



# ST. LUKE

Lutheran Church

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

## The Journey

**November 2016**



A group from St. Luke in front of the Abbey Church at Monastery of the Holy Spirit.

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# A Message from the Pastor....



During this month of November, when our hearts and minds naturally turn toward thoughts of Thanksgiving, I thought I would reflect briefly on a few things I am grateful for.

**I am grateful to be both Christian and Lutheran.** I am so thankful for those people like my grandmother who read me Bible stories when I was kid. I am thankful for the passion that I learned from the church we attended in my teen years. I am grateful that God sent a friend along to me who invited me to the Lutheran church, and I am thankful for the grace that I felt both from God and the people who attended. Most of all, I am thankful that *I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, in order that I may be wholly His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.* (Luther's Explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, Small Catechism)

**I am grateful for this church.** The first Sunday in Advent will mark my ninth year here at St. Luke, and it has been a wonderful parish to serve. We have seen a real shift in the way that things are done. Almost all of our ministries are driven by the laity. New ministries are emerging from pews, not from the pulpit. It is incredibly powerful for a pastor to watch his congregation take charge of the call God has placed on us and forge ahead in ministry and mission. It is true that while I may be serving as your pastor, we are all free in Christ to serve!

There is also a renewed spirit here. Worship is joyful. People are hopeful. Support for the ministry and mission of this church grows every year. St. Luke will be in ministry for many years to come.

**I am grateful for my family.** Without Ezel, Asheton, Dory and Matt, I would feel lost. Each of them has brought so much joy into my life. This year I am especially feeling thankful for Asheton as he prepares to graduate from the University of Georgia and began his career in computer science. I am so incredibly proud of him and his accomplishments. Even though Lutherans may not consider marriage a sacrament in the proper sense of the term, you would be hard pressed to convince me that marriage and family is not a means of grace.

What or for whom are you thankful? Don't wait until Thanksgiving to show gratitude. Do it now! *Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives.*— Colossians 3:15ff, The Message.

*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)

**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](mailto:pastor_robb@storyofgod.org)

**Church Secretary**

Susan Sparrow 678-432-0845 or  
678-778-0568 cell  
e-mail: [storyofod@bellsouth.org](mailto:storyofod@bellsouth.org)

**COUNCIL MEMBERS 2016**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Paul Egas.....President.....	678-488-7323
Vickie Pace.....Vice President .....	770-946-4187
Kelly Williams .....Secretary .....	909-567-9467
Mark Rettig.....Treasurer .....	770-914-5694
Dave Barkdoll.....	770-507-1856
Andrew Grunzke	
Tony Kelley.....	770-471-5002
Debbie Lundell.....	770-815-8918

**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, Paul Egas, know in advance so we can put it on the council meeting agenda.



**St. Luke Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2016**

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

Meeting was called to order by Paul Egas. In attendance were Pastor Robb Harrell, Paul Egas, Kelly Williams, Debbie Lundell, Andrew Grunzke, Tony Kelley, and Mark Rettig.

1. **Call to Order:** by Paul Egas.
2. **Devotion:** Pr. Robb led a discussion of Chapters 9 & 11 of the book titled Autopsy of a Deceased Church. The discussion led to a request for council members to submit in writing ideas of how to better engage the congregation in prayer with and for one another.
3. **Review/Approve Minutes:** The minutes from August 21, 2016 were reviewed and approved with by the council. Kelly made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Tony. The motion carried.
4. **Recognize Guests:** None
5. **Correspondence:** None.
6. **Officer Reports:**
  - A. **Pastor:** Attached as addendum. Submitted by Pastor Robb Harrell.
  - B. **President:** No report.
  - C. **Treasurer:** Attached as addendum. Submitted by Mark Rettig. Income for August was short of expenses by \$746.
7. **Ministry Area Reports:**
  - A. **Worship:** Submitted by Pastor Robb Harrell. We have begun using the new setting for the liturgy. There will be a joint worship service with ELCC on Sunday, October 2, 2016.
  - B. **Fellowship:** Upcoming events in October include: October Fest on 10/22/16, Chili Cook-off & Silent Auction on 10/30/16 and Silent Auction on 11/6/16.
  - C. **Discipleship:** Attached as addendum. Submitted by Tony Kelley.
  - D. **Evangelism:** No report.
  - E. **Ministry:** Submitted by Paul Egas. Ten backpacks were delivered for the backpack blessings ministry. Shoebox ministry is collecting specific items including small stuffed animals.
  - F. **Property:** No report.

