

ST. ANDREW'S

Lutheran Church

July 2020

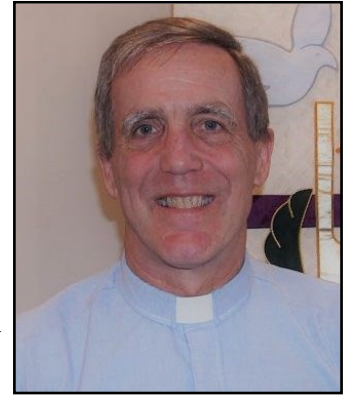


Worship News

As of this writing we simply do not know when we will return to in person worship. The “task force” examining the numbers and trying to decide meets on a weekly basis and takes in all the information it can. The statistics and trends are going up instead of down. We must remain patient and faithful. When we do come back, we will send out an E-news plus a letter to all who do not get the newsletter electronically. You may read about some of our guidelines on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

A Word from Pastor Trump

This is a hard time, make no doubt about it. It is difficult to “be the church” as an institution and as the people in the world that truly are called to “be church” wherever you are. As I write this the reports about Covid19 are rather pessimistic. The country is aloud with protests and cries for justice. People are divided by politics and passions. It is also a critical time to be the church as an institution and as the people in the world truly called to “be the church.” We are called to be a prophetic voice as well as a voice of compassion and care for all who are weak and hurting. This can be a delicate balance for sure. Words that cry out for justice and point out brokenness inevitably call into question those who have power or riches in our society. If we speak up for the “have nots” the “haves” will feel targeted. The irony is that the gospel constantly reminds us that by giving of what we have, we gain life as God intends it. We gain life for others, and we grow in our relationship to God. We grow in life that “really is life” as Jesus says.



So what can we do? I am not sure. I do have a few practical suggestions.

1. Limit and be aware of social media. This is not simply a matter of opinion, or the words of someone who simply does not appreciate all the social media platforms that are available. Social media inflates and amplifies the concerns and fears we already have. It directs us down paths that encourage emotions we are already experiencing. Rarely does it challenge us to think in new ways. I have had numerous people contact me about social media posts in a variety of places even if they have nothing to do with anyone from our church. People simply must limit and be conscious of what they read and post on-line.
2. Read or watch books, articles, and movies that challenge your thinking and your perspectives.
3. Talk to people. Better yet LISTEN to others. Listen to their stories.
4. Pray.

I hope that our virtual worship has been helpful during these times. Hopefully, hopefully we will be back worshipping in person very very soon.

Stewardship for All Seasons

Your church is a part of the Stewardship For All Seasons program sponsored by the Synod. The purpose of Stewardship For All Seasons is to lead congregations, pastors and stewardship teams into effective stewardship ministry which is a holistic, all-year, systematic emphasis and not just a once-a-year drive.

The purpose or goal is to help see our stewardship in the church not as a time when we simply “raise money” but rather an effort to help individuals live and give generously. It truly is about the need of the giver to give.

If you are interested in helping with this in any way please contact Pastor Trump.



Calling All Singers!

The St. Andrew's Adult Choir will be creating virtual choir performances that will be used in future worship services for our congregation. If you like to sing, have always wanted to join choir but your schedule hasn't allowed you in the past, or even if you want to try something new; we would welcome you to participate in this project. All participation in this project will be done from the comfort of your own home. This is a great opportunity for you to offer your voice in praise to our God and to help provide meaningful worship music for our congregation!

If you are interested in participating, please contact Nicholas Shumate who will provide details about how to join and the process that is involved. Nicholas can be reached at nshumate@salutheran.com or at (803) 448-7361.

Yoda Rules

Do you love Jesus?

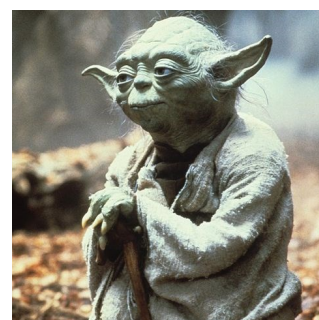
Do you own a light-saber?

Do you enjoy reading and/or watching Science Fiction books/movies?

Do you enjoy discussing biblical allusions and symbolism in comic books, literature, and movies?

