



Sharing Our Faith

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

3080 Okatie Highway, between the back gates of Sun City on Hwy 170

"Praising and Serving God Thru the Ages"

Volume 13, Issue 8

AUGUST 2020



I received a call last week from a man that I had not spoken to in almost 40 years. I was surprised for the call came completely out

of the blue. The man that called had been a teacher of mine in high school. We caught up over the last forty years and reminisced about the days gone by. After I had gotten off the phone, I thought how as we all know, time has a way of polishing over old memories and the reflection of the past is often brighter than the reality of the way things actually were.

We are living in a time unprecedented in the lives of many of us. We all yearn for the days before the Coronavirus when things can be normal again. We remember these pre-virus days, even though just a few months ago with the nostalgia of better times, even forgetting the problems that were at hand in those days.

Yet even in these trying and unprecedented times, God is still calling us to look forward, to work forward and to move forward. There will be a time when we can once again go to the theater, bowling alley and the beach (or the mountains). We will be able to travel and cruise, yet until such time, the church and the people of God have work to do through the promise and the power we have in God in each day. This is even a time to reflect; not on the days of old, but of the current blessings we have in each day.

So, this month, reflect on the blessings received from God in each day and make this entire month a day of worship and praise, for even in a pandemic, we have so much to be thankful for!

Grace and Peace,
Brian



"IN-PERSON" WORSHIP

We continue to have "in-person" worship in the "back cemetery lot". We bring our chairs and do social distancing, plus we wear our face coverings. So far, we have been blessed with good weather (no rain). We are continuing to meet "under the large oak tree" in front of the columbarium – unless we are rained out. We have only **One** Worship Service at **9:15 a.m.**

- No bulletins
- No passing of the peace
- No passing of offering plates
- No congregational singing due to recommendations from health care officials
- Congregants are expected to wear their masks and will need to bring their own chairs
- Social distancing guidelines must still be adhered to even though we are meeting outside
- In the event of rain, services will not be held
We look forward to seeing you there!



Look how peaceful this setting is.





A new symbol has been erected in our church yard (see picture). While not a cross or other expected icon, it symbolizes St. Luke's dedication to spreading the word of God and supporting our community. It is a surveyor's mark. WORK ON THE FELLOWSHIP HALL HAS BEGUN!



Required surveys to allow the rebuilding have been made and we are spending money on the long-awaited renovation and enlargement project. Any giving you can do at this time (including your pledges to the Fellowship Hall) can help us reduce the finance cost of the short term borrowing needed to complete this project. Many of us have waited until we knew it was "real" to start fulfilling our pledges. The time is now. Contracts are being made and money is being spent.

Let's all get behind this project and have the Fellowship Hall we need.

Thank you for your generous giving.
Rob Clark, Finance Chair

Building Committee

Rob Clark included a picture of some survey markers in his article. This doesn't look like a lot of progress but it's a very necessary part to the start of our renovation project. We need to have drawings showing our exact property boundaries, locations of existing buildings and proposed addition, parking lot, septic tank, walks, wetlands area and graves located adjacent to the building site. This information is used for planning purposes. We will have preapproval meetings with the various county agencies before we get too far into the project. We do not want to do anything that will not be approved and have to do it over.

Although there doesn't appear to be much happening on our renovation, I assure you that there are several things going on that are required prior to beginning construction.

Jim Seymore



QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) is a part of the tax code that allows one to make a charitable donation from an IRA while never paying any taxes on the income. The only requirement is that you must be at least 70 ½ years old (many of us qualify). This applies even in 2020 when there are no required minimum distributions.

If you have pledged or want to make additional donations to the Fellowship Building fund, this is an excellent way to do it now with no taxes being taken. This can effectively increase your giving ability by about 20% for many of us. Now is the time to support St. Luke's and get our facilities up to snuff.

With our travels cancelled by the pandemic, what an opportunity to be able to enjoy the joy of giving!

Contact your investment advisor for any more details. Bless you for your support of St. Luke's.