## 8. Old Business:

**Nominating Committee & Elections:** The nominating committee consists of: Tony Kelley, Vickie Pace, Paul Egas, Diane Gilley, and Barbara Little. Per our constitution, a letter must be presented to the congregation 10 days prior to the meeting on October 2nd.

**Nursey & Stewardship:** Debbie Lundell suggested that in conjunction with our stewardship campaign, we review and revise the "Time & Talent" worksheet to reflect the direct needs of the congregation (i.e. nursery attendants, altar guild, lectors etc.). Kelly suggested presenting temple talks with demonstrations and/or testimonials about each of the areas of recruitment.

## 9. New Business:

**Property Search committee:** The council members discussed recruitment of individuals to serve on a property search committee. Possible recruits include: Jim Sease, Mike Hoover, and Linda Hoover.

Pastor Robb suggested that we allocate funds to open a money market account with Mission Investment fund to establish a financial relationship with them. Mark Rettig suggested writing a check out of the checking account as the best approach. He suggested that the amount of \$10,000 would allow for an investment and still leave 3 months' worth of income in the account. Debbie Lundell made a motion to invest \$10,000 into a Mission Investment Fund Money Market Account. Seconded by Paul. The motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Mark and seconded by Pastor Robb.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Williams

# A note from Mary Beth



**Eight Weeks Until Thanksgiving!!!!**

## **Thanksgiving Food Boxes**

*Distribution will be November 19*

That means St. Luke has been busy preparing for our 2016 Thanksgiving Food Boxes. We plan on providing at least 20 families and 1 shelter with enough food for a wonderful holiday dinner as well as meals for another two weeks.

There are many ways you can help with this project:

- 1.) Pray daily for the success of our ministry.
- 2.) Choose a shopping list from the turkey display, purchase the items and place them in front of the altar.
- 3.) Sign up to purchase a turkey and bring it to the distribution on **Saturday, November 19 at 10am**. Please note the time change.
- 4.) Make a monetary donation to help defray the cost of other perishable items. (Make checks payable to St. Luke and marked Thanksgiving Food Boxes.)
- 5.) Give Pastor or Mary Beth the names of any family you know who needs help with food at this time. Remember-your referrals are how we know about families in need.
- 6.) Sign up to work the distribution on Saturday, November 19 at 10:00am.  
You'll feel God's love and presence as we serve others.

## Sunday October 30th

**Silent Auction** before and after the services. (goal \$700.00)

All proceeds benefit the Children's Christmas Craft Fair Saturday,  
December 10 from 10am-12pm.

Open to all children and their friends from ELCC and St. Luke

If you are donating silent auction items, please place them in the adult  
Sunday School room.



Have you seen any cute Christmas Crafts that  
the children could do?

If so, bring the ideas and share them with  
Mary Beth, Marina or Shelia.

