



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)

JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:00 am – LMM 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School	4	5	6 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7-8 pm	7 10 am Pastor's Study Group ZOOM or in person	8	9
10 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School 6:30-7:30 pm – Kingdom Kids 6:30-7:30 pm – SLY	11	12	13 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7-8 pm	14 10 am Pastor's Study Group ZOOM or in person	15	16
17 7:30 am - Cong. Council Meeting 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School	18	19 Newsletter article Deadline	20 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7-8 pm	21 10 am Pastor's Study Group ZOOM or in person	22	23
24 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School 6:30-7:30 pm – Kingdom Kids 6:30-7:30 pm – SLY	25	26	27 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7-8 pm	28 10 am Pastor's Study Group ZOOM or in person	29	30
31 9:30 am – Worship 10:30 am – Adult Sunday School						

Pastor's Message — It may be January, but Christmas isn't over.

Well, it's never *really* over, but Dec 25 is just Christmas Day. The *season* of Christmas is the 12 days *after* that wonderful celebration, just like in the silly song of its name that actually has lots of theology wrapped up in each of the verses about rings and lords and maids and birds.

So, as one of our musicians asked me, lets still enjoy songs and celebration of the season! And, I'll add, that I think singing "Christmas" songs is perfectly fine *anytime* of the year if they fit the mood and the message!

Because, in the big picture, Christmas carols are songs of Gospel, and hope, and faith, and thanks and long-ing....and so much more. We feel all those things the entire year around. "Silent Night" is such a peaceful reflection, both seeing that truth and yearning for that calm. It can be the song of our heart in the middle of spring school exams, end of quarter business inventory rush, the dash to plant on dry days in the spring.

And, this year in particular, maybe we really do want to bring all these great carols back to mind and to voice. With this holiday season so mixed up by COVID and rain on Christmas Eve and everything else, maybe we want to plan a wonderful "Christmas in July" party after folks have vaccines and we can sing and hug and share a cake and sit together.

Yes, I think I like that idea.

Pastor Scott

Prayer and Spiritual Life

"Love is Born"

(a poetic reflection on the nature of love and the birth of Jesus by Kimberly Holman)

As the old hymn puts it, away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little lord Jesus lay down his sweet head. Sounds like a lowly beginning for one who would be called, Lord. Of course, this all happened after Mary and Joseph had walked 90 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Mary, in her ninth month of pregnancy, no less.

We wonder. What does this narrative tell us? That divinity is born into humble beginnings? That life can be difficult? That there's not always room in the inn so we have to make due? Sure, perhaps these lessons are contained in the story.

Yet, there's another kind of stunning truth being revealed. Right in the midst of it all, love is born. Right there in the nitty gritty bustle of people going to and fro, trying to get themselves registered, find a place to stay, grab a bite to eat, just get along. Right there, in the busyness of life, the anointed one appears.

Love doesn't evolve,
Love is always disclosed in its fullness.
Love is suddenly realized,
Having been present
Since the dawn of creation,
Unrestrained,
Yet hidden from the ages
In God who creates all things.

Love comes into a world where it is bound to die
For the sake of revealing itself to every eye.

Resting on a bed of hay.
Sweet carols of the angels resounding.
Pure hope opens its eye to the wonders of this world.
Faith woven in the breasts of a mother,
Suckling the child, surrendered.
A father's dreams tainted by tears,
Knowing what struggles must inevitably come.

Yet history is made this night.
Humanity's rejection of the Divine Embrace
Suddenly forgiven.
What more?
The rest is merely details.
Love is born.

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.

Mina Angus	<i>relative of the Stanleys</i>	Melvin Ott	<i>cousin of David Arrowood</i>
Joy Barnette	<i>friend of Betty Massey</i>	Jerry Overcash	<i>cousin of Bonnie Russell</i>
Martha Ann Barringer	<i>friend of Sandy Arrowood</i>	Laurie Parrish	<i>sister of Mark Parrish</i>
Kim Fox	<i>friend of David Arrowood</i>	Tim Peede	<i>bro-in-law of Debbie Clary</i>
Don Killian	<i>cousin of David Arrowood</i>	Diane Rivers	<i>friend of Alice Weaver</i>
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>
Jeanette Morris	<i>sister of Gerald Graham</i>	April Weaver	<i>wife of Jonathan Weaver</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's received....

