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No. 16

April 18, 2021

Volume 57

### **Change is Inevitable, Growth Is Optional**

All of us have been through a year of tremendous change. Some of those changes have been joyfully anticipated, while others have been painfully unexpected. Some of the changes have been political and cultural, others have been personal and professional. The age of COVID introduced change to every aspect of our lives: travel, work, school, worship, recreation, healthcare, and personal habits. But, even without a COVID pandemic, life is never static. It is always changing. I am finding the decision to retire from pastoral ministry to be a big change for Mary Pat and me. The past ten years at St. Luke have been some of the best and most joyful years of our ministry together, and they have flown by. Now, important questions arise about purpose, direction and meaning, for us and for St. Luke Church.

Some years ago I asked one of our retired South Georgia ministers, Dr. Aubrey Alsobrook, how he seemed to navigate all life's changes so graciously. He responded, "I remind myself every day that while change is inevitable, growth is optional, and I opt for growth!"

His words are true. While change brings a certain sense of grief and loss, change also brings the opportunity for newness and growth. So much depends on our mindset and perspective. With every change we have a choice. We can choose to cling to the past or we can choose to embrace the new growth to which God is calling us. It's ultimately a matter of faith and trust.

The prophet Jeremiah said well: "The steadfast love of God never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." (Lamentations 3:23) In a world and in lives of inevitable change, the steadfast love of God is constant. God's inexhaustible mercy meets us at every change and gives us a life enriching option.

I am thankful for the leadership of St. Luke's Staff Parish Relations Committee. Each member has embraced this transition in the life of St. Luke as an opportunity for new vitality and new growth. Mary Pat and I embrace this moment of change in the same spirit. By God's mercy, we can all opt for growth in new dimensions of our life and discipleship.

Robert Beckum, Senior Pastor  
[rbeckum@stlukeum.com](mailto:rbeckum@stlukeum.com)

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

The 11:00 a.m. service is streamed at [www.saintlukecolumbus.org](http://www.saintlukecolumbus.org) and broadcast at WLTC 103.7 Lite FM • Broadcast on WTVM Channel 9 at 10:00 a.m.

April 18, 2021

4th Sunday of Easter

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

Prelude (*Ken Bailey*).....Fantasy on “A Mighty Fortress is our God” .....by Wilhelm Rudnick

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

Hymn..... “Easter People, Raise Your Voices” .....Number 304

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 (*Chancel Choir*)..... “Grace Greater Than Our Sin” .....Julia Johnston

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer.....Rev. Beckum

**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..... “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” .....Number 140

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.....Luke 24:13-45

The Spoken Word... **“MADE KNOWN IN THE BREAKING OF BREAD”** ...Rev. Beckum

The Invitation and Confession

*Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another:*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!*

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.**

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving.....See Insert

The Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer following Communion.....See Insert

Hymn..... “Be Thou My Vision” .....Number 451

The Benediction.....Rev. Beckum

Choral Benediction Response (11:00 a.m.)..... “Sevenfold Amen” .....Peter Lutkin

Postlude (*Ken Bailey*)..... “Thine be the Glory” .....Improvisation

\*\* Music Box

\*\*\* quick means “living”; catholic means “universal”

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## EASTER PEOPLE, RAISE YOUR VOICES

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.  
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.  
When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

## GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:** Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**

Pardon for sin and peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**

## BE THOU MY VISION

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
walking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever be fall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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### Permit

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# Music Box

Marc F. Boensel, Director of Music Ministries, [mboensel@stlukeum.com](mailto: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 and masked at all times. Temperature checks will be taken between 6:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue entrance to the Music Suite.

**Handbell Choir** rehearsals are at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Handbell Room. Rehearsals will be limited to 45 minutes and masked at all times. Temperature checks will be taken between 5:45 p.m. and 5:55 p.m. at the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** "Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt! Yonder on Calvary's mound outpoured, there where the blood of the lamb was spilt. Grace, Grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within, grace that is greater than all our sin. Marvelous, wonderful grace, God's grace."

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**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 and in loving memory of Mr. David Land by Win and Joyce Fowler and family.

**CRADLE ROLL: OPEN ALTAR FLOWER DATES:** May 30, June 27, July 4, July 18, August 8, August 29, September 12, October 3, October 10, October 31, November 21, November 28. For more information contact Maggie Roberson at 706-327-4343 or [maggie@stlukeum.com](mailto:maggie@stlukeum.com).

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## Prayer Calendars

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

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Do you love working with children?

Join Our Ministry!

We Are Hiring @ St. Luke Early Learning Center!

