



ST. LUKE

Lutheran Church

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

The Journey

March and April 2017

Eggciting things are happening here!!

Moving forward with the purchase of the church

Continued ministry with ELCC

Fundraiser for Chirala Medical and Educational Trust

Enquirer's Luncheon

Birthday in a bag

Backpack Blessings



Easter Egg

Hunt

April 15

11am

Youth visit MLK center

Hunger Walk

Maundy Thursday Service

Good Friday Service

Easter Breakfast

Easter Service

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A Message from the Pastor....



Confession is Good for the Soul

One of the most common misconceptions I find about Lutheranism is that many Lutherans believe that private confession and absolution is something that only Roman Catholics do. We have this vision of how it looks, mostly from movies we've watched, of a booth and little window, where people recount their wrongs and then are told to go and say certain prayers as penance. Truth be told, most of the time confession and absolution (often called reconciliation) doesn't even look that way in modern Roman catholic practice.

During the Reformation, Luther saw that there were three abuses of private confession that were taking place, and sought to reform – but not do away with – the practice. The first was that confession was mandatory, and often done under compulsion or coercion. The second abuse was an expectation that you had to enumerate every sin you committed. The third and final abuse was the emphasis put on penance rather than absolution through God's grace. All three of these ideas were corrected and reformed.

Though the practice changed, the Reformers never intended to do away with private confession. In the Augsburg Confession, this is made quite clear in Article XI, where it states, "our churches teach that private absolution should be retained." In his, "Brief Exhortation to Confession," Luther wrote, "when I urge you to go to confession, I am simply urging you to be a Christian."

Regardless of the fact we retained the practice, it has fallen into disuse. It is a shame, really, because I have found private confession and absolution a wonderful tool in my own spiritual life. While it is true that God forgives us our sins anytime we confess and repent, there are those times when hearing the absolution spoken to me alone is a powerful reminder of God's grace. "God is merciful and blesses you. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (from the Rite of Private Confession and Absolution. LBW)

Even though this can be a liberating thing to hear, many people are hesitant or leery of naming their sins, especially to another person. There is a fear that the pastor may think less of the penitent, or that the pastor would then share what was confessed with others. I can honestly tell you that I have done this long enough that nothing you can say would shock me, and nothing would persuade me to think less of you. I've already heard some real doozies! The biggest danger you run in confessing is that you will be admonished to turn from your sin and seek Christ and his forgiveness. As far as sharing what I've heard, confession is like Vegas: what happens there (or is spoken there), stays there.

Private confession and absolution is wonderful gift from Christ, and is appropriate at any time of the year, but seems especially appropriate to Lent. If you would like to schedule a time for your confession, please let me know. I am always happy to listen, and to be able to proclaim to you the Good News, that while we are yet sinners, Christ was given to die for us.

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

Mailing address: 289 Jonesboro Road #333
McDonough, Ga. 30253

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017

Member	Phone
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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.



**St. Luke Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
February 19, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 by the president, Dave Barkdoll. In attendance were Mary Schulak, Dave Barkdoll, Jim Sease, John Shaw, Debbie Lundell, Mark Rettig, and Pastor Rob Harrell.

Pastor shared an outline to be used at the congregational meeting.

Mark Rettig made a motion to accept the attached resolution to borrow \$550,000 from Mission Investment Fund to purchase the property and building at 1748 Brannan Road, McDonough, GA 30253. Jim Sease seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The motion will be presented to the congregation for their consideration.

The meeting was recessed at 12:10 until after the congregational meeting.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was reopened by Dave Barkdoll at 12:50 p.m.

2. Devotion: Pastor Harrell read a devotion from the Lutheran Handbook about the 5 weirdest laws in the Bible.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the January 15, 2017 and February 4, 2017 council meetings and the January 29, 2017 congregational meeting were approved as corrected.

4. Guests: Visitor Vicki Pace was welcomed to the meeting.

5. Correspondence: Mary Beth reported that St. Luke had received a thank you letter from A Friend's House for the "Birthday in Bag" donations.

6. Officer Reports:

A. Pastor: Attached as an addendum. Pastor performed one wedding, went with the youth to the MLK center, worked on property search and acquisition, and is preparing for Lent.