From one of the Christmas in the Mountain families: "Thank you for making Christmas a special one for the kids. Its people like you that make this world a better place to live. We wouldn't have had a Christmas if it wasn't for you all. Thank you. Family 6." (Card is on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall)

Blue Christmas – Thank You's

Special thanks to Steve Massey who filled in for me (Pastor Scott) on short notice to lead the Blue Christmas service, when I was smitten by a bad 2 day stomach bug. And for Nancy who shared our music, and Gene Jendras and Mark Parrish who handled video streaming and sound. You all helped provide a ministry to that that needed it.

OFFERINGS AND FINANCE

OFFERINGS AND ATTENDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER

	Current	Benevolence	Worship
Nov. 1	\$4,754.40	\$130.00	
Nov. 8	\$2,842.66	\$80.00	
Nov. 15	\$2,074.00	\$25.00	
Nov. 22	\$2,897.37	\$149.23	
Nov. 29	\$1,545.00	\$25.00	

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Current	Benevolence	Restricted	Total
Beginning Balance 11/1/20	\$20,390.23	\$0.00	\$148,541.84	\$168,932.07
Receipts November 2020	\$14,113.43	\$409.23	\$9,414.50	\$23,937.16
Charges/Fees November 2020	(\$18.22)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$18.22)
Transfers November 2020	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$730.00)	(\$730.00)
Disbursements November 2020	(\$12,107.04)	\$0.00	(\$622.67)	(\$12,729.71)
Ending Balance 11/30/20	\$22,378.40	\$409.23	\$156,603.67	\$179,391.30

DISCIPLESHIP

SLY and Kingdom Kids resume our 2nd & 4th Sunday evenings in January. The SLY holiday fun and fellowship outing is being rescheduled.

“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 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.

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.

Council and Leadership Section

December 20 Congregation Council meeting

Council accepted Treasurers reports.

No actions were requested by any committees

Minor status updates on some 2018 and 2019 Ingathering projects.

Council endorsed pursuing grant funds to install double doors in the activity building and purchasing a pallet jack.

A quote for playground repairs was received and an insurance claim will be initiated.

A motion was made that all 2020 officers remain in office for the 2021 year. This motion passed.

Mark Parrish—President

Jody Perrell—Treasurer

Deanna Allison—Secretary

Next meeting will be January 17 at 7:30am

Annual Congregation Meeting Results

We welcome newly elected Congregation Council members Wesley Jones, Larry Sheets, Micki Karricker and Ron Webb.

We thank Lori Corriher, Ruth Hodge, Grover Holt and Jody Perrell for their service as their term ends.

The 2020 Financial Plan/Budget was approved 67-2.

The congregation voted 37-30 choosing to continue worshipping at 9:30am

Ingathering Projects Update

An exterior safety light has been installed at the back corner of the sanctuary building, illuminating the yard and back toward the shelter.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Robert Hodge	1
Allison Williams	3
Lane Lauder	3
Natalie Allison	4
Jackson Keys	5
Eleanor Ijames	7
Brooke Kennerly	8
Taylor Garczynski	10
Margie Karriker	11
Barbara Bolick	12
Carrie Cameron	13
Elizabeth Applewhite	13
Ansley Kluttz	16
Ryan Garczynski	16
Lela Ijames	18
Amber Kennerly	19
Brad Massey	20
James Applewhite	22
Grover Holt	27
Donna Frederick	29
Julie Poteat	31

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Seleia Kerr	9
Carter Kluttz	9
Wayne Kluttz	11
Dianne Davis	11
Michael Kluttz	11
Katie Hoffner	13
Ava Jones	22
Torie Jones	22
Richard Hansen	23
Tyler Poteat	26
Aidan Connelly	28