



The Journey

August 2017

St. Luke Youth Group Meetings will resume on Sunday, August 27, with a Back-to-School Luau. Join us as we embark on a year of “Finding God’s Direction.”

Lutheranch Dedication



McKanna-Sandrock Retreat Center Dedication

August 5, 2017

More information on page 7

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A Message from the Pastor....

Welcoming the Rain

In June of this year, my family spent a week in Pine Mountain, Georgia. We selected a great cabin at FDR State Park. It was originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1930's, made of rough-hewn Georgia pine. Far from primitive, the interior had recently been remodeled to include all the modern amenities to which we have grown accustomed: a full kitchen, air conditioning, a nice bathroom with walk in shower, and a flat screen television. It sat at the top of a bluff, and from the screened-in porch you could see the lake and listen to crickets and frogs sing their evening songs. Even though it was a smaller cabin, we didn't much worry about the size, knowing that most of what we planned to do would be outdoors anyway.

Of course, there was fatal flaw in our plan. We did not count on a tropical depression blowing in from the Gulf and then becoming stationary for most of the week. It rained. No, really, it rained hard. The first day wasn't too bad. Everyone napped and read and played games. The TV filled the gaps. But by day two it happened: the pine walls of that little cabin began to close in on us. We drove to the closest town some twenty minutes away so we could go to the movies. We hoped that the storm would blow over, but the morning of day three greeted us with the sound of rain dancing on the rooftop. On top of it all, Ezel had managed to get bronchitis and an ear infection, and couldn't get out of bed. The kids were going crazy. What else could I do?

"Dory, grab the tackle box and let's head down to the lake," I said, in desperation. She looked at me with that look that only a daughter can give her dad when he has finally lost his mind. Then a big smile crossed her face, and the kids and I headed down to the lake in the rain while Ezel got some much-needed sleep. We fished, we walked around, we jumped in the van and ran to the little ice cream shop in the village of Pine Mountain. We went back to the cabin and cooked steak and potatoes on a grill in the rain (notice we didn't have fish for dinner). We got soaked. And really, it was the best day, not just of the week, but of the month of June. It may have been one of our best days this summer.

Why was it so good? Because the rain made us put aside our expectations and gave us all what we really needed. Ezel desperately needed rest, which she would not have gotten at home or if the weather was nice and we were running around trying to do activities. The kids and I got to spend some quality time together, laughing at the lack of fish biting in the lake and the absurdity of trying to light the charcoal in between rain drops. It was a turning point, and in the end, was a nice little trip. Of course, the morning we left, it was all blue skies.

Sometimes life brings us unexpected circumstances. We may find ourselves disappointed at the way something has turned out, especially when we had planned for something wholly different. Even when our best laid plans fall apart, we can trust that God is there with us. In sunshine and rain, in darkness and in the light of day, in life and in death, God never leaves us. God is often closer to us than we ever understand. Even when our life is not going as planned, we trust and we, "...wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning." (Psalm 130:5,6)

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017

Vision: *The Story of God Changing Lives*

Mission: *Learning, Living, Loving: United in God's Steadfast Love*

Church Location:

**1748 Brannan Road
McDonough, GA 30253**

Worship Service

Sunday:

9:40 am Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship (With Holy Eucharist)

Office Hours

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

(Tuesday ~ Thursday) Office is closed Monday & Friday

To Reach us:

Phone: 678-432-0845

E-mail: storyofgod@bellsouth.net

Website: www.storyofgod.org

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Robert Harrell 678-432-0845 Church Office
or
404-625-1994 cell
e-mail: pastor_robb@storyofgod.org

Church Secretary

Susan Sparrow 678-432-0845 or
678-778-0568 cell
e-mail: storyofod@bellsouth.org

Member	Phone
Dave Barkdoll.....President.....	770-507-1856
John Shaw.....Vice President	770-946-4187
Kelly WilliamsSecretary	909-567-9467
Mark Rettig.....Treasurer	770-914-5694
Mary Beth Egas.....	770-471-2198
Andrew Grunzke.....	904-806-0191
Debbie Lundell.....	770-815-8918
Jim Sease.....	770-914-2432
Mary Shulak.....	770-898-0937

Council meetings are open to all members of the congregation. If you would like to address the council, we ask that you let the President, Dave Barkdoll, know in advance so we can put it on the council meeting agenda.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our next council meeting will be August 20.

