GOD’S GRACE IN ST. LUKE’S GENEROSITY 2020

In the eighth chapter of II Corinthians, the Apostle Paul begins by saying, “We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia…” He goes on to describe the Macedonian churches’ “overflowing wealth of generosity.” Paul knew there is a direct connection between grace and generosity. A similar story could be written about St. Luke Church. We have a rich history of generosity for the work of Christ. 2020, however, may be the defining moment in our legacy of faithful stewardship. In a year of utter uncertainty caused by social upheaval, political chaos, and COVID induced isolation and illness, the members of St. Luke remained committed to the work of Christ. Those of you who pledged under difficult circumstances, not only met those pledges but exceeded them by some $8000. Those who gave faithfully, but did not pledge, gave 93% of our projected goal in the budget.

In any year, your giving would be remarkable; but, in 2020 your generosity is truly a work of grace. In the most difficult days you remained steadfast, faithful and generous. Thank you for your extravagant generosity for Christ through St. Luke Church.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS 2021

May I make one last plea for you to prayerfully prepare and promptly return your pledge for 2021? To date 190 families/individuals have made pledges of $2,770,000 for the St. Luke budget in this new year. We have made great progress, but this represents 86% of the amount pledged last year. Your pledge of financial support is critical in equipping St. Luke for faithful ministry for such a time as this. If you have not yet returned your pledge, let me encourage you to do so this week. Our Finance Committee and Administrative Board will meet January 27 to finalize a budget of ministry and mission for the year.

You may make your pledge for 2021 by returning your card by mail (P.O. Box 867 Columbus, GA 31902), or by contacting our Financial Secretary, Renee Wilkinson, by email at renee@stlukeum.com or by phone at 706-327-4343.

Thank you for letting the love of God shine in your life through your generosity. Thank you for allowing God to write an incredible story of grace through your giving.
January 17, 2021          2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Prelude (Ken Bailey)......................... “Prelude in A minor” .......................Harold Rholig
Welcome and Opening Prayer..............................................................Rev. Robert Beckum
Hymn............................................... “Lord, Speak to Me” .........................Mr. Marc Boensel

The Affirmation of Faith.............“The Apostles’ Creed”
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Gloria Patri (Glory Be to the Father)  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

**Anthem........................................ “He Hideth My Soul” ...................................John Carter
Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Choral Prayer Response................... “Danish Amen” ..................................................anon.

The Children’s Sermon..............................Mrs. Mary Pat Beckum
Hymn............................................... “I Am Thine, O Lord” ...............................Mr. Boensel

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

The Written Word ..............................................................John 4:46-54

The Spoken Word.......................... “BELIEVING IS SEEING” ........................Rev. Beckum

Invitation to Christian Discipleship and Congregational Prayer

Hymn............................................... “Take My Life, and Let It Be” .........................Mr. Boensel
The Benediction..............................................................Rev. Beckum
Choral Benediction Response (11:00 a.m.)............... “Sevenfold Amen” ......................Peter Lutkin
Postlude (Ken Bailey)............................“I Am Thine O Lord” ..............................Improvisation

** Music Box                    *** quick means “living”; catholic means “universal”
LORD, SPEAK TO ME

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone; as thou hast sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.

O strengthen me, that while I stand firm on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a loving hand to wrestlers with the troubled sea.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart; and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'er-flow in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, they praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, just as thou wilt, and when, and where, until thy blessed face I see, thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

I AM THINE, O LORD

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.

Refrain: Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou has died.
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious bleeding side.

Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine; let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine. Refrain

O the pure delight of a single hour that before thy throne I spend, when I kneel in prayer, and with thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend! Refrain

There are depths of love that I cannot know till I cross the narrow sea; there are heights of joy that I may not reach till I rest in peace with thee. Refrain

TAKE MY LIFE, AND LET IT BE

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let me be filled with messages for thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.
HOW DO I JOIN THE CHURCH?

You may become a part of the St. Luke family of God in one of the following ways:

1. If you have never joined a church before, you may become a member by profession of faith in Jesus Christ and by being baptized. If you have already been baptized (as a child or as an adult) in a Christian Church, your baptism is recognized by St. Luke United Methodist Church. You will be asked to uphold St. Luke church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

2. If you are a member of another United Methodist Church or another Christian denomination, indicate to one of the pastors that this is your desire. St. Luke will then transfer your membership.

3. If you have any questions about faith in Christ, about United Methodism in general or St. Luke in particular, please ask one of the pastors!

Music Box

Marc F. Boensel, Director of Music Ministries, mboensel@stlukeum.com

Chancel Choir rehearsals are at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary. Rehearsals will be limited to 45 minutes, socially distanced and masked at all times. Temperature checks will be taken between 6:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. at the 3rd Avenue entrance to the Music Suite.

Handbell Choir rehearsals are at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary. Rehearsals will be limited to 45 minutes, socially distanced and masked at all times. Temperature checks will be taken between 5:15 p.m. and 5:25 p.m. at the 3rd Avenue entrance to the Music Suite.

Please consider a gift to the Music Ministry. You may mark your donation to the Music Fund, Music Scholarship Fund, Orchestra Fund, or Organ Fund.

Today’s anthem: “A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, a wonderful Savior to me; he hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, where rivers of pleasure I see. He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock that shadows a dry, thirsty land; he hideth my life in the depths of his love, and covers me there with his hand. A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, he taketh my burden away; he holdeth me up and I shall not be moved, he giveth me strength for each day. He hideth my soul... With numberless blessings each moment he crowns, and filled with his fullness divine, I sing in my rapture, 'O glory to God for such a Redeemer as mine!' He hideth my soul... .”

