

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills
Sunday News Insert, July 26, 2020

www.vestavialutheran.org

(205) 823-1883—church office

(205) 791-5200—Preschool & MDO

Mid Week Moment—LCVH Weekly Electronic Newsletter



to keep up with happenings at LCVH

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our LCVH Family

healing for Madelyn Smith after eye surgery, upcoming eye surgery for Henry Piasky, upcoming shoulder surgery for Peggy Little, God's blessings on the upcoming marriage of Katelyn Pickard to Jacob Hayley, Nancy Stuenkel healing from dental surgery, Jackson Como, John Gaertner healing from hip surgery, Rex Bearden, Gwen Harrison, Ken Harrison, Rebecca Creamer, Carol Doty-Bennett, Jean Wolter, Gaye Norman, Wendy Quinn, Lee Parrish, Murray & Betty Bair, Luverne Hasse, Lisa Boyle, Jim Norman, Barbara Mooney

Healthy pregnancies for: Liz (and Andrew) Johnson and for Anna Crabb (and Zach) Lankford and for Susan Nuss (and Eric)

LCVH Extended Family

John Schulz in ICU (son of Ed Schulz), Rick & Shannon (friends of Bo Canning), Suzanne (relative of Debbie Russell), Patricia Wojcik (mother of Steve Wojcik), Peggy Walter (mother of Mark Walter), Richard & Linda Hatley (sister and brother-in-law of Dale Phillips), Cindy Michael (former MDO teacher at LCVH), Joyce Woodward (grandmother of Connor Minyard), Louis Sims (husband of Dorothy Sims), Nikki Lacy (sister of Brandee Moore), Elizabeth Beck (sister of Kathryn Miesner)

Please send any updates or corrections to lwalter@vestavialutheran.org

July 19, 2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

General Fund:	\$	8,955.00
Envelope Total:	\$	9,785.00
Total Collection:	\$	10,640.00

ATTENDANCE

July 18 & 19, 2020

In person	157
On-line views	93

FLOWERS

Flowers today are given to the glory of God by Glenn & Deb Schneider in honor of their wedding anniversary and by Arlen & Arlene Reynolds in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary

SOCIAL MINISTRY

JULY FOCUS: SHIRK FAMILY

In July, Social Ministry is focusing on the Shirk Ministry and all the hope and blessings their ministry brings to the people of Kenya. We are blessed to be able to support their Medical Mission which often goes way beyond just meeting the medical needs of the people of Kijabe, Kenya; reaching into their hearts and souls with God's love and guidance and support. The Shirk family continues to be an example of God's love reaching past all the world's boundaries to inspire faith and care for those less fortunate. Please consider a special offering to support the Shirk Family's living expenses in Kenya especially during this extreme time of COVID-19. Kenya is experiencing extreme shutdowns and food shortages so the need is great. **These expenses are separate from support many of us give to Project Hope for the Medical Mission hospital itself. For your special offering, please indicate that it's for "The Shirk Family."**

Your continued faith and support in our mission to help those in need wherever they live is an inspiration to our Board of Social Ministry and we thank you!

SENIOR MINISTRY BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAYS

AUGUST 5th & 19th

10:00 a.m.

Ladies meet in the Fellowship Hall

Men meet in the Sanctuary

Don't forget to wear your mask! (extra will be available if you forget!)

Your temperature will be taken at the door and Social Distancing guidelines should be honored!

A NOTE FROM FELLOWSHIP

During this time of safer at home due to COVID-19, Fellowship would like to invite our church family to participate in a "VIRTUAL POT-LUCK." We are asking everyone to collect your favorite recipes and either email a copy to ginag1302@aol.com or put a hard copy into the Miesner mailbox at church no later than Sunday, August 9th. We are looking for any kind of recipe - appetizer, side dish, dessert, soup, salad, main dish, bread, etc. We will then take all of your yummy recipes and compile them into a printed cookbook which we will give to each family. Our goal is to have the cookbooks ready between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

So everyone please dig up your favorites to share with our church family!

Gina Miesner

Fellowship Chair

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

LCVH Church Family,

I have declined the call to serve as pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Also, while I was on vacation I received a call to Faith Lutheran in Ottawa, Kansas. I have also declined this call.

Our prayers continue for these congregations, LCVH, and the church at large that our pastors and the people of God may partner in the Gospel in time for the sake of eternity and His glory!

I want to express our families gratitude for the prayers and thoughts during these calls.

I am beyond blessed to serve the people of God at LCVH. The past ten years have been a tremendous gift to me and our family.

The abundant words of encouragement expressing that there is so much to be done at LCVH together in the future made a tremendous impact and impression on my heart.

The Lord is Good!

