



May
2021

WORSHIP Together

Online/Recorded Worship

Our weekly services live-streamed each week and may be viewed on our website and on our YouTube channel. Prior services are available on our website for about 2 weeks. A more complete list of prior services can be viewed on YouTube. YouTube is, however, creating a number of problems for us and other worship communities. Unfortunately, some of our services are not properly recorded and logged and therefore not available long term. If you are choosing to watch live we recommend connecting through the LiveStream link on our church website.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
11020 NC Hwy 801
Mt. Ulla, NC 28125

(postage)

(Address Label)

MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School 6:30 pm – All Committee Night	3	4	5 1:30—6pm Blood Drive 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	6 10 am Pastor's Study Group	7	8
9 8:00 am – Mother's Day Breakfast 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School 6:30-7:30 pm – Kingdom Kids 6:30-7:30 pm – SLY	10	11	12 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	13 10 am Pastor's Study Group	14	15
16 7:30 am - Cong. Council Meeting 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School	17	18	19 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	20 10 am Pastor's Study Group	21	22 6:30pm Cookout & Fellowship
23 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School 6:30-7:30 pm – Kingdom Kids 6:30-7:30 pm – SLY	24	25 Newsletter article Deadline	26 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	27	28	29
30 9:30 am – Outdoor Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School	31	Upcoming Activities and Events June 6 Youth Sunday Worship & Grad Recognition (tentative) 6 Faith Basics – Lord's Prayer (& lunch) after worship 27 Homecoming/Golden Age Sunday 10:30 am ? Father's Day Breakfast 9:00 am July 18 SLY kayaking on the river				

Pastor's Message

Advent-Christmas-Epiphany-Lent-Easter-Ordinary

That's the simple version of the annual church-year cycle.

We are in Easter, nearing Pentecost and the transition to Ordinary time. Though, honestly, 2021 Ordinary time doesn't seem quite accurate. There is still a lot that isn't ordinary.

But, praise be to God, we are getting closer, step by step.

More committees are meeting again, more events and activities are being restarted and newly planned. The calendar isn't near full, but things are starting to pop up. And there are some many new ideas and adjustments to old ideas that spawned during COVID. Check out the 3 month upcoming event & activities calendar. What needs to be added to that list?

It is encouraging to see and hear ministry to congregation and community underway and imagined. Please share your encouragement, your ideas, your support and your appreciation to the many new team and committee chairs that are working with their teams and working on that never-ending question of how do we serve God and each other here at St Luke's.

We are The Church. You are "The Church". We are the hands and feet of God.

Pastor Scott

"All Committee Night" returns – Starting May 2

Council is re-establishing 1st Sunday of the month (unless holiday) as All Committee Night.

All (pretty much) committees will be meeting at the same time, starting at 6:30pm with quick large group devotion and any announcements, then committees split to different rooms to work their own topics, then regather to share any issues needing coordination.

Blood Drive – Wed May 5, 1:30-6pm

Share the gift of life. Christ gave his blood for us. Give ours for others. Sign up online (redcross.org) or contact Robin Hampton.

Lutheran Men in Mission will be serving a Mothers Day breakfast on May 9 at 8am, AND have converted their 1st Sunday morning sessions to be a "family breakfast" time to which all are invited. Don't come on May 2nd, though, since they are skipping that Sunday due to Mothers Day breakfast the next week.

Mothers Day Breakfast May 9th, 8am

Lutheran Men joyfully prepare a breakfast for the ladies.

Cookout & Fellowship – Saturday May 22, 6:30pm

Lutheran Men will be hosting a cookout for EVERYONE. Hotdogs, burgers, ice cream....Some other folks are thinking it could be lots of fun to add in a few "field" games – three legged race, balloon toss, etc. Join us for some food, fellowship and a bit of adventure. Out in the Shelter area.