Dear Members of St. Luke Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your contribution of \$1072 to the Chirala Medical and Educational Trust, Inc. Your generosity will allow the Chirala Trust to continue to operate the Baer Christian Hospital outpatient clinic and hospital. This hospital is visited by hundreds of people every week seeking medical assistance and has served over 18,000 since 2005. Your donation will allow us to provide not only medicines but also doctors and nurses to assist this mission. We have gathered the funds necessary to open a maternity ward, pediatrics, general medical/surgical unit, NICU, ICU, diagnostic center and a modest emergency room. Our major goal in Chirala is to reduce the staggering infant mortality rate and the general lack of adequate healthcare. Your contribution to these efforts is greatly appreciated.

edited from letter from George Murdaugh
CFO, Chirala Medical and Educational Trust

“Birthday in a Bag” ministry

Members and friends can purchase basic supplies such as cake mix, icing, candles, crepe paper, balloons, small plates and napkins and place them in a Birthday bag. Bags will then be donated to A Friend’s House and given to a family with no means to celebrate a birthday.

Burial Plots Available

St. Luke owns two burial plots in Sherwood Memorial Park on Tara Boulevard in Jonesboro that we are offering for sale. Proceeds will be used to pay off remaining credit card debt. If you or someone you know are interested in these plots, please contact Pastor Robb for more information.

Are You Staying Connected?

St. Luke operates a webpage, a Facebook page, and a Twitter feed, all of which provide congregational news, upcoming events, and items of interest.

Take advantage of these resources!

Web: www.storyofgod.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Luke-Lutheran-Church/>

Twitter: @StLukeLutheran1



Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes.

In the month of August, St. Luke's Elementary school children will be collecting school supplies. Please place your school supplies such as small notebooks, pencils, crayons, erasers, pens, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, colored pencils, etc. in the donation box.

Our children are planning on putting together 50 shoeboxes this year!

Our summer service project this year will consist of gathering requested items for the homeless outreach ministry through St. Francis Anglican Church. We have been asked to gather baby wipes and mosquito repellent. Items may be dropped off in the designated containers in the narthex.

What's a nursery with no toys? Our nursery is in need of new or very gently used toys for children under the age of two, especially toys that are musical or make noise. Please place toys in the basket in the narthex.

St. Luke's first "Backpack Blessing" of the 2017-2018 school year will be Friday, September 15. On that day, nine food insecure children from a local elementary school will be given backpacks full of nutritious food to supplement the school lunches they will miss when schools were closed September 18-22.

Many thanks to everyone donating money or bookbags for this ministry project. We know that St. Luke makes a difference in these children's lives.

If you would like to support this ministry, we are still looking for families to donate \$10.00 per month to "Backpack Blessings."

Abigail

Leverett Family

*Resurrection Church,
Germany*

Christ Whynn

Elizabeth Thompson

David

Twylah Schmidt

Keith Ian Latcha

David Pilling

Kirk

Vicky Fordham

Dona Fries

Pr. Gene Sheffield

Bob

Robbie Cates

Lucas Fisher

Aaron



Prayer Requests

Barb Schlicht

Pat and Ann Poole

Kelvin Rankins

Vicki Gatewood

Tommy Nichols

Helen Yurtseven

Judith Aydin

Jerry

David Maggio

Willy Simmons

Jack Lewis

Kenny Willis

<i>Bruce</i>	<i>Jennifer Ann</i>
<i>Marlene</i>	<i>Travis Jackson</i>
<i>Crenshaw baby</i>	<i>Juanito</i>
<i>Robert and Sue Gebel</i>	<i>Dorothy Jenkins</i>

<i>Odellis Lord</i>	<i>Henry Quant</i>
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<i>Bob Owen</i>	<i>Howard and Alice</i>
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<i>Sease Family</i>	<i>Esaun</i>
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<i>Dianne</i>	<i>Susan Whitener</i>
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<i>Morgan</i>	<i>Marion Henry and kids</i>
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<i>Jordan</i>	<i>Mia Duay</i>
---------------	-----------------

<i>Pastor Oliver Wood</i>	<i>Murphy Family</i>
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<i>Pat Wood</i>	<i>Louise Harrison</i>
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<i>Paige</i>	<i>Leon Blackburn</i>
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<i>Linda Blackburn</i>

<i>Theresa Sodachanh</i>

<i>Sierra, Heather</i>

<i>Phillips-Padilla family</i>



August Birthdays

August Birthdays

Laura Hoover	1
Candice Busch	8
Mary Beth Egas	18
Susan Sparrow	30

If your birthday is not announced in the monthly Newsletter, it could be because we do not have your information in the church records.

