

SAINT LUKE  LUTHERAN CHURCH
ONE LORD. ONE FAITH. ONE BAPTISM

Volume 10, Issue 11

THE JOURNAL

December 2017



Council Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2017, Council Meeting:

- Staff evaluations are complete.
- The 2018 budget is being prepared for presentation at the Congregational meeting to be held on December 10th. Three new Council members will be elected on this date.
- Council approved \$2,000 gift to Jack Lawson Memorial Fund in appreciation of Paula Lawson's time running the church office in the interim between office administrators.
- Council minutes will be printed in the St. Luke Journal in abbreviated form.
- Chairman Tommy Ewart and Property Committee Chairman Don Rupard will proceed with securing architectural plans for a new Administrative Building for St. Luke.
- Christmas Services are as follows: December 24th: 9:30 am, 4:15 pm, 10:30 pm. December 25th 11:00 am. December 31st 9:30 am.
- Council will hold a retreat at the Lutheran Retreat Center at Isle of Palms on January 12th and 13th, 2018.
- Buster Holland has been appointed to the Mutual Ministry Committee.
- St. Luke will advertise Christmas Eve services in local media.
- Two out-going members of the Endowment Committee will be replaced with two new members who will fill 3-year terms; these vacancies are appointed by Council.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

The October edition of the Journal reported the worship schedule for Sunday December 24th, which was decided upon by the Worship Committee in September. As you recall from that article, December 24th is Advent 4, Christmas Eve, and a Sunday. The Worship Committee made the original decision to have two services that day at 9:30am (for Advent 4) and 7:00pm (Christmas Eve). The Committee's decision was based on a heartfelt desire to encourage full participation in both these important liturgical opportunities, on what is an otherwise awkward combination of festivities coming together on, of all days, a Sunday.

Having received feedback about this schedule, however, the Worship Committee has amended their decision. The new schedule for Sunday, December 24th, is: 9:30am for Advent 4, 4:15pm for our Christmas Eve Children's Service, and 10:30pm for our traditional Christmas "High Mass" service. The reason the Worship Committee amended the schedule is because they value the feedback we received regarding our Christmas Eve services. The 4:15 provides a special opportunity for our young families to be in worship and back home in time for the evening. The 10:30 is special because of its unique beauty and grandeur, particularly with the singing of many Christmas hymns. The 10:30 service also provides a unique opportunity to invite many friends and guests to worship with us, since we are one of the few Protestant congregations in Florence who offer a true "midnight mass" service. Every year, indeed, this night is very special; and many of us are honored that we provide both these services, not only for our members, but for the wider community. We are grateful for your response that allowed us to amend the service times in a timely manner as we enter the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Please mark you calendars accordingly and be with us as we celebrate the good news of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



LUTHERAN SERVICES CAROLINAS FOSTER CHILDREN CHRISTMAS PARTY

St. Luke is once again honored to host a Christmas party on December 14th for the children that have been placed with foster families through Lutheran Services Carolinas. The Service and Fellowship Committees will provide a meal for the foster families and their LSC case workers and we will fill Christmas stockings with gift cards. There are thirty children in foster care, many of whom are teenagers and several have special needs.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Donate \$5.00 gift cards to fast food restaurants (McDonalds, Wendy's, or Chick-Fil-A only please)
- Donate \$20.00 gift cards to Wal-Mart.
- Make a monetary donation in the basket located in the narthex or with your weekly offering and Service Committee will purchase the gift cards. Be sure you note that your donation is designated for the foster children's Christmas party on your envelope.



**Thanks for helping make the holidays a
little brighter for these very special children.**



Lutheran Men in Mission Stone Soup Supper

Lutheran Men in Mission requests donations of canned vegetables in preparation of this year's Stone Soup. Donations may be placed in the collection box located in the gathering area.