Rob Clark, Finance Chair
rclark55@sc.rr.com

Stimulate St. Luke's

Recent press reports indicate that most of us will likely receive an additional stimulus check from the US Government.



Please consider giving this "found money" to St. Luke's. The Church has ongoing costs, and we are rebuilding the Fellowship Hall. What better way to stimulate the economy and your Church?

MAIL IT IN



Even when we are "shut down", many of our operating expenses at St. Luke's have continued. Please continue to "mail it in" to support St. Luke's until "normal" times finally arrive. To the many of you who have been supporting your church the past several months – a big THANK YOU!

Remember to send your mail to:
St. Luke's UMC
PO Box 2779
Bluffton SC 29910



FIRST SUNDAY FOOD MISSION DRIVE

The First Sunday Food Mission Drive is now under the leadership of Rick Hoel, Missions Chair. If you have any questions regarding Missions and the Food Bank in particular, please contact him at 843.295.9002 or rickhoel12@gmail.com

SUNDAY, August 2nd, (9:00 AM) we will have our FIRST SUNDAY FOOD MISSION DRIVE for our local food pantry, Bluffton Self Help. Helping to feed the hungry is an important mission of St. Luke's. Please drop off your contributions in the back-parking lot at church on Sunday, August 2nd. We will be loading before and after the service. "Social distancing" will be observed to avoid any risk of virus transmission. Your contributions are vital as the community needs are extreme due to the pandemic. Feeding the hungry is truly part of us doing God's Work!

PLEASE help us stock the pantry with the most desired/requested items. These include:

- cereal – Cheerios preferred,
- instant grits/oatmeal,
- peanut butter, jelly,
- dried pasta, pasta sauce,
- boxed or bagged dinner mixes such as Hamburger Helper, Beefaroni, etc.,
- dried beans, and rice.

Also needed are recycled shopping bags & diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6) and toilet paper. Unfortunately, we can't accept any open, expired or damaged items.

In case of rain and church services are cancelled, Rick will be at the church parking lot on Monday, August 3rd from 8:00 to 10:00 AM.

A volunteer will be delivering the food items to the Food Bank this week. Please remember to show your willingness to be of service by signing up to deliver the food donations for an upcoming month.

If you have any questions regarding Missions and the Food Bank in particular, please contact Rick Hoel, Missions Chair, rickhoel12@gmail.com or [843.295.9002](tel:843.295.9002).

Thank you.



Society of St. Andrew

GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS - FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

Another Way to Help Fight Hunger in September

The Society of St. Andrew (Endhunger.org) is America's premier food rescue and distribution ministry and a good friend of St. Luke's. SOSA envisions a world in which physical and spiritual hungers are met through God's grace and abundance in Jesus Christ. SOSA's mission is to bring together people to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors. This Mission takes on an added urgency during our COVID-19 pandemic.

SOSA has invited all of us to participate, as we can, in its efforts in September, which is National Hunger Action month. In addition to our own monthly food drive, the attached SOSA September Calendar for Prayer and Action invites each of us, in our own way, to take additional steps to combat hunger through prayer, readings and modest donations. As you will see, the Calendar describes daily steps which each of us can take in prayer and thanksgiving toward this goal. Some of the daily activities involve setting aside small donations which you are welcome to provide to Brian at the end of the month. Brian will arrange to provide the amounts to SOSA.

SOSA invites St. Luke's to make this September a time to stand together against hunger in our community and beyond with a simple goal of ensuring that everyone in our country has healthy and nourishing food to eat.

