



# ST. LUKE

Lutheran Church

The Story of God Changing Lives  
Learning, Living, Loving: United in God's Steadfast Love

## The Journey

**December 2017 & January 2018**



### Inside this Issue:

Message From the Pastor....2 St. Luke Info.....3,5 Ministry Pictures....6,7 Prayer List, Birthdays....8 Announcements...9

December Calendar and Sunday Servants.....10,11

January Calendar and Sunday Servants 12,13

Deadline.....14

# A Message from the Pastor....



I started off my Thanksgiving holiday this year by sitting in a room full of clergy and church members at a church security and active shooter training seminar. I have to be honest, even typing those words makes my heart heavy. Never in my life did I ever dream I would have to attend such a meeting. And yet, the threat is very real. Between 2006 and 2016, there were 147 church shootings. If you open that to include all houses of worship (including synagogues and mosques), the number increases to more than 250. Many of you, like me, watched in horror as the story of the mass shooting in Texas unfolded. Twenty-six people in all – including the Pastor’s own daughter – were among the dead.

This article is not about church security, however, other than to say that the leadership of both St. Luke’s and ELCC are discussing the issue. No, this article is about darkness.

In Advent, we observe days growing shorter. We are literally enveloped by darkness. When we look around our world, there are times when we feel as if the darkness is surrounding us, and that if something is not done (and soon), the darkness will overtake us. Sometimes it is hard to have to hope, and we feel as if the brokenness of the world will be too much to bear.

The traditional Gospel reading for Christmas Day Divine Service is from John 1, with the fifth verse reminding us that, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” That light was and is Jesus Christ. In the midst of darkness, Jesus reveals to us that God loves this world. God also calls us to both dwell in the light of Christ and to share that light with others.

The best thing a Christian can do in the face of seemingly overwhelming darkness is to embrace the light of Christ and to share that light with others. When we say that Christ is light in the darkness, we do not mean to offer an empty platitude. We do not intend it to be a slogan or a bumper sticker zinger. It is meant to be life-changing! It is meant to change our priorities and to turn the current order of the world upside down.

This year at Advent and Christmas, the best gift you can give someone is not something you wrap. It is not something that you can put under a tree. The best gift you can give is the gift of light. Share the story of Jesus with someone who has never heard. Better yet, demonstrate the story of Jesus to someone by being light for them. Show the world that we have faith that Light has come into the world, and that the darkness cannot overcome it, no matter how bad or scary or dark the world may seem.



## COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017

Member	Phone
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Dave Barkdoll.....President.....	770-507-1856
John Shaw.....Vice President ....	770-946-4187
Kelly Williams .....Secretary .....	909-567-9467
Mark Rettig.....Treasurer .....	770-789-8405
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.

*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](mailto:storyofgod@bellsouth.net)

Website:             [www.storyofgod.org](http://www.storyofgod.org)

### **Pastor:**

Rev. Dr. Robert Harrell    678-432-0845 Church Office

**or**

404-625-1994 cell

e-mail: [pastor\\_rob@storyofgod.org](mailto:pastor_rob@storyofgod.org)

### **Church Secretary**

Susan Sparrow            678-432-0845 or

678-778-0568 cell

e-mail: [storyofod@bellsouth.org](mailto:storyofod@bellsouth.org)



**St. Luke Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
October 15, 2017**

Council Mission Statement: Learning, Living, Loving, united in God's steadfast love.

Meeting was called to order. In attendance were Pastor Robb Harrell, Kelly Williams, John Shaw, Dave Barkdoll, Jim Sease, Mary Beth Egas, Mary Shulak, Andrew Grunzke, Debbie Lundell and Mark Rettig.

