

September Disciples in Action

3rd – 13th Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Reader: Wayne Mills
Flowers: Teresa Misenheimer

10th – 14th Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Reader: Kyle Manus
Flowers: Teresa Misenheimer
Communion Assistant: Mary Manus
Communion Prep: Mary Manus

17th - 15th Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Reader: Cindy Misenheimer
Flowers: Teresa Misenheimer

24th – 16th Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Reader: Libby Palmer
Flowers: Teresa Misenheimer

Lawn Care: Kyle Manus
Fold Bulletins: Mary Manus & Brad Cress
ALTAR GUILD: Angie Lefler, Ruby Poplin,
Bonnie Smith, Carolyn Thompson

111 E. Church Street
PO Box 86
Richfield, NC 28137
Church - 463-7280

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church

September 2017 – Glad Tidings

To submit articles to the newsletter contact Pastor Ruth Ann or Chrissy Chandler or leave them in the mailbox outside the Pastor's office. All submissions must be in by the Friday before the last Sunday of the month.

- SCCM item for SEPTEMBER: BREAKFAST ITEMS
– cereal, oatmeal, grits, breakfast bars, fruit cups

ANNIVERSARIES:

2 – Mike & Gina Vanderflute – 12
17 – Tommy & Lisa Roseman – 23
28 – Bryan & Michelle Smith – 26

BIRTHDAYS:

8 – Carrie Barbee
9 – Darnell Barbee
10- Deb Hearne
11 – Stacy Almond
Pat Ritchie
Jordan Smith
Mickey Smith
12 – Jenny Misenheimer
16 – Adam Troutman
21 – Cooper Russell
24 – Mike Misenheimer
26 – Linda Casper
Angie Robertson
27 – Uriah Lefler

Thank You:

- + to **Rich Cosgrove and Rick Gordon** who are continuing to upgrade and replace our lighting.
- + to **Kay Cosgrove and Angie Lefler** who recently led **Midweek Prayer**.
- + to **everyone** who helped with our recent **Give & Take Event**.
- + to **Brad Cress and Pastor Ray Sipe** for repairing our carillon.
- + to **everyone** who volunteered at the **Stanly Community Christian Ministry / Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry** on August 31. Nearly 40 volunteers from 8 local churches worked together to distribute food to over 150 families!

Congratulations...

- + to **Rev. Maurice Staley on his 90th birthday!**
- + to **Peter and Elizabeth Hall Chamis** on the birth of their son, Alexander Mathias Chamis on August 30. "Xander" was 6 lbs. 14 oz. and 19 inches long.

Do you know someone we should thank, congratulate, or offer our sympathy?

Please tell Chrissy Chandler or Pastor Ruth Ann, because we don't want to overlook anyone!



You are invited to a Bridal Shower for Mary Manus on Saturday, September 23 in the church fellowship hall. It is a drop-in from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., given by friends.

Council Highlights:

During the regular August meeting, the congregation council:

- + Approved minutes from the July council meeting
- + Received the treasurer's report for July.
- + Received the pastor's report including prayer concerns, thank you notes, and upcoming events.
- + Reviewed the proposed calendar for September and approved building use requests.
- + Discussed plans for several upcoming events, including God's Work Our Hands Day at Trinity Place on September 9, dinner for the NSHS football team on September 15, and a joint Reformation 500 service on October 29.
- + Received an update on the most recent yoking meeting and discussed questions about worship time raised in the recent congregational meeting.
- + Discussed ongoing projects.

Financial Update for July 2017:

Annual Budget	\$ 112,300.00
June Regular Giving	8,309.24
June Actual Expenses	<u>(7,558.36)</u>
	\$ 750.88
YTD Deficit	\$ (3,224.33)

Mt. Zion Disciples in Action BINGO

In observance of Labor Day and celebration of God's Work Our Hands, there is a special activity sheet included in this newsletter. Do you know the Disciples in Action who do some of these special labors of faith in our congregation? *Put a DIFFERENT name in each space to complete a row either up and down, across, or diagonally.* The first person to return a BINGO with correct answers to Pastor Ruth Ann will receive a prize. There will also be a special prize for anyone who can correctly fill in the entire page!

Other Updates:

We will receive a special **Second Sunday Offering** on September 10th for the Building Fund.

Please give information for the October Glad Tidings newsletter to Chrissy Chandler or Pastor Ruth Ann by Friday, September 29th.

Kids Celebrate children's bulletins, **ELCA Prayer Ventures** for September, and **Christ in Our Home** devotionals for July, August, and September are all available in the narthex.

There are several extra **Reformation 500** items from VBS in the front pew. If you haven't already received a bookmark or do not have a copy of **Luther's Small Catechism**, *please pick one up!* Also, if you attended VBS, *please see Pastor Ruth Ann for your very own Luther Rose window cling!*

You may have been reading the "I'm a Lutheran" columns in recent editions of **Living Lutheran**. Have you filled out your very own "I'm a Lutheran" form? Everyone is encouraged to spend some time with the prompts that are used for those articles and share their own story about being Lutheran. *Pick up a form in the front pew and return completed forms to Pastor Ruth Ann.*

Would you like to learn more about the Reformation? We have copies of two different books that you can borrow now: **Daughter of the Reformation**, by Mary Rasmussen Jackson, about the life of Katie Luther and her marriage to Martin Luther, and **October 31, 1517 Martin Luther and the Day that Changed the World**, by Martin Marty. *Talk with Pastor Ruth Ann if you would like to read either - or both - of these!* Also, look for more information coming soon on a new movie about Martin Luther and the Reformation and a local Reformation book fair!

*If you would like to join others across the ELCA in daily prayer for specific concerns, including missionaries and other ministries of the church, pick up a copy of the September **Prayer Ventures** in the narthex.*

September Events:

Members of Mt. Zion will provide the evening meal for **Community Inn** on September 3.

Midweek Prayer begins each Wednesday at noon. We gather to pray for all those on our prayer list and everyone in the congregation by name. *Even if you can't be here, please join us in prayer at 12:12 p.m.*, remembering Romans 12:12: Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.



Come be a part of our God's Work Our Hands Day at Trinity Place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 9! We will begin the morning with some outdoor chores and visits, prepare lunch, and enjoy music with the residents and staff. We will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch. *Please come prepared (with your own work gloves