B: President: no report

C: Treasurer: attached as addendum. January was a good month with a \$132.00 above expenses and \$550 sent to the synod.

Ministry Areas: The following assignments were made:

Worship: Pastor Rob

Fellowship: Mary Schulak

Discipleship: Andrew Grunzke

Evangelism: Debbie Lundell and Jim Sease

Ministry: Mary Beth Egas

Property: John Shaw

New Business:

Council Retreat will be on Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 9:30 to 3:00.

The sign on Highway 42 will need to be changed after the sale of the building.

Mary Beth reported that Gloria is becoming housebound and would appreciate cards.

Mary Beth suggested that St. Luke host a hip- hop church service later in the year.

Pastor Harrell reviewed the paperwork needs for the purchase of the building. Mark Rettig and Jim Sease will assist with getting everything in order.

The officers signed the "Certification of Officers" form.

Adjournment: Mark Rettig made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Pastor Harrell. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

The Luke Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 12:12 by council president, Dave Barkdoll. Forty-eight voting members were present establishing a quorum.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Rob Harrell.

The purpose of this meeting was to vote on a resolution to borrow \$550,000 from Mission Investment Fund to purchase the property and building at 1748 Brannan Road, McDonough, GA 30253. Dave Barkdoll explained the terms of the loan and then presented the resolution as stated on the attachment. A discussion followed and questions were answered about the status of the furnishings in the church, interest rates, capital campaign, loan terms, sale price, and closing timeline.

Carol Elrod called the question with a second by Pat Poole. The vote to close discussion passed.

The vote on the resolution was passed unanimously.

Debbie Lundell thanked those who had worked so hard to make this purchase a reality.

Barbara Little made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Pat Poole. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Harrell closed with a prayer.

On Saturday, April 15 at 11:00 am ELCC and St. Luke will hold their annual **Easter Egg Hunt**. There will be games, refreshments and over 1000 eggs to hunt, so be sure to mark your calendar and invite family, friends and neighbors. Sign the attendance sheet near the front entrance and come out for a great time.

If you can help provide plastic eggs filled with a candy or treat, please sign up on the appropriate sheet or let Mary Beth (770) 471-2198 or Barbara (770) 957-4640 know. Please tape your eggs shut and remember not to include chocolate items.

The address is: 1748 Brannon Road McDonough, GA 30253

St. Luke's latest "Backpack Blessing" of the school year will be Friday, March 31. On that day, nine food insecure children from a local elementary school were given backpacks full of nutritious food to supplement the school lunches they missed when schools are closed April 3-7.

Many thanks to everyone who donated 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."

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



Prayer Requests

Pat and Ann Poole
 Kelvin Rankins
 Vicki Gatewood
 Tommy Nichols
 Helen Yurtseven
 Judith Aydin
 Leverett Family
 Jerry
 David Maggio
 Willy Simmons
 Jack Lewis
 Kenny Willis
 Pastor Oliver Wood
 Pat Wood
 Paige
 Darcy Chaffin

Crenshaw baby
 Robert and Sue Gebel
 Odellis Lord
 Bob Owen
 Clarence DeWitt
 Sease Family
 Richard Brock
 Dianne
 Morgan
 Jordan

Dorothy Jenkins
 Henry Quant
 Howard and Alice
 Esaun
 Susan Whitener
 Marion Henry and kids
 Mia Duay
 Murphy Family
 Louise Harrison
 Juan Padilla Sr.
 Leon Blackburn
 Linda Blackburn
 Theresa Sodachanh
 Sierra, Heather
 Phillips-Padilla family
 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



March Birthdays

Justin Ludley..... 4
 Judy Owen.....5
 Laura Chatmon.....6
 Pat Poole.....8
 Lourdes Simon..... 12
 David Ludley.....20
 Shelia Kelley..... 20
 Matthew Harrell. 23