### **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](http://www.storyofgod.org)

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

Twitter: @StLukeLutheran1



**Octoberfest 2016**

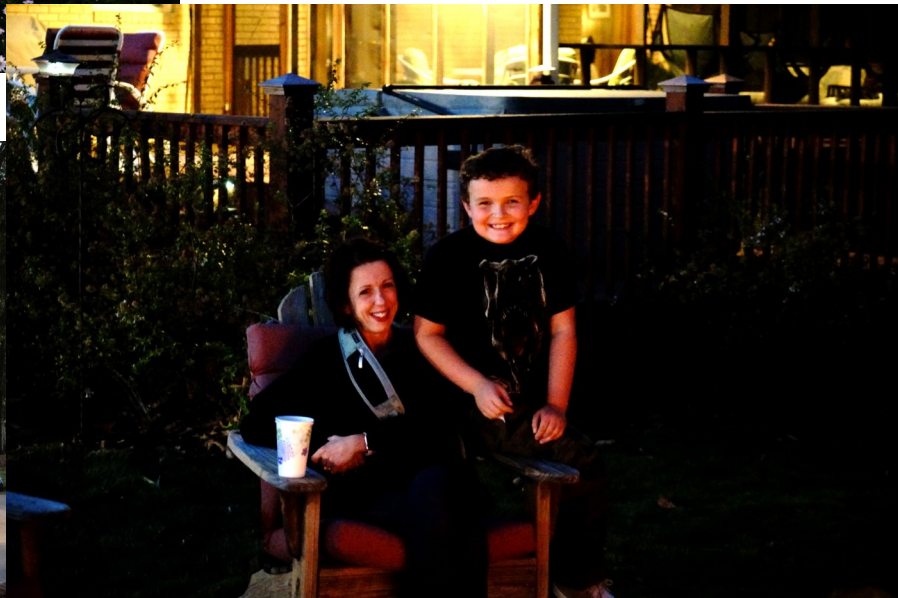
Thank you John and Vickie for hosting this event







Pictures by John Shaw





### **Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes.**

During the months of October and November we will be collecting very specific items still needed as well as \$7.00 per box for mailing. The list of items needed is on the St. Luke table in the narthex.

If you would like to donate to help defray the cost of shipping you can make a donation to St. Luke marked "Shoe Boxes" or place your donation in the shoe box on the table.



### **"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.



St. Luke's first "Backpack Blessing" of the school year was Friday, September 16. 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 were closed September 19-23.

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."

Save the date:

**Oct. 30** 10am A Friend's House Luncheon donations

11 am Reformation & Consecration Sunday (***Please bring your stewardship pledge and time and talent sheets***)

12pm Annual Chili Cookoff

Silent Auction for Christmas Craft Fair

**Tuesday, November 1** Lutheran Campus Ministry Food: We will provide food for the students at Grace House. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Also, please bring non-perishable items for this ministry.

**Wednesday, November 2** Book Study

**Saturday, November 5** Magnet distribution Lunch provided see sign-up sheet

**Sunday, November 6** All donations (including mailing money) due for **Christmas Shoe Boxes**

**Wednesday, November 9 –7pm** An Evening with author Carl McColman

**Sunday November 13-9:40 am** Pack 50 Christmas Shoe Boxes

Pack 10 backpacks

**12:00 All food and monetary donations due for Thanksgiving backpacks**

Youth group after church

**Saturday, November 19** Thanksgiving Food Box distribution

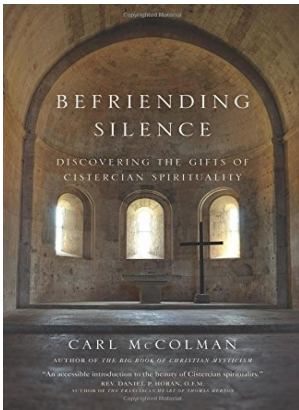
8-9 am: Early volunteers to various locations

9 am: Volunteers at church for packing boxes

10:30 am: Pick up/distribution of boxes

after clean-up,

12:00 Youth Bowling Party *sign up to attend*



# **Befriending Silence: Discovering the Gifts of Cistercian Spirituality**



## **Book Discussion**

September 28—November 2, 7:00 pm

## **Tour Monastery of the Holy Spirit**

October 15, 10:00 am

## **An Evening with the Author**

November 9, 7:00 pm

**Winner of the 2016 Georgia Author of the Year: Inspirational-religious books.**

Respected speaker, author, and *Patheos* blogger Carl McColman introduces Cistercian spirituality as "the hidden jewel of the Church," presenting a surprisingly contemporary path grounded in monastic tradition. This accessible and comprehensive guide highlights a unique focus on simplicity, living close to the earth, and contemplative prayer, all of which make Cistercian spirituality relevant today.