Please contact me with any questions or suggestions

Rick Hoel, Mission chair

rickhoel12@gmail.com

843.295.9002



2020 Calendar for Prayer and Action | Society of St. Andrew • EndHunger.org/ham

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>With your help, The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) nourishes souls, through spiritual life resources like this, and bodies, through nationwide gleaning and feeding ministries. Your donations in response to these daily readings and activities will share healthy, nourishing food with people in greatest need throughout the United States. Thank you!</p>						
		September 1	September 2	September 3	September 4	September 5
		<i>Genesis 25:29-34</i>	<i>Genesis 41:25-36</i>	<i>Exodus 16</i>	<i>Leviticus 19:9-10</i>	<i>Exodus 13:1-10</i>
		Enjoy a meal of beans and rice and donate a package of each to your local food pantry.	Count the number of food items in your kitchen cabinets. Put 2 cents for each in your coin box.	Eat only leftovers today, 49 million hungry Americans would love to have such good food to eat.	Tell a friend how the Society of St. Andrew feeds the hungry utilizing the biblical practice of gleaning.	The Hebrew people ate in a hurry. Put 50 cents in your coin box for every fast food meal you've eaten in the last month.
September 6	September 7	September 8	September 9	September 10	September 11	September 12
<i>Ruth 1-2</i>	<i>Genesis 1:26-31</i>	<i>Psalms 23</i>	<i>Psalms 104</i>	<i>Proverbs 15:15-17</i>	<i>Ecclesiastes 9:7-10a</i>	<i>Proverbs 30:7-9</i>
Food left in fields is forgotten like loose change is forgotten money. Put your loose change in your coin box today.	Pray for those who seek work in order to feed themselves and their families.	"The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want." Practice contentment today.	Where in your life do you experience abundance? Money, love, hope, time? Share some of what is overflowing today.	Serve only vegetables and love for dinner tonight.	Enjoy a special meal with family or friends today. Thank God for their presence in your life.	Set aside a "want" today and share a tithe (10%) of what that "want" would cost with your congregation or Society of St. Andrew.
September 13	September 14	September 15	September 16	September 17	September 18	September 19
<i>Isaiah 55</i>	<i>Isaiah 58:6-11</i>	<i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>	<i>Matthew 6:7-13</i>	<i>Luke 11:5-8</i>	<i>Luke 12:13-33</i>	<i>Matthew 7:7-11</i>
For what are you hungering and thirsting for today? Spend time in prayer with today's reading.	How is hunger an issue of justice? Consider the politics of food and hunger. Find your voice and be heard!	They say talk is cheap. Put 1 cent in your coin box for every word you speak to day. (Estimate of counsel)	Put an amount in your coin box equivalent to what you spend on a loaf of bread.	Put 1 cent in your coin box for every hour you slept this week.	Put 25 cents in your coin box each time you worry this week.	Pray for agencies in your community that feed the hungry.
September 20	September 21	September 22	September 23	September 24	September 25	September 26
<i>Luke 14:15-24</i>	<i>John 6:1-14</i>	<i>John 6:22-34</i>	<i>John 6:35-40</i>	<i>Acts 2:43-47</i>	<i>Romans 14:1-9</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 10:23-31</i>
Is there an area of your life in which you are refusing God's invitation?	Skip lunch today and give the money you'd have spent to Society of St. Andrew instead.	How are you working for the food that endures for eternal life?	Give thanks today for Jesus, the Bread of Life.	Consider how your faith community could be more like the Acts 2 community.	Try a new food from a different culture today.	Serve a meal at a soup kitchen or shelter today for the glory of God.
September 27	September 28	September 29	September 30			
<i>1 Timothy 6:6-8</i>	<i>Philippians 4:4-9</i>	<i>Kings 17:12-16</i>	<i>Genesis 18:1-15</i>			
Put a gift in your coin box as a thanksgiving for the many blessings you enjoy.	Today, plan one way you will continue fighting hunger in the coming months.	Where in your life are you experiencing scarcity today? Money, love, hope, time? Share some of what seems scarce today.	At your meal table today, set an extra place. To whom is God calling you to show hospitality?			



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. LUKE'S – Please email Pat Simmons at st.lukesumc.hwy170@gmail.com for an “Invitation to Membership” form. Fill it out and mail it to St. Luke’s UMC, PO Box 2779, Bluffton SC 29910. You will then be contacted by Pastor Brian.

