

Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church

3600 Hwy 601 S
Concord, NC 28025

December 2021 Newsletter



A message from Pastor Emily

Advent has always been one of my favorite times of the year. I loved decorating our Christmas tree, putting candles in the windows, and setting out nativity scenes. Our church was just as beautiful with the live cedar trees with Chrismon ornaments, the Advent wreath, and everything decked out in blue. There was just a wonderful feeling of excitement and anticipation.

And for me, I have those same feelings of excitement and anticipation these days (and I hope you do as well) as I prepare to join you when the new year rings in. There is much to be done before we can begin our time together but know I'm already praying for you every day. I think about all the conversations we're going to have, the meals we'll share, the stories we'll tell each other, but also the love shared with those in need in the form of food and coats, the tears shed at the bedside of a loved one who's soon to meet Jesus, and the time spent around the table of our Lord being blessed by his body and blood.

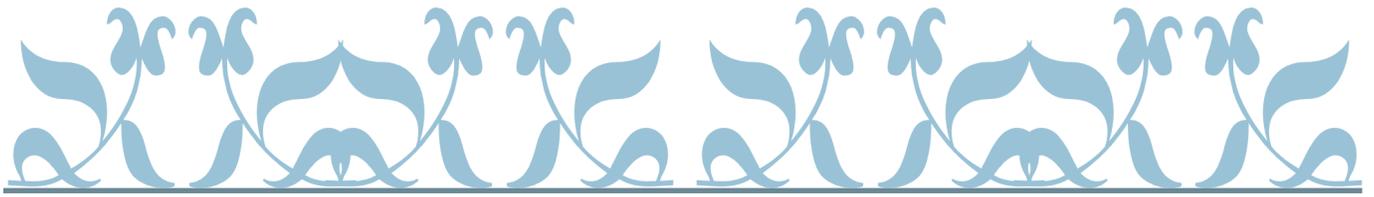
But before we can begin our ministry together, we prepare for the season of Christmas, which seems just around the corner. Too often we get caught up in the consumerism side of Christmas, making sure we find THE perfect gift for everyone on our list. But it helps to stop and remember we've already been given the greatest gift of all...new life in Jesus Christ.

So, remember to focus on what's really important this Advent season. Take extra time with the loved ones in your life, especially those you maybe haven't seen in a while. Linger a moment longer in front of your tree gazing at the twinkling lights as you experience the calm of a silent night. Pray for those whose nights aren't as calm.

I'm holding each of you in my prayers, and I hope you'll pray for me, too.

Pastor Emily





**The Reverend Emily Lemoine
Joining Mt. Hermon Lutheran's
Congregation
January 1, 2022**

The Reverend Emily Lemoine was born and raised in Kings Mountain, NC. She attended the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and graduated with a Bachelor's of Arts in Communication Studies. She earned her Masters of Divinity from Wake Forest through Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. She was ordained at First Lutheran Church, Greensboro in October of 2018, and is serving as their second pastor in charge of caregiving and faith formation.

Pastor Emily has two children, Charlie, 20, who lives in Greensboro and is studying airplane structure manufacturing and repair at GTCC while working at a local movie theater. Caroline, 17 is a freshman at UNC-Chapel Hill where she is active in Lutheran Campus Ministries and is currently undecided as to her major. Pastor Emily's husband, Sam, is a chemistry teacher at Morehead High School in Eden NC. He has a Masters degree in Biochemistry from UNCG and a Doctorate of Education and Curriculum through Gardner-Webb University. They have been married over eight years. Pastor Emily resides with her husband, two dogs, and a cat in High Point but soon will relocate to Concord.



A message from Pastor Michael...

WORDS OF GRATITUDE AND ENCOURAGEMENT

I have read Pastor Emily Lemoine's letter to the congregation on the front page. Her excitement at beginning service as your pastor in January is exhilarating! God has brought you together in a way that brings hope and promise for the future of this special congregation.

As most of you are aware, I will be leading my last worship service on December 26. It has been a pleasure serving as your shepherd over what will have been twenty-seven months. In spite of Covid Pandemic's keeping us from being fully involved in worship and ministry together, we have adjusted well and have continued to provide a vital ministry in the congregation and in the community.

As you turn the page on one chapter and prepare to begin another, please understand that your involvement in worship, education, and community outreach are of great importance to the future of Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church. Advent is about new beginnings and anticipation. Make the best of it as each of you is called to gather in Christ's name with your church family.

A couple scripture passages come to mind as I think about Mt. Hermon's future. In the third chapter of Proverbs we read, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths."