April Birthdays

Alex DeWitt 1
 Joe Lundell 3
 Alice Grunzke 5
 Marissa Ludley 6
 Nicholas Ludley 6
 Nicholas DeWitt 17
 Michelle Phillips 19
 Adam DeWitt 23
 Gloria Simpson 24
 Jacob Crews 26
 Andrew Grunzke 26
 David Adair 28
 Conrad Busch 29
 Krista Crews 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!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	2	3	4 Council Retreat 9-3
5 1st Sunday in Lent	6	7	8 6:15 pm soup and sandwiches and fellowship time 7pm Lenten Service	9	10	11
12 2nd Sunday in Lent Youth Group 12:15	13	14	15 6:15 pm soup and sandwiches and fellowship time 7pm Lenten Service	16	17	18
19 3rd Sunday in Lent	20	21	22 6:15 pm soup and sandwiches and fellowship time 7pm Lenten Service	23	24	25
26 4th Sunday in Lent Youth Group 12:15 Enquirer's Luncheon	27	28	29 6:15 pm soup and sandwiches and fellowship time 7pm Lenten Service	30	31	

March 2017

Sunday Servants

March 5	E
Assisting Minister	Mark Rettig
Lector	Conrad Busch
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Mike Adair and Beverly Retig
Ushers	Team 3
Greeters	Andrew Grunzke and Debbie Lundell
Clean Up	ELCC

March 12	A
Assisting Minister	Debbie Lundell
Lector	Joe Lundell
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Paul Egas and Jim Sease
Ushers	Team 3
Greeters	Judy Joyner and Linda Hoover
Clean Up	ELCC

March 19	B
Assisting Minister	Kelly Williams
Lector	Dave Barkdoll
Crucifer	Mallory Gourley
Acolyte	Paul Egas
Counters	Vickie Pace and Judy Barkdoll
Ushers	Team 3
Greeters	Mark Rettig and Judy Aydin
Clean Up	ELCC

March 26	C
Assisting Minister	Barbara Little
Lector	
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Mike Adair and Beverly Retig
Ushers	Team 3
Greeters	Joe Lundell and Beverly Adair
Clean Up	ELCC

USHERS

Team # 3

Mike and Linda Hover, Ed and Judy Joyner,
Mike and Beverly Adair and Dave Barkdoll

◀ March	April 2017						May ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	
2 5th Sunday in Lent	3	4	5 6:15 pm soup and sandwiches and fellowship time 7pm Lenten Service	6	7	8	
9 Palm Sunday Youth Group 12:15	10	11	12	13 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	14 Good Friday Service 7pm	15 Easter Egg Hunt 11am	
16 Easter Sunday Breakfast and fellowship 9:40 No Sunday School	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23 2nd Sunday in Easter Youth Group 12:15	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30 3rd Sunday in Easter 5th Sunday Fellowship	Notes:						

April 2017

Sunday Servants

April 2	D
Assisting Minister	Cindy Gourley
Lector	Andrew Grunzke
Crucifer	Thomas Gourley
Acolyte	Benjamin Mason
Counters	Paul Egas and Jim Sease
Ushers	Team 1
Greeters	Jim Sease and Rose Denzin
Clean Up	Sparrow

April 9	E
Assisting Minister	Mark Rettig
Lector	Conrad Busch
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Vickie Pace and Judy Barkdoll
Ushers	Team 1
Greeters	Tony Kelley and Dona Curtis-Thomas
Clean Up	Joyner/Kelley

USHERS
Team # 1

John Shaw, Larry Egas, Al Gourley
and Andrew Grunzke

April 16	A
Assisting Minister	Debbie Lundell
Lector	Joe Lundell
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Vickie Pace and Judy Barkdoll
Ushers	Team 1
Nursery	Paul Egas
Greeters	Mike Adair and Beverly Retig
Clean Up	Barkdoll/Egas

April 23	B
Assisting Minister	Kelly Williams
Lector	Dave Barkdoll
Crucifer	Mallory Gourley
Acolyte	Paul Egas
Counters	Mike Adair and Beverly Retig
Ushers	Team 1
Greeters	Judy Joyner and Linda Hoover
Clean Up	Little/Pace/Adair

April 30	F 5th Sunday
Assisting Minister	Barbara Little
Lector	David Ludley
Crucifer	
Acolyte	Benjamin Mason
Counters	Barbara Little & Ron Brauer
Ushers	Team 1
Greeters	Mark Rettig and Judy Aydin
Clean Up	Sparrow

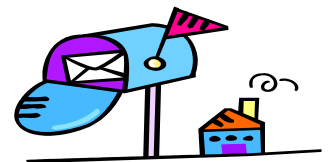


The Journey
is a publication of
St Luke Lutheran Church

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.