

Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church

3600 Hwy 601 S
Concord, NC 28025



February 2022 Newsletter



A message from Pastor Emily

Love is in the air! At least that's what we're supposed to think with all the red hearts plastered throughout grocery stores and pharmacy shops. There are red balloons, a multitude of candy in heart shaped boxes, even heart shaped candy, and cards galore. As soon as the Christmas decorations came down, Valentine's stuff went up, as if to guilt us into buying a ton of stuff to impress those we love.

But you know what's impressive? Loving someone without them even knowing it! How many children are able to have water to drink at school because someone at Mt. Hermon loved them by buying a case of water bottles? And mothers and children are able to sit down to a meal together and work on being a family because someone at Mt. Hermon loved them by buying a few extra cans of food at the grocery store. How simple these acts seem and yet they are all born out of love.

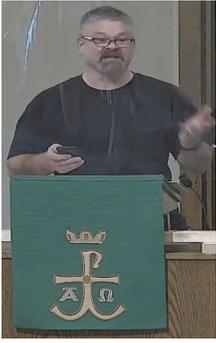
Valentine's Day has been turned into a commercial industry guilting us into overindulging and buying things that don't really show our love. Maybe this year, think about ways to show your love to someone that doesn't cost a dime: letting someone else have the good parking place, opening the door for someone not expecting it, letting someone go ahead of you in the grocery line when they have fewer items than you...simple ways to show our Christian love to those around us. After all, "They will know we are Christian by our love."

I've had a great first month getting settled into my office and making many connections. I've worked on both worship services, making slight adjustments. This next month will be about phone calls and visits. If you would like for me to visit you, simply let me know. Our Visitation Team will also be making visits; we give thanks for their ministry.

Shelley Cooke, Laurie Gleason, and I went to a breakfast sponsored by CCM (Cooperative Christian Ministry) where we learned about all the good things they are doing in this community. I was personally thanked for the continued connection between Mt. Hermon and CCM. I was told this church has been a strong advocate for their ministry for years. Keep up the good work!

I had the privilege of attending a Synod sponsored event at Lenoir-Rhyne University where I got to hear the Rev. Dr. Dan Bell speak. He talked about all the challenges church are facing not only during covid times but these times in general, when so many are choosing to leave the church. I give thanks for our partnership together serving Christ in this community.

*In Christ,
Pastor Emily*



The Mt. Hermon Congregation Council met on Thursday, Jan. 20th at 6:30 p.m.

President Kitty Smith called the meeting to order and Pastor Emily led the Invocation with a special take on what "success" stands for: "Service," "Understanding Contentment," "Character," "Compassion," "Excellence," "Significance" and Sacrifice."

We verified a quorum and approved the minutes from November - the last time we met formally - and December, which was a more informal meeting held at Kitty Smith's home in conjunction with the council Christmas Party.

Pastor Emily reported attendance numbers at Mt. Hermon's church services in January, details of the committee meetings she's attended and her ministry goals for the year, which include 1) Getting to know the members, 2) Making contact with every member, and 3) Improving communication between church leaders.

Kitty Smith wrote in her President's Report that she was very happy to welcome Pastor Emily, the December 19th service was a huge success thanks to the Children's and Youth Ministries Christmas Play followed by Pastor Michael Frye's Appreciation Lunch. Pastor Michael's last service here was Dec. 26th but he continued to work through the last week of 2021 despite the remodeling of that office in anticipation of Pastor Emily's arrival. Thanks to Danny and Mike for their hard work in that ministry.

Treasurer [Mark Jones](#) reported a stable financial situation currently but of course we will have to wait and see if the bad weather will hurt our income for next month.

[Mike Faggart](#) reported that the Property Team, in addition to painting Pastor Emily's office, changed the air filters and talked about taking out and replacing the bushes from the Sanctuary by spring.

We discussed the retirement of [Mark Jones](#) from his position of Treasurer and approved JoAnn Popham's application to take over that role. Next month will be Mark's last meeting as treasurer and we are all beyond grateful for his years of dedicated service yet feel blessed that someone of JoAnn's skills wants the job. A lot of enthusiasm went into our discussion about the coffee house kitchen remodel.

We are accepting final bids this coming week and will convene in a special meeting to approve a contractor for the work on Feb. 2nd. We're all very excited about this project and look forward to the great impression we hope to make on visitors gathering in that area.

We re-visited the Child Safety Policy and Guidelines put forth by Matt Tanner some years ago and agreed that with the significance of this issue individual council members would research an agency Pastor Emily recommended by the name of "Safe Gatherings," with the intention of taking a vote on that company at the February meeting.

Pastor Emily's Installation Service is set for Sunday, February 20, 2022, at 3 p.m. with Rev. John Futerer presiding, who is known for his fun stories, so it should be a good time!

We then prayed for each member of the congregation by name and concluded with The Lord's Prayer. The next Meeting is set for February 17, 2022.

If you have any questions about anything just ask anyone on the council for more details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pastor Emily's contact information is:
Pastoremily@mounthermonchurch.org
919-609-9805

Lenten Bible Study with the Bishop

*Again this year, in hopes of giving our ministers a break or an alternative option—not to compete!—Bishop Tim Smith will be leading an NC Synod-sponsored Bible study on the Gospel of Luke during Lent for five consecutive Thursdays, **beginning March 10** and concluding on April 7 from 7:00-8:15 p.m. Note we will not meet the week of Ash Wednesday nor during Holy Week. All are welcome!*

[Register today to receive Zoom link details](#)

Service
Understanding Contentment
Character
Compassion
Excellence
Significance
Sacrifice





Sermon Summary For January



Mt. Hermon has been so blessed to have Pastor Emily leading us this month! Please have a look at these photos and read the captions to see how she has been preaching the Gospel to our congregation!

January 9 Sermon:

In her first sermon at Mt. Hermon on January 9th, Pastor Emily talked about how there are two sacraments in the Lutheran tradition - baptism and marriage. Jesus wanted to use baptism with his cousin John The Baptist. Jesus asked John to baptize him to establish a new meaning of a ritual that people were already familiar with. John called people to be baptized to be forgiven. He was pointing a way to the Chosen One. The baptism of Jesus gave all of us a sense of belonging. Pastor Emily asked everyone to then look at the sea shells that were placed in the Narthex for everyone to take and think about them as people. Like the shells, people have scars and may feel broken. People can be shiny like the shells, but only on the outside. If we look at others we will see that we are all broken and worn down, but God sees us for who we are.

January 9 Chasuble:

Pastor Emily took a moment on Jan. 9th to explain that, moving forward, she would wear what is called a "chasuble" during communion. A chasuble is worn to cover the stole that are the office of Pastors that designate pastors as leaders, so when pastors wear the chasuble, they are equal in the eyes of God during communion.

Sunday, January 16 Sermon:

In her sermon Sunday, January 16, Pastor Emily used the analogy of horse blinders in regards to our relationship with God. Sometimes we are so focused on what's right in front of us that we can't see God working in the world around us. What are your blinders that keep you from seeing God present in your everyday, mundane, daily life?

January 23 Service:

The reason the things we put off until tomorrow never get done because if they were really important we would get those things done today! When Jesus said today that the Scripture comes true - as Isaiah said they would - we can see it as a promise that God will continue to take the side of the vulnerable. As the story in Luke is told Jesus reminds everyone that God's gifts are extraordinary. We are all a part of God's story and promise. This story was not received as good news at first. Too often we miss the sense of urgency in the words of Jesus. They are not meant for tomorrow. They are meant for today!

January 30:

How many of you stood there sweating in school waiting to be picked for a team in P.E. class and maybe you were picked last. Or maybe you were a team captain and felt the pressure of picking your friend or choosing to get the best player. Rejection hurts. It is the absolute worst, so we understand how Jesus felt in his hometown when people were ready to throw him off a cliff. The good news is that there are no teams or choosing sides with God. All are included in God's forgiveness. Don't be afraid! God is with us. Amen!



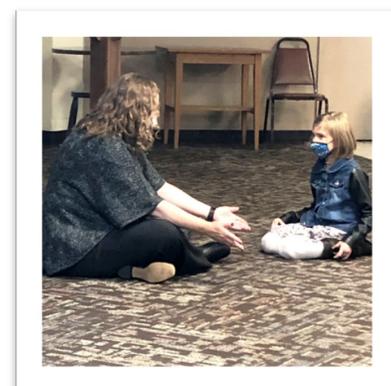
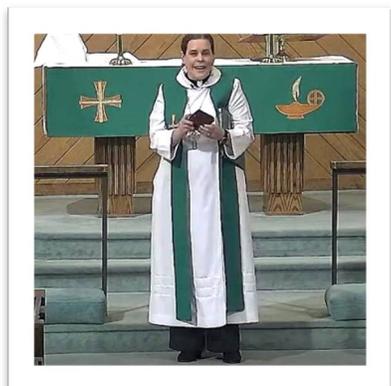
JESUS IS OUR STRONG FOUNDATION'

Our stories for this SS year have been about the building blocks of our faith (Love, Forgive, Worth, Promise, and Life).. The story of John the Baptist emphasizes the building block of WORTH. John's worth or God's plan for John has him introducing Jesus to the people and His mission on earth. John is asked by Jesus to baptize him in the Jordan River. Here is where Jesus begins his ministry on earth and here is where we hear God is pleased with His Son. We have learned in SS that we have WORTH. God has a plan for each and every one of us. What is our ministry on earth? We know that God is pleased with us as His children and He is with us no matter what His plans for us may be. Our baptisms bring us into the family of God - what a great family to be a part of!! In our different activities, we learned about the seashell and the dove and how they are symbols for baptism and the Holy Spirit. When you see

February's building block is PROMISE. Jesus promises that he will be with us always! Our story will be the parable of the 'Prodigal Son'. Can you guess how this parable is a great example of the PROMISE? Come and join us each Sunday in February and find out. We would love to have you.

We want to thank Ross Gosse for his work in evangelism in getting out the word/ pictures of what we are doing in SS (especially on Facebook). Pictures are worth a thousand words. Thanks Ross!





Mt. Hermon has been so blessed to have Pastor Emily leading us this month! Please have a look at these photos and see how she has been preaching the Gospel to our children!

January 9 Service:

Pastor Emily asked the children what God sounds like. The children said that he might have a deep voice. Pastor Emily said that maybe He has a high-pitched squeaky voice, but that God speaks in the Scripture lesson today and tells Jesus that is the Son of God, with whom He is well-pleased. God didn't speak in Jesus's head, it was a voice that was loud for everybody to hear! Just remember that God also speaks to us in our hearts and our heads.

January 16 Service:

Pastor Emily talked about what's important about wallets, something that all grown-ups keep with them. Adults keep lots of things in their wallets, like money, credit cards — and identification with their picture, address and birthday! But Jesus did not carry a wallet or have a driver's license. More importantly, he's going to perform a miracle and it will open people's eyes to who he is – and THAT will be his identity! Dear God, thank you for sending us Jesus and opening our eyes to who Jesus is!

January 23 Service:

In her Children's Sermon this past Sunday, Pastor Emily talked about the frustration over birthday wishes not coming true because she never got a pony. Isaiah's wishes came true because Jesus said they were coming true today. Pray for a wish that will come true. Thank you God for birthdays even when the things that don't come true because you know what is best for us! Thank you for Jesus!

January 30 Service:

On Sunday, Jan. 30th, the children said they have never had a bad day. Pastor Emily asked if they get frustrated with their video games or sports on a bad day when things don't go right. Even Jesus had a bad day, like in today's Scripture lesson - so he just walked away. But that's OK! You can come back to it later. Dear Lord, thank you for giving us the permission to just walk away and come back later. Amen!

Our Youth in Action



Our Youth Group has been making a video with a twist on the "Lost Sheep" parable for the NC Synod's "Tell It!" video competition. Gideon, Brett, Tyler, Luke and Owen have been looking all over Mt. Hermon's campus for "100." We should be done next week and will show the Synod at the annual spring conference.



WELCA appreciates your support...

WELCA –We had our first meeting Jan. 6th. Meetings are first Thursday of the month, 10am, in coffee house. There Will Not Be an Evening Meeting, until further notice. All women of the congregation are welcome.

We planned out the 2022 activities. There is a couple of new activities, we hope the congregation will embrace.

Activities- Feb.3rd at 10 am meeting in coffee house,

21st-We supply dinner for My Father House. Any member can donate food. More information to come.

27th-Bold Women Sunday. Regular service with small changes. Pastor Emily will be doing the sermon.



To our church family:

There are no words that sufficiently say Thank-you. You are awesome and so much more. Without your support we would not have been able to go to Vanderbilt and get some answers. The plan is for Raleigh and Vanderbilt to work together. We go to Raleigh late. Feb We go back beginning of October to Vanderbilt.

The Gleasons





February

Elizabeth Detsch	02/06
Tim Kirk	02/06
Ann Marie Barrier	02/07
Becky Barrier	02/08
Justine Keever	02/08
Betty Barringer	02/08
Haley Doorley	02/08
Robert Litaker	02/10
Andrew DiBernardo	02/15
Steve Sousley	02/17
Danny Garmon	02/19
Kacy Howard	02/21
Kitty Smith	02/23
Joshua Kline	02/24
Jennifer Ennis	02/25

February

Neal and Mary Fudge
02/04

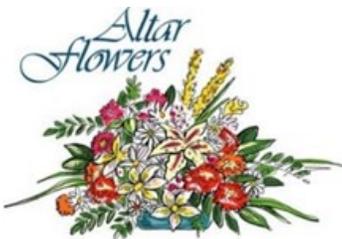
Mike and Susan Faggart
02/29

If I missed a birthday or anniversary, please let me know.



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

Continued Prayers for: Kelly Tanner, Brenda McCarn, Annie Stancil, Junior Barringer, Nancy Wilcox, Dan Gleason, Thea Walton, Julie Cox, Pr. Larry Yoder, John Hahn, Barry Granda, Tom and Kathy Kennedy, Tim and Jeannie Burns, Kathy Benson, Tony Stancil, The family of John (Jack) Hahn in his passing



Altar Flower Sign-Ups for 2022 are now posted in the Narthex for your convenience. 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. Please write clearly.

CCM DONATIONS

February Needs

CCM was excited to see our car load of donations this week. They were especially excited to see 26 packages of toilet tissue and diapers.

Thank you for the bags of cat & dog food. They will be delivered to the Humane society this week.

There were 11 pallets of canned goods delivered to CCM this week so they are good right now on canned vegetables.

They do need:

JARS OF JELLY

TOILET TISSUE

SMALL JUGS OF DETERGENT

DIAPERS (ALL SIZES)

BOXES OF CEREAL

The items listed below have been received by Cooperative Christian Ministry. Please note that the mentioned value is assigned by the donor. No goods or services have been exchanged for this donation.

Donation Food

Date JAN 25, 2022

Signed Don 143 lbs

CCM | COOPERATIVE
CRISIS TO RESTORATION | CHRISTIAN
MINISTRY

P.O. Box 1717
Concord, NC 28026-1717
704.786.4709

~ Putting God's Love Into Action ~





G	R	H	E	A	V	A	L	O	C	February
W	I	E	G	R	W	U	T	P	C	Hearts
K	R	N	P	I	Y	B	O	H	J	Love
O	E	I	V	I	W	M	A	R	H	Grace
O	H	T	T	X	P	E	W	V	T	Valentine
P	T	N	O	Y	I	A	I	N	T	Ground Hog
L	U	E	P	R	A	Y	N	E	N	Day
T	L	L	J	A	E	S	T	Y	U	Martin Luther
S	N	A	B	U	R	I	E	G	H	Winter
T	I	V	M	R	T	H	R	E	E	Snow
M	T	O	N	B	C	G	H	U	R	Pray
C	R	R	H	E	A	R	T	S	E	
D	A	B	V	F	O	A	Y	F	S	
L	M	O	O	R	I	C	D	A	N	
F	L	O	V	W	O	E	O	D	O	
G	R	O	U	N	D	H	O	G	W	
A	R	D	F	A	A	M	I	L	Y	
R	E	H	P	A	Y	V	E	A	L	



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

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

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

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...

Altar Guild – Patti Stuver
Lay Readers – Ann Bolick
Communion Assistants – Laurie Gleason
Crucifer – Tim Bolick
Acolyte – Cheryl Opel

Meeting Times...

Monday night Bible Study - @ 7 pm -- Zoom.com

Visiting Angels - First Thursday @ 2 pm – Coffee House

WELCA Meetings - First Thursday @ 10 am—Coffee House

Property/Safety Team Meeting - First Thursday of each month @ 7 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



February READINGS

- Feb 6* *Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11*
- Feb 13* *Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26*
- Feb 20* *Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;*
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
- Feb 27* *Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-42;*
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)



*For the
March Newsletter
is
February 25, 2022*

Before you go... remember

Be grateful for the
good times and keep
the faith during the
bad times. Stay positive
when life gives you
every reason to be
negative.