Lutheran Men

I know it is dangerous to eulogize people in this column, because you may omit truly deserving ones, and offend their family and friends. I apologize if I have done that in the past. Feel free to reduce my salary. John Slice died on Sunday, November 12th. I was going to see him the morning of the 13th when my daughter called and told me the news. He has been very sick over the last two years, but after surgeries, had rallied to the point of resuming a comfortable life. He looked great, gained weight, and enjoyed his friends and family again for a while. We are grateful for that time, short as it now seems.

In the old church on King Avenue, you could tell when John was an usher without seeing him, because when he walked down the aisle to receive the offering plates, the floor creaked and moaned under his weight. He was a big man and had been a great football player in his youth. He grew up in Chapin, S.C., where Lutheran Churches are everywhere. He said, "Until I came to Florence, I thought everybody was Lutheran." Other than singing in the choir, I cannot think of any church activity he did not participate in and enjoy, especially if fellowship was involved. He was a "take charge" kind of guy, who could be counted on to get whatever duty he was assigned done right. He was the butt of many of my feeble attempts at humor in this report, most of which I made up, but he was a good sport. For example, when we were building the present church I accused him of lobbying the church council for a stained glass window picturing him in his Chapin High School Football Uniform. He later offered to get me an autographed photo to be used for that purpose.

He loved St. Luke Lutheran Church and was a loyal member of the Lutheran Men. When we cook Stone Soup this year, there will be a memorial bottle of vinegar added, an ingredient he insisted was essential for a good pot of soup. We will miss him. Join us on December 10th at 6:00 pm for this year's Stone Soup Supper in the church Fellowship Hall following the Children's Christmas program. The following Tuesday, at 6:30 pm all men are invited to the monthly meeting of The Lutheran Men, when we will sing carols and enjoy leftover Stone Soup. It probably won't be as good as it was under John's supervision, but we will do the best we can.

Wylie Caldwell, Secretary

WELCA News

We had our Combined Meeting on November 7th at Stefano's. We ate and had a good time. We installed Cheryl Johnson as the new President, Nancy Werlau as Secretary and a few other positions.

Joy Boone will stay on as Vice President for one more year. She is currently working on our new year books. We thank her so much because there are many things that need to be checked and rechecked. We closed with the Missionary Benediction.

Afterwards, we had a quick Executive Board Meeting where we finalized what needs to be done for the Stone Soup event in December. Our circles will meet in December as usual. Have a blessed Advent Season.

Jane Hiester, President

LCY

Dear St. Luke friends in Christ,

After a fall season filled with fun events and service projects, the youth of our congregation have much to look forward to in December. They are all anticipating the winter break from school, but more importantly, they are looking forward to spending extended time with family and friends during this special time of year. To get everyone in the Christmas spirit, a large contingent of the LCY will combine forces with St. Luke's Bell Choir on December 8th to do some caroling. Please feel free to join us. The caroling event is now considered a time honored tradition here at St. Luke. A few days before Christmas, the youth also expect to do some ice skating as the newly renamed Florence Center will once again offer a frozen pond to the public.

David Williams



Trunk or Treat

Thank you, thank you, thank you members of St. Luke. The Learning Committee asked for help in putting on Trunk or Treat for the children of St. Luke in October and you responded. We collected so much candy that we were able to donate extra to Lutheran Services Carolinas for their group homes and to three special needs classes at Royall Elementary School. There were 14 trunks and activities for the children to visit after the costume parade. The LCY bobbing for donuts was a hit. You can check out more pictures on our Facebook page.

Beckie Potterfield





Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Early in September, a tree full of ornaments was placed in the Gathering Area along with shoeboxes that needed to be filled. Participation in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child had begun at St. Luke. Over the next two months, you, the members of St. Luke donated monies, supplies, and even filled 19 boxes before we packed 187 for a total of 206 boxes on Sunday November 12, 2017. I was privileged to be a part of this project and found myself witnessing the following:

- Love in the eyes of everyone present for children they would probably never meet
- Joy in a teenager serving so someone else would have joy
- Peace of God making a large task small when many participated
- Patience of a confirmation sponsor helping not just her confirmand to fill boxes, but the confirmand's small siblings fill their boxes, too
- Kindness in a St. Luke visitor joining in the fellowship of packing boxes
- Goodness in a Sunday School teacher demonstrating and explaining why we pack boxes
- Faithfulness of St. Luke members meeting the call to give items so boxes could be packed
- Gentleness of a mother teaching a young child the hard lesson of giving instead of receiving
- Self-control – this may be the hardest to explain – I saw many people all packing boxes differently. Some rolled clothes, some folded clothes, some very carefully arranged items, and some just stuck items in the box any old way. I did not hear anyone tell someone they were packing their box wrong. Self-control in everyone present when they demonstrated love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness.

I was privileged to see evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in the Fellowship Hall of St. Luke on Sunday, November 12th. I won't forget that day very soon.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23

Beckie Potterfield



From the Pastor's Desk

“Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15: 55-57)

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

At the church in Corinth, Paul dealt with a very important issue - the resurrection of the dead. Some didn't understand it and they had many questions about what it would look like. Some didn't believe in it at all and evidently had spared no words in stating so. Paul tackles this issue head on in chapter 15 and in doing so, leaves the church with a powerful witness of why trusting in the resurrection matters.

Most importantly, Paul stated earlier in the chapter, in verse 14, that “...if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.” There's no point, in other words, of believing in Jesus Christ if he is not raised from the dead. Then later on, Paul answers the questions about “how” the resurrection is supposed to take place and “what” it will look like. If resurrection is to be really real, then death must be really real. The body must die because that's how the body is made; it's imperishable and finite. This is a painful truth, painful because death hurts. It's a reminder of our mortality. We lose loved one that we will never see again. Our grief is overwhelming. But... Paul says, “Let me tell you a mystery... *We will be changed.*”

With that statement, Paul turns everything upside down. The declaration of change means that we see death differently. In Christ, death is “swallowed up”; it is done away with, it no longer has power. Death still comes, yes, and worse, it is still painful. But the resurrection of Jesus Christ has changed everything - our bodies, our souls, and everything about the way we see life.

Paul's words remind that the resurrection is the one and only thing in which we have hope for the future. There will be a day of resurrection. There will be a day of life after death. There will be a day when we will see our loved ones again. Through hope and faith in the resurrection of Jesus, the present has meaning again. No, our faith is not in vain. *Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!*

From the Pastor's Desk

We've seen too much death here at St. Luke, haven't we? Too many of our family members and friends have died and the repetition of death - another notification, another funeral - it takes its toll on us, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Our grief is real, and we dare not deny it. Yet, God does not leave us empty-handed. God has promised eternal life in Jesus Christ. We can trust in Jesus to deliver us from death and bring us to everlasting life. One day, we will see our loved ones again. One day, we will be with them and worship God forever.

As many of us continue to grieve our losses, my prayers for our congregation are focused on remembering that Christ Jesus is victorious over death, and that we cling faithfully to that promise of good news. The world is a bitter enough place to begin with; the loss of our loved ones only intensifies our anxieties and worries about life, both in the present and the future. I encourage us all, therefore, to continue in remembering the specific families who have suffered loss in our daily prayers, especially as we enter a season of holiday milestones, in which our beloved departed brothers and sisters will be tremendously missed.

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

Pastor Shealy

EMOTIONS AND THE HOLIDAYS

Resources Available in the Narthex

"It's the time of year when all the world falls in love. . ." is the first line of a popular holiday song. However, not everyone feels that way during the season.

People may be grieving the loss of a loved one, worrying about losing a job, or feeling displaced after a recent move. Some of us have cherished memories of holidays past with family and friends, but now our lives are different and trying to live up to unrealistic expectations just adds more stress to the holidays and makes us blue.

If you or someone you know is experiencing conflicting emotions about the holidays, there are resources available in the narthex. Please feel free to stop by and pick up a Care Note or other information that might be helpful.