1. **Call to Order:** by Dave Barkdoll.
2. **Devotion:** None.
3. **Review/Approve Minutes:** A motion was made by John Shaw to approve minutes as amended. Seconded by Debbie Lundell. The motion carried.
4. **Recognize Guests:** None.
5. **Correspondence:** None.
6. **Officer Reports:**
  - A. **Pastor:** Submitted by Pastor Harrell. Attached as addendum.
  - B. **President:** None.
  - C. **Treasurer:** Submitted by Mark Rettig. Attached as addendum. Income was ahead of expenses for September by \$80.
7. **Ministry Area Reports:**
  - A. **Worship:** Submitted by Pastor Harrell. Commitment Sunday is October 21, 2017. There will be a special service used on Reformation Sunday. December 13, 2017 will be our Dedication Service attended by our synodical bishop.
  - B. **Fellowship:** Submitted by Mary Shulak. In lieu of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday potluck we will have a catered lunch on Commitment Sunday. The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday will be New Year's Eve.
  - C. **Discipleship:** None.
  - D. **Evangelism:** Submitted by Debbie Lundell. Attached as addendum.
  - E. **Ministry:** Submitted by Mary Beth Egas. Several important dates to remember: A Friend's House 10/29/17, Thanksgiving Food Boxes 11/18/17, Silent Auction 11/12/17, Backback Blessings 11/12/17, and Christmas Craft Fair 12/9/17.
8. **Property:** Submitted by John Shaw. Attached as Addendum.

**Old Business:**

**Nominating Committee:** Dave Barkdoll and Debbie Lundell will chair the council nominating committee. Elections for the nominating committee will be held November 5, 2017. Elections for council will be held December 10, 2017.

**Commitment Sunday:** The last cottage meeting will be held today. Lunch will be catered and provided as part of the worship service on Commitment Sunday. The doors of the church will be open for 12 hours on Saturday, October 20, 2017 for the Building on Blessings prayer vigil. Members are encouraged to continue to pray for our capital campaign.

**Sabbatical update:** Search is still underway for an interim pastor to cover during Pastor Robb's sabbatical.

**New Business:**

**Building Dedication:** Wednesday night, December 13, 2017, is the only date available for Bishop Gordy to attend our dedication service.

**Joint Services With ELCC:** We will host joint worship services with ELCC to include a Love Feast Service and a Hanging of the Greens service later this year.

**Christmas Eve Service:** The time for our Christmas Eve Service this year will be 7pm.

**Perception of Fatigue:** Pastor Robb discussed the perception of fatigue amongst council and other lay members in the congregation. This has been an eventful year with the purchase of the building and the capital campaign and maintaining church ministries. He asks that we remain considerate and prayerful for each of our members especially those committed servants.

Motion to adjourn made by Pastor Harrell and seconded by Andrew Grunzke. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Williams.

# Thanksgiving Food Box Celebration

\$3,738.00 total cost

25 families served

148 people fed

54 total volunteers

313 total volunteer  
hours



## Silent Auction 2017

Thank you for you generous bids and donations.

We raised over \$550.00 for the Children's Christmas Craft Fair.



Special thanks to John Shaw for taking these pictures!!

St. Luke's 3rd "Backpack Blessing" of the 2017-2018 school will go be Friday, December 22. 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 are closed December 23– January 7.

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."



**Friends and Family**

*Louise Hicks*

**Members**

**Members in the Armed Services**

*Adam DeWitt, USMC*

*Mallory Gourley, Navy*

**Ongoing Requests**

*Bob Owen*

*Gloria Simpson*



Our prayer list has become severely out of date. With the start of the new church year at Advent, we have removed most of the previous names and will be building a new list. If you would like a name on the prayer list, please use the form in the bulletin, or contact the church office. Names will be left on the list for three weeks. If this is a long term prayer request, please let us know so that we may note it.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



**December<sup>th</sup> Birthdays**

Matthew Kelley	3
Steven & Thomas Gourley	8
Tony Kelley	10
Beverly Adair	11
Dory Harrell	19
Barbara Little	22
Judy Barkdoll	24
Ron Brauer	26
Asheton Harrell	26
Rose Denzin	28
Mallory Gourley	28

**January Birthdays**

Paul Adair	3
Larry Egas	7
Paul Egas	19
Sue Murray	24
Mike Hoover	25
Pastor Robb	28
Rebecca Grunzke	29
Joe Murray	31

**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!*



## **Ministry News from Mary Beth**

Many Thanks for your continued support of Saint Luke Ministry Projects.

Here is a timeline of events until December 17.