If so, you may enjoy attending a Yoda Rules group discussion. Science Fiction and Fantasy stories have a rich history of stories that involve prophecies, sacrifices, supernatural powers, omnipotent abilities, and other motifs and events that could be pulled right out of the Bible. Join us for a philosophical and theological discussion on how the Jedi Order and the graduates of Starfleet Academy relate to God's story and the human condition.

If you're interested in being beamed into the Yoda Rules discussion, text "Energize" to Darth Casey at 803-556-8263 or email josephwilliamcasey@gmail.com.



Virginia Wingard Food Pantry

The Food Pantry at Virginia Wingard is open. They are taking bags to cars instead of having people come in the building. The food pantry's hours are Tuesday Wednesday, Thursday 1-3 p.m. and they serve people in 29201, 29203 and 29210 area codes. You have to show an ID to receive food. If you would like to donate food, please take food directly to Virginia Wingard and call 772-0794 before you go to make sure someone will be there.



Items needed for the month of July:

14 to 16 oz. jar of peanut butter

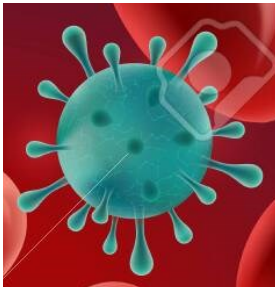
14-16 oz. can of baked beans

Can of tomato soup

Can of chicken and rice soup

Cookies

They are also taking monetary donations. Mail your checks to Virginia Wingard UMC, 1500 Broad River Rd, Columbia, SC 29210, and put "food pantry" in the memo line.



Resuming Care-filled Worship and Sacramental Life During a Pandemic

Benchmarks for Resuming Worship Gatherings of Various Sizes

Your church has turned to many resources to help make decisions about worship. The following is from a document prepared by the Virginia Synod which may help people understand the process.

In late April 2020, the White House with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Coronavirus Task Force issued a set of benchmarks to indicate when it would be safe to re-open various kinds of activities, and how many people could safely gather under specific distancing guidelines. The benchmarks involve both state and local public health conditions and the readiness of states and local communities to provide testing, appropriate health care, and follow-up with people who may have been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

Beginning Criteria A clear downward trajectory in the number of reported symptoms, confirmed cases, and/or positive tests for COVID-19 for 2 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS

- Level 1 A clear downward trajectory in the number of reported symptoms, confirmed cases, and/or positive tests for COVID-19 for 2 MORE CONSECUTIVE WEEKS
- Level 2 A clear downward trajectory in the number of reported symptoms, confirmed cases, and/or positive tests for COVID-19 for 2 MORE CONSECUTIVE WEEKS
- Level 3 An ongoing downward trajectory in the number of reported symptoms, confirmed cases, and/or positive tests for COVID-19.

Each benchmark must be satisfied before moving to the next level. Increases in reported cases mean a return to the previous level.

These general guidelines apply at every level:

- Stay at home if you are sick, and self-quarantine if you think you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces.
- Use cloth face coverings while in public. Children under 2, those with breathing problems, and those who are unable to remove a mask on their own should not wear face coverings.

As long as we follow these individual hygiene requirements, the size of social gatherings with an acceptable level of risk gradually increases:

RECOMMENDED MAXIMUM SIZE FOR GATHERINGS

- Level 1 Social gatherings of up to 10 Except for: People over 65 Individuals with serious underlying health conditions: high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised.

- Level 2 Social gatherings of up to 50 Except for: People over 65 Individuals with serious underlying health conditions: high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised.
- Level 3 Social gatherings of over 50 with 6-ft. distance and face coverings Vulnerable individuals can resume public interactions, but should practice physical distancing, and minimize exposure to social settings where distancing may not be practical.

Other factors to consider: length of interactions (the shorter the better); size of room; indoor versus outdoor activities (outdoor is generally less risky); air circulation (open air is generally less risky).

There are further guidelines regarding singing and other music, the length of services (and sermons!) and communion. We are examining all of them. We long to be back in worship in person again. Christ calls us to love our neighbors. In that case it means not jeopardizing anyone's health.

