



April
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)

APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10 am Pastor's Study Group	2 7 pm Good Friday Worship	3 1-2:30 Egg Hunt
4 7:00 am – Easter Sunday Sunrise Service 9:30 am – Easter Sunday Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School	5	6	7 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	8 10 am Pastor's Study Group 6:30 pm WELCA	9	10 LMM/SLY Roadside Cleanup 9am-noon
11 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School 6:30-7:30 pm – Kingdom Kids 6:30-7:30 pm – SLY	12	13	14 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	15 10 am Pastor's Study Group	16	17
18 7:30 am - Cong. Council Meeting 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School	19	20 Newsletter article Deadline	21 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	22 10 am Pastor's Study Group	23	24
25 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School 6:30-7:30 pm – Kingdom Kids 6:30-7:30 pm – SLY	26	27	28 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	29	30	

2021 Directory is finished! You can pick one up at the church office at your convenience.

Pastor's Message

It is Easter! New birth, rebirth, the celebration of resurrection, and the combined celebration of both ancient tradition and new imagination. Yes, these two go hand in hand. The God of all creation is the one that "was and is and is to come" and such a sense of both past, present and future combined is the celebratory hope of our faith.

This spring of 2021 has echos of this sentiment as we see ourselves slowly emerging from the effects and restrictions of the COVID epidemic. It is not gone, but it is better. Many things that we could not do we can now resume. Other things we have learned are new and we give thanks and praise and cherish those as well.

How do we blend all these together? That's a grand adventure for all of us.

In this seasons of Resurrection, we are also reminded that the Resurrection is only possible due to the sadness and tragedy, the pain and loss, of Good Friday, of Jesus death on the cross. But death was not the end. Neither is it today. But death is still part of our lives, and it still grieves us.

St Luke's will soon be offering a small group ministry called GriefShare, for those that have lost a loved one. Check out the short note elsewhere in this newsletter. We believe that the *season* of Easter is an appropriate time to begin this new ministry.

A seasons of hope after death, of seeing new life, and knowing that while things change God still walks with us, always.

