

Presiding Bishop Eaton's Statement on the shooting at Mother Emanuel AME church in Charleston, SC.:

It has been a long season of disquiet in our country. From Ferguson to Baltimore, simmering racial tensions have boiled over into violence. But this ... the fatal shooting of nine African Americans in a church is a stark, raw manifestation of the sin that is racism. The church was desecrated. The people of that congregation were desecrated. The aspiration voiced in the Pledge of Allegiance that we are "one nation under God" was desecrated.

Mother Emanuel AME's pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, was a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, as was the Rev. Daniel Simmons, associate pastor at Mother Emanuel. The suspected shooter is a member of an ELCA congregation. All of a sudden and for all of us, this is an intensely personal tragedy. One of our own is alleged to have shot and killed two who adopted us as their own.

We might say that this was an isolated act by a deeply disturbed man. But we know that is not the whole truth. It is not an isolated event. And even if the shooter was unstable, the framework upon which he built his vision of race is not. Racism is a fact in American culture. Denial and avoidance of this fact are deadly. The Rev. Mr. Pinckney leaves a wife and children. The other eight victims leave grieving families. The family of the suspected killer and two congregations are broken. When will this end?

The nine dead in Charleston are not the first innocent victims killed by violence.

Our only hope rests in the innocent One, who was violently executed on Good Friday. Emmanuel, God with us, carried our grief and sorrow – the grief and sorrow of Mother Emanuel AME church – and he was wounded for our transgressions – the deadly sin of racism.

I urge all of us to spend a day in repentance and mourning. And then we need to get to work. Each of us and all of us need to examine ourselves, our church and our communities. We need to be honest about the reality of racism within us and around us. We need to talk and we need to listen, but we also need to act. No stereotype or racial slur is justified. Speak out against inequity. Look with newly opened eyes at the many subtle and overt ways that we and our communities see people of color as being of less worth. Above all pray – for insight, for forgiveness, for courage.

Kyrie Eleison.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton.
Presiding Bishop ELCA

Dianne will be out of the office from June-August (maybe longer) for back surgery. You can check your online Holy Comforter calendar for committee meeting dates and times, and church activities.

We have four wonderful ladies who have volunteered to help in the office while she is healing. Please give Pat Long, Debbie Mendez, Jo Singleton and Dee Tucker your prayers and support. And, remember, the office is closed on Fridays.



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Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications



³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God... ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Mark 4:30a, 31-32

Communion Opportunities for July

July 12 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 26 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

(July 5 & 19 after the service)



Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 36, No. 6

SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Church Office Hours Monday-Thursday
8:30 am—3:00 pm

FROM THE PASTOR

Grace and peace,



On June 21 I preached concerning the shooting at Mother Emanuel AME church in Charleston. Part of that sermon addressed the need for all of us to be honest and intentional about recognizing the myriad of ways that racism exists in our communities, in our church, and in our selves. That is not an easy task, as it takes a good bit of humility in recognizing that we might be wrong in some of the ways that we think and participate in society. It takes humility in listening to people with experiences that differ from our own. Sometimes we might feel like we are being attacked, because most of us are part of the majority in this country and while that does not mean life is without challenges, it means the system tends to favor us a bit, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

This recognition of where we might fall short, however, is something that is an integral part of our Lutheran faith. It is confession, being honest with ourselves, with each other, and with God, that we are not perfect, that we do indeed sin, and that we are in need of forgiveness from God and from our brothers and sisters against whom we sin. This is not easy, but it is the beginning of the process of sanctification, moving ourselves towards the life God desires for us by daily dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ. I say daily, because it is a process that we continually participate in, with no point in which we completely get it right. Through the Grace of God, and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are offered this forgiveness each and every time we ask.