“Christ In Our Homes” Devotional Guides

The July/August/September editions of "Christ in our Home" have arrived at the church. If you would like to have a copy, please call the church office and leave a message, and we will make arrangements to get one to you.



VBS will be a little different this year but we know God will use all of us to grow in faith as we learn together about how we each are called to live lives of compassion!

There will be three components to VBS:

Take-Home Care Kits

Pre-recorded YouTube videos

Tuesday night live sessions on Zoom (July 7, 14, 21, 28)

**Compassion Camp Vacation Bible School
Drive-through Kick-Off**

Sunday, July 5, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Your whole family is invited to drive through the circle at the church in front of the sanctuary doors to pick up your packet of materials for the first week. If you can't make it that night, just let us know and we will deliver your materials to you. But, you may want to try to come for the drive-through fun of it!

Gathering Online Through Zoom

Since we are unable to meet in person right now, it's wonderful to have the technology available through Zoom to be able to gather online.

Deacon Sandra sends out a new Zoom Schedule every Monday morning in an e-news. To access a Zoom meeting by video you will need to use a laptop computer, tablet, smartphone or a desktop computer that has a camera and microphone added.

You can also access the meeting by dialing in by phone (either mobile or land line). The phone number and Meeting ID is listed next to each event. Please enter the meeting ID when prompted.

If you have any other questions, please contact Sandra Holland at 803-269-9659 or sholland@salutheran.com who will be happy to help you get connected.

Regular Weekly Zoom Gatherings:

Sunday

9:45 a.m. – **Grace Upon Grace Sunday School** (for those parenting young children).
Taught by Sandra Holland

9:45 a.m. – **Zoom into the Bible** led by Trent Shealy. A time of sharing and exploring the bible takes place on Sundays at 9:45 via the Zoom link. Each week we examine the lessons for THAT SUNDAY, making your worship experience that much richer.

Monday

6:00 p.m. - **Yoga** Vicky Henderson and Linda Anderson will be leading a weekly yoga class for all levels.

Tuesday

7:15 p.m. - **Pajama Time with Church Friends** (*Toddlers- 6th graders*)

Wednesday

12:15 p.m. – **Prayer Group**

6:00 p.m. – **Bible Study** led by Pastor Trump. There is no prior experience and knowledge required. As of this writing we are looking at Second Peter. The “classes” last for one hour.

8:00 p.m. – **Youth Group Meeting** (*for 7th - 12th graders*)

Thursday

4:30 p.m. - **Social Crafting** – (*Join this weekly group to share craft ideas and visit while you create*)

Free Books from Guidepost Magazine

The following books are provided free (quantities 10, 25, 50, and up) to churches by Guidepost magazine.

If you would like one or more (or even all of the books - single copy ONLY of each) please identify which one (s), and include your name and mailing address, and email address, if you have one, and email it to officemgr@salutheran.com or mail it by **Sunday July 17, 2020**.

Book distribution details to requesters are yet to be finalized.

How To Make Jesus Your Best Friend

Is there one friend you can depend on to be with you your whole life long—and beyond? Yes! Jesus Christ will be with you in your best and your hardest moments. But how can you make Jesus your best friend? In this short eBook, He will tell you in His own words, and you'll get to know the Jesus who still lives today. You'll also learn simple, practical ways to welcome Him into your life every day.

Living Longer, Living Better

The Bible recognizes that “no discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful” (Hebrews 12:11). But the Bible also teaches the importance of caring for our bodies so that we are better in touch with the spirit within. In this FREE eBook, written by a pastor who is also a fitness trainer, you'll learn easy ways to live and eat healthier, inspired by Scripture. If you struggle with weight or finding time to exercise, you'll find a formula for success here.

Never Alone

Loneliness is one of the most painful human emotions. In this all-new guide, you'll find 9 common causes of loneliness and what to do to overcome each one. Most important you'll see how to rely on the One who ensures we are never alone.

