



St. Luke Lutheran Church

June Volume 2021 Issue 6

Pastor's Corner

What are you expecting?
What is God expecting of us?

Are these two very different questions, or merely questions of two distinct perspectives?

Over the time thus far of Vicar Oscar's internship several themes of our work together have been consistent in his and my conversation and reflection. One of the most pronounced areas of our focus has been around the that of expectations. To lead among a group is to enter into the middle of a myriad of intentions, desires, passions and expectations. It is both a prosperous and at times challenging area to traverse.

Across our St. Luke community we are united by the call of faith which is nurtured by the Holy Spirit. It is our faith in Christ that bonds us to one another. It compels us into a mutual journey of confession, forgiveness, encouragement, discipleship and worship.

But living out our calling to be the church together can be hard work, for by its nature we are all unique parts of the body. We have our own unique needs and desires and yet we are called to work in unison with one another - for the greater work of the body of Christ. We have our own perspectives. We have our own expectations.

A challenging question in my ministry leadership is how to bring together and empower diverse and even opposing passions. It requires my regular consideration of: what is faithful, what is possible, what is reasonable, what is uplifting, what is safe, what is appropriate and what is in the best interest of all in our mutual mission. Sometimes there is no magic way to make this all work. Sometimes it requires the struggle of living within the tension.

But then again, this article began with two questions, not just the first one - of which you and I are often tempted to focus upon most. What about God's expectations for us? In the big picture isn't this the greater question?

As a called community in Christ we have critical work to do to be and build God's kingdom. Our work toward this goal isn't rooted in meeting individual agendas but of seeking and following our God. For this important work we must discern God's motives and evaluate (and likely re-evaluate) our own. God has brought us to this work together and together we must serve and proclaim. Sometimes this even requires that to meet God's expectations we may need to leave our own unmet.

Meeting your and my personal and diverse expectations is hard work. Among you and me, this endeavor often creates of us winners and losers and sometimes yields wide frustration. But being the church together at our best isn't about your expectations or mine, but of setting God's will foremost in our lives together. It is the faithful commitment through our teamwork where we shine together the greatest light on the power of the cross and the grace of God.

This is our calling St. Luke and our God expects nothing less than our best together. May this be our uniting perspective in which we make God's mission thrive.

In Christ,
Pastor Andrew

June 4th Andrew Miller
 June 4th Daniel Hall
 June 9th Brandon Pierce
 June 9th Faye Gentry
 June 10th Emily Sandifer
 June 12th Brian Killian
 June 14th Elin Johnson
 June 14th Marla Bowman
 June 15th Witten Robinson
 June 16th Angie Sipe
 June 16th Lynn Reese
 June 22nd Hal Teague
 June 23rd Johnny Echerd
 June 23rd Pam Sipe
 June 27th Dottie Echerd
 June 29th Tom Kerley

Happy Father's Day!
 To all dads, stepdads, adoptive dads, dads in heaven & grand-dads

Dear St. Luke,

As Vicar Oscar enters into the final few months of his internship at St. Luke, what is the process yet before him? When does he officially complete his internship at St. Luke? Will he graduate? Does he get ordained? Does he enter into consideration for a ministry position? As this is our church's first foray into internship in recent memory, thank you for sharing what this might look like for him in this time to come.

In Christ, Phil Meyin

Dear Phil,

Thank you for your note and your curiosity. Vicar Oscar is indeed entering the home stretch of his internship time here at St. Luke. He is also what is known as a 4th (or final) year intern (as compared to a 3rd year intern), which means that he will indeed graduate this summer from seminary. There is still quite a process before him that will indeed lead to his ordination and service as a minister of word and sacrament in the Lutheran church.

First, Vicar Oscar will be graduating with his seminary class this summer prior to completing his internship. He will be allowed to walk with his classmates, but will receive his diploma upon successful completion of his internship. He is currently in the process of completing his Approval essay and first call paperwork. The approval essay consists of 8 questions and is 14 pages in length. His first call paperwork (also known as a Rostered Minister's Profile) is the significant document that will be shared with future congregations as a part of the call process. In addition, the internship committee at St. Luke and also Pastor Andrew will complete a comprehensive written final internship evaluation for Vicar Oscar.