Luther believed strongly in confession and absolution, at times seeming to wrestle with having it as a third sacrament. That is one reason why it is the way in which we open every Sunday worship. We actually have a liturgy for individual confession and forgiveness, something we tend to associate with Catholicism, but which Luther valued as well. Confession is important because it is a recognition that we are not able to overcome our sinfulness on our own, and we are in need of the Grace of God to do so. We receive that Grace in any number of ways, including the support of the community as we wrestle honestly with ways in which we can live more fully into the baptismal identities we have, promising to "live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

Racism, along with every "ism" that values one person over another, is a sin that we need to confess and be honest about the ways we participate in it, as individuals and as a society. Only then can we truly be advocates for justice and peace in the world. In God's grace, God sent Jesus Christ, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), and frees us to live anew in the Kingdom of God. We are freed from Sin, not only from eternal consequences of it, but from the spin cycle of repeating our sins over and over again. Let us continue to proclaim God's kingdom as present in the world, today, and work to make it a reality for all people, no matter their ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, or disabilities. The Gospel is for all nations, all people.

***Yours in Christ,
Pastor Micah***

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, July 5 6th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:30 am The Service

Thursday, July 9

8:30 pm Movie on the Lawn!

Saturday, July 11

7 pm Staying Connected meets at church

Sunday, July 12 7th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

5 pm HCY!

Monday, July 13–Friday, July 17

9 am-3 pm Agape Day Camp

Tuesday, July 14

12 Noon **Agape Lunch Bunch**

Bring Bible & Potluck or Sandwich

Sunday, June 19 8th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:30 am The Service

Thursday, July 19

8:30 pm Movie on the Lawn!

Sunday, July 26 9th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

Sundays: 8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	April	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$19,925.83	\$99,629.17
Actual Expenses:	18,343.87	81,343.81
Offerings Received:	<u>21,387.69</u>	<u>105,094.55</u>
Gain for Period:	\$ 3,043.82	\$ 5,406.87

KIDS' CLUB will not meet in July due to *Camp Agape*. However, Kids' Club will meet August 15 at 10:00 am at Misty's house for a Pool Party.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Chief Lector
Beth Brittain

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)

Fran Holland, Co-Captain
Melinda Lingerfelt, Co-Captain
Tract Nault Courtney Gatlin
Stephanie Hinson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team A)

Shelia Kelly Donna Beam
Jack Tench Jo Singleton

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:

July 12: Harold and Jo Singleton
June 28: Shelia and Tim Kelly

GREETERS:

July 5: Shirley Causby
July 12: Jill Cassel
July 19: Pat Long
July 26: Kathy Graces

TELLERS: Fran Holland and Trudy Whitener

USHERS: Need Volunteers

FLOWERS:

July 5: Carmen and Arden DeNicholas
Nathan Kelly
July 12: Jack, Sarah, Elizabeth, Khloe Tench
Jean Ferguson
July 19: Deb Williams/ Carmen and Jim Buell
July 26: Mark & Rebecca Yount, Luke & Alec Via

NURSERY: (10:15 am-11:45 am)

July 5: Jill Cassel
July 12: Jill Leitner and Kaylin
July 19: *Need Volunteers*
July 26: Ashley Ange

MUSIC News

The church choir continues to gather each Sunday morning at 10:10 to prepare for worship through the summer months.

A recent milestone occurred when an additional 3 1/2 tons of air conditioning was added over the heads of the choir. This may not sound so noteworthy, unless you happen to be a choir member. The recent heat wave did not actually hasten the installation, but made the installation that more welcome. This has been a topic of discussion for 50 years. Our beautiful worship space is glorious for music acoustically, but comes with challenges not easily overcome when dealing with issues such as energy efficiency and temperature regulation.

Through an anonymous gift this new heat pump not only will make the choir more comfortable, but is many times more efficient than our old A/C unit which still serves the Sanctuary. It is hoped that this ultimately could help to lower our cooling costs, at the same time creating a more stable environment for our pipe organ. Let us never take for granted the blessing of our creature comforts. Not everyone has them.

Peace and Favorable Weather,
Greg Cline

Beth's CORNER

Prayerfully consider your role in the leadership for Sunday School for the 2015-2016 year. We are continuing the workshop rotation model, however, we are going to have two children's classes in-

stead of one, so each teacher will instruct two times per rotation. The division will allow for fewer children in each class, and a smaller age range to instruct. We need leaders in the following areas—Art, Drama, Cooking, Computer, Games, Video. We are also asking for people to serve as assistants in each class (So we need 2 per week). We will call them shepherds and they will truly assist. This is a great role for someone who is considering teaching in the future and would like to feel it out first.