Steeped in chant and silence, grounded in down-to-earth work and service, and immersed in the mystical wisdom of teachers ancient (Bernard of Clairvaux) and modern (Thomas Merton), Cistercian spirituality's beautifully humble path has for centuries made monasteries places of rest, retreat, and renewal. Now, Carl McColman offers the first practical introduction to this ancient, contemplative spirituality for all people.

### **Cost**

Book: \$15.00 (Kindle/E-Book available)

An Evening with the Author: \$10.00 per person

Monastery Tour: Free Will Offering

***Sign-up sheet in narthex***



# Prayer Requests

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

Vicki Gatewood  
 Tommy Nichols  
 Helen Yurtseven  
 Judith Aydin  
 Leverett Family  
 Jerry  
 David  
 Gail  
 Jeri  
 Willy Simmons  
 Jack Lewis  
 Kenny Willis

Resurrection Church,  
 Germany  
 Christ Whynn  
 Elizabeth Thompson  
 David  
 Gary Dinsdale  
 Twylah Schmidt  
 Keith Ian Latcha  
 David Pilling  
 Kirk  
 Vicky Fordham  
 Dona Fries  
 Pr. Gene Sheffield  
 Bob  
 Robbie Cates  
 Lucas Fisher  
 Aaron

Odellis Lord  
 Bob Owen  
 Robert and Sue Gebel  
 Clarence DeWitt  
 Sease Family  
 Richard Brock  
 Dianne  
 Morgan  
 Jordan  
 Pastor Oliver Wood  
 Pat Wood  
 Paige  
 Darcy Chaffin



Micaela Padilla	4
Michael Adair	11
David Pilling	11
Arnold Rettig	11
John Ruda	15
Sherri Phillips-Padilla	18
Raphael Latcha	26
Nina Kouri	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!*

# November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Campus Ministry	2 Book Study 7pm	3	4	5 Magnet Distribution 10 am
6 25th Sunday After Pentecost All Shoebox donations due including mailing money	7	8	9 Book Study An Evening with the Author 7pm	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13 26th Sunday After Pentecost Pack Shoeboxes and backpacks	14	15	16	17	18	19 Food Box distribution <i>Youth bowling after clean-up</i> Sign-up to attend
20 Christ the King	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27 First Sunday of Advent	28	29	30			

# November Sunday Servants

November 6	D
Assisting Minister	Cindy Gourley
Lector	Andrew Grunzke
Crucifer	Thomas Gourley
Acolyte	Benjamin Mason
Counters	Mike Adair and Beverly Retig
Ushers	Team 2
Nursery	
Greeters	Tony Kelley and Dona Curtis-Thomas
Clean Up	ELCC

November 20	A
Assisting Minister	Debbie Lundell
Lector	Joe Lundell
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Vickie Pace and Judy Barkdoll
Ushers	Team 2
Nursery	Paul Egas
Greeters	Judy Joyner and Linda Hoover
Clean Up	ELCC

November 13	E
Assisting Minister	Mark Rettig
Lector	Conrad Busch
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Paul Egas and Jim Sease
Ushers	Team 2
Nursery	
Greeters	Andrew Grunzke and Debbie Lundell
Clean Up	ELCC

November 27	B
Assisting Minister	Kelly Williams
Lector	Dave Barkdoll
Crucifer	Mallory Gourley
Acolyte	Paul Egas
Counters	Mike Adair and Beverly Retig
Ushers	Team 2
Nursery	
Greeters	Mark Rettig and Judy Aydin
Clean Up	ELCC

<p><b>USHERS</b></p> <p><b>Team # 2</b></p> <p><b>Mark &amp; Bev Rettig, Conrad Busch and Jim Sease</b></p>
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*The Journey*  
is a publication of  
*St Luke Lutheran Church*

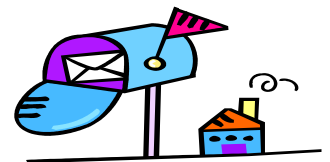
*9:40 a.m. Sunday School*  
*Sunday Worship*  
*11:00 a.m.*



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.