Pastor Scott

Worship – Holy Week, Easter & Covid updates

Holy Week is upon us! This year we will celebrate with

Friday April 2, 7pm Good Friday Worship

Sunday April 4, 7am Easter Sunrise Community Worship @ SLC

Jointly with Centenary UMC and Back Creek Presbyterian

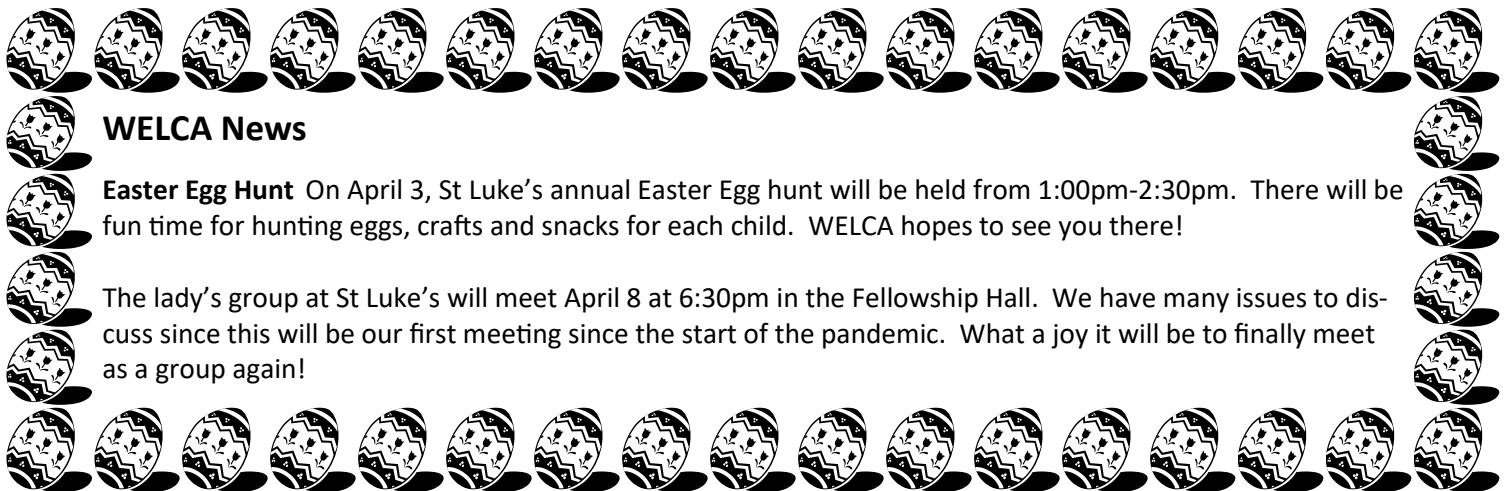
There is no breakfast this year

Sunday April 4, 9:30am Easter Sunday Worship



We will resume the celebration of Holy Communion on Easter Sunday at the 9:30 worship service. For the moment we will, once again, offer the Eucharist "in one kind" with bread. We anticipate resuming the sharing and distribution of wine when we begin worshipping outdoors later this spring.

Worship & Music discussed many options for offering wine and encountered too many complications to resume that practice at the moment. It is a good reminder that Christ is present in either and both, and there is long precedent in the church for offering only one for certain times and situations. We prefer both bread and wine, of course, though trust God's grace and presence when only one is offered.



WELCA News

Easter Egg Hunt On April 3, St Luke's annual Easter Egg hunt will be held from 1:00pm-2:30pm. There will be fun time for hunting eggs, crafts and snacks for each child. WELCA hopes to see you there!

The lady's group at St Luke's will meet April 8 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We have many issues to discuss since this will be our first meeting since the start of the pandemic. What a joy it will be to finally meet as a group again!

Meals on Wheels will be restarting daily deliveries from St Luke's on June 1. St Luke's members have traditionally taken responsibility for deliveries on every Tuesday and Friday, and any 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays. We will need folks to resume helping, and some to start helping as MoW delivery servants. If you can serve in this manner please contact Sally Morgan or Alice Weaver.

2021 Synod Assembly and Committees

The NC Synod will be meeting *online* this year, rather than in person, for the Synod Assembly June 3-5. This year includes voting for Synod Bishop – which will also be done online. St Luke's and all congregations are still requested and expected to name delegate representatives to participate, including our rostered clergy (Pastor Scott) as well as one male and one female member of the congregation. There is no travel requirement. Each participant will be connecting via Zoom, using their own separate devices (computer, tablet, smartphone, etc) in order to have separate identities for voting. Please contact Pastor Scott or Council Chair Mark Parrish if you are willing to serve as a St Luke's delegate. Anyone can connect and watch a live-stream of the event (details TBD) without voting ability. Event runs Thurs 6/3 2pm, ending on Sat 6/5 at 1pm.

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/admin staff position.

Thank You to US

From Micki Karriker

“Dear St Luke’s Members, There are no words to express all the kindness and prayers I have received from my church family. Thank you so much for all of your prayers, cards and phone calls and food. It means so much to me. We are a church family and I love you all. I can’t think of any other church I had rather be a member other than St Luke’s Lutheran Church. Love Micki Karriker.

From Meals on Wheels

“We at Meals on Wheels Rowan are very grateful to St Luke’s Lutheran for sharing you church covered drive-through and parking lot space with us on meal delivery days.” The MoW letter shares other appreciation for help and flexibility during this last year of COVID adjustments. MoW included a gift of \$300 to St Luke’s to assist us in all our ministries.

THANK YOU for

- **Property Work-Day** – Saturday March 6 – for all who helped clean the property, deal with tree debris, prep the playground for new slide, lay out pinestraw and so much more.
- **LMM “Community Breakfast”** Jesus fed the hungry, and so did LMM with help from women and youth.

OFFERINGS AND FINANCE

OFFERINGS AND ATTENDANCE			
	Current	Benevolence	Worship
Feb. 7	\$6,673.40	\$25.00	
Feb. 12	\$2,843.00	\$25.00	
Feb. 21	\$3,862.35	\$225.00	
Feb. 28	\$2,912.47	\$49.24	

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Current	Benevolence	Restricted	Total
Beginning Balance 2/1/21	\$38,133.90	\$444.23	\$167,976.43	\$206,554.56
Receipts February 2021	\$15,291.22	\$324.24	\$1,607.00	\$17,222.46
Charges/Fees February 2021	(\$82.09)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$82.09)
Transfers February 2021	(\$1,731.53)	\$1,731.53	(\$50.00)	\$0.00
Disbursements February 2021	(\$12,678.27)	(\$2,500.00)	(\$659.14)	(\$15,837.41)
Ending Balance 2/28/21	\$38,933.23	\$0.00	\$168,924.29	\$207,857.52

DISCIPLESHIP

SLY has been watching the Tim Tebow video series on how to trust God through the storm of life and discussing the content.