Altar Flower Reminders

Altar Flowers

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary during 2018, please notify Rona Ewart of your specific date as we are preparing next year's calendar. We ask that everyone schedule a date even if you have a regular Sunday that you always have flowers in the sanctuary. Please email Rona at ronaw@sc.rr.com or call (and leave a voice message) at 843-687-3507.

Poinsettias

This year, we will again decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias, in preparation for Christmas. Envelopes will be available in the pew racks or you may contact Taylor Bell, in the church office, to arrange for a poinsettia to be placed in honor or memory of loved ones. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10 and we ask that all orders be placed before December 10th.



SERVING THIS MONTH • DECEMBER 2017

Responsibility	Date	Person(s) Serving
Assisting Minister/ Lector	All Month	8:30 Conrad Derrick, Sandy Derrick 10:30 Buddy Dunklin
Communion Assistants	All Month	8:30 John and Ann Belissary 10:30 Tom and Rona Ewart
Ushers	All Month	Blake Pate, Conrad Seastrunk, Jerry Shull, Charlie Shumpert
Greeters	All Month	8:30 Charles Johnson 10:30 Jane Brandt, Bruce and Susan Snipes
Crucifers	3	8:30 Mykenna Blankenship 10:30 Will Mitchell
	10	8:30 Tessa Pinkerman 10:30 Jake Montgomery
	17	8:30 Kayla Grace Pinkerman 10:30 Colie Cagle
	24	9:30 Mary Catherine Mitchell 4:15 Jack Riley Daugherty 10:30 Ian Spivey
	31	9:30 Colie Cagle
Acolytes	3	8:30 Luke Shealy 10:30 Allison Brewer & Ethan Williams
	10	8:30 Gracie Horger 10:30 Ridgely Jackson & Sam Spence
	17	8:30 Allison Brewer 10:30 Quincy Boyd & Aidan Williams
	24	9:30 Will Mitchell & Luke Shealy 4:15 Gibson Girard & Sam Spence 10:30 Davis Lyerly & Tessa Pinkerman
	31	9:30 Trinitty Gade & John Kelly Cagle

Responsibility	Date	Person(s) Serving
Offering Tellers	3	Beverly Hiller and Jenny Girard
	10	Tommy Ewart and Joe Onessimo
	17	Robbie Smallwood & Joe Warren
	24	Jenny Girard and Joe Onessimo
	31	Tommy Ewart and Don Rupard
Altar Flowers	3	Charlie & Karen Shumpert
	10	Archie & Joy Boone
	17	Joe & Connie Fetcko
	24	Fawn Pruitt & Virginia Swaggard
	31	David Jr. & Julia Jackson
Altar Flower Delivery	All Month	Sister Bertha and Sister Najla Circles
Nursery	3	Joy Boone
	10	Teresa Brewer
	17	Sue Stoughton
	24	Cebie Perkins
	31	Cindy Schnibben

*If you are unable to serve on the assigned date, please find a replacement and contact the office administrator at 843-662-4622 as soon as possible.

ST. LUKE CALENDAR • DECEMBER 2017

Sunday, December 3

8:30am Service of Holy Communion
 9:30am Advent Fair
 10:30am Service of Holy Communion
 5:00pm Alive @ Five/Confirmation / Handbell Practice
 6:00pm LCY

Monday, December 4

6:00pm Witness Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 5

11:30am Freida Klaus Luncheon (The Peddler)
 6:30pm Sister Najla Circle

Wednesday, December 6

7:00am Matins
 12:15pm Service of Holy Communion
 6:00pm Vespers/Chancel Choir Practice
 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study

Thursday, December 7th

6:00pm Property Committee Meeting

Friday, December 8

6:15pm Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 10

8:30am Service of Holy Communion
 9:30am Sunday School
 10:30am Service of Holy Communion
 12:00pm Congregational Meeting
 1:00pm Council Meeting
 5:00pm Alive @ Five /Confirmation
 5:30pm Children's Christmas Play
 6:00pm LMM Stone Soup Supper