"Worship in the Grove" – Starts May 30

We'll be out in the grove again this summer starting with Memorial Day Weekend. Ya'll can come and sit in camp chairs or blankets, or stay in your cars along the drive. We'll move indoors (both Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, as we do now) if it looks like rain. We are planning to share the Holy Eucharist twice a month, including wine, with teams that work together to serve everyone.

A Overview of Confirmation, Membership and Curriculum

As short as possible, what is Confirmation?

"Confirmation" the event and celebration of someone already baptized confirming their faith in Christ and dedication to being a disciple. It begins with a curriculum of topics to provide a foundation in Bible, doctrine, practices some deep questions. Confirmation is also the traditional path for youth to become voting members of the congregation. At its core Confirmation is an act of faith where we help the confirmands learn, build relationships with God and others and participate in faith experiences. It may start in middle school but is not bounded by age. Some participants may start later, at any time of life, which is becoming more common as we have older youth and adults connect with us that didn't grow up in the church. Some may complete the curriculum in a couple years, others may take longer based on participation and priorities. To respect the purpose and integrity of asking someone to seriously "confirm their faith" confirmation as a rite isn't "done" at the end of a grade or an age, and not just a milestone to "check off". We celebrate someone Confirming their faith when they have covered the curriculum and are ready to say "Yes! I believe!"

So... what if a youth *isn't* confirmed?

Much as newly attending adults 18+ have always been able to join the congregation as voting members by the simpler "Affirmation of Faith" (per Constitution), youth that reach 18 become voting members even if they have not participated in or completed the Confirmation curriculum due to when they started, lack of interest and priority, etc. They may, at a future time, finish the Confirmation process, and we look forward to celebrating Confirmation with them at that point.

What is the "curriculum"?

For youth, the basics of faith are covered through discussions, retreats, and experiences. There are Core topics including: Luther and the Reformation, a Small Catechism Series (5 parts), Bible Series (5 parts), Life of Faith Series (6 parts) and Christ in Community Series (4 parts). There are also "electives" – other topics of which they can pick and choose. These topics can be covered in any of many different ways - at mini-retreats at Lutheridge (youth, parents and leaders often prefer these fun and engaging retreats), through Faith Basics sessions (shared with all ages), SLY youth group, at school, via take-home-family kits, etc. All Confirmands have a tracker sheet to know their progress and what they need to complete. Much more detail on the program, topics, expectation and a sample tracker are on the church website in the Ministries/Discipleship section.

Friends and Relatives on our Prayer List



We thought it might be helpful if all of us know the relationship to our congregation of the people on our prayer list. We ask that as names need to be added or removed, you contact the church office.

Martha Ann Barringer *friend of Sandy Arrowood*
 Bill Hall
 Don Killian *cousin of David Arrowood*
 Karen Knox *friend of Lori Corriher*
 David Lentz *relative of Eleanor Ijames*
 Danny Marsh *father of Angie Connelly*
 Cindy Morgan *dau. of Reid & Margaret*
 Jerry Overcash *cousin of Bonnie Russell*

Tim Peede *bro-in-law of Debbie Clary*
 Diane Rivers *friend of Alice Weaver*
 Billy Sigmon
 Doris Strickland *mother of Debbie Clary*
 Ron Turbyfill *friend of Jennifer Perrell*
 Michael Walker *cousin of David Arrowood*
 Kim Watkins *friend of Alice Weaver*
 Cindy Webb *sister of Kathy Webb*

Members and Friends Serving in the Military

Eric Corriher *husband of Dana Corriher*
 Jon Faust *son of Margaret Faust*

Vince Price *nephew of David Arrowood*
 David Terry *son of Beverly Terry*

The Church in the World

CAMP! Lutheridge, Agape, Kure Beach and others are beginning to reopen, in some fits and starts and with some changed formats and programs. Summer programs are pretty well defined. The mini-retreats for Confirmation and similar events are next to get rescheduled. This has been a tremendously challenging year for our NC camps, as well as all those around the country, since all have been nearly completely closed for the last 12 months, during which time they cut staff and worked to reduce expenses as much as possible, but buildings and properties still needed care, and long-term permanent staff were constantly working to make new plans for the future as well.