In the coming weeks he will gather with and go before the NC Synod Candidacy committee for his final approval. His approval essay and the final evaluations from the internship committee and Pastor Andrew will be critically reviewed by a panel of this committee and Oscar will be interviewed at length by this panel to consider affirming (or approving) his call to ordained ministry. The same approval panel with his seminary professors happened recently and Vicar Oscar received their approval.

Later this summer and into the fall, Vicar Oscar, pending both Synod approval and completion of his internship, will enter the call process and begin conversation with Bishop Smith and the Synod leadership. As this discernment unfolds, Vicar Oscar's name will be shared with currently open congregations and he will be invited to interview with them. If and when a call is issued, Vicar Oscar will be ordained and then serve as a pastor at that congregation within the NC Synod.

VO's internship will conclude at St. Luke around the middle of August. Thank you, St. Luke, for your support of Vicar Oscar in his internship journey. These coming months are quite important for his work in ministry and please share your encouragement with him and keep him in your prayers.

Thank you again Phil for your note!

In Christ, St. Luke

Intern's Corner

Welcome to Summer and welcome to the season of Pentecost!

With Summer comes longer days, grilling out, and the allure of travel and vacation. And with the season of Pentecost, we celebrate the birth of the Church and the Gift of the Holy Spirit through the waters of Baptism. This Summer and Pentecost will inevitably be one of new opportunities and new questions. Or... new normal questions; "Is this safe?" "Can I travel?" "Can I gather together with friends and loved ones again?" My hope is that these questions won't worry you or stress you to the point of missing all the beauty and opportunities summer brings, including being able to get out and delight in God's good creation and soaking up some of that Vitamin D.

But as you take time to ask these questions, I also ask that you take time to ask a few more questions...arguably, more important ones. Where is the Holy Spirit in all this: in these questions? What is the Spirit leading us to be and to do in this new time? Where do I experience the presence and comfort of the Holy Spirit most strongly? I hope this time affords you a new practice of seeking the Spirit and finding great Joy in the seeking, that brings with it, peace, patience, love, and kindness. Enjoy the Spirit. Enjoy the weather. Give thanks to God for all the grace afforded to us in this newness of summer and Pentecost 2021.

May God blow the Spirit into your summer filling you with the hope, peace, and blessings of God's presence in the days and weeks; in the questions and the seeking.

And may the peace of the Lord be with you always!

VO



On Thursday, May 20th the interim Covid Loaves and Fishes team prepared and served 168 meals for those in our community in need. The meal included hot dogs, beans, chips, snack crackers, water and a Little Debbie oatmeal pie for dessert. Vicar Oscar has been leading our Loaves and Fishes team during his internship and special thanks to Chris Govertson and Kirsten Charbonneau for picking up from Sams Club all our needed meal supplies!



We are people of God, redeemed by Christ, and called into fellowship by the Holy Spirit. Knowing our Lord's definition of disciples as those who take up their crosses daily to follow him and responding to His command to go and make disciples of all nations. We, the members of St. Luke Lutheran Church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, celebrate life in Christ and claim a servant style of ministry to our congregation, community and world.-

Synod Assembly 2021

On June 3rd-5th, 2021 the NC Synod will be holding their bi-annual Synod Assembly. What is the point of this? What is a synod assembly and what takes place at the assembly? All great questions! Think of a synod assembly as a synod sized church council meeting. At these meetings there are often agendas and resolutions brought before the assembly to be voted on, much like at a congregational council meeting. The voting is done by voting members from all the churches of the synod. These voting members represent the congregations of which they are members. St. Luke's representatives this year will be: Tammy Jones West, Glenn Mays, Pastor Andrew, and Vicar Oscar. While representing St. Luke, Vicar Oscar will also be representing Friendship as a voting member at this year's Synod Assembly. (Double dipping. ha ha)

This year's assembly is special for several reasons. Due to the pandemic this will be the first time we as a synod have ever had a virtual synod assembly. In this way all of our gatherings and meetings will be shared via Zoom. These assemblies are crucial of the life of the church. The assembly gathers together the churches across the synod to discern together the business and ministry of the larger synod and even the ELCA as a whole. Another very important function of the synod assembly is to nominate and vote on Synod Council and synod staff positions, which this year includes the election of a new bishop. Bishop Tim has completed his first term as bishop, and will be available for consideration as bishop for a second term. This said, all rostered ministers of the ELCA are eligible for bishop election consideration on what is known as an ecclesial ballot.