And from the fifteenth chapter of Romans, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

And Edith Wharton writes: "There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it. With Christ as the candle, be the mirrors that are bold in reflecting his light far beyond 3600 US Highway 601 South.

God bless you, and God bless Pastor Emily as you prepare the way of the Lord together!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Michael



CHURCH COUNCIL

November 18, 2021 Council Meeting – Council Minutes

Call to order was at 6:29 by Council President, Kitty Smith and Invocation was delivered by Pastor Frye.

There was verification of a Quorum.

Karen read the October's minutes and Marie made a motion to approve seconded by Mike.

Pastor's report included numerous visits and Pastor asked for prayers especially for Peggy Morgan as the nursing home is currently on lock down and she is not doing well.

Mark gave the finance report and said we were up 11%, expenses were low, and we had a good month. He also announced that he would be retiring and his last day would be February 28, 2022.

The Redevelopment Team plans are currently underway and making progress.

Greg made a motion and Rachael seconded the motion with a unanimous vote to begin working on refurbishing the bathrooms and kitchen in the coffee house.

Pastor Frye's appreciation event will be held on December 19th with a Potluck luncheon after church. We will have one church service, times are as follows, Sunday School 9:30-10:30, Service 10:30-11:30 and we will eat after the service. Bonnie will be sending out the Sign-Up Genius e-mail to bring food items.

Council prayed for all members by name.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Marie made the motion to adjourn at 7:32 and Rachael seconded it.



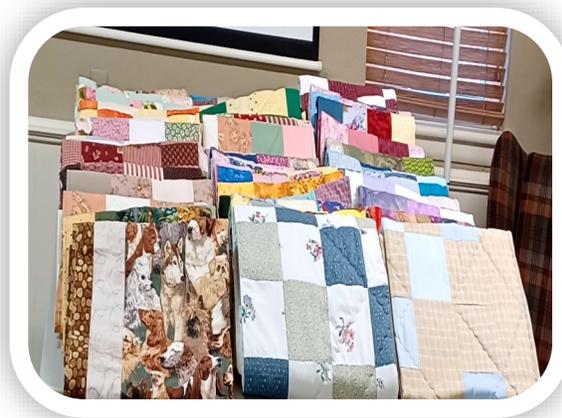
ANNOUNCEMENTS



December 19, 2021
Sunday School @ 9:30 am
One Service @ 10:30 am
Pastor Michael's Appreciation Luncheon
following worship



Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to participate in this years Salvation Army Bell Ringing.
See you next year!



The Mt. Hermon Quilting Group once again has created beautiful quilts which will be given to hospice for those in need. This group meets the 4th Tuesday each month. If you are interested in joining , drop by and see them.
No experience is necessary.



Christmas Poinsettias



Mike and Susan Faggart

In Memory of Alice & Roy Faggart

Pastor Michael and Judy Frye

In Honor of the Mt. Hermon Church Family

Greg & Jo Ann Popham

*In Memory of: Edward & Annette Popham
(Greg's Parents); Frank & Grace Lenzie
(Jo-Ann's parents); Gale Field—brother-in law
Steve Wright—brother-in-law*

Steve, Eileen, Cyrus, & Gideon Sousley

*In Honor of Kathy Benson, Roy & Linda Sousley
In Memory of Al Benson, Margaret Bauer*

Pat Rietfort

In Memory of Jack Rietfort

Johnny & JoAnn Stowe

In Memory of loved ones

Mike & Barbara Linker

*In Honor of Elsie Linker, Pastor Michel & Judy Frye
In Memory of Betty/Homer Love; Lloyd Linker*

Tim & Becky Barrier

In Honor of our children & grandchildren

Darlene Gayan

In Honor of Pastor Michael Frye's interim care

Ross Gosse & Susan Pittman

*In Honor of Brett confirmation, Emma's first year of
college & Michael's last year of high school*

Linda Barringer

*In Honor of my first great granddaughter, Gracie Mae
Widenhouse and my children and grandchildren*

2021 Concord Christmas Parade—3rd Place Church Category

Mt. Hermon was blessed with an amazing team that lead our church's float to third place in the Church Category of the 2021 Concord Christmas Parade! Our Children's Ministry made up a live Nativity scene and siblings in Christ like Keith Opel, Christy Beaver, Matt Tanner and Marie Grochoske gave parade-goers about 1,000 candy canes with Mt. Hermon's message. Special thanks to Nancy Jones, Barbara Linker and Mike Faggart! God's work our hands!



The Good Lord blessed us with the opportunity to honor **Mt. Hermon's military veterans** with a **Recognition Breakfast** hosted by the WELCA group this past Sunday, November 7th.

