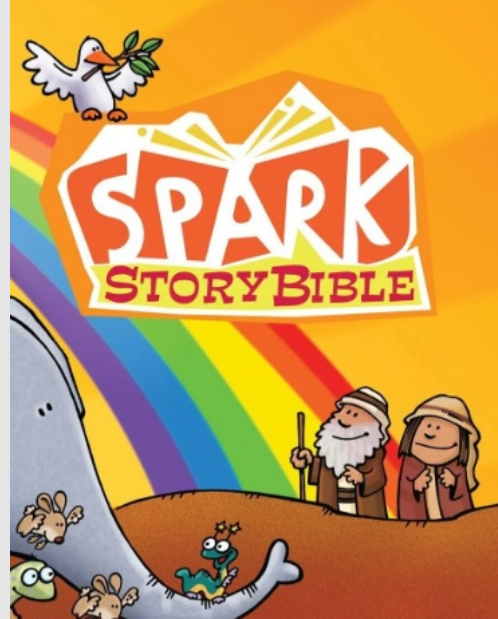
Children's Church: Fruit of the Spirit

"Awake for His Coming"

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

FALL PROGRAMING FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Join us on Sunday's as we learn
about the
Fruit of the Spirit.



ADULT CONTEMPORARY BIBLE CLASS

The Contemporary Bible Class will be meeting in the Conference Room on Sunday's at 9:00am near the Parish Hall. Rather than studying the scriptures, we will be stepping back and studying the Bible itself.

What is it? How did it come to be? How is it structured?

What is its value to the world and to us?

This is based on a Lutheran series by Augsburg Press and includes short DVD's. It is thought provoking and sometimes challenging.

Everyone is invited to this series. Come grow with us!

FALL FRIENDSHIP ROOM IS BACK

Join us after Sunday service for coffee and light refreshments and fellowship. Each month in the newsletter will be communicating about hosting.

A key part of sharing God's love through Welcoming!

November 2nd - Moser family

November 9th - Bartlett family

November 16th - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

NOISY OFFERING

In October we collected for:

2025 CROP HUNGER WALK SUPPORTING CWS



This month we will be collecting for:



Global Refuge

We are a church that does God's work in the world and in local communities pursuing justice, peace and human dignity for and with all people.

This ongoing partnership and work is driven by God's love for all people and a vision for congregations to be welcoming and generous centers for mission and ministry.

Since 1939, Global Refuge has provided welcome and hope to more than three quarters of a million refugees. We are transforming lives and empowering New Americans with support and resources to begin anew. Our legacy of compassionate service has made a difference in the lives of more than 800,000 people who have sought safety and hope in America's communities. Our history reflects our own deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those who are most in need.

[Click to learn more about Olesia and Kira's Story](#)

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@stlukeaselca.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!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 2 Jordan Davis
- 2 Cameron Lachacz
- 5 Chris Aldred
- 5 Vanessa Infanzon
- 8 Samuel Hofland
- 11 Michael Behm
- 11 Emma Campagna
- 11 Margo Wasil
- 12 Pam Moser
- 12 Auggie Mueller
- 12 Margo Wasil
- 18 John McClave

19 Cooper Wasil
20 Joy Cooper
20 Julius Lorimer
30 Joel Moser

If we have missed your birthday, please reach out to the office.

Katharina Circle

Katharina Circle will be meeting on November 4th
in the Conference Room at 7:00pm.
We will be meeting in the Schumacher Community Room and RITI
kitchen.

Anna Vee Circle

The Anna Vee Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, November 4th
from 11am to 1pm in the Unity Lounge.

Lutheran Men In Mission (LMIM)

Please reach out to LMIM for updates.

ST. LUKE'S HAPPENINGS!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 16th



**Council has set a Congregational Meeting for
Sunday, November 16th after the service.**

The purpose of the meeting is to elect Council members, approve a 2026 budget, and conduct other business as needed.

If you are contacted and asked to consider serving on Council, please

prayerfully consider serving in this vital capacity.

