



February
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.

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

(postage)

(Address Label)

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7pm Christian Ed mtg	4 10 am Pastor's Study Group 7pm Bishops Study	5	6
7 8:00 am – LMM 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School	8	9	10 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	11 10 am Pastor's Study Group 7pm Bishops Study	12	13
14 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School 6:30-7:30 pm – Kingdom Kids 6:30-7:30 pm – SLY	15	16 Newsletter article Deadline	17 7pm Ash Wed Worship Service	18 10 am Pastor's Study Group 7pm Bishops Study	19	20
21 7:30 am - Cong. Council Meeting 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School	22	23	24 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	25 10 am Pastor's Study Group 7pm Bishops Study	26	27
28 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School 6:30-7:30 pm – Kingdom Kids 6:30-7:30 pm – SLY						

Lutheran Men in Mission Playground Work-Day – Date TBD (soon)

To remove the slide and concrete foundation block that was damaged by the tree, work needs to be complete before new slide can be installed.

FEMA white cloth facemasks – If you or family members need additional face masks (washable, soft white cotton, silver infused) please stop by the church office for an additional pack.

Pastor's Message

The days are getting longer! Hurrah!

While I don't mind "winter" (which isn't really that bad at all down here compared to living up north) the thing that bothers me most is the short days and long nights and its too dark too soon to get out to parks and other places. But, thankfully, that season of colder and wetter and darker is always temporary.

Which is a good lesson that most inconveniences are temporary.

Faith in Christ helps us get through all that. There is a time for this, and a time for that, and in the end we are reminded of God's love and power and providence.

We finally have COVID vaccines rolling out and a good number of our St Luke's folks have already got one, which is great news. It will take a long while before everyone that wants one can get one, though. And members and families have, unfortunately, suffered with the virus – though few have been severe.

We are getting through this time of disruption and separation and can once again start to see some daylight starting to rise in the distance.

Alas, we are not there yet. Our Lent will be odd and different (see separate article) but that *also* gives us new experiences. We might well like some of them! And we can start looking forward to summer and outdoor worship which folks seem to find popular last year and many have expressed hope to share again.

Kind of like that wedding rhyme – "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue". Life, and church, and seasons are a never ending mix.

Pastor Scott

Ash Wednesday and Lent 2021

For 2021 we will offer a combination of experiences for our Lenten season, knowing that many of our folks will still not be comfortable coming to an indoor (or outdoor) service at the church. With that in mind we will be offering:

An Ash Wednesday in-person service on Feb 17. Though, due to COVID, instead of the imposition of ashes this service will emphasize remembrance of baptism and the symbolism of death and new life that we find with Christ.

Traditional Lenten Devotional booklets will be available at the church in the back window sills of the sanctuary.

An "Ash Wednesday Home Devotion" kit that will be sent to all of our active households. This kit will include a mini zip-bag with palm ashes and a 4-page combination devotion-worship-activity for individuals or families. The devotion/activity pages are part of the "Reflections on the Heart" series by Illustrated Ministry.

Printed sets of the remaining 7 weekly devotions of the "Reflections on the Heart" series will be available both in the back of the sanctuary and by request through the church office. You can pick up or request that we mail or drop off a set to you. Due to printing and mailing costs we are not sending these additional 7 weeks of material to all households.

We will not be having in-person Lenten Wednesday meals or services this year

Pastor Scott will be creating a weekly "Lenten Meditation Moment" video each week which will be available via our YouTube channel and our video streaming service on the church website.

Lenten Bible Study with the Bishop

Back by popular demand! Bishop Tim Smith will lead a synodwide Bible Study on the book of Isaiah on **Thursdays from February 11 to March 25** at 7 p.m. The class will be virtual via Zoom. **Register** to receive an email with the Zoom link. If you miss a session, recordings will be available for watching at your convenience. All are welcome; spread the word! Registration form is at <http://bit.ly/Bishop-Lent-Study>

Prayer and Spiritual Life

The Bible Project

If you have and use a computer, or smart-phone, please consider visiting

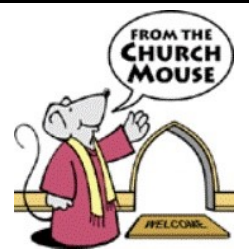
www.bibleproject.com

It is a great site with over 150 wonderfully produced and imaginative short artistic animated videos on Bible books, themes and basic teachings of the church. They are theologically sound and very engaging. We've been using some of these videos for various classes and I recommend them highly for home and family devotion and study.

The bibleproject folks run it as a non-profit, operating on donations only. As they continue to receive funds they are working to continue expanding their content. You can subscribe to receive email notification as new content is created.

Fellowship

We are excited to launch our Church Mouse program! This program matches a college student with a member of our church who is willing to anonymously support them throughout their college years. This support can be accomplished in a number of ways, such as sending cards, notes or small care packages throughout the academic year, and most importantly praying for their student. College students wishing to participate will complete a profile to help their mouse learn of their interests. If you are a college student who would like to participate or a member of the congregation interested in becoming a mouse, please fill out the forms found in the narthex or contact Shana Putnam or Carol Parrish.



"Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it." -Proverbs 22:16

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.

Joy Barnette	<i>friend of Betty Massey</i>	Tim Peede	<i>bro-in-law of Debbie Clary</i>
Martha Ann Barringer	<i>friend of Sandy Arrowood</i>	Diane Rivers	<i>friend of Alice Weaver</i>
Don Killian	<i>cousin of David Arrowood</i>	Billy Sigmon	
Karen Knox	<i>friend of Lori Corriher</i>	Doris Strickland	<i>mother of Debbie Clary</i>
David Lentz	<i>relative of Eleanor Ijames</i>	Ron Turbyfill	<i>friend of Jennifer Perrell</i>
Danny Marsh	<i>father of Angie Connelly</i>	Michael Walker	<i>cousin of David Arrowood</i>
Cindy Morgan	<i>dau. of Reid & Margaret</i>	Kim Watkins	<i>friend of Alice Weaver</i>
Jerry Overcash	<i>cousin of Bonnie Russell</i>	Cindy Webb	<i>sister of Kathy Webb</i>

Members and Friends Serving in the Military

Eric Corriher	<i>husband of Dana Corriher</i>	Vince Price	<i>nephew of David Arrowood</i>
Jon Faust	<i>son of Margaret Faust</i>	David Terry	<i>son of Beverly Terry</i>

Thank You

A most heartfelt and appreciative thanks to Nancy Harris and Susan Beaver who continue to help each morning each week in the church office while we continue our search for a new secretary.

New Keyboard

St Luke's is blessed to have received the gift of a wonderful Yamaha P125 electronic keyboard, so that we will not have rely on and expect members or guest musicians to bring their own. The portable keyboard can be used in worship and special events, and especially outdoors such as the worship series we held in the Grove this summer and which folks express a desire to plan for again this year.

The keyboard is given by Micki Karriker and Warren Bumgarner, and is dedicated to St Luke's in loving memory of "Bill Karriker, Susan Bumgarner and our parents Eddy & Mildred Huffman and Hugh & Bobby Jean Bumgarner"

Financial Stewardship - Electronic Donations Trends

Electronic donations to St Luke's have become a significant portion of all contributions.

Total received electronically over the last few months:

Dec=\$7994 Nov=\$2659 Oct=\$2782 Sept=\$2862

That represents approximately 20% of all giving.

2021 Directory

We are compiling all the information for the 2021 Church Directory. If you have any updates to addresses, phones, emails or other family information please provide that to the church office. Committee chairs and other group leaders please provide any report of last year or plans for this year so they can be included.

STAFFING NEEDS

Musician(s), Secretary & Youth Director

We continue our search for candidates to serve as (1) pianist/keyboardist (short term) and as organist/choir director (long term), (2) Office Secretary/Admin and (3) Youth Director. Our website includes job description information. Please share our needs with those you might know.

OFFERINGS AND FINANCE

OFFERINGS AND ATTENDANCE

	Current	Benevolence	Worship
Dec. 6	\$4,617.40	\$25.00	
Dec. 13	\$3,870.00	\$25.00	
Dec. 20	\$8,495.00	\$375.00	
Dec. 27	\$4,448.37	\$1349.23	

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Current	Benevolence	Restricted	Total
Beginning Balance 12/1/20	\$22,378.40	\$409.23	\$156,603.67	\$179,391.30
Receipts December 2020*	\$21,430.77	\$1,774.23	\$5,004.32	\$28,209.32
Charges/Fees December 2020	(\$16.54)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$16.54)
Transfers December 2020	(\$316.54)	\$316.54	\$0.00	\$0.00
Disbursements December 2020	(\$12,386.74)	(\$2,500.00)	(\$4,726.96)	(\$19,613.70)
Ending Balance 12/31/20	\$31,089.35	\$0.00	\$156,881.03	\$187,970.38

DISCIPLESHIP

SLY and Kingdom Kids continue meeting on our 2nd & 4th Sunday evenings in February.

SLY enjoyed an outing to The Pit in Mooresville for a delayed holiday fellowship outing for go carts, lazer tag, mini-golf and pizza.

Confirmation – After a year of COVID disruption and the inability to attend camps or retreats and few opportunities to meet, our youth Confirmation ministry is moving ahead with a couple group sessions and a series of “Confirmation at Home” kits for youth and parents to do together with videos, PowerPoint presentations and other resources. We are planning to celebrate the Rite of Confirmation soon – possibly on Palm Sunday or an outside event in May when we can be more fun and lively during Worship in the Grove. We’re working to help our candidates who desire to make that statement of faith and are nearly ready finish the topics they need to cover.