Please hold them in your prayers, and consider special gifts to the camp or camps that you cherish and remember from your own experiences.

STAFFING NEEDS

We continue our search for candidates to serve as (1) pianist/keyboardist (short term) and as organist/choir director (long term). We are in discussion with candidate regarding our secretary staff position.

Thank You to US

From our new (returning) members....

The family of Pam & Dale McDaniel wish to express our excitement about being back at St Luke's after so many years of being away. Thank you so much for accepting us back to our first church family. It is wonderful to join in doing the Lord's work with those we love and cherish!!

Together in Christ!! ***Pam & Dale McDaniel***

Worship Audio/Video Servants Needed!

We so very much appreciate our crew of A/V operators during worship – but we really, REALLY need a few more folks that can share that effort so everyone can take vacations and participate in worship in other ways. Will you please consider joining that rotating team? Anyone, any age, can learn! Please contact Pastor Scott

OFFERINGS AND FINANCE

OFFERINGS AND ATTENDANCE			
	Current	Benevolence	Worship
March 7	\$4,723.40	\$25.00	
March 12	\$4,663.00	\$25.00	
March 21	\$4,647.48	\$99.23	
March 28	\$2,970.00	\$125.00	

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Current	Benevolence	Restricted	Total
Beginning Balance 3/1/21	\$38,933.23	\$0.00	\$168,924.29	\$207,857.52
Receipts March 2021	\$17,003.88	\$374.23	\$14,366.10	\$31,744.23
Charges/Fees March 2021	(\$19.09)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$19.09)
Transfers March 2021	(\$100.00)	\$0.00	(\$100.00)	\$0.00
Disbursements March 2021	(\$15,187.04)	\$0.00	(\$4,128.85)	(\$19,315.89)
Ending Balance 3/31/21	\$40,830.98	\$374.23	\$179,061.54	\$202,266.75

DISCIPLESHIP

Confirmation – On April 25 we witness and celebrate Elizabeth Applewhite and Seleia Kerr as they confirm their faith. Over the past few years they have committed themselves and participated in retreats, classes, Faith Basics, worship, service activities and more in order to build a solid foundation regarding our Bible and teachings, our traditions and faith practices, and have engaged in deep conversations about our relationship with God and each other. Having completed those foundations they now choose to confirm their faith to God, us and community. We look forward to sharing this celebration with other youth – or adults! – as they complete that path and decide to make that proclamation as well, and are planning another celebration of the Rite of Confirmation on Reformation Day (Sunday Oct 31). Check out

Faith Basics is BACK – “Lord’s Prayer” session June 6 after worship. An exploration and conversation on the Lord’s Prayer good for all ages, including youth Confirmation as well as refresher or new topic for adults. We’ll gather in the Fellowship Hall and plan to offer a light lunch. Adult Sunday School is taking that day off between their topics to join us for the day.

“Children’s Church” Our younger children gather for Bible story & activity for a portion of our worship, and then join us again for prayers and communion. *Please share your time and faith joining the rotating team to lead our kids.*

Adult Sunday School is gathering every Sunday after worship in the Fellowship Hall. They are finishing the Augsburg Fortress March-May study book, and will be introducing a new video/study/discussion series about the Holy Land in June.

Prayer & Spiritual Direction Group is on pause during this time.

Thursday Study Group – “Christian Mystics over the Millennia” Pastor Scott leads this study. Join us Thursdays at 10am via Zoom or at the church. Drop in as you can.