Power Your Life with Positive Thinking

How can you achieve the impossible? By practicing the principles of positive thinking every day. In this booklet, you will find material to help you put positive thinking principles to work in your daily life. Each of its six chapters focuses on a practical, Bible-based principle, showing how individuals have successfully used these techniques to experience the unlimited power of Almighty God. Faithfully practice these principles. Then you, too, can power your life with positive thinking

Spirit Lifters

All of us experience a “let-down” feeling now and again. In this booklet, there are 31 Scripture statements, one for every day of the month. These have been chosen because they can lift a person out of discouraged, depressed attitudes by saturating the mind with creative, dynamic, life-changing thoughts. Slowly, but surely, this process will lift one's spirit!

Strength for Helping Hearts

Most caregivers feel isolated, discouraged, overwhelmed, exhausted and underprepared for the road they walk. This was written to give you hope and a helping hand, whether you're a caregiver or you support someone in that role.

Strength for Relationships

Imagine you've settled into your favorite chair at the end of the day to relax and watch television. You grab the remote and press the power button, but nothing happens. After aiming it from different angles and punching the buttons many more times, you flip the remote over and remove the battery compartment cover. Only one of the two required batteries is in there. The other has been removed by someone for some reason. One battery will not work; to be effective, they must work together.

Church Council Meeting - June 20

Opening

- Curtis Amick called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.; Council met via Zoom.
- Council approved the minutes of the March 2020 and May 2020 meetings.
- Council approved the agenda as written.
- Tom Henry shared a devotion.
- Pastor Trump led a brief recap of the Zoom discussion that took place the evening of June 11 on local and national protests and counter-protests related to racial injustice and inequality. 20-23 members of the congregation, including some Council members, participated in that conversation.

President's Report

Curtis Amick, Council Chair, reported that he and church staff, the worship team chair, and Drs. Claire Birdsong and Donna Ray continue to monitor infection and hospitalization numbers in our geographical area to help determine when it may be safe to resume in-person worship. The planned July 5 re-opening of the building has been postponed.

Pastor's Report and Deacon's Report

- The Pastor's report and Deacon's report were accepted as presented.
- Deacon Holland reported that the survey sent to members of the congregation to measure levels of comfort people have about returning to in-person worship was helpful to the Worship and Music Team, with 92 persons responding.

Property Report

An initial "courtesy bid" to repair/replace HVAC equipment in the education wing came in at \$212,000. The Property Team anticipates better pricing when multiple vendors respond to formal requests for proposals.

Finance

Tom Henry reported that terms of the federal Paycheck Protection Program have changed, and the Finance Team is considering options with the goal of maintaining the original benefit of not having to pay back any monies received through the program to ensure uninterrupted distribution of payroll and utility payments. He also reported that the congregation has maintained its faithful giving over the past few months.

New Business

Council discussed outside groups' use of facilities and the necessary sanitizing of spaces before and after use. Tom Henry will research obligations from an insurance perspective, and office staff will determine what cleaning schedules would be necessary when/if groups are permitted to use the building before we resume our own in-person Sunday worship and education activities. Tom Bane recommended requiring the use of our present cleaning service to ensure thorough sanitation. Erin Johnson offered that the Social Ministry Team may be able to use some of its budget to help pay for extra cleaning costs so that we can resume sharing our facility with other community groups and congregations.

Pastor Trump adjourned with prayer concerns.

Reminders:

Next regular meeting: Thursday, July 16, 2020.

Finance

				St. Andrew's Lutheran Church					
				Statement of Income and Expense					
				May of Fiscal Year 2020					
				Fund: 01 - General					
				May			2020 YTD		
				Actual			Actual		
Current and Benevolence Giving				\$	43,090.25		\$	195,182.05	
Expenses				\$	13,216.15		\$	175,009.07	
Expenses under (over) Giving				\$	29,874.10		\$	20,172.98	
Current and Benevolence Giving				\$	43,090.25		\$	195,182.05	
Budget				\$	44,787.70		\$	225,223.50	
Giving (under) over Budget				\$	(1,697.45)		\$	(30,041.45)	
Debt Retirement Fund Balance as of 1/1/2020				\$	15,103.64				
Funds received in 2020				\$	14,503.50				
Thrivent Principal Payments in 2020				\$	(12,672.20)				
Thrivent Interest Payments in 2020				\$	(968.19)				
Current Debt Retirement Fund Balance				\$	15,966.75				
Outstanding Thrivent Loan Balance as of 1/1/20					72,126.44				
Principal Payments in 2020					(12,672.20)				
Current Outstanding Thrivent Loan Balance					59,454.24				
The principal and interest payments on the Thrivent loan are paid from									
the Debt Retirement Fund and are not part of the Budget									



