

# St. Luke's Newsletter

MAY 2020



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Dear Friends,

I saw a post on Facebook this past week by Willie Wendorff and several others that said we are all in the same storm of COVID-19, but we are also all in our own unique boat as we go through the storm. Some of us have been diagnosed with the virus, others waited for test results that finally came back negative. Some of us have been hospitalized or said goodbye to loved ones who died without us being able to be with them, others have not had anything go wrong health-wise with anyone they hold dear. Some of us have lost a job or been furloughed or had to make painful decisions about which bill to pay because there wasn't enough money to pay them all, others have experienced no change in our monthly income and have worked our regular jobs/hours. Some of us have had to learn how to do our jobs online, others already knew how to do it. Some of us had to learn how to do virtual learning with our children, others with no children in our homes have tried but have no idea what it's like to work a usual day and still have to teach/help our children learn their daily lessons at home.

One of the blessings of these last eight weeks is that we have been given a tremendous opportunity to live our faith, give grace to others and ourselves not to be perfect and scheduled to the hilt, and recognize that Jesus is in all of our boats with us in the storm. May we praise him in our storm and trust that he will bring us to the other side wiser and kinder for the journey!

In God's Love,  
Pastor Jody

## Congregational Vote



The deadline for church members to vote on the 2020/2021 Terms of Call for Pastor Jody is Thursday, May 7th.

Please return your vote via email or US Postal Service mail to Clerk of Session, Jerry Beverly, by May 7th

OR

Call Jerry at the church office on May 7th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. with your vote.  
(321) 269-3260

**Your Vote Matters!**

# Youth Group

Youth Group is about growing deeper in our faith, participating in mission projects, making friends, and having fun. Here's our line up of Youth Group activities coming soon:

- Sunday, May 3rd 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Youth Group Zoom Gathering
- Sunday, May 10th **Graduate Sunday Worship service at 10 a.m.**  
**Kassie Mudrak, Sarah Williams & Jason Woodward**  
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Youth Group Zoom Gathering
- Sunday, May 17th 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Youth Group Zoom Gathering
- Sunday, May 24th 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Youth Group Zoom Gathering
- Sunday, May 31st 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Youth Group Zoom Gathering



## Summer Youth Mission Trip

Because of COVID-19, our 2020 Summer Youth Mission Trip plans have changed. By unanimous decision, our mission trip team voted to cancel our trip to Savannah, GA and stay home in Titusville for our trip. We will begin on Saturday, June 13th and end on Friday, June 19th. Our first priority for projects will be to assist the widows and female head of households in our church. If we still have space for projects after this group has given us their needs list, we will move to couples and families who have project needs. Thank you to everyone for praying for us as we made this decision and we will share more about our plans in the coming weeks!

# Memorial Day And Our Military

Memorial Day is well over 100 years old. What began as a time of decorating the graves of those in military service who died during the Civil War has become a tradition that is identified with all wars.

We live in the eternal quest for the day when all swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. My fantasy for that day is of tanks rolling into one end of a factory and tractors rolling out the other. Unfortunately, the world in which we live is one where plowshares are often beaten into swords. Fields that should be producing food are fallow because of landmines.

We have men and women in the military who find themselves in dangerous places worldwide. Having set aside their lives with family and community, they face danger on a daily basis as they serve their country. The constant anxiety and the destruction they witness are attacks on their souls and minds.

Among the military personnel are our Presbyterian Church (USA) chaplains—some very dedicated women and men who continue the ministry of molding swords of war into plowshares of life. Like those with whom they serve, they spend long months away from their families and witness the destructiveness of war. Each day they risk their own lives to bring care and compassion in the name of Jesus Christ.

In the midst of the ugliness of war is the beauty of a chaplain bringing the balm of Gilead to a troubled soul. Among the roar of jets overhead and guns blasting away is the whisper of a shared prayer. While a television displays images of a war-torn landscape, a chaplain conveys the image of a God whose eye is on not only the sparrow, but on loved ones serving in harm's way.

