St. Luke Lutheran Church

The Story of God Changing Lives

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

The Journey

November 2017

This summer, at our partner church Resurrection Lutheran Church in Hochzoll, Germany , members of the delegation planted a Gingko tree on the premises of their building to symbolize a commitment to the continued well-being and growth of our relationship.

More information and pictures on pages 7-9

October 29, Reformation Sunday, members of our church planted a Gingko tree on the premises of our building to symbolize a commitment to the continued well-being and growth of our relationship and to commemorate the Reformation.

The ground was prepared by our youth on October 28 as one of their projects during Youth Service Day.

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A Message from the Pastor....

A Busy, yet Blessed Time

I'll attempt to be brief with my remarks this month.

Our capital campaign was a very labor-intensive time for many. It has been the primary focus of the church and the church's leadership for the last several weeks. The good news is that this resulted in over $186,000 in pledges to our capital campaign, with pledges still being received. This will prove to be a great blessing to our faith community. Thank you for your generosity.

Of course, we must remember that life doesn't simply stop with the end of the campaign period. In fact, November and December are both very busy times in the life of our congregation. On November 18, we have our single largest outreach event, our Thanksgiving Food Box Outreach. These boxes provide not just a Thanksgiving meal, but enough food to last beyond the festivities of the day. Every year I hear of people being deeply touched by the offering. The boxes provide more than food: they provide hope.

Because we have been involved in so many other things, we haven't talked much about the food boxes, but our distribution day is a little over three weeks away. How can you help this project, and thus bless food insecure families in our area?

1. Pray daily for the hungry in our community, and for our outreach to them through this ministry.

2. Choose a shopping list (or two or three) from the turkey display in the narthex, purchase the items, and bring them to the church.

3. Sign-up to bring a turkey to the distribution on the 18th. Now is a great time to start watching the sales fliers, as grocery stores begin running specials on their turkeys.

4. Make a monetary donation to help defray the cost of perishable items. Checks may be made payable to St. Luke and marked, "Thanksgiving Food Boxes."

5. If there is anyone you know that would benefit from a box, please let either me or Mary Beth Egas know. It is through your referrals that we learn most about families in need.

6. Come on Saturday, November 18th at 9:00 am, ready to pack boxes to go out to the community.

If you have any questions about this opportunity to serve, please contact Mary Beth Egas (and when you do, thank her for heading this vital ministry up year after year).

Off to do some turkey shopping,

Pastor Robb

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017

Member	Phone
Dave Barkdoll……President……..	770-507-1856
John Shaw.....Vice President ….	770-946-4187
Kelly Williams …..Secretary ……	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 Minutes
September 17, 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, and Mark Rettig.

Call to Order: by Dave Barkdoll.

Devotion: None.

Review/Approve Minutes: None.

Recognize Guests: None

Correspondence: None.

Officer Reports:

Pastor: Submitted by Pastor Harrell. The next few weeks a majority of time will be focused on the Capital Campaign. Renovations and additions to the sanctuary are underway. We have been generously gifted a new church lantern. We are building a hardwood platform for the altar. Also, a cross has been selected.

President: None.

Treasurer: Submitted by Mark Rettig. Attached as addendum. Income was short of expenses for August by $1,411.

Ministry Area Reports:

Worship: Submitted by Pastor Harrell. We have switched to worship setting number 5. We will be adding a Temple Talk to the service for four weeks in conjunction with the "Building on Blessings" Capital Campaign.

Fellowship: Submitted by MaryShulak. Cake and punch was served after service on September 17th to kick-off the Capital Campaign.

Discipleship: Submitted by Andrew Grunzke. Confirmation classes began last week with 5 students. The Sunday School series continues with super heroes of the bible.

Evangelism: None.

Ministry: Submitted by Mary Beth Egas.Collections are underway for Operation Christmas Child, Thanksgiving Food Boxes, A Friend's house, Grace house, and the annual Yard Sale. Council will discuss continued participation in Operation Christmas Child.

Property: Submitted by John Shaw. Attached as Addendum.

Old Business:

Planning is on target for St. Luke Youth Service project Day coordinated by Kelly Williams. Posters and flyers are being distributed and invitations have been made to other congregations. Kelly will meet with our youth to determine the service project details. Travel arrangements have been made for special guest artist Agape. We may need help with logistics such as parking attendants, serving lunch, etc.

New Business:

Capital Campaign: Council discussed how best to commit funds contributed to the Capital Campaign. Dave Barkdoll made a motion that Capital Campaign allocation will be as follows: 10% not to exceed $22,000 goes to a building maintenance reserve and the remainder amount collected will be split 50/50 between mortgage and debt reduction with priority given to mortgage payments and the rest towards debt reduction. Seconded by Jim Sease. The motion carried.

Pastor Harrell reminded council that October is typically the time of year when our congregation makes pledges for regular annual giving. The council agreed that it was not necessary to have two separate Sundays dedicated to pledging; rather we will continue to reiterate that the congregation is expected to continue with regular offerings and contribute to the capital campaign above and beyond regular giving.