**December 3:** All toys due for local children in need

**December 3-17** Collecting for A Friends House Christmas

**December 9** Children's Craft Fair 10-12

### **Save the Date!!**

**December 6 and 20** Dinner 6:15 pm; Advent Service 7pm

**December 13** Bishop Gordy will be here to dedicate the building 7pm

**December 24** Fourth Sunday of Advent 11:00 am

Christmas Eve Service 7pm

### **"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.

◀ November **December 2017** January ▶

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



December 3  
Service is  
at 10am

<b>3</b> Joint 10am service Small toys due <i>Community use of building 3pm</i> <i>Stembridge Recital</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Advent Service 7pm (Supper 6:15)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Christmas Craft Fair 10-12
<b>10</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Advent Service Bishop Visit to dedicate Building 7pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Advent Service 7pm (Supper 6:15)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 4th Sunday of Advent  Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b>  Christmas Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

**31**  
1st Sunday of  
Christmas  
  
All Saints  
Sunday

**Notes:**  
**December 3 all toys due for local children in need (more info coming from Mary Beth.)**  
**December 3-17 We will be collecting for A Friend's House Christmas list**

# December 2017 Sunday Servants

December 3	A
Assisting Minister	Debbie Lundell
Lector	Joe Lundell
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Mike Adair and Beverly Rettig
Ushers	Team 3
Nursery	Paul Egas
Greeters	Andrew Grunzke and Debbie Lundell
Clean Up	Sparrow

December 10	B
Assisting Minister	Kelly Williams
Lector	Dave Barkdoll
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Paul Egas
Counters	Paul Egas and Jim Sease
Ushers	Team 3
Greeters	Judy Joyner and Linda Hoover
Clean Up	Egas/Barkdoll

**USHERS**  
 Team # 3  
 Mike and Linda Hover, Ed and Judy Joyner,  
 Mike and Beverly Adair and Dave Barkdoll

December 17	C
Assisting Minister	Barbara Little
Lector	Beverly Adair
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Vickie Pace and Judy Barkdoll
Ushers	Team 3
Greeters	Joe Lundell and Beverly Adair
Clean Up	Joyner/Kelley

December 24	D
Assisting Minister	Cindy Gourley
Lector	Andrew Grunzke
Crucifer	Thomas Gourley
Acolyte	Benjamin Mason
Counters	Mike Adair and Beverly Rettig
Ushers	Team 3
Greeters	Jim Sease and Rose Denzin
Clean Up	Little/Pace/Adair

December 31	F 5th Sunday
Assisting Minister	Barbara Little
Lector	David Ludley
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Benjamin Mason
Counters	Barbara Little & Ron Brauer
Ushers	Team 3
Greeters	Mark Rettig and Linda Hoover
Clean Up	Sparrow

# January 2018 Sunday Servants

November 26	E
Assisting Minister	Mark Rettig
Lector	Conrad Busch
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Paul Egas and Jim Sease
Ushers	Team 1
Greeters	Tony Kelley and Dona Curtis-Thomas
Clean Up	ELCC

January	A
Assisting Minister	Debbie Lundell
Lector	Joe Lundell
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Vickie Pace and Judy Barkdoll
Ushers	Team 1
Nursery	Paul Egas
Greeters	Andrew Grunzke and Debbie Lundell
Clean Up	ELCC

January	B
Assisting Minister	Kelly Williams
Lector	Dave Barkdoll
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Paul Egas
Counters	Mike Adair and Beverly Rettig
Ushers	Team 1
Greeters	Judy Joyner and Linda Hoover
Clean Up	ELCC

January	C
Assisting Minister	Barbara Little
Lector	Beverly Adair
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Paul Egas and Jim Sease
Ushers	Team 1
Greeters	Joe Lundell and Beverly Adair
Clean Up	ELCC

**USHERS**  
**Team # 1**  
 John Shaw, Larry Egas, Al Gourley  
 and Andrew Grunzke

# January 2018

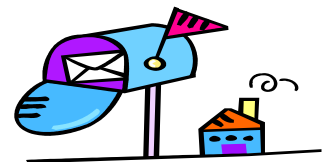
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7 Baptism of Our Lord	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany	15 M L King Day	16	17	18	19	20 Moss Pointe In sanctuary 10-12:30
21 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany	22	23	24	25	26	27 Civic Group In sanctuary and kitchen 9:30-2:30
28 4th Sunday after the Epiphany	29	30	31			
<b>February 4</b> 		<p>Souper Bowl of Caring is youth across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.</p> <p>In the weeks leading up to or on Super Bowl Sunday, young people take up a collection (many use a soup pot), asking for one dollar or one item of food for people in need. They give 100% of their donation directly to the local hunger-relief charity of their choice.</p>				



*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](mailto: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.