A sword can be changed into a plowshare in many ways. Our PC/USA chaplains are a vital way that God brings peace and hope where there appears to be neither. I invite you to say a prayer of gratitude for them this Memorial Day.

*\*Note: This letter was written by the Reverend Gradye Parsons when he served as the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It was originally printed on May 28, 2010.*

## **We Pray For Our Active Duty Military And Their Families:**

Adrian Amador

Becky Calhoun

Jacob Cook

Jordan Gadaway

Warren Queton

Andy Amador

Angel Colbert

Robert Davis

Abe Gray

Katie Schuler

Andrew Braemer

Justice Coles

Mark Diaz

Xavier Martin

Jarrold Thomson

Will Burress

Bekky Cook

Nathan Finch

Troy McMurrin

# Eastertide Worship

## **What is Eastertide?**

Eastertide is the period of 50 days that begins on Easter Sunday and goes until Pentecost Sunday, which this year is April 12th through May 31st. Each Sunday of the Eastertide is treated as a Sunday of Easter so, as an example, our worship on May 3rd is the Fourth Sunday of Easter. Easter Sunday corresponds to the Jewish festival of Passover and Pentecost to Shavu'ot.

## **Sunday, May 3rd is Communion Sunday and the Fourth Sunday of Easter!**

We will have our 10:00 a.m. worship service via livestream on the church's Facebook page. Worshipers are invited to take Communion at home using their own bread and juice/wine, or to wait until we resume in-person worship if that is your preference. The preaching text will be John 21:15-25, Pastor David will preach, and the sermon title is "Fisherman to Disciple to Shepherd."

## **Sunday, May 10th is the Fifth Sunday of Easter, Graduate Sunday, and Mother's Day Sunday.**

We will do a special "Graduate Walk" in the east and west church parking lots at 9 a.m. to celebrate the high school graduations of Kassie Mudrak, Sarah Williams, and Jason Woodward. Everyone will then drive home, get online, and worship via livestream at 10 a.m. The preaching text will be Matthew 28:16-20, Pastor Jody will preach, and the sermon title is "Go!"

We will celebrate the **Sixth Sunday of Easter and Ascension Sunday on May 17th.** We will worship via livestream at 10 a.m., the preaching text will be Acts 1:1-11, and Pastor David will be preaching.

## **Sunday, May 24th is the Seventh Sunday of Easter and our celebration of Memorial Day.**

As part of the livestream worship service at 10:00 a.m. we will read the names of our active duty military service members. The preaching text will be Acts 1:12-26, Pastor Jody will be preaching, and the sermon title is "Matthias, The 12th."

## **Sunday, May 31st, is Pentecost Sunday.**

Everyone is invited to wear red on Pentecost Sunday. There is a possibility that some form of in-person worship will resume on this Sunday but there are still many questions that the Elders need to work through before anything is certain, including if the CDC is allowing groups of 50 or more people to gather together. We will definitely still livestream the 10:00 a.m. worship service via our church's Facebook page. The preaching text will be Acts 2:1-21 and Pastor David will preaching.





# Thank You To Our Awesome Choir!

We are tremendously blessed to have congregants at St. Luke's who are willing to share their singing abilities to enhance our worship and congregational life! Here are some pictures of our awesome choir this past program year:



## **Sopranos**

Betty Parks  
Sandy Voisin  
M.E. Kelly  
Gloria Gunness  
Serenity Dontell  
Rebecca Gunness  
Sarah Guarrine

## **Altos**

Carol McCracken  
Elma Yoder  
Linda Cook  
Layne Hamilton  
Joni Wendorff  
Roanna Wilson  
Pastor Jody



## **Tenors**

Willie Wendorff  
Mary Ann Snyder  
Rev. Jim Snyder

## **Basses**

Rev. Ron McCracken  
Warren LeValley

## **Choir Director**

The Incredible  
Sheila King

## Pastor Jody

You are welcome and encouraged to visit Pastor Jody in the church office for spiritual counseling, visiting, or just getting to know each other better. She has an office that can accommodate a 6' safe distance for conversations. Please call Pastor Jody (cell: 419-306-4591) to set up an appointment.