Pastor Sabbatical: Pastor Harrell is working on securing an interim pastor to serve during his sabbatical.

Tree Planting: Debbie Lundell shared that our partner church in Germany planted a ginko tree in their front garden; also, the synodical group planted a tree in Wittenberg, Germany with a plaque listing the Southeastern Synod. In commemoration of Reformation 500, she suggested that we plant a tree on our church property as well. Mary Beth Egas suggested that a tree planting during Sunday School on Reformation Sunday could be an option. Council will review tree planting at a later time.

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Sease and seconded by Pastor Harrell. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Williams.

Planting a Tree

Planting trees was an important part of the German Partnership trip this past summer. At Wittenberg, Bishop Gordy and Bishop Grabow from the Bavarian Lutheran Church symbolically planted a tree. It had already been planted in honor of both synods and has a plaque under it naming both church bodies and both bishops. Also, at our partner church, members of the delegation planted a Gingko tree on the premises of their building to symbolize a commitment to the continued well-being and growth of our relationship. It was suggested that our church also plant a tree in honor of the partnership between Resurrection and St. Luke. On October 29 we planted a tree to commemorate Reformation and the partnership of our churches.

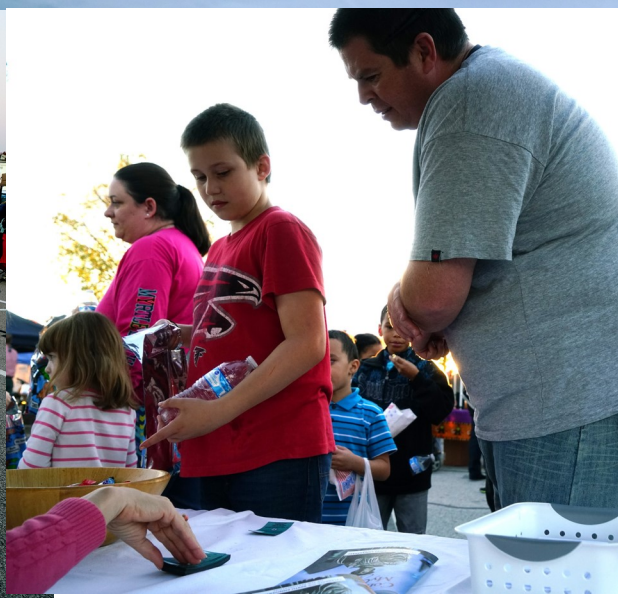
Many Thanks

Andi and Joe

Joe and I want to express our appreciation to the congregation for opening your hearts to our German guest, Andi, while he was here this past summer. Your generosity to him and us was overwhelming, We especially want to thank the 6 families who invited him for special outings. Thanks to St. Luke people, Andi drove a boat, went swimming several times, rode every roller coaster at Six Flags (and some twice), fed cows and rode on a tractor, visited a trampoline park, and was well-fed. He had a month of vacation adventures that he will never forget, and you were part of it. This outpouring of love is just one reason we are proud to be a part of the St. Luke community.

National Night Out was a great success. Thank you to John Shaw, Vickie Pace, and Dave and Judy Barkdoll for setting up the booth and being there the entire evening. We appreciate those who donated candy for the event. It was a lovely evening, and there were many families present. We handed out lots of candy, pretzels, and magnets. We even talked to a few Lutherans.

From Debbie Lundell, *evangelism chair*

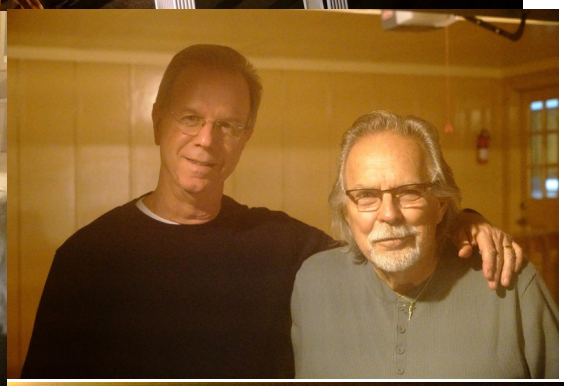


Youth Service Day

October 28, 2017

What a wonderful day!!!!

Octoberfest 2017



Commitment Sunday

October 22, 2017

551146
551146
St. Luke
Lutheran Church
1748 Brannon Rd.
Mc Donough, GA
30253
Attn: Rob Harrell

LP
APA

Special Thanks to John and Dave for braving these heights to hang the Crucifix.

"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 3rd "Backpack Blessing" of the 2017-2018 school will go be Friday, November 17. 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 missed when schools were closed November 20-24..

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."