Monday, December 11

7:00pm Dorothea Wood Circle Meeting (Spence Home)

Tuesday, December 12

6:00pm Chrismon Committee Covered Dish Dinner
 6:30pm LMM Meeting

Wednesday, December 13

7:00am Matins
 12:15pm Service of Holy Communion
 6:00pm Vespers/Chancel Choir Practice
 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study

Sunday, December 17

8:30am Service of Holy Communion
 9:30am Sunday School
 10:30 Service of Holy Communion
 6:00pm LCY

Monday, December 18

10:00am Chrismon Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 20

7:00am Matins
 12:15pm Service of Holy Communion
 6:00pm Vespers/Chancel Choir Practice

Friday, December 22

10:00am Chrismon Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 24

9:30am Service of Holy Communion
 *No Sunday School
 4:15pm Children's Christmas Service
 10:30pm Traditional Christmas Service

Monday, December 25

11:00am Service of Holy Communion
 Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

Church Office Closed
 *No Wednesday Night Services

Sunday, December 31

9:30am Lessons and Carols
 *No Sunday School

Happy Anniversary

December 4

Kevin and Mary Wheeler

December 10

John and Ann Belissary

December 11

Frank and Peggy Brown

December 16

Todd and Rebecca Campbell

December 17

Phil and Juanita Miller

December 18

Jim and Mardi Montgomery

December 19

Joe and Connie Fetcko

December 20

Charlie and Karen Shumpert

December 23

Mark and Maria Balmer

December 26

Oliver and Jo Ellen Webber

December 28

Johnny and Cindy Guest

December 29

Tim and Stacey Spence

Gerald and Nancy Werlau

December 30

David and Cebie Perkins

David and Stephanie Williams

December 31

Bruce and Susan Snipes


December 1

Joyce Shaw

December 4

Paula Efird

Cindy Guest

Barbara Keisler

December 5

Earl Frick

December 8

John Cagle

Wendy Carmon

Alyssa Hertzog

December 12

Christy Mitchell

Jocie Patterson

December 15

Stacy Moore

Diane Osterman

December 16

Meredith Wheeler

December 17

Weston Moss

Nicole Owens

December 18

Jack Newell

Jennifer O'Harra

December 20

Mary Wheeler

Brandon Yonce

December 21

Jane Hiester

December 23

Ashley Shealy

December 25

Kenny Blankenship

Steven Calcutt

December 28

Randy Osterman

Sandie Warren

December 29

Tom Ewart

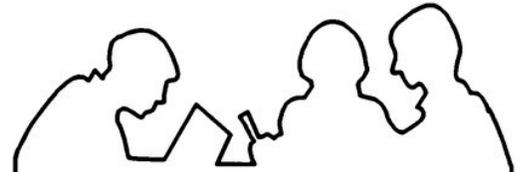
Thank You

So bountiful and gracious are the blessings of prayers, love and support, which our church family here at St Luke extended to us during this difficult time. And though the loss of Carleen, wife and mother, is a difficult part of our journey through this life, it has been made much easier thanks to all you have done for and given to my family. I would like to express my deepest thanks and pray for God's Peace and Blessings to be with you all.

W. Dale Carrier, Sr.

I would like to thank the church family for the outpouring of love and support during the passing of my husband, Hans. Prayers, cards, food, and phone calls were greatly appreciated by my family.

Lucy Anne Laufer



CHURCH COUNCIL

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Please Pray for Those Serving Our Country

S/Sgt. Jesse LeSueur Germany (grandson of Betty Lou Burrows)	LTC Fred Philipp 482 Loblolly Drive Vass, NC 28934 (son of Sylvia and Bill Philipp)
S/Sgt. Victor Tran South Korea (husband of Brynn Riegel Tran)	SGT David Drew Camp LeJeune, North Carolina (grandson of Jill Smith)
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We're on the web!
stlukeflorence.org

Return Service Requested

MISSION STATEMENT

*To Proclaim, serve and witness to the Gospel of
Jesus Christ*