### OFFICE HOURS

In addition to Sundays, Pastor Jody is generally in the church office each week on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., as well as other times by appointment. Pastor Jody's Sabbath Day is generally Friday, but if there is an emergency, never hesitate to contact her.

## New Member Class

Plans are coming together for the first New Member Class of 2020. The 15 people who have said they would like to join St. Luke's include:

Fran Askew  
Dannell Lake  
Janice Massey  
Kari Stiles  
Joni Wendorff

Carol Carlson  
Haley Mann  
Jim Seaman  
Joany Threlkeld  
Willie Wendorff

Trinity Dontell  
Charlye Massey  
Joan Seaman  
Nancy Turkali  
Barbara Wilhelm

Because we have been delayed in having the New Member Class join the church (will happen once in-person worship resumes), there is time for others to join St. Luke's with this New Member Class. Please contact Pastor Jody (419.306.4591) if you would like to be included.



## “The More You Know ...”

In our church life there are so many things that you may have questions about or that would be helpful for you to know, so the Session (the leadership body of the church comprised of 9 elected congregants called Elders) is working hard to try to give you as much information as possible so you can be “In The Know.” Here is a bird’s eye view of our recent work:

- We received a \$500 grant from our Central Florida Presbytery to help with the costs of our 2020 Youth Mission trip! Thank you, Central Florida Presbytery!
- We also received a \$500 grant from our Central Florida Presbytery to help grow our Young Adult Ministry (ages 18-27). Thank you, Central Florida Presbytery! Our first event is a Pizza and Game Night via social media on Friday, May 1st.
- The painting team of M.E. Kelly, her professional painting friend Bert, and Pastor Jody have been busy painting Room 6 (the adult Sunday School room), the connecting doors through the main office and library building, and Room 4).
- Tony Cook will begin replacing the kitchen ceiling lights this week. He will also be fixing the duct work running from the Fellowship Hall AC unit to the kitchen. Things will be much brighter and cooler for everyone working in the kitchen when we get back to having activities and events in Fellowship Hall again!
- The Sanctuary roof cross is scheduled to be taken down the first week of May if the weather cooperates. The cross is deeply rusted and has been a safety concern for many years. Jerry Stanga will be working with a team to put together a plan for fabricating a new cross, and its future installation on the Sanctuary roof when affordable.
- The camphor tree on the NW corner of the courtyard had a hard trim by Stratford Tree Service the last week of April. The tree will grow a canopy to keep the tree healthy and the hard trim took out several large branches that could have done significant damage to our building roofs.

The Elders and Pastor Jody are always available to answer any questions you may have about our church life together. Please know that we are here for you and are doing our best to be worthy of your trust!

**“The More You Know ...”**



# VBS Plans: Creative Thinking



VBS is currently scheduled for July 13th - July 17th. Due to COVID-19, the VBS planning team is considering other options for VBS. Watch your email for news soon to come!

## Imagination Abounding!

One of the best parts about our Lenten journeys at St. Luke's is getting to dream in color for our "Art In Lent" projects with Brandilyn Hoftyzer. Last year, Brandilyn created the stained glass pieces in our Narthex out of tissue paper, modge podge, and various other household products with the help of her mom, Ann Reitz. This year, Brandilyn created a beautiful silk cross drape that we all got to help her make using beautiful blue and purple dyes.

And, to help us connect with the deeper parts of the places where God was speaking to us in the sermons throughout Lent, Brandilyn worked with Pastor Jody to create weekly Sermon Booklets, came up with the plan for the colored bracelets we wore each week that fit with each Beatitude, and spray painted a huge map of the United States on a king size sheet to be filled with our prayer requests.