Any current Council member will be happy to talk with anyone who has questions or is interested in serving on Council.

AS WE ENTER FALL YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS NEEDED BY THE CHURCH

Just like there are ongoing costs at home when you go on vacation, the same is true for this community of faith. We need your continued generosity throughout the summer as we continue to serve at home in the name of Christ.

Online Giving: Setting up a recurring contribution is easy and a true blessing to the church. You can do so through your bank or set one up through APLOS. ***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@stlukeselca.org or phone 704-523-7981.
You can also contact Kathy West at west@stlukeselca.org.***

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



On this very special Sunday we will remember with affection all those saints in our lives who have gone before us in faith to their eternal life.

A table will be provided by the baptism font for members to place photographs of your own beloved saints as a special observation of their important role in your life of faith.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee has concluded its discerning conversations, and after a period of reflection and prayer, the committee has been led to one person that we feel is being prepared to be our next pastor.

We are excited that the Call Committee has asked that person be our Primary Candidate, and the distinction has been accepted.

Being a Primary Candidate means that we will not meet with other candidates, and the candidate will not meet with other churches.

Last night the Chair and Secretary of the Call committee met with Council in a special called meeting to make our recommendation and discuss the candidate's qualifications and reasons we feel this should be our next pastor.

Our recommendation was unanimously accepted.

The Council will now continue the process by meeting with the candidate. If discussions are agreeable to both sides, we will schedule opportunities to meet and greet our potential new pastor and schedule a meeting for a vote by the congregation.

The Lord is working among us and, we ask you to continue your prayers for this process.

SHARE GOD'S WORDS BEYOND OUR WALLS

Each week, our Live Stream helps bring worship to those who can't be with us in person — reaching members at home, in care facilities, and even across the country.

This ministry extends the love and message of Christ far beyond our sanctuary, connecting hearts and lifting spirits wherever people may be.

We're looking for a few passionate volunteers to join this vital ministry!

No technical experience is needed — just a willing heart, a steady hand, and a desire to serve. We'll provide training and support.

If you can click a few buttons, pay attention during worship, and want to help share God's Word with others, this could be your calling!

Starting this month, we will be switching to a simple version.

Click the button below to view the step-by-step instructions.

[Sound Board: Step-by-step](#)

[Live Stream: Step-by-step](#)



VOLENTEER OPPORTUNITY SUNDAY MORNING

We are looking for help in these following areas:

- Organ button pusher - *most vital part of Sunday worship*
- Lay Reader
- Assisting Minister
- Communion Assistant

Please reach out to the office.

November Organ Pusher

11/2: Ami-Luise Vucovich

11/9: Chris Micci

11/16: Tony & Vilma Lee

11/23: Chris Micci

11/30: Ami-Luise Vucovich



MILES MICCI EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

[Click here donate](#)

Hello, I am completing my Eagle Scout Project in collaboration with Roof Above, and I would love your support.

Roof Above is a Charlotte non-profit that seeks to provide services and housing to our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Troop 275 (Palmetto Council Indian Land, SC) will be congregating at St. Luke's in the Parrish Hall on December 7th at 1PM to help me assemble Welcome Home and Fresh Start Kits for clients of Roof Above who are moving into and maintaining more permanent housing.

Members of St. Luke's have helped with Roof Above in the past and will again this winter with our Room in the Inn program. If you are able to help sponsor me with some of the cleaning products for my kits, please sign up by clicking the button above.

If you would like to give a monetary contribution, my Troop has a non-profit account to receive funds. You can provide a check made payable to "Indian Land Scouting" with memo line "Micci Eagle Project" to me at church or give to the office, and I can provide a tax deductible receipt for your contribution.

I'm hoping to have all contributions brought to St. Lukes
by November 23rd.

Your prayers, as I lead the boys on this mission,
are also greatly appreciated.