We will also need teachers for the pre-K group. They typically lead for an entire rotation, about 4-6 weeks, and have a very fun and active group.

We will have a teacher's training in early August to provide the information needed for class leadership.

Please prayerfully consider your role in the leadership of our Sunday church school and contact Mandy Kline or Beth Brittain.

Also, mark your calendars! Rally Day—August 23.

Beth Brittain,
Children's Sunday School Coordinator.

Synodical involvement!

Congratulations to Sandra Cline who was reelected to a 3 year term on NC Synod Council, which serves much like our church council, as well as elected as a voting member to ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans in August, 2016. In June, Sandra was chosen to participate in the ELCA Discipleship Initiative and attended 3 day coaching training in Chicago. In July she will be a chaperone for the NC delegation to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit

Bishop Installation

At Synod Assembly, Rev. Timothy Smith was elected as our next bishop of the NC synod of the ELCA. His installation will take place September 12 at 4 pm, at Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC. All are invited to attend.

July 9 and 23

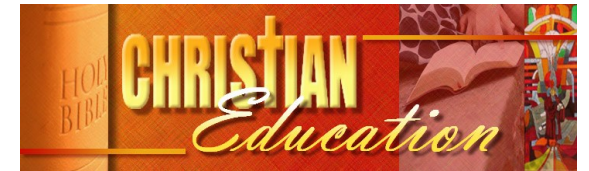
OUTDOOR MOVIES

Approximately 8:30 pm

Movies On The Lawn

2nd & 4th Thursdays In July!

Pop



The Christian Ed Committee will meet July 21 at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall.

Rally Day is set for August 23. Our first day of Sunday School after summer break will be August 30.

Anyone interested in volunteering as a teacher or teaching assistant for the **younger children's Sunday school classes (grades pre-school through 5)** should let Beth Brittain know as soon as possible. She will be getting commitments and schedules made sometime in July.


Anyone interested in working with the **middle and high school Sunday school classes** next year should **get in touch with Ashley Ange** as soon as possible.

Mandi Kline is looking for interested individuals to lead **adult classes** during the Sunday school hour. If anyone feels led to volunteer for a specific course of instruction or time period, let her know.

The **infant nursery is scheduled to open after Rally Day in August.** We will need volunteers to staff this nursery. This will be for **children ages 0-18 months** and will be upstairs. **The downstairs nursery will be for children ages 18 months-3 years.** There will be a Sunday school program offered to these children in the downstairs nursery during the church school hour.

Mandi Kline,
Christian Education

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
		7:00 pm Nar-Anon				
5 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	6 MUSIC WEEK AT LIRIDGE! Greg, and others, away at Camp!	7 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	8	9 8:30 pm Movie on the Lawn!	10	11 7 pm Staying Connected Meets at The Round Bistro
12 7th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/HC Council meets after 5:00 pm HCY 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	13 9-3 daily, Agape Day Camp	14 12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch Bible Study 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	15	16	17	18
19 8th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	20	21	22	23 8:30 pm Movie on the Lawn!	24	25
26 9th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/HC 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	27	28 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	29	30	31	

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of June.

We are thankful for the life and Spirit of those we celebrate.

May the blessings of God flow in the life of each of you.

July 3 Amanda Kelly
July 4 Ann Miller
Jeffrey Thompson
July 8 Merritt DeNicholas
July 9 Chase Lineberger
July 10 Marcus Fleming
Jeffrey Martin
Hailey Ratchford
Laura Tench

July 13 Don Robinson
July 14 Beverley Mauney
July 15 Russell Fleming
July 16 Sierra Hullander
July 18 Steve Bingham
July 19 Lynne Sudarich
July 20 Garrett Fox
Brian Mitchell

July 21 John Crist
Caroline Nault
Ashton Nault

July 22 Melissa Bocchino
July 25 Brayden Alvarez
July 26 Emilie Bruchon
Bryant Deaton

July 29 Ardean Ewing
July 30 Pauline Joy
Madison Morton



NOTE: If we have unintentionally left any member's name off this list, or if there are any errors, please call or email the church office.