GriefShare Ministry – Starts Tuesday April 27, 5:30pm

Pastor Scott and Deacon GeoRene Jones will be leading a small-group ministry for those that grieve the loss of a loved one, whether that is very recent or a bit further back in time. We will gather in the Parlor for 60-90 minutes for video and discussion based series. GriefShare is a 13 week series that we are breaking into 3 parts, starting section 1 on April 27. You are welcome to attend one or all. We plan to offer GriefShare sessions periodically in the future. Please contact Pastor Scott if your heart and Spirit feel that this may help you or someone you know.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU! BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Rachel Presley	1	Grace Hodge	5
Justin Graham	2	Elizabeth Applewhite	7
Ken Goforth	3	Hannah Allison	11
James Rollans	3	Payton Holt	13
Skip Clough	5	Matt Karriker	14
Mary Ann Hansen	8	Julie Poteat	18
Ty Clary	11	Eleanor Ijames	19
Micki Karriker	15	Terry I. Hoffner	23
Eli Presley	15	Mark Parrish	26
Marian Lytle	16	Paula Owen	28
Eric Corriher	16		
Will Lytle	23		
Russell Pruett	25		
Karley Clawson	27		
Lauren Hood	29		
Wayne Kluttz	30		
David Arrowood	30		
Ricky Hoffner	31		
Valerie Graham	31		

Council and Leadership Section

April 18 Congregation Council meeting

Council accepted Treasurers report.

Activity Building Big Door construction/install should begin soon. We think.

Sidewalk, trash pad and cemetery road should begin soon. We think.

Playground Slide replacement should be installed soon. We think.

Railings for front of sanctuary building have been made, and Property team is deciding whether to powder-coat or use new high-durable paint option.

Carillon is working correctly – using a borrowed amplifier. Ours is in the repair shop and will be swapped back in soon.

Next meeting will be May 16 at 7:30am

Fun Food & Fellowship

“Saints to Go”? Its not a committee. And not an event. What we do have is some folks that are looking forward to getting out together and inviting you and friends to ... well.. a variety of different things that sound fun. Some want to visit place to learn “how do they do that?” such as factory and manufacturing firms, a dairy farm, etc. Others think it would be fun to visit a winery.... Or perhaps a brewery. Maybe a baseball game in Kannapolis, whenever those start back up. Theater, or gardens, or....Well, just about anything. ANYONE can come up with an idea and invite everyone/anyone to join them. Simple. Fun. Not complicated.

Kannapolis Cannonballers : Pastor Scott is trying to plan an outing to watch the Kannapolis Cannonballers in the new stadium as soon as they make tickets available. The Cannonballers are scheduled to start the season in May, though tickets are not yet on sale.

Prayer and Spiritual Life

Rich Melheim and his company Faith Inkubators have been promoting 5 simple steps for growing faith in the home for the last 20 years or so. You don’t have to buy anything from them, though he does have a GREAT book called “Holding Your Family Together.” Great for families, couples, grandparents, good friends and pretty much everyone!

Faith 5 = SHARING + READING + TALKING + PRAYING+ BLESSING

Share The highs and lows of the day. Both adults AND kids. Sharing a low lets someone help carry it for you. They are on your team. Encouragers, helpers, problem solvers, prayers. Helps reduce the sense of loneliness. Gives security, builds bonds. Helps us empathize and sympathize, get out of our own heads. It’s not bad for kids to know that we have problems too.

Read - SOMETHING from the Bible. A text from the previous sermon, or the next one. A devotion book, or read-through-the-Bible together. I don’t care what, but read SOMETHING from the Bible yourself, and with them.

Talk Doesn’t have to be deep, profound, important theological stuff. Sometimes might be. But just be real. What did you just read about? What’s God doing, or not doing, what’s happening in the world and how does it impact our faith, or how does our faith impact things happening in the world?

Pray: Prayer doesn’t have to be fancy, or deep and churchy. Cover the highs and lows. Just try and remember the basics: Praises, thank you’s, sorry’s and pleases.

Bless - A blessing can be as simple “God loves you, and so do I” & draw a little cross on their forehead.