Not only is this the first synod assembly that the NC Synod has held virtually, but it is also the first time we have had a bishop's election virtually. Please do keep the NC Synod in your prayers, along with the voting delegates, and all those who are participating in this year's assembly amidst all this newness.

In Christ, Vicar Oscar

The Upcoming Summer Mission Trip

The SLY youth and youth from Taylorsville Presbyterian will be joining together for a special summer mission trip to Asheville, NC this July 4th-9th. They be working together in ministry and outreach through a group known as the Asheville Youth Missions and will be housed at First Presbyterian in downtown Asheville. Their outreach will include work with partner ministries to minister to and with the homeless, to serve meals at the local soup kitchen, to perform work projects for those in need and to provide outreach and help to other important local help ministries. As we were not able to share in our mission trip planned for last summer, we're quite excited for this opportunity God has set before us to serve together this summer!

St. Luke Graduates:

We celebrate with our church's 2021 high school and college graduates. May God guide them and inspire them into the new paths He sets before them! Congratulations Graduates!

High School:

Kenna Sipe Alexander Early College
 Ryan Bowman Alexander Central High School
 Hunter Jack Alexander Central High School
 Clayton Herman Alexander Central High School

College:

Abbie Bowman Lenoir Rhyne Nursing
 Ally Hager Appalachian State University
 Bryan Sandifer University of North Carolina Charlotte
 Kallie Allen CVCC

ST LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH FUNDS BALANCES FOR THE MONTH ENDED MARCH 31, 2021

FUNDS IN CHECKING ACCOUNT

	BALANCE 2/28/2021	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	ADJUST	BALANCE 3/31/21
101 CURRENT/ BENEVOLENCE	124,736.75	23,249.95	18,481.98	0.00	129,504.72
105 WORLD HUNGER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SPECIAL OFFERINGS	22,096.06	235.00	200.00	0.00	22,131.06
TOTALS	146,832.81	23,484.95	18,681.98	0.00	151,635.78

SPECIAL OFFERINGS ACCOUNT

10710 PELI FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10715 MEMORIAL GARDENS	5,141.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,141.30
10746 CHRISTIAN CRISIS CENTER	35.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	70.00
10752 COMMUNITY NEEDS/HELPING HANDS	786.15	0.00	200.00	0.00	586.15
10796 BENEFIT BREAKFAST (MADISON ST.CLAIR)	956.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	956.15
10797 BENEFIT BREAKFAST (KASSNER)	1,867.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,867.70
10799 BENEFIT BREAKFAST (JORDAN LAFONE)	303.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	303.30
10851 FLOOD RELEIF	225.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225.00
11116 CEMETERY TRUST FUND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11201 WOMEN WITH A MISSION	1,425.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,425.00
11212 MEMBER HELPING MEMBERS	755.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	755.88
11213 PLAYGROUND UPDATE	1,544.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,544.92
11215 MUSIC PROGRAM	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
11412 LOAVES & FISHES/SOUP KITCHEN	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00
11514 MEMORIAL DARRELL ROBINETTE	3,417.58	100.00	0.00	0.00	3,517.58
11526 20'S & 30'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS	200.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.86
11545 MEMORIAL JOAN FOX	560.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	560.00
11546 MEMORIAL SHIRLEY SIPE	1,475.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,575.00
11547 MEMORIAL IRENE HERMAN	625.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	625.00
11548 MEMORIAL NORINE SIPE	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
11549 MEMORIAL MARIE SIPE	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
11600 PARSONAGE SECURITY DEPOSIT	850.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	850.00
11627 SOUND SYSTEM	962.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	962.22
TOTAL SPEC OFFERING ACCOUNTS	22,096.06	235.00	200.00	0.00	22,131.06