WORSHIP IN SPANISH: 12:20 p.m. worship in Ministry Center, Rev. Dr. Jose D. Resto/ Pastor, Palabra Escrita: I Tesalonicenses 5:15-23. Palabra Hablada: “No pagues mal por mal.”

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE (THE NINE): 9:00 a.m., Ministry Center, The Rev. Brett Maddocks, preaching.

ALTAR FLOWERS: The beautiful flowers in the chancel area are given to the glory of God by the Discovery Class.

OPEN ALTAR FLOWER DATES: January 24, 31, February 21 and 28. For more open flower dates in 2021 please contact Maggie Roberson at 706-327-4343 or maggie@stlukeum.com.

NEW BEGINNINGS are collecting caps, gloves, and socks for Truth Springs Academy and Safehouse. They need adult and children’s sizes. Place items in the dropbox right outside of Turner Chapel.

S.A.W. MINISTRY NEEDS

The S.A.W. Ministry is in need of mattresses and beds (twin, double, queen), chairs, tables, etc. If you can help please contact Lee Myers at leemyers.co@gmail.com or call the church office at 706-327-4343.

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1. If you have never joined a church before, you may become a member by profession of faith in Jesus Christ and by being baptized. If you have already been baptized (as a child or as an adult) in a Christian Church, your baptism is recognized by St. Luke United Methodist Church. You will be asked to uphold St. Luke church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

2. If you are a member of another United Methodist Church or another Christian denomination, indicate to one of the pastors that this is your desire. St. Luke will then transfer your membership.

3. If you have any questions about faith in Christ, about United Methodism in general or St. Luke in particular, please ask one of the pastors!
NO Zoom this Sunday. Enjoy the long weekend with your family!

Our nursery is hiring! We are prayerfully seeking compassionate and reliable caregivers to provide childcare for our church families on Sunday mornings. Interested applicants should contact Nicole Mayne at nmayne@stlukeum.com for both an application and details.

**Prayer Calendars**
If you would like a prayer calendar mailed to you please call the church office @ 706-327-4343.

**OUR CLERGY STAFF**
Rev. Robert Beckum - Senior Minister
Rev. Brett Maddocks - Associate Pastor
Rev. Dick Reese - Minister of Pastoral Care
Rev. Dr. José Resto - Hispanic Ministries
Bishop James King - Bishop in Residence

**SAVE THE DATE**
Saturday, February 20, 2021

**Women’s Day at St. Luke**
Speaker: Susan Alexander Yates

**ST. LUKE MINISTRY CENTER**
(Live Streaming option available)

Finding Peace in Times of Uncertainty
Registration details will be available soon. Just save the date and plan to join us for this special day. For more information, contact Suzanne McCluskey sfmccluskey@gmail.com or 706-536-2439.

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We are forming a "Prayer Team" to pray specifically for this event - we’ll meet once in January, and then a few times in February before and after the event. If you’d like to be on this "Prayer Team," please let Suzanne McCluskey know. We’re planning to meet on Sunday mornings - after the 9:00 service and before the 11:00 service (from 10:15 to 10:45).

**Tithes and Offerings**
Offering plates/boxes are placed at entrances and exits at all of our in-person worship services. Of course, you can continue to support St. Luke Church with your tithes and offerings by mail, bank draft, or 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 P.O. 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.

**Food Pantry:** In memory of Mrs. Joan Holder by Mr. and Mrs. Randy Warner.

**Memorial Maintenance Fund:** In memory of Mrs. Joan Holder by Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Graham and Mitsy Kovacs. In memory of Rev. Mike McAfee by Mr. Bryan Sargent and Dr. and Mrs. Hollis Daniel Sigman. In memory of Mrs. Gladys Pitts by Mr. and Mrs. C. Neal Pope. In memory of Margie and L.Z. Thrasher and Marjorie and John Richardson by Marjorie Richardson. In memory of Mr. Bill Montgomery by Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Newman.

**Naomi’s Village:** In memory of Rev. Mike McAfee by Mrs. Annette Pollock, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Griner, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Graham, Mr. Stephen Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Newman, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Owen, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kilpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gilstrap, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Robert, and Mr. and Mrs. Rick Anthony. In honor of Mrs. Mary Pat Beckham by the Monday Night Bible Study.

**Altar Guild Fund:** In memory of Mr. Charles E. Hall, Sr. by Mrs. Sally Hall. In memory of Mrs. Joan Holder by Mrs. Melinda Hunter.

**Respite Care:** In memory of Mr. Gene Oswalt by Mrs. Warene Taylor. In memory of Mr. Gene Oswalt and Mr. Wayman Aldridge by Mrs. Diane Hett.

**BEFORE ENTRY PLEASE FOLLOW THESE PROCEDURES**

1. **Sanitize Your Hands** using the provided sanitizing solution.
2. **Put On a Provided Face Mask** (if you are already wearing a personal face mask that will suffice).
3. **Have Your Temperature Taken** by the receptionist with a “touchless” thermometer. • A **Temperature of 100.3 or Lower** is required for entry into the building.
4. **Maintain a Physical Distance** of at least 6 feet of all persons not living in your immediate household.

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**THE CORNER**

Jonathan and Lisa Moore, Directors of Student Ministries, jmoore@stlukeum.com

WE WILL BE COMBINED THIS SUNDAY NIGHT!

Middle school and high school students, come hang out with us this Sunday, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. We can’t wait to see you!

High School Synthesis Leadership Team

SAVE THE DATE for our next leadership meeting! See you on January 31st at 4:30 p.m!

We encourage you to get involved in a weekly Bible study! For middle schoolers, we have Bible study on Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. High schoolers, join us on Tuesday nights with Mallory or Wednesday nights with Lisa. High school boys meet Wednesday nights with JMO!