“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.*

TOPICS: Sundays in Feb cover the story of Moses, March includes Trinity, Spring and Palm Sunday

Adult Sunday School is gathering every Sunday after worship at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer & Spiritual Direction Group

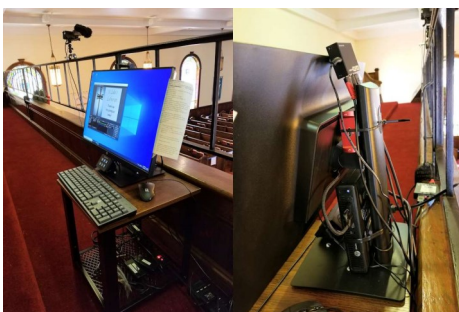
Prayer and Spiritual Direction group is on hold during this time.

Thursday Study Group – “Revelation”

Thursday study group is continuing its exploration of the Book of Revelation. Pastor Scott leads this study. Join us Thursdays at 10am via Zoom or at the church. Drop in as you can. We are getting near the end – but its exciting stuff! Our next topic is expected to be Christian Mystics over the Millenia.

Worship Video Streaming - We Won 2nd Place!

Our “DemBones” worship streaming rig” setup won 2nd place in a creative design contest sponsored by sermon.net, who hosts our videos. Prize was 2 months free service. What’s a streaming rig? Take a look at the pictures.



Then can you remember that old song “Dem Bones”? (*an old Spiritual tune*)

Toe bone connected to the foot bone

Foot bone connected to the heel bone

Heel bone connected to the ankle bone...

Take one small table and (look carefully!) Bolt on one monitor (drill through base stand) onto back left corner. Industrial Velcro and zip tie on 1 micro PC, an Elgato Stream Deck control pad, keyboard, a Mirabox video converter box, a camera-computer input video A/B switch, a mobile cell hotspot, mouse and 2 power strips, Canon camcorder with external microphone and tripod for outdoors or railing mount for indoors. Just add one chair and an one extension cord. Carry it outside each week for outdoor services from summer to October. We put it into the balcony for services starting in November. Oh, **and add Gene Jendras** (thank you, thank you!) who is our primary operator with occasional help from Elizabeth, Thomas or David.

Council and Leadership Section

January 17 Congregation Council meeting

Council accepted Treasurers report.

No actions were requested by any committees

Minor status updates on some 2018 and 2019 Ingathering projects.

Council accepted grant funds and approved the plan to install double doors in the activity building and purchase a pallet jack.

A check for \$3,400.00 was received from the insurance company for playground repairs. Council approved the movement of \$2,500.00 to fund the balance of the repairs.

Due to the high number of Covid spread in our community, council has suspended the distribution of Holy Communion.

Council approved the renewal of the HVAC maintenance contract with Beaver Brothers.

Next meeting will be February 21 at 7:30am

Activity Building Big Doors Project and Grant

St Luke’s constructed our Activity Building for congregational and community recreational and emergency shelter/staging uses. The building currently has 4 doors, each a standard single 36” wide 6’8” tall entry/egress portal for people.

When we were asked and offered the use of Activity Building space in 2020 for storage and distribution of FEMA/NCSynod face masks during the early months of COVID pandemic we found that building access was inadequate for such large volumes and sizes of items. Pallets could not be moved through doorways. Likewise, we’ve already noticed challenges moving furniture and other large items in and out for our yard-sales.

In Fall of 2020 the Synod was again asked to be a distribution partner for sanitizer and other items, and Synod staff thought about St Lukes. They chose a different congregation near Raleigh, but discussed how helpful a large access door would be at St Lukes – approached us about the idea of a renovation they would help fund with a grant. After conversation with NC Synod staff St Lukes Congregation Council explored options to retrofit the building, and selected a design to replace the south-west single door with a double set of 4’x8’ doors (8x8 total opening size) that would be directly accessible from the parking lot. We prepared a grant request for \$5000, which was approved, which covers the cost of installation of the doors as well as a nice pallet jack and some funds for interior paint and other finishing work.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Drew Frederick	1
Paul Graham	2
Lisa Burns	6
Betty Gillespie	6
Gina Bond	8
Whitney Burns	8
Gracie Morgan	9
Jonathan Weaver	10
Kathy Webb	10
Michael C. Stanley	12
Linda Pruett	13
Craig Corriher	14
Ted Holt	16
Gerry Smith	19
Gail Kerr	20
Gerald Ann Graham	20
Frances Hoffner	22
Tara Getzlaff	23
Wesley Jones	25

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Tim Beaver	3
Rose Bolick	6
Preston Houston	6
Mary Lou Howe	6
Jennifer Kennerly	7
Allison Williams	12
Evelyn Foster	15
Robert Hodge	18
Robbie Graham	20
Ryan Connelly	21
Alice McDaniel	24
Linda Clodfelter	24
Gail Kerr	24
Linda Pruett	24
Carol Parrish	27
Lela Ijames	27