If you would like your birth date to appear in the monthly Journey, please fill in the information provided below and return it to the church office.

Name _____

D.O.B. _____

Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

The year will not be posted, but will be used for other record-keeping here at the church....Thank you!

Lutheranch Dedication



McKanna-Sandrock Retreat Center Dedication

August 5, 2017

The McKanna-Sandrock Retreat Center will be the finest NovusWay retreat center. It features 31 double-occupancy guestrooms for adults and 10 rooms with bunk beds for youth. Come and join us for the dedication on August 5 and enjoy a tour of the site and retreat center.

- 10:00am - Registration
 - 11:00am - Dedication service, Bishop H. Julian Gordy
 - 12:30pm - Cookout Lunch
 - 2:00pm - Site and building tours, crafts, and Group Interaction Course
- Handicapped parking available!

To reserve your place, call (828) 209-6315 (message only) or email volunteer@novusway.com.

◀ July

August 2017

September ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9th Sunday After Pentecost	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10th Sunday After Pentecost	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 11th Sunday After Pentecost Council 12:15	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 12th Sunday After Pentecost Youth Group 12:15 <i>Back-to- School Luau</i>	28	29	30	31	Notes:	

August 2017

August 6	E
Assisting Minister	Mark Rettig
Lector	Conrad Busch
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Vickie Pace and Judy Barkdoll
Ushers	Team 2
Greeters	Tony Kelley and Dona Curtis-Thomas
Clean Up	Barkdoll/Egas

August 13	A
Assisting Minister	Debbie Lundell
Lector	Joe Lundell
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Mike Adair and Beverly Retig
Ushers	Team 2
Nursery	Paul Egas
Greeters	Andrew Grunzke and Debbie Lundell
Clean Up	Sparrow

USHERS
 Team # 2
 Mark & Bev Rettig, Conrad Busch and Jim Sease

August 20	B
Assisting Minister	Kelly Williams
Lector	Dave Barkdoll
Crucifer	Mallory Gourley
Acolyte	Paul Egas
Counters	Paul Egas and Jim Sease
Ushers	Team 2
Greeters	Judy Joyner and Linda Hoover
Clean Up	Joyner/Kelley

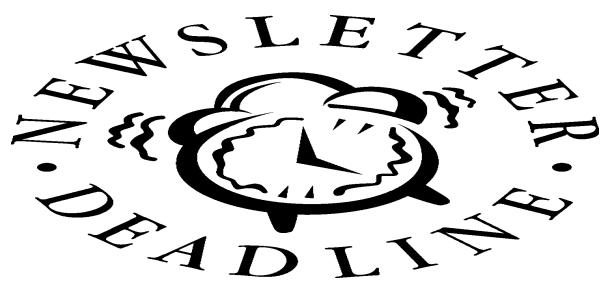
August 27	C
Assisting Minister	Barbara Little
Lector	Beverly Adair
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Vickie Pace and Judy Barkdoll
Ushers	Team 2
Greeters	Joe Lundell and Beverly Adair
Clean Up	Little/Pace/Adair

September 3	D
Assisting Minister	Cindy Gourley
Lector	Andrew Grunzke
Crucifer	Thomas Gourley
Acolyte	Benjamin Mason
Counters	Mike Adair and Beverly Retig
Ushers	Team 2
Greeters	Jim Sease and Rose Denzin
Clean Up	ELCC



The Journey
is a publication of
St Luke Lutheran Church

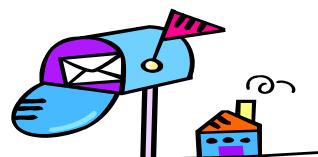
9:40 a.m. Sunday School
Sunday Worship
11:00 a.m.



If you have any ideas or suggestions for The Journey,
please contact the church office

Please have all Journey items into the church office by the
25th of each month.....

(678-432-0845) or by email at storyofgod@bellsouth.net.



Please call the church office if you have a change of address or a new phone number so that our records can be updated.