Our Veterans



Mt. Hermon's military veterans, pictured here, are (from left): Mark Jones, Mike Fox, Tim Bolick, Jerry Cauble, Jeff Lorenz, Ron Jones, James Scheerer, Tim Kirk and Chad Hamilton.



We'd also like to recognize those who were unable to attend: Philip Elmore, Harold Cook, Kyle Gayan, Jeffrey Dalton, Michael Garmon, Paul Keever, Johnny "Butch" Stowe, Rod Stuver and Seth McKinnon (Darrell's younger son).

Laurie Gleason handed out gift bags to those present.



Special thanks to our WELCA group for organizing a wonderful breakfast for the whole congregation to enjoy!



Women of the **ELCA**

It is December already...The turkey has been carved and we have counted our Blessings...We saluted our Veterans' last month; we also did a Thanksgiving Theme Dinner for My Fathers' House. Hoping we can make some donations during the holiday season to help people in need. Would like to Thank all who helped us achieve our goals.

★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is christ the Lord.
luke
2:11



★
JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS

Our next meeting is December 5th at 5PM..Bring a dish to pass, an ornament for exchange, gift for your prayer partner. We will be voting for officers, doing our Thank Offering, and we will also have a small business meeting before we have some Christmas Fellowship. All women are invited to join us.





The Children's Ministry has been very busy these last few weeks. A big "thank you" to the children who were able to participate in the Concord Christmas Parade, Caleigh Beaver, Colton Beaver, Abbi Tanner, Olivia Tanner, and Audrey Opel. They represented Mt. Hermon well. Thanks to the parents who rode/walked along the parade route with us. Mt. Hermon's float won third place in the church category. Thank you to Ross Gosse for his vision for the float and getting us involved.

The children packed 60 boxes this past Sunday during SS hour. We have 20 boys and 20 girls boxes filled with items appropriate for them. These boxes will be going to CVAN and will hopefully help the children when making their transition to a safe house. Twenty boxes have been filled for senior citizens who are getting 'Meals on Wheels'. These are considered birthday boxes and will be given to clients on their birthday. All 60 boxes will be blessed on December 5 during worship and then will be delivered.

We have also collected 59 gifts for children who are in foster care in Cabarrus County. These items will be delivered this week. None of these projects would be possible without our Mt. Hermon family's prayers and participation in getting the items for the boxes and the gifts requested. Mt. Hermon has participated in these projects for many years and you always come through. THANK YOU!

The children have also taken home Advent Trees to decorate for the next 25 days till the birth of Jesus. Each day, they will place an item on the tree that symbolizes God's love for us. Parents, please be a part of this ritual each day and help your child(ren) read and understand what each symbol means. Five SS packets were delivered to those who were not able to participate face-to-face in the SS program.

The children's/youth Christmas program will be on **December 19th during the church service** that day. We will begin working on this, this coming Sunday, Dec. 5th, during the SS hour. Our mini-play is entitled "GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY". Parents, please encourage them to be a part.

From the Children's Ministry, our prayers for all a glorious Advent Season.

Barbara Linker and Nancy Jones



Hello Mt. Hermon members,

We hope you all are doing well! We are writing to ask for your help each month in teaching/leading Youth lessons and activities. I have outlined what October through December could look like (see below). Please consider signing up to help out with a Sunday (or several). Just fill in your name beside the lesson(s) or activities you want to lead. Here is a link for other ideas, as well. We can help explain what Bo Day, the Food Pantry Run, and Crismons in more depth, as well.

Thanks for considering! Melissa and Zach Fox

Give the Kids an Hour

Typical Class Structure:

- Opening Prayer
- Check-in
- How was your week?
- What is going on with you?
- Lesson
- Closing Prayer - The Lord's Prayer or Psalm 23

What can I teach? What is my lesson?

*This is completely up to you and your comfort level. We have loads of resources for scripture lessons, if that is what you want to teach about. However, teaching can be much more than just a Bible lesson.