Prayer Requests

Tom Pilling
Abigail
Leverett Family
Resurrection Church, Germany
Christ Whynn
Elizabeth Thompson
David
Twylah Schmidt
Keith Ian Latcha
David Pilling
Kirk
Vicky Fordham
Pr. Gene Sheffield
Bob
Lucas Fisher
Aaron
Carol Elrod
Tracey Hiltunen and family
Jennifer Ann
Travis Jackson
Juanito
Dorothy Jenkins
Henry Quant
Howard and Alice
Esaun
Susan Whitener
Marion Henry and kids
Mia Duay
Murphy Family
Louise Harrison
Leon Blackburn
Linda Blackburn
Theresa Sodachanh
Sierra, Heather Phillips-Padilla family
Pastor Steve Lorimer
Grace Edwards
Jerry Flury and Family
Gloria Simpson
Bruce
Marlene
Crenshaw baby
Robert and Sue Gebel
Odellis Lord
Bob Owen
Sease Family
Dianne
Morgan
Jordan
Pastor Oliver Wood
Pat Wood
Paige
Darcy Chaffin
Whitney from St. Timothy's
John
Phyllis
Workers in China
Rebecca
Sandy
Scott Cunningham
Barb Schlicht
Kelvin Rankins
Vicki Gatewood
Tommy Nichols
Helen Yurtseven
Judith Aydin
Jerry
David Maggio
Willy Simmons
Jack Lewis
Kenny Willis

November Birthdays	
Micaela Padilla	4
Judith Shulak	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!

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.

November 12: 9:45 Backpack Blessings

12:15 Silent Auction to benefit Christmas Craft Fair

All Thanksgivings food donations due

November 18, Saturday at 9am Packing and delivery of Thanksgiving boxes

Youth bowling after clean-up

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, 13, and 20 Advent Service 7pm

December 13 Bishop Gordy will be here to dedicate the building

December 24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm

Mallory Gourley Ship 03,

Div 012, 3600 Ohio Street,

Great Lakes, IL 60088-3156

Please send letters only. She is not allowed to receive other items.

Marine Pvt. Adam DeWitt's new address:

Pvt. Noah Adam DeWitt - MCCES
1738 Sturgis Rd.
29 Palm, CA 92278
(678-949-6431)

His phone number **must** be on 5th line so someone will go to get the mail.

November 2017
Sunday Servants

November 5	**B**
Assisting Minister	Kelly Williams
Lector	Dave Barkdoll
Crucifer	Mallory Gourley
Acolyte	Paul Egas
Counters	Vickie Pace and Judy Barkdoll
Ushers	Team 2
Greeters	Judy Joyner and Linda Hoover
Clean Up	ELCC

November 12	**C**
Assisting Minister	Barbara Little
Lector	Beverly Adair
Crucifer	
Acolyte	
Counters	Mike Adair and Beverly Rettig
Ushers	Team 2
Greeters	Joe Lundell and Beverly Adair
Clean Up	ELCC

USHERS

Team # 2

Mark & Bev Rettig, Conrad Busch and Jim Sease

November 19	**D**
Assisting Minister	Cindy Gourley
Lector	Andrew Grunzke
Crucifer	Thomas Gourley
Acolyte	Benjamin Mason
Counters	Paul Egas and Jim Sease
Ushers	Team 2
Greeters	Jim Sease and Rose Denzin
Clean Up	ELCC

November 26	**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	ELCC

◄ October

November 2017

December ►

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 22nd Sunday After Pentecost All Saints Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 23 Sunday After Pentecost 9:40 backpack blessings Silent Auction Youth Group 12:15	13	14	15	16	17	18 9 am Pack Thanks-giving boxes Bowling with youth after packing clean-up
19 24th Sunday After Pentecost Council 12:15	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26 Christ the King Sunday	27	28	29	30	**Notes:** **Youth, be sure you sign up for the bowling outing.** **We need to plan. Thanks!!**	

◄ November

December 2017

January ►

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent Sunday Small toys due	4	5	6 Advent Service 7pm	7	8	9 Christmas Craft Fair 10-12
10 2nd Sunday of Advent	11	12	13 Advent Service Bishop Visit to dedicate Building 7pm	14	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent	18	19	20 Advent Service 7pm	21	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve Service	25 **Christmas Day**	26	27	28	29	30
31 1st Sunday of Christmas	**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 1
Nursery	Paul Egas
Greeters	Andrew Grunzke and Debbie Lundell
Clean Up	Sparrow

December 10	**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	Egas/Barkdoll

USHERS
Team # 3
Mike and Linda Hoover, 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 2
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 2
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 1
Greeters	Mark Rettig and Linda Hoover
Clean Up	Sparrow

St. Luke Lutheran Church

The Story of God Changing Lives

The Journey

is a publication of

St Luke Lutheran Church

9:40 a.m. Sunday School

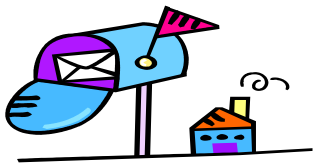
Sunday Worship

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.