Call 706-322-2703

Send resume to [scarr@stlukeum.com](mailto:scarr@stlukeum.com)

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## 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!
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# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

[mhubbard@stlukeum.com](mailto:mhubbard@stlukeum.com) [www.cornerkidz.com](http://www.cornerkidz.com)

Nursery services will reopen on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> for our infant through PK4 children with limited capacity. Reservations are required and walk-ups will not be accepted at this time. Additionally, we are asking that if your family utilizes St. Luke nursery services, that parents consider volunteering to assist in your child's classroom. Volunteer dates are available on the nursery reservation form which can be found at [www.cornerkidz.com](http://www.cornerkidz.com). PLEASE NOTE that at this time, the nursery is only available during the Nine and 11 o'clock services.

Save the Date!!! Children's Ministry is elated to announce IN PERSON Preschool Camp and VBS the week of June 21<sup>st</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>. Space is limited so registration will be required. Look for more info on cost, times, registration and volunteer opportunities in the next few weeks!

Calling all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders! Join us on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm for a movie night in the Ministry Center. We will enjoy popcorn and snacks while we watch The Prince Of Egypt. Please email me at [mhubbard@stlukeum.com](mailto:mhubbard@stlukeum.com) to RSVP.

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**Children's Ministry is hiring a nursery coordinator.** The nursery coordinator supervises and coordinates staffing, volunteers, programming and curriculum for all nursery services at St Luke UMC in partnership with the Children's Ministry Director. If interested, please contact Michelle Hubbard at [mhubbard@stlukeum.com](mailto:mhubbard@stlukeum.com).

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## MILITARY MINISTRY

Men: Join us at Lakebottom Park at 5:15am Tu/Th and 6:00am Sat for F3: Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith. Contact Tony Mayne for details at [tony@gallantfew.org](mailto:tony@gallantfew.org) and check out the F3 Nation website at [www.f3nation.com](http://www.f3nation.com).



## 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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## 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](mailto:renee@stlukeum.com) or Brett Maddocks at [bmaddocks@stlukeum.com](mailto: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.*

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## 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](mailto:maggie@stlukeum.com).

**Soullight Foundation:** In memory of Mr. Larry Caddell by Mr. David Cripe, Mrs. Debbie Hamilton, The Britt David Magnet Academy Teachers, Ms. Shea Lendblad, and Mr. John F. Sigman.

**Food Pantry:** In memory of Mr. Matthew Clegg by Mr. and Mrs. Rand Albrecht. In memory of Mrs. Erin Knight and Mr. John D. Cartledge by Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Fay.

**General Fund:** In memory of Mr. Larry Caddell by Mr. and Mrs. Ron Ward.

**Samaritan Fund:** In memory of Mrs. Jeannette Schorr by the neighbors on Wells Drive.

**Music Fund:** In honor of The Chancel Choir and Dr. Marc Boensel by Mrs. Joan Dickson.

## OUR PHONE NUMBERS

Church Office, 706-327-4343 • Preschool, 706-327-4343

St. Luke School, 706-256-1301 • Early Learning Center, 706-322-2703

Ministry Center, 706-256-1017



THE CORNER

Jonathan and Lisa Moore, Directors of Student Ministries, [jmoore@stlukeum.com](mailto:jmoore@stlukeum.com)



<b>HELP WANTED!</b>	
<b>WHO:</b>	SMALL GROUP LEADERS & ADULT VOLUNTEERS
<b>WHEN:</b>	SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH SERVICES
<b>WHERE:</b>	ST. LUKE MINISTRY CENTER
<b>CONTACT:</b> <a href="mailto:jmoore@stlukeum.com">jmoore@stlukeum.com</a> <a href="mailto:pstanley@stlukeum.com">pstanley@stlukeum.com</a> <a href="mailto:mallorywood@stlukeum.com">mallorywood@stlukeum.com</a>	



## SOULED OUT SUMMER 2021!!!

Come spend one **LIFE-CHANGING** week at the beach with us! Protocol will be in place to make sure this will be a safe and incredible opportunity to grow in your faith with your Corner/Crosswalk family.

\$339 for the week. Mark June 7-11 on your calendars!!

Sign-ups online **NOW!!!** [www.thecornerstudents.com](http://www.thecornerstudents.com)

# 2021 SENIORS

## HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

Senior Sunday is around the corner and we can't wait to celebrate all of your accomplishments!

We look forward to seeing you May 2nd!!

Senior Sermons (featuring high school seniors from our Synthesis Leadership Team) continue **THIS SUNDAY!** See you for our Middle School and High School **COMBINED SERVICE** from 5pm-7pm. **SEE YOU TONIGHT!**

**MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AND HIGH SCHOOLERS - SAVE THE DATE**

**"LIFE NIGHTS" COMING APRIL 25!!** More info to come – **GET EXCITED!**