Ideas can include:

- Acolyte and Crucifer Training - The what, the how, and the why
- PowerPoint Training - Two parts
- How to set-up and run the PowerPoint
- How to create the weekly PowerPoint
- Sound system training
- Bo Day Supervision - We take the kids to Bojangles the last Sunday of each month. They need drivers and supervision during this time of communion together.
- Service/Outreach Activity/Project - Show God's love to others
- Teach the kids how to pray
- Create prayer books to pray for people in the congregation
- Readings and Analysis - This is good for any Sunday. Just grab the extra 9:00 bulletins:
- Have the kids pick either a reading or a song.
- Have the kids read through their selection prayerfully, highlighting or underlining words/phrases that speak to them.
- As they highlight, have students make a quick note as to what those words/phrases spoke to them.
- Share - give kids a chance to share out one of their notes/connections/thoughts
- Pose the question: How does this apply to us now? What is our lesson or charge from God in this passage?
- Challenge for the week - challenge the kids to apply what they have learned throughout the week and be ready to share the following week.
- Crismon's (shapes are already cut out of wood - in the Youth Room)
- Decorate them
- Create a book that tells the meaning of each one



December

BIRTHDAYS

<i>Robert Barnhardt Jr</i>	12/7
<i>Kaelyn Honeycutt</i>	12/7
<i>Beth Coleman</i>	12/8
<i>Amanda Holder</i>	12/8
<i>Shari Sue Smith</i>	12/8
<i>Pat Rietfort</i>	12/9
<i>Sawyer Poehler</i>	12/9
<i>Chris Beaver</i>	12/11
<i>Rod Stuver</i>	12/12
<i>Leah Cook</i>	12/15
<i>Jacob Foster</i>	12/16
<i>Beth Deal</i>	12/19
<i>Heather Hughes</i>	12/19
<i>Jennifer Barrier</i>	12/20
<i>Sandy Julian</i>	12/20
<i>Cody Smith</i>	12/23
<i>Kevin Drumm</i>	12/24
<i>Rick Chase</i>	12/25
<i>Olivia Tanner</i>	12/28
<i>Sylvia Faggart</i>	12/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Kevin & Kristina Cook

12/13

Mike & Sara Fink

12/20





Homebound: Bob Chertok

In Special Facilities: Jeanine Woody (First Assembly Assisted Living), Peggy Morgan (5 Oaks Manor), Sylvia Faggart (Concord Place)

Continued Prayers for: Junior Barringer, Pr. Larry Yoder, John Hahn, Barry Granda, Tom and Kathy Kennedy, Kelly Tanner, Tim and Jeannie Burns, Kathy Benson (Eileen's mother), Louis Pokorney (Pastor Carrie's father), Jay Perkins, Beckie Perkins, David Bowles, Brenda McCarn



Altar Flower Sign-Ups for 2022 are now posted in the Narthex for your convenience. The Sign-Up Genius will no longer be available. Please consider signing up for a vase (or two). Each vase is \$27. Drop your check in the offering plate and designate as altar flowers.

CCM DONATIONS

Donation Requests for December



Peanut Butter (totally out)

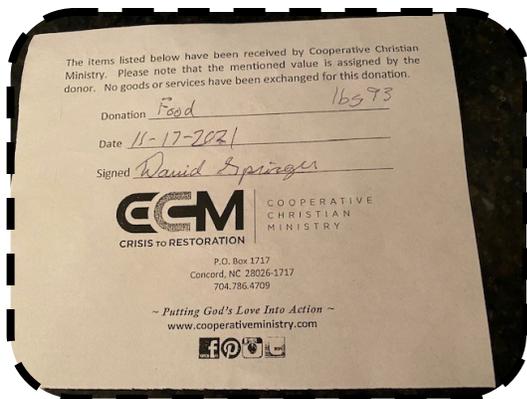
Cans of corn

Pasta Sauce (No Pasta)

Cans of Soup

Diapers (any size)

Human Society is accepting bags of pet food. Please don't forget the pets at this holiday season. CCM tells me that some pet lovers will get food for their pets before they will get food for themselves. I will be making a delivery to the Humane Society the week before Christmas. Any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Barry Mizelle



93 pounds of food

10 pounds of plastic bags



Every
Donation
Makes A
Difference

What is Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo, "the Way of Christ", is a movement of personal Christian renewal within the Church. It's a highly structured, well-thought-out method for renewing the faith of individuals, the congregations from which they come and the environments in which they live and work. The Via de Cristo Retreat is an encounter with Christ in which the participant becomes a part of a community abounding in God's grace. It enhances and strengthens our personal relationship with Christ, with our Christian brothers and sisters and with the Christian community. The Via de Cristo Retreat is coming face to face with Christ.

The Via de Cristo goal is to change the world, to remake the world in Christ, and to restore all things to Christ. The retreat is designed for those Christians who, having been informed of the methods and aims of the movement, believe that the retreat can strengthen them in their faith and bring them closer to Christ in their discipleship. It is hoped that participants will become more effective leaders in their local congregations as a result of the Via de Cristo and 'Fourth Day' experiences.