Members in Extended Care

- ✝ Adrian Trexler, The Brian Center
- ✝ Madge Bartsch, Generations of Chapin
- ✝ Martha Ferguson, NHC Parklane
- ✝ Lois Fulmer, Lexington Extended Care
- ✝ Flo Onley, Generations in Irmo
- ✝ Mitch Mayer, Lexington Extended Care

Friends & Relatives

- ✝ Corbett Anderson, nephew of Amy Vickers and grandchild of Mike and Susan Beeler
- ✝ Maria Casey, mom of Joe Casey
- ✝ Stephen Finger, friend of Jan Bass
- ✝ Sandra Ouzts, sister of Debra Ouzts
- ✝ Keith Ray, brother of Hank Ray
- ✝ Sally Thompson, sister-in-law of Patsy South
- ✝ Janette Gardner, aunt of Vickie Barfield
- ✝ Phil Johnson, cousin of Vickie Barfield
- ✝ Mark Bogard, cousin of Theresa Henry
- ✝ Ernie Davis, friend of Lee Bowling
- ✝ Jimmy Asbill, son of Shirley Swanson
- ✝ Bonnie Seibert, cousin of Jada Mitchell
- ✝ Sharon Hixon, friend of Vern Free
- ✝ Edna Wheeler's mother, and granddaughter Emily Wheeler
- ✝ Jada Johnson, niece of Erin Johnson
- ✝ Mike Chase, cousin of Vicky Henderson
- ✝ Lee Tyler, friend of Sandra Holland

Homebound

- ✝ Sarah Cook
- ✝ Jackie Darby
- ✝ Pete Cox
- ✝ Linwood Swittenberg



Our prayers are with Shirley Mayer upon the death of her uncle, Charles Fulmer, brother of her mother Edith Mayer.

Our prayers are with the family of Lib Hartman upon her death on May 29.

Our prayers are with Melissa and Hal Ray upon the death of Melissa's father, Joe Fricker.

Our prayers are with the Shealy family upon the death of Margie Shealy,

Our prayers are with the Dodgen family upon the death of Tommy Dodgen.



Jay Folk	7/2
Jonathon Varco	7/2
Paulene Cruse	7/3
Mike Vickers, Jr.	7/3
Sarah Cook	7/6
Jamie Sanders	7/6

McKenna Bare	7/8
Sandy Bartlett	7/11
Elijah Wanek	7/12
Rebecca Halpin	7/13
Mary Lynn Kemick	7/13
Steve Slice	7/13
Michael Smith	7/13
Victoria Baggett	7/15
Robert Amick	7/17
Brian Peterson	7/17
Dusty Ratliff	7/17
Hal Ray	7/18
David Britt	7/19

Rebecca LaSalle	7/20
Maya Skillman	7/20
Megan Patel	7/23
Jacob Semones	7/26
Claire Birdsong	7/28
Layne Birdsong	7/28
Bobbie Bell	7/29
Steve Blackwell	7/29
Deanna Osteen	7/29
Darrick Williams	7/29
Debra Ouzts	7/30
Shawn Skillman	7/31

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
1416 Broad River Rd.
Columbia, SC 29210

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To Reach Us
Telephone: 803-772-6034
Email: officemgr@salutheran.com
Website: www.salutheran.com

Pastor

The Rev. John P. Trump

Deacon

Sandra Holland

Director of Music Ministries

Jenny Walrath

Choir Director

Nicholas Todd Shumate

Office Manager

Lina Gann

Congregational Council

President: Curtis Amick
Vice President: Jay Folk
Secretary: Deborah Slice
Treasurer: Judy Venturella
Asst. Treasurer: Jason Godfrey
Financial Secretary: Sharon Berger
Tom Bane
Erin Johnson
Phillip Jenkins
Georgia Godfrey
Beth Mullins
Mari Frye
Paul Osmundson
Whanna Bouknight
Tom Henry