Thank you for helping us worship our Lord with creativity, imagination, energy and love throughout Lent, Brandilyn!





## Year To Date Financial Information

### Financial Report as of April 27th, 2020

<b>2020 Operating Income Year to Date</b>	<b>\$ 51,715.77</b>
<b>2020 Operating Expenses Year to Date</b>	<b>\$ 42,557.76</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$ 9,158.01</b>

**Thank you to everyone for your support of our church through your gifts of time, talent and treasure!**

## Worship Attendance

### **April 5th (Palm Sunday) Livestream**

925 views as of 4/30/20

### **April 9th (Maundy Thursday) Livestream**

443 views as of 4/30/20

### **April 12th (Easter Sunday) Livestream**

808 views as of 4/30/20

### **April 19th Livestream**

769 views as of 4/30/20

### **April 26th Livestream**

455 views as of 4/30/20



## Special Occasions

### **Anniversaries**

Jose' & Karen Amador (5/18)  
Gene & Jeanine Ellinghouse (5/22)

### **Birthdays**

Chuck Stinnett (5/8)  
Brandy-Lynn Jones (5/11)  
Mary Duncan (5/15)  
Emma Phillips (5/18)  
Serenity Dontell (5/18)  
Bill Dreier (5/19)

### **Birthdays (continued)**

Barbara Sarro (5/26)  
Carol Carlson (5/30)  
Sarah Eldredge (5/31)  
Rev. Jim Snyder (5/31)  
Cynthia Filer (5/31)

*We also celebrate 5 years of having our wonderful office volunteers this month!*



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Young Adult Pizza & Game Night on Social Media	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <i>Communion</i>  <b>9:45 a.m.</b> Livestream begins on Facebook  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship service begins on the church Facebook page  <b>2:00 - 4:00 p.m.</b> Youth Group on Zoom	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>9 a.m. - 2 p.m.</b> <b>Staff Worship Planning Day</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>10 am - 12 pm</b> Church Food Pantry donations may be dropped off in Rm. 4	<b>7</b> <b>9:00-11:30 a.m.</b> Congregational Vote on Terms of Call for Pastor Jody. Call Jerry Beverly in the church office to vote. <b>9:00 am - 4:00 pm</b> Church Food Pantry open in Rm. 4	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <i>Mother's Day/ Graduate Sunday</i>  <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Graduate Walk in the W. and E. pkg lots  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship service begins on the church Facebook page  <b>2:00 - 4:00 p.m.</b> Youth Group on Zoom	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>10 am - 12 pm</b> Church Food Pantry donations may be dropped off in Rm. 4	<b>14</b>  <b>9:00 am - 4:00 pm</b> Church Food Pantry open in Rm. 4	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>Ascension Sunday</i>  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship service begins on the church Facebook page  <b>2:00 - 4:00 p.m.</b> Youth Group on Zoom	<b>18</b>  <i>June newsletter article deadline</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <b>10 am - 12 pm</b> Church Food Pantry donations may be dropped off in Rm. 4	<b>21</b>  <b>9:00 am - 4:00 pm</b> Church Food Pantry open in Rm. 4	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <i>Memorial Day Sunday</i>  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship service begins on the church Facebook page  <b>2:00 - 4:00 p.m.</b> Youth Group on Zoom	<b>25</b>  <i>Memorial Day</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>10 am - 12 pm</b> Church Food Pantry donations may be dropped off in Rm. 4	<b>28</b>  <b>9:00 am - 4:00 pm</b> Church Food Pantry open in Rm. 4  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Session Mtg, FH	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## 31 Pentecost Sunday

It is POSSIBLE that we may be able to worship in-person at 10 a.m. in some form depending on the CDC's rules for numbers of people in a group and other precautions that we will need to put into place. Please watch your email and mail, if you do not have a computer, for notice of plans for this day. We will continue to offer our worship service via livestream through our church Facebook page and YouTube.