Kingdoms Kids is full speed ahead this spring! We are busy learning about why we celebrate Easter. After Easter we will continue to talk about our community and how we can best serve it...which has been our ongoing theme this year! After Memorial Day we will continue our 2nd and 4th Sunday meetings throughout the summer! This is new this year!! This is in place of our normal VBS due to restrictions that are still in place. Keep an eye out....we will announce our summer theme soon! Ms. Shana and Mr. Chuck

Confirmation – We are planning to celebrate the Rite of Confirmation in the May/June timeframe, outdoors, when and where the celebration can be more open and all can be present together. Date TBD. Lutheridge is now starting to announce their re-worked and re-scheduled youth mini-retreats, one part of our Confirmation curriculum.

“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.

Prayer & Spiritual Direction Group

Prayer and Spiritual Direction group is on hold during this time.

Thurs Study Group – “Christian Mystics”

Thursday study group has begun a series on Christian Mystics over the Millenia. Pastor Scott leads this study. Join us Thursdays at 10am via Zoom or at the church. Drop in as you can.

Final FF/Yard Sale Results

Fish Fry = \$8,276.00 Yard Sale = \$3,278.10

FishFry/Yard Sale Community Assistance Proposals

We did not receive any specific proposals for helping individuals or organizations in the community as part of this spring’s Fish Fry/Yard Sale. Council will consider submissions as well as possibly holding some funds to be combined for this fall. Funds received have been allocated to a few internal projects and needs within SLC, such as increased costs for cemetery roadway, portable AV gear for summer/outdoor worship (since we have permanently installed indoors some of what we used last summer), etc. See Council Meeting notes.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU! BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Don Morgan	1	Michael C. Stanley	1
Jeff Applewhite	3	Jan Goforth	8
Mark Parrish	5	Will Lytle	9
Susan Beaver	9	Ansley Wright	10
Neely Mowery	13	Donna Frederick	12
Terry Lee Hoffner	13	Carrie Cameron	13
Karen Moore	14	Taylor Garczynski	19
David McBride	14	Natalie Allison	19
Peggy Smith	14	Arnold McDaniel	19
Joe Hodge	15	Brad Massey	22
Weston Burns	16	Gina Bond	26
Hannah Allison	19	Debbie Gardner	27
Pastor Scott Swix	19		
Landon Getzlaff	20		
Carolyn Poteat	20		
Grace Hodge	23		
Ronnie Edwards	23		
Ashlie Ceips	30		

Council and Leadership Section

March 21 Congregation Council meeting

Council accepted Treasurers report.

Minor status updates on some 2018 and 2019 Ingathering projects.

A motion was made to use fish fry funds to purchase an additional food warmer. Motion passed.

A motion was made to use fish fry funds (minus any donations received) to purchase the portable audio and video equipment needed to support outside worship activities. Motion passed.

A motion was made to use yard sale money to fund the balance of the cemetery driveway. Motion passed.

Council received an update on Activity Building Door project.

Council approved the request from Pam and Dale McDaniel to join St. Luke’s.

Next meeting will be April 18 at 7:30am

Prayer and Spiritual Life

Dionysius the Aeapogite (480-540AD) is the of the most well known of the early “mystics” of the Christian Faith that dedicated themselves to the path of opening themselves to the Holy Spirit. His teaching, recorded in books like “Rising” emphasize that our human, mortal ability to “understand” God is inherently limited. Language and cultural thoughts are bounded by our experience and intellect. Any words we use are inadequate, and can tend to box God into our definitions. God is above and beyond our comprehension – even as we also proclaim and believe and give thanks that this God of all creation and all power loves us, cares for us, came and died for us, and longs for us to be fully reunited with God.

“God cannot be fully known but must be *experienced*. The goal is union, not understanding.”

Activity Building BigDoors Project

Electrical work to move the light switches is done, door construction/install should begin soon.

GriefShare Ministry – Walking together through loss

After Easter Pastor Scott and Deacon GeoRene Jones will be starting 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. GriefShare is a video and discussion based series that runs 13 weeks, and 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.

Fun Food & Fellowship

It’s 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 places 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.

Stay tuned. Informal opportunities to get together, get to know some folks better outside these walls and with time to chat. There’s no fixed schedule, and somethings are not open yet. But seem like it may be soon!