“**Contact Us**” using email. Our church website, www.stlukesumc-okatie.org is a valuable tool to attract people, share information and create interest in St. Luke’s. To enhance capabilities and provide a foundation for the future, a collaborative effort is underway that changes some website organization, layout, content and navigation. **For example, listen to the “Online Sermons by Pastor Brian,** and Newsletters are available through the “About Us” area. For more information or assistance using the website, please contact Dave Disney, 706.372.2178 or disneydw1@gmail.com



Many of you may not know that we are posting our “backyard” sermons on YouTube. Each Sunday, **after 2:00 PM** (that gives time to set everything up) you can click on the link below to listen and watch the sermon. The link is also on our website under “Quick Links”:

This is the website address:
www.stlukesumc-okatie.org

Here is the YouTube link:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj_gXL78wJ24j_kL6HMBp02g

If clicking on the link doesn’t work for you, copy and paste it in your browser.



August Birthdays

- 02 Larry Kellogg
- 03 Ron Pozsonyi
- 04 Archie Vance
- 06 Harry Skinker
- 20 Sherry Lee
- 21 Letty Husson
- 23 Leslie Richards
- 24 Pat Schwartz-Ross
- 27 Bob Lee_
- 28 David Leming

September Birthdays

- 01 Sherry Clark
- 07 Joy Preveaux
- 07 Pat Simmons
- 09 Brian Preveaux
- 11 Myree Flanagan
- 13 Dave Fisher
- 13 Sheryll Ingram
- 13 Marilyn Schum
- 14 Angie Harting
- 17 Marcia Garner
- 21 Pam Hoel
- 26 Bill Usher

August Anniversaries

- 09 Angie & Bill Harting
- 15 Shirley & Norm Stark
- 19 Jane & Jim Seymore
- 19 Lois & Wally Willig
- 20 Laura & Andy Beall
- 24 Sherry & Rob Clark
- 26 Kathy & C.J. Strife
- 27 Karen & Phil Mitchell

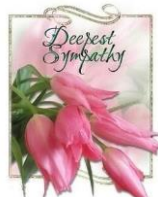
September Anniversaries

- 06 Jean & Jim Shaffer
- 07 Dottie & Lew Apgar
- 11 Carol & Vern Conway
- 16 Jane & Terry Tiffany
- 30 Diana & Walker Hamilton

Let us remember with cards, and prayers...



- Nancy Adkins**, 49 Heron's Bill Drive, Bluffton 29909
- Doris Boskey**, Sonata Viera, Rm; 208 - 3325 Breslay Dr, Melbourne FL 32940
- Elnora Ekholm**, 173 May River Rd., Bluffton 29910
- Jane Slayton**, NHC, 3039 Okatie Hwy, Rm. 331 Okatie, SC 29909; Tel: 843.705.1319



Christian sympathy goes out to the family of **Ethel Skudder**. She passed on July 5, 2020.

The whole World should be praying this right now...I stopped what I was doing, bowed my head and said this prayer. It's a beautiful message and request. (Copied from Facebook)



Let's bow our heads and pray.



Father, You made the whole World stop spinning for a while.

You silenced the noise that we all have created.

You made us bend our knees again and ask for a Miracle.

You Closed Your Churches and now we are beginning to realize how dark our World is without You in it.

You are humbling the proud and powerful.

The economy is crashing, businesses are closing, and people are suffering.

We were very proud, we thought that everything we have, everything we possess, was the result of our hard work.

We have forgotten that it was always Your grace and mercy that made us the best versions of who we are.

Now it seems the world is running in circles looking for some cure to a tiny virus, when in fact we need to humble ourselves and ask You for guidance and wisdom.

We've been living our lives like we will be here on Earth forever, like there's no Heaven and no Hell when you spoke about both more than almost any other topic.

Maybe these trials are Your mercy in disguise.

Maybe this event is actually Your way of causing a pause and getting the wise to return our attention to YOU.

Today as these words travel the internet, may all who see them join their hearts and hands together in prayer!

Asking for forgiveness and asking for TRUTH and an END to whoever and whatever this is.

God please expose this for what it is.

Father You have been patiently waiting for us.

We're sorry for ignoring Your voice...and in our selfish ways, we have often forgotten or ignored YOU as our GOD!



You only need to say the word and our souls shall all be healed. We ask these things in Jesus name!

AMEN.