+Pastor Ahlemeyer

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

After several meetings and input from many people, **September 13th** has been set as the projected start date for Sunday School classes this year! There will not be a traditional "KickOff" event as in years past, but we are hoping to be able to host a family picnic on the church grounds later in the Fall. Ruth will be sharing information regarding safety procedures in the coming weeks. A decision has not yet been made whether or not the Little Lambs Sunday School class will meet, and of course all plans are subject to change as we respond to safety guidelines set forth by our public officials. We look forward to gathering to share God's love with the children in our congregation!

REGARDING CONFIRMATION

Pastor Ahlemeyer is tentatively planning to resume Confirmation Classes with last year's 8th grade class on **Sunday, Sept. 13th**. Classes will continue weekly through late October, with Confirmation being held on Reformation Sunday, October 25th. More details will be coming soon!

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and good wishes for Johnny. Also for the cards and texts and phone calls. We are finally home but face a long recovery. It was good to be remembered by our church friends. Your prayers certainly helped lift the burden of uncertainty and waiting.

Thanks again, Alma Gaertner

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Contribution statements are available in your church mailbox. Any statements not picked up in the next few weeks will be mailed to the address on file.

PROJECT HOPE: KENYA MISSION PROJECT

In June, 2019, Adrienne Williams, Cindy Barberini, and I carried to Uganda suitcases full of children's books purchased with mission offerings from our Vacation Bible School students. The gifts were received with great joy and much gratitude. This summer Arianna Shirk is asking the LCVH family to consider purchasing more children's books and also some adult books for a Kijabe Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Library. Children often spend weeks and sometime months in the NICU. Parents have mentioned that it would be helpful if they had books to read to their children and also some books they could read for themselves as they spend many hours waiting, watching, and praying for their little ones who are often attached to life-saving equipment.

So beginning Sunday, July 5, there will be posters on the bulletin board outside of the church office displaying pictures, titles, and the costs of books Project HOPE would like to send to Kijabe. You are invited to take a look and write your name by one or two books you would like to provide. Children may want to write their name by a book or two. All of the books can be purchased on amazon.com. When you receive your books please bring them to church and place them in the basket beneath the posters. If you would like Project HOPE to purchase a book for you, please take one of the stickers by the posters and place it beside the book along with your name. Then in the next week or two please write a check payable to **The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills** with **HOPE: Kenya Books** on the memo line, and place it in the offering plate. We would like to collect all books and money by Sunday, August 2 when we will have a special "Blessing of the Books" in our worship services. The books will then be sent to a missionary in New Jersey who will carry them to Kijabe.

This is a beautiful opportunity for our LCVH family to give an expression to their desire **To Offer HOPE for tomorrow and for eternity through Christ.**

PROJECT HOPE UPDATE

During the past two weeks I have heard from all three of our international mission sites. Here is what I have learned:

Kenya – The Shirk family was quarantined for two weeks recently because they had been in contact with a friend who came down with Covid. Fortunately, none of the Shirks have contracted the virus. As it turns out the quarantine afforded Arianna the opportunity to get some much needed rest and for all four of them to spend some quality family time together. David also reports that the construction of the Operating Theatre Expansion Project is ongoing in spite of Covid.

Nicaragua – Unfortunately, our project manager in Nicaragua, Georgina Sanchez, and her son, Jorge, have contracted the virus. So far it is not life-threatening for them, but they are very sick. I have also learned that many of our Nicaragua friends have also contracted the disease, but so far none have died. However, all have family members who have recently passed away.

In addition to Covid another big issue in Nicaragua is the lack of food. Many people have lost their jobs; inflation is high; and there is a shortage of food. I have learned that children, normally fed at a feeding center, must now pick up their food, take it home, and share it with other family members. Project HOPE will soon be wire transferring \$10,000.00 for the purchase of large quantities of rice, beans, oatmeal flour, salt, oil, and hand soap which will be broken down into family-size food packages and distributed to those who are hungry.

Uganda – On June 19 Project HOPE wire transferred \$23,000.00 to The Lutheran Church of Uganda, most of which has been used for food. Transportation has been severely restricted in Uganda, but Rev. Charles Bameka, being the Bishop of the LCU, has been granted special dispensation to travel, purchase sacks of corn flour, beans, oil, and hand soap, and then distribute it to the three villages we sponsor plus some other communities. He has been working 20 hours a day to make sure our gifts feed the hungry.

"Give us this day our **daily** bread." Fortunately, we have been able to provide that for many because the grace of God, first given to us, has now been passed on to others. Thank you for your compassion and generosity. God be praised!

Clifford Hellmers, Pastor Emeritus
Coordinator for Project HOPE

Know someone who would like to keep informed of services and happenings at LCVH?

Ask them to share their email with the church office to be added to our weekly electronic newsletter, The MidWeek Moment.

Call 205-823-1883 or email Leigh at lwalter@vestavialutheran.org