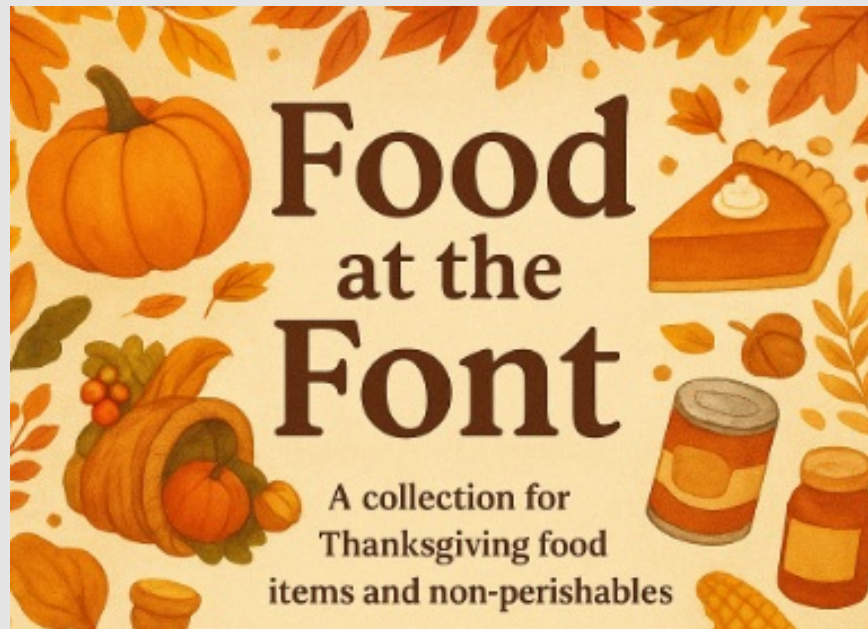
FOOD AT THE FONT NOURISH UP FOOD DRIVE

As followers of Christ, we are called to feed the hungry and care for our neighbors in need. This season, as many families face difficult times, we invite you to join us in collecting food and essentials for Nourish Up.

Your generosity will be a tangible expression of God's love—nourishing both body and spirit as we prepare our hearts for the holidays.

Click button to view donation needs.





WOMEN'S RETREAT

Last weekend, eight St. Luke's women attended our annual retreat in beautiful Lutherock. It was a wonderful weekend!

Our theme was based on the book "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. We watched the movie, read the Biblical narrative and background, discussed life for women in ancient times, talked about the symbols and themes in the book, shared personal stories of our own mothers, and discussed our "red tent" as a community of women today. We had plenty of delicious food to enjoy as well as jigsaw puzzles, crafts, shopping, conversations, and a marathon game of Pictionary until midnight. Overall, it was a weekend of fun and fellowship, laughter and a few shared tears.

After our retreat, members of the Katharina Circle delivered our collected school supplies to Newland Elementary School where we met with the director of Anne's Kids, housed in the school. It is an organization that provides clothes, school supplies, grooming products, coats, shoes, and many other needed products to children at that school (which includes a high number of Special Education and ESL students). They were especially busy last year after the devastation caused by Helene. It was an impressive organization inspired by God to serve that community.

Next year our retreat will be November 6-8, 2026.
Mark your calendar and plan to join us!



2025 CROP WALK

HOORAY FOR US!!!

Our St Luke's Family, once again,
lived the mission of living and sharing God's love.

So proud of what we accomplished. Total contributions were \$1,836.

God's blessings on everyone who helped make this total possible.

Patsy Schober



SUBMITTED BY TOM AINSWORTH

First let me preface this by saying that I love women! You are the ones that I think really get things done at home and in the workplace far better and more efficiently than we men can do. That being said, I honestly don't understand how your sex, being usually so rational, could be swayed so easily by social convention. I seek to educate you and only have to look back as far as my mother's generation to make my point although history is replete – replete mind you – with numerous examples (however I will confine myself only to examples in this country since I don't know nearly as many women elsewhere). The actress Veronica Lake (actually born Constance Frances Marie Ockelman – I'm glad she changed it) accidentally let her hair fall over her right eye during a scene in the 1941 film "I Wanted Wings" which led to her trademark "peek-a-boo" style hairdo. Suddenly every woman in pre-WW II America had to have the "peek-a-boo" look, which caused untold safety hazards when women eventually went to work in factories during the war! Then not so long afterwards, EVERY woman in America not only had to have the Jackie Kennedy bouffant hairdo but also the little pink/yellow/green/etc. Halston

