St. Luke Re-Opening Plans Update

Please keep in mind that the most carefully crafted plans for in-person gatherings are subject to change week by week in order to insure the wellbeing of our congregation and community. As of now, our plans at St. Luke include: a re-start of the Early Learning Center on Monday, July 6th. With the re-start, there will be reduced capacity and many new procedures to insure the safety and wellbeing of our ELC children, families and staff members.

Further plans include a rolling re-start of in-person worship on Sunday, July 12th, with one service only—at 9:00 o’clock in the Ministry Center (no nursery, children’s church, fellowship time, food or Sunday school). We can safely seat a maximum of 150 people, or 46 family groups, in the Ministry Center for this service. It is our hope to add an additional service each week until reopening all four Sunday services on August 2nd.

Let me strongly encourage you to continue joining your St. Luke Family of Faith by streaming or by television if you have any doubt as to your readiness to return to in-person worship.

St. Luke Safety Standards for All Services

1. Limited entrances and exits and intentional dismissal from services
2. Social distancing—seated six feet apart except for immediate family members living in the same household. Additionally, please refrain from physical contact such as handshaking, hugging, etc. Ushers/greeters will help you find safe seating.
3. Please know that social distancing should be observed not only within the worship space but also in hallways, common areas and restrooms.
4. Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at each entrance and exit. We request that you use these stations upon entering and leaving the Ministry Center.
5. Temperature checks with touchless thermometers. 100.3 is the maximum CDC recommendation for entrance into gatherings lasting fifteen minutes or more.
6. Face masks. We ask that you bring your own mask from home but there will be masks available as you enter for worship. Masks are an incredibly important expression of our love and concern for the health of our fellow worshippers.
7. No offering plates or baskets will be passed; but rather, plates and baskets will be placed at entrances and exits.
8. Facilities will be sanitized immediately following each gathering.

I realize many are anxious to return to in-person worship. On the other hand, many are not ready to return. Please let me encourage you not to return to in-person worship if you have been ill in the last two weeks or if you have any health circumstances that would make you especially vulnerable to viral infection. The health and well-being of our church family and community is our first priority and will continue to be throughout this pandemic. Grace and peace to you all,

Robert Beckum, Senior Pastor
rbeckum@stlukeum.com
July 5, 2020
5th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude (Ken Bailey) ........................................... “America the Beautiful” .............................arr. Joel Raney

Welcome and Opening Prayer .................................................. Rev. Robert Beckum

Hymn ........................................................................................................................................ Dr. Marc Boensel

I believe in... I believe in the Holy Spirit, the... and the life everlasting. Amen.

Anthem (Chancel Quartet)............................... “Lift Every Voice and Sing” ........... J. Rosamond Johnson

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer .................................................. Bishop James King

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will... deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Children’s Sermon .................................................. Mrs. Mary Pat Beckum

Hymn ........................................................................................................................................ Dr. Boensel

News on A Way Forward

Hymn ........................................................... “My Country ’Tis of Thee” ............................. Dr. Boensel

The Written Word .......................................................... Psalm 33  
Rev. Beckum and Rev. Maddocks

The Spoken Word ........................................... “BLESSED IS THE NATION...” ........................................ Rev. Beckum

Hymn ........................................................................................................................................ Dr. Boensel

The Benediction .......................................................... Rev. Beckum

Postlude (Ken Bailey) ........................................... “God of the Ages” ............................. Improvisation

*** quick means “living”; catholic means “universal”
GOD OF THE AGES

God of the ages, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past; in this free land with thee our lot is cast; be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay, thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence, be thy strong arm our ever sure defense; thy true religion in our hearts increase; thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way; lead us from night to never ending day; fill all our lives with love and grace divine, and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

MY COUNTRY, ‘TIS OF THEE

My country, ‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing; land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim’s pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring!

My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills; my heart with rapture thrills, like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom’s song; let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake; let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

Our fathers’ God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing; long may our land be bright with freedom’s holy light; protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain; for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

THIS IS MY SONG

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine; but other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth’s kingdoms: Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.

Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him, and hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations; myself I give thee; let thy will be done.
There are four designated funds to which you can contribute to support the Music Ministry: The Music Fund, The Music Scholarship Fund, The Organ Fund, and the Orchestra Fund. Contact Marc Boensel for information on how you can support the Music Ministry with your gifts.

The Music Ministry: If you have questions regarding the music ministry please contact Marc Boensel at the e-mail address above or at 706-256-2682.

**Today's Anthem:** "Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing a rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way. Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee. Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee. Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land."

**Ministerio Hispano “La Cosecha”**
Palabra Escrita: Romanos 7:15-23
Palabra Hablada: “Miserable de mi”

Durante mis cuarenta (40) años de servirle al Señor, he escuchado muchas veces a la gente usar estas palabras de Pablo en Romanos 7:24 diciendo: “Miserable de mí ¿quién me librará de este cuerpo de muerte? Las usan de una forma que implica que estas palabras aplican a nosotros, los nacidos de nuevo. Las usan como si los cristianos están en un tipo de esclavitud con el pecado (es en el mismo contexto, solo unos versos antes, que Pablo dice “mas yo soy carnal, vendido al pecado” (Romanos 7:14)). Dicen entonces: “miserable de nosotros”, “somos pecadores, vendidos al pecado”, “¿quién nos librará de esto?”

