

North Carolina Synod REPORT



The **North Carolina Synod Assembly** took place the first weekend in June. This was my first experience with the synod and I was lucky enough to have John and Leslie Crist there to show me the ropes. We had worship every morning followed by presentations from our ministry partners and various committees. Bishop Tim Smith, who was elected last year, lead the assembly with humor and poise. He called attention to the mission strategy including: conflict management, faith formation, financial stewardship, and health and wholeness; he voiced concern for the geographical disconnect in our synod with focus on congregations east of Raleigh and emphasized continuing education for professional leaders as well as the Lilly Foundation grant to help pastors address financial issues. Six resolutions were passed with a great discussion regarding the NC Synod's response to House Bill 2. The resolution was passed with 334 yes votes. Further information and results on elections can be found on the nclutheran.org. Thank you for allowing me to be a representative of our church during this informative and inspiring assembly!

Katie Kessen



During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally **approving it on July 4**.

From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Coincidentally, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the only signers of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as Presidents of the United States, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signer of the Declaration of Independence, but another Founding Father who became a President, James Monroe, died on July 4, 1831, thus becoming the third President in a row who died on the holiday. Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President, was born on July 4, 1872, and, so far, is the only U.S. President to have been born on Independence Day.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



COMMENT

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Micah Kearney, Pastor email: micahkearney@gmail.com
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications



¹⁶“Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

Luke 10:16



Communion Opportunities for July

July 3: The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 24: The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
(and other Sundays after the service)

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 37, No. 7

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

FROM THE PASTOR



Grace and peace,

In June I went with four of our confirmands up to *Lutheridge* for a week of Campfirmation. *Lutheridge* is a bit of a second home for me, though the counselors there now were campers of mine when they were in elementary school, and I'm another old pastor talking about the glory days of being on staff. During the week we gather with a number of other churches in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. In the mornings the pastors and leaders taught lessons based on the season of the church year, a different one each day. Sometimes those lessons included games like human "hungry hungry hippos," or rather, "hungry hungry camels" in our case, as well as some throwback movies like "Jesus Christ Superstar," (one of Pastor Mike's favorites from what I hear). On Thursday we went on an outing for worship and playing in Pisgah National Forest, and on Friday we went to the Wortham Center and played games with residents for a service project. All in all it was a good week, though with middle school boys it might be hard to get them to admit it.

Often Confirmation gets associated with a graduation. While there are some similarities, Confirmation is less of a graduation *from* something and

more of an induction *to* something. At the baptism of an infant or child, the parents and the church make promises to raise the child in the faith, to teach them and, in a way, have faith for them. At the time of Confirmation, which is an affirmation of baptism service, the youth claim their faith, and the responsibility for their growth in it, for themselves. Confirmation is a commitment to their faith in Christ and to their participation in communities of faith, and the confirmation program is meant to give them tools for this declaration of faith and discipleship.

Taking part in summer camp is an important part of that preparation. Summer camps are regularly lifted up as one of the top faith formation experiences for people. I cannot tell you the number of people who have become pastors, church musicians, youth directors, and lay leaders in their church after being campers and/or counselors at a summer camp. At their best, they are places where kids learn that they have value and worth, that they have gifts to bring to the world, and most importantly that they are loved, by God and by the body of Christ. I give thanks for the Church's outdoor ministries, like *Lutheridge*, *Lutherock*, and *Camp Agape*, and pray that they nurture the seeds of faith in our children.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Micah



We are so excited **Agape Day Camp** is here again! Agape Day Camp is a Monday-Friday summer program during which trained summer counselors come to Holy Comforter to lead campers in games, songs, crafts, nature activities, Bible studies, and FUN!



Agape is an opportunity for youth evangelism for Holy Comforter and the surrounding community. The 6th-8th graders spend 3 days during the week completing service projects in our community

God Sighting?



Have you ever heard of a God Sighting?

This is when you have seen God's love in action or when you did something to bless someone else. I want to tell you about my *God Sighting*.

Our middle school Sunday school class made Blessing Bags to give out to anyone who we thought needed a little gift. Our bags included toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, granola bars, hairbrush, *Chapstick*, candy, first aid kit, hand sanitizer, tissues, and trial mix.

A couple of weeks ago I was out with my mom and we saw a family on the side of the road in Gastonia. There was a mom, Dad, 2 little boys, and a baby. I knew this was my chance to give out a Blessing Bag.

and church. This year our service projects include visiting Courtland Terrace to spend time with the residents and visiting *SOCKS* Crisis Ministries to organize food donations for local families.

The theme for this summer is "Living Word". The Bible verse that will be focused on is Ephesians 5:1-2 *Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us*. Our daily themes are Follow the Living Word, Feed Others, Forgive Others, Love your neighbor, and Serve Humbly. Day camp is a fun week filled with high energy kids learning about Christ. I am so excited to share this experience with the kids. It is exhilarating to watch their faith grow daily.

Misty Koehler

We were on the opposite side of the road so mom said we would stop on the way back home to give them one. The whole time we were shopping I prayed they would still be there when we went back by. It took mom forever because we went to Hobby Lobby! We finally left and the family was still there. We pulled over and I handed the dad the *Blessing Bag*. He said *thank you* a million times and started crying. The boys were very excited to look in the bag and quickly started eating granola bars. They kept saying *thank you* over and over.

I showed that family God's love that day. It felt great to bring a little happiness to their day and let them know people care. It made me feel good to know I helped them.

This is my God Sighting.

Emily Koehler



During the summer HCY will meet the second Sunday of each month from 5-7 pm.

HCY will be going bowling at Textile Lanes on July 10th from 5-7pm. We'll meet at the church and ride over together. Friends are welcome!

Kristen Williams



BCO Items Of The Month for July: School supplies for kids.

Any supplies are welcome, but they particularly need binders, hand sanitizer and glue sticks.



MUSIC NEWS

Opportunities abound for musical gift sharing through the summer months at Holy Comforter. If you sing, ring, string, whatever, and would be willing to creatively share your gifts, contact Greg Cline.

Music Week at Lutheridge is July 10 -16. As mentioned in the June newsletter we have a record number attending from Holy Comforter this year. We pray for favorable weather and for hearts to be stirred by the Holy Spirit. World renowned clinicians work with young children, youth, and adult ensembles to create a most unique experience for all who attend. Here are two of the music events that are open for public attendance:

Hymn Festival - Thursday, July 14 St. James Episcopal Church Hendersonville, NC 7:30 pm

Friday Concert Day - July 15 At Lutheridge

- Pre-K-Grade 2 (Bischoff Center) 11:30 am
- Grade 3-12 (Faith Center) 2:00 pm
- Closing Service of Worship (Chapel) 7:30 am

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, July 3 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
Tuesday, July 5
7:00 pm Property committee meets
Sunday, July 10 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Council meets after
5:00 pm HCY meets to go bowling
Tuesday, July 12
12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch/Bible Study
Sunday, July 17 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Monday, July 18—Friday, July 22
9:00 am Agape Day Camp
Thursday, July 21
7:00 pm Evangelism Committee meets
8:30 pm Movie Night on the Lawn
Sunday, July 24 Tenth Sunday of Pentecost
9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
Thursday, July 28 Movie Night on the Lawn
8:30 pm Movie starts, come early for popcorn
Sunday, July 31 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am The Service

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:
Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Nar-Anon



TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	May 2016	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$21,751.00	\$108,755.00
Actual Expenses:	\$18,640.16	\$107,504.39
Offerings Received:	\$23,178.01	\$113,239.27
Gain for the Period:	\$ 4,537.85	\$ 5,734.88

Information for August newsletter is due to Dianne by July 20!

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Chief Lector
July 10 & 17: Volunteers
July 24: Billy Joye
July 31: Judy Caldwell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:
Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)
Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain
Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain
Carmen Buell Barbara Kasmer

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team C)
Need 4 volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:
July 3 & 24: Volunteers

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:
July 3: Shirley Causby
July 10: Pat Long
July 17: Sue Lahr
July 24: Pat Koehler
July 31: Dawn Fleming

TELLERS: Fran Holland, Trudy Whitener

USHERS: Volunteers Needed

FLOWERS:
July 3: Carmen De Nicholas
Debbie Bray
July 10: Sylvia Miller
Lynn Martin
July 17: The Buells
Deb Williams
July 24: Paul, Tracey & Aaron Nault (2 vases)
July 31: The Younts & Vias, (2 vases)

NURSERY: (9:30 am-11:45 am)
A nursery is provided for infants and a separate nursery for the toddlers. Let an usher know if you need assistance in locating the correct nursery for your child/children.

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 7th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion	4 Happy 4th of July! 	5	6	7	8	9
10 8th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service Church Council after 5:00 pm HCY	11 Music Week at Lutheridge 	12	13	14	15 Music Week at Lutheridge 	16
17 9th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service	18 Agape Day Camp	19	20	21	22 St. Mary Magdalene	23
24 10th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion	25 St. James the Elder, Apostle	26	27	28  To Be Announced 8:30 pm Movie Night. Come early for popcorn.	29	30
31 11th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service						

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- July 3 Amanda Kelly
July 4 Ann Miller
Jeff Thompson
July 8 Merritt De Nicholas
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 Nick Ashe
Steve Bingham
July 19 Lynne Sudarich
July 20 Garrett Fox
Brian Mitchell
July 21 John Crist
Caroline Nault
Ashton Nault
Alex Sarrazin
July 22 Melissa Bocchino
July 24 Cathleen Allen
July 25 Brayden Alvarez
July 26 Emilie Bruchon
Gary Clark
Bryant Deaton
July 29 Ardean Ewing
Pauline Joye
July 30 Madison Morton

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