For more information and to get registered for a VdC weekend, speak to any of the people who have attended a weekend previously:

Eileen & Steve Sousley
Marie Grochoske
Jay & Beckie Perkins
Monica Matthews
Danny Garmon
Rachael Kennedy
Kelly Anderson
David Bowles
Greg & JoAnn Popham
Mike Faggart

Upcoming Weekends for 2022:

Men's #80 Feb 24-27
Women's #82 March 17-20
Mixed # 50 March 24-27
Men's #81 September 22-25
Women's #81 October 6-9
Mixed #52 October 20-23



December Word Search



X	C	B	N	M	C	H	R
E	R	Y	U	T	G	O	E
D	J	O	Y	I	F	R	I
S	E	E	E	C	C	N	N
V	M	L	S	K	L	A	D
S	S	P	P	U	Y	M	E
A	R	W	I	F	S	E	E
M	A	N	G	E	R	N	R
T	V	A	B	M	T	T	H
S	R	E	V	S	W	S	W
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R	J	R	E	U	N	B	T
H	H	C	S	A	N	T	A
C	B	M	B	U	L	M	Y
N	E	M	E	S	I	W	R

JESUS

MANGER

JOY

ADVENT

TREE

ORNAMENTS

PIE

CHRIST

WISEMEN

SLEIGH

SANTA

CHRISTMAS

REINDEER



CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS & COMMITTEES

Kitty Smith
Steve Sousley
Mark Jones
Karyn Dalton
Bonnie Walsh
Elaine Vincent
Greg Popham
Jason Bumgarner
Marie Grochoske
Mike Faggart
Rachael Kennedy
Ross Gosse
Valerie Frank

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Finance Team

Mark Jones – Treasurer
Kitty Smith
Ann Bolick
Jo-Ann Popham
Eileen Sousley

Property Team

Danny Garmon
Keith Opel
Mike Faggart
Rachael Kennedy

Worship

JoAnn Foster - organist
Chris Beaver – piano
Brenda McCarn – piano & vocal
Rachael Kennedy - keyboard
Diane Frank – vocals & liturgy
Valerie Frank – vocal
Mike Fox – vocal
Jay Perkins - vocal
Melissa Fox/Nancy Jones – PowerPoint 9 am
Bonnie Walsh – PowerPoint 10:55 am
David Bowles - guitarist
Diane Olszewski – vocal
Cadence Olszewski – vocal

Evangelism Team

Ross Gosse
Bonnie Walsh

Daily Maintenance

Tim Bolick
Mike Faggart

Mission Team

Ron Smith

Social Ministry

Nanette Thompson

Visitation Team

Karyn Dalton

Children's Ministry

Barbara Linker
Nancy Jones

Anniversary Team

JoAnn Stowe

Fellowship Quilting

JoAnn Stowe

Hospitality Committee

Bonnie Walsh

WELCA

Laurie Gleason



Worship Service Coordinators...

Worship Assistants – Karyn Dalton
Altar Guild – Patti Stuver
Lay Readers – Ann Bolick
Communion Assistants – Patti Stuver
Crucifer – Tim Bolick
Acolyte – Cheryl Opel

Meeting Times...

Bible Study - Mondays @ 7 pm -- Zoom.com

Visiting Angels - First Thursday @ 2 pm – Coffee House

WELCA Meetings - First Thursday @ 10 am & 6:30 pm - Coffee House

Property/Safety Team Meeting - First Thursday of each month @ 6 pm

Social Committee - Second Tuesday @ 7 pm - Coffee House

Lutheran Men in Mission - Second Tuesday @ 7 pm - Parkway House

Evangelism Team – First Wednesday @ 6:30 pm via Google

Fellowship Quilters - Fourth Tuesday @ 10 am- Coffee House

Congregation Council Meetings - Third Thursday @ 6:30 pm

Adult Bible Sunday School – 10 am - Coffee House

Children's Sunday School - 10 am - Children's Building

Youth (Middle & High School) Sunday School – 10 am - Conference Room

Congregation Council Leaders

Kitty Smith —President

Steve Sousley —Vice President

Karyn Dalton—Secretary

Mark Jones—Treasurer





December READINGS

- Dec 5: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6***
- Dec 12: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18***
- Dec 19: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 14:6b-55; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)***
- Dec 24: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20);***
- Dec 25: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7)8-20***
- Dec 26: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-52***

***Deadline for January Newsletter
December 29th***





Mt. Hermon Family,

Thank you for another wonderful year! I hope you all have a blessed Christmas!

The office will be closed December 24th. I will be out of the office December 27—30th; back in the office on December 31.

Linda

Before You Go...

Remember...



For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.

Luke
2:11