En este pasaje, presento que, aunque la gente ama al Señor y lo quieren seguir y solamente a tales personas se refiere este artículo, pueden caer en muchos errores, no están vendidos al pecado, ni son miserables esperando un liberador. ¡El liberador ha venido y su nombre es Jesucristo! Ha abierto la puerta de nuestra prisión y nos ha hecho libres. Ya no somos “miserables”. Fuimos una vez miserables cuando estábamos muertos en pecados e iniquidades (Efesios 2:1). Pero ahora ya no estamos muertos! Dios nos vivificó juntamente con Cristo, como un regalo, solo en base a nuestra fe (Efesios 2:5). Ahora somos “generación escogida, real sacerdocio, nación santa, pueblo adquirido por Dios, para que anunciéis las virtudes de aquel que os llamó de las tinieblas a su luz admirable” (1 Pedro 2:9). Esa es la verdad de la Palabra de Dios.

Estamos en lo correcto al preguntar cuál es esa lamentable situación en la que se encuentra Pablo que se describe en Romanos 7. ¿A quién se refiere? ¿Porqué está usando este pasaje como si aplicara a sí mismo y porqué habla en presente como si algo estuviera pasando ahora? Bueno, no necesitamos ir muy lejos para encontrar la respuesta. Todo lo que necesitamos es leer el contexto de las frases anteriores, todo el capítulo 7 de Romanos. Ver Romanos 7 nos demuestra que su tema principal es la ley y cómo era imposible para alguien que tenía solamente la naturaleza pecaminosa de Adán el cumplir la ley. Para decir esto, Pablo utiliza el tiempo presente simple figuradamente, no literalmente. En otras palabras, aunque parece que lo que dice se tratase personalmente de sí mismo, solo lo hace figurativamente, poniéndose en la posición de aquellos a quienes estas cosas aplican directamente. Amen

Rev. Dr. José Resto/ Pastor
Call to Daily Prayer
at 12:19 p.m.

St. Luke Church will be joining other churches in the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church in a time of daily prayer for our communities, churches, country, and the world.

You are invited to join this daily prayer time at 12:19 p.m. every day. This time is purposeful in helping us remember for what we are specifically praying. Remember the words of Scripture from Philippians:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4-7)

Let us be faithful to our call to pray in these days. We will be posting prayer points for the day on Facebook each day in preparation for the 12:19 prayer time.

Tithes and Offerings

Our physical doors may be closed for the time being but the mission of St. Luke Church continues. You can continue to support St. Luke Church with your tithes and offerings by going to the St. Luke website, https://saintlukecolumbus.org/give/, and clicking on “SecureGive” and then clicking on the “Church” button. If you need help with this option, please contact Renee Wilkinson at renee@stlukeum.com or Brett Maddocks at bmaddocks@stlukeum.com.

CHURCH MAILING ADDRESS

Please do not use the physical address of the church for mailing. The church mailing address is PO Box 867, Columbus, GA 31902. The Post Office will no longer deliver items that are addressed to our physical address. Thank you!

As always, thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministry of St. Luke Church.
Abiding Gifts

If you wish to honor or remember someone, please attach to your check the name of that person and the address to which you wish the acknowledgment sent and mail or bring to the church office. Contact maggie@stlukeum.com.

Memorial Maintenance Fund: In memory of Mr. Dick Jones by Mr. Howard Park, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Guy Kenimer, and friends: Jo, Beverly, Marsha, Anne and Donna. In memory of Mrs. Jane Paul and Mr. Dick Jones by Mrs. Glenda Merrill.

Respite Care: In memory of Ric and Beth Shean by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hutchens.

Music Scholarship Fund: In memory of Mr. Dick Jones by Rev. and Mrs. Mike McAfee. In memory of Mr. Jim Sigmund by Ms. Hariot Lippmann.

Samaritan Fund: In memory of Mr. Dick Jones by The Adelphian Study Club. In memory of Mr. Dick Jones and Mr. Sonny Clements by Mrs. Mary Hudson.

Notes for Adriane Burgess

In these unprecedented times we are having to do things much differently than normal. Since we were unable to have a proper goodbye for our beloved associate, Adriane Burgess, you may want to write a note to offer your encouragement/well wishes for her and her family in this time of transition. You can write Adriane at: Rev. Dr. Adriane Burgess St. Mary's Road UMC 3993 St. Mary's Rd. Columbus, GA 31907

Senior Sermons have begun! Our first installment in our Senior Sermon Series is available now on The Corner Crosswalk TV on YouTube and streaming on Facebook! Visit my Facebook page and scroll down and you can view them there! Be sure to tune in this week at 5:30 on either platform and hear Jack’s Senior Sermon!

Synthesis Leadership Worship Night is July 15th in the large dining room! If you are on the Leadership team be sure and attend this Live Event! The Corner Worship will be leading worship...it's going to be an AWESOME NIGHT!

BIG THINGS HAPPEN IN SMALL GROUPS! We have 2 dozen small groups this summer and YOU ARE INVITED to be a part of one!Reach out if you wanna join one!

Small Groups are meeting in person now and it is a game changer! Being around our church family is a MUST! We love you and miss you!