pillbox hat to go underneath it! In my generation, during my college days in the early 70's, there wasn't a coed alive who didn't just HAVE TO HAVE a 14K add-a-bead string necklace while standing atop jute fiber Espadrille wedge shoes; if she didn't have those to wear together there was no hope for her! Later in the mid-90's the hairstyle dubbed "The Rachel" after Jennifer Aniston's character on "Friends" created a global phenomenon as women around the world for years rushed to get the same do at their stylist's salon! But the most egregious example I can think of – and one that still haunts me to this day considering the absolute inanity of it – has to be the following phenomenon. There I was in 1983, an innocent, green and untried but intelligent(eh?), handsome and eager young lawyer just starting in private practice, and dating a younger woman still in college who was absolutely attuned to every new trend in fashion, music and popular culture. She told me categorically that I HAD to take her to see this new movie called "Flashdance" because she had heard of its popularity and she did not want to be the last person on Earth not to have seen it. She sat mesmerized throughout the film which told the story of this aspiring young dancer who was working as a welder in the steel mill owned by her older boyfriend and located in Pittsburgh, PA (my beloved home state) while moonlighting as a cabaret dancer in a local bar, and of her dream to become a ballerina with the City's prestigious ballet company through an impossibly rigorous audition system. Right, that's plausible. The dance numbers actually were amazingly choreographed despite the dubious plotline. Anyway, I was afraid that after seeing and being overwhelmed by the movie that my girlfriend was going to want to drop out of school to pursue a dancing career herself despite the fact that she had never taken any dancing lessons ever. Nope. It wasn't the dream of being a ballerina she latched onto, or even the thought of taking up welding as a hobby, or dancing on tables at a local dive like The Thirsty Beaver Saloon – no, it was the leg warmers. After seeing this film she HAD to own leg warmers as the dancers did in the movie. And not just her, EVERY young girl and woman of a certain age HAD to have leg warmers to wear out on a date, to a party, to school, to work, or just out and about in general! In 1983 and after, if you were a woman who did NOT wear leg warmers as a fashion statement you might as well have considered yourself a social pariah! Dancewear suppliers, ballet stores, hosiery outfitters worldwide sold out of them and couldn't keep them restocked fast enough to sell to women who had never in their lives taken a dancing lesson, let alone set foot in a dance studio! Unbelievably insane! Anyway, those examples and others are why I cannot fathom how usually level-headed women can be so easily seduced by such ridiculous trends and act like lemmings rushing around with their fellow females to topple over the latest fad and fashion cliff! Absolutely ridiculous! I could go on and on, but I have to cut this article short now. There's presently a sale on, which I can't miss lest they sell out, of the Callaway Golf Elyte Triple Diamond Driver™ which the makers promise me adds almost 35 yards to my drive so I can tee off like Scottie Scheffler, as well as curing my slice with its square clubface. Either that or the Titleist GT2 9° Graphite Design Tour Driver™ that Rory McIlroy swears by and he guarantees that I'll hit 16 out of 18 fairways teeing off. Hmmmm, that's a tough pick. Later ladies.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Installation

Bishop Emily K. Hartner

November 15, 2025 at 2 PM
Christ, Charlotte



North Carolina Synod
ELCA



LENOIR-RHYNE TUITION-FREE GUARANTEE

Affordable, Accessible & Transformative

The Lenoir-Rhyne Tuition-Free Guarantee covers 100 percent of tuition for new first-year and transfer students from North and South Carolina with a family income of \$100K or less, beginning fall 2026.



[Click here to learn more](#)

RESOLUTION ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

At the 2025 NC Synod Assembly, voting members approved a bold resolution reaffirming our commitment to refugee resettlement, rooted in Jesus' call to welcome the stranger (Matthew 25:35).

In response, Bishop Tim Smith is calling on all NC Synod congregations to take action—urging advocacy, generosity, and solidarity with our refugee neighbors. His letter outlines specific ways individuals and communities can support Lutheran Services Carolinas and Global Refuge, and includes an invitation to contact elected officials and bear public witness to our shared values.

A sample letter and a list of representatives are available in the resources link below to help guide your faithful response.

[Bishop Tim's Letter](#)

[Bishop Tim's Letter](#)

[Resolution 25.01](#)

[Resources for contacting your Representatives](#)



This month, St. Luke's will become the location for local precinct elections.

This is a great opportunity for our congregation to be the neighborhood center we have been praying to become.

There will be no campaigning allowed on the site.

Watch for more information coming!

2025 Dates

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 - General Election

2026 Dates

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 - Primary Elections

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 - Second Primary (if necessary)

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - General Elections

FAITH CALLS US TO SEEK JUSTICE

For NO KINGS, Ami-Luise captained a protest corner for residents of The Sharon, Merrywood and others in our community who wanted a place to express our First Amendment Rights.

As children of God, we are called not to blend in, but to stand out—to live boldly in faith, love, and truth. Our faith is not a quiet one; it calls us into the world to bear witness to God's justice and mercy.

When we see injustice, indifference, or suffering, we remember that Christ himself stood among the outcast, the poor, and the oppressed. To follow Jesus means to speak when silence is easier, to act when comfort beckons us to stay still, and to love when the world chooses fear.

Let us be the people who shine God's light in dark places—standing up for what is right and standing out as reflections of His grace. May our lives proclaim that faith without justice is incomplete, and that justice without love is unfinished.

“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness
like an ever-flowing stream.”

Let us pray.....

Gracious God,

You have called us to be your light in the world.

Give us courage to stand up when it is easier to sit down, and strength to speak out when silence feels safe.

Open our eyes to see injustice, our hearts to feel compassion, and our hands to do your work of love.

Let your Spirit move through us— to bring hope where there is despair,

peace where there is conflict, and justice where there is oppression.

In all we do, may we reflect your mercy and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED LOCALLY

We are a non- partisan group focused on protecting our democracy.

Each Thursday, we hold a weekly pop-up protest at the corner of Park and Woodlawn, where community members gather to stand together in faith,

hope, and justice. I currently serve as co-captain for this event and would love to see more neighbors join us.

We stress to all participants that we are peaceful and nonviolent, and we strive to deescalate any conflict that might arise.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Together, we are INDIVISIBLE.

Our vision is a democracy that represents all, engaging every voice in the shared process of governance to build a future that promotes justice and equity.

Our mission is to strengthen democracy through direct action to educate and engage community members.

[Click to learn more about Indivisible Charlotte](#)



FROM BEHIND THE LENS OF "MR.TERRY" CHEVILLE

Mr. Terry is currently moving.
Look out for a special edition later in November.

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

Lutheran Disaster Response



NOURISH UP

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

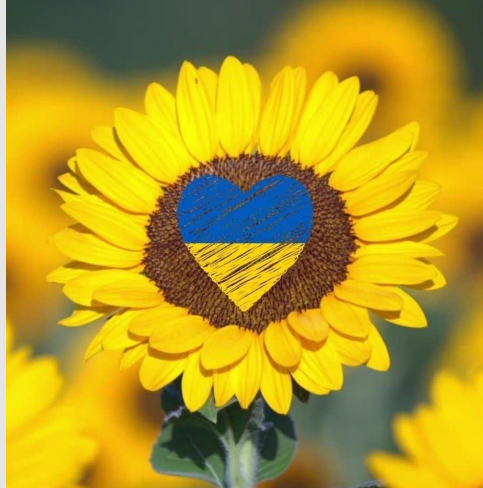
Your love will reach your neighbors who feel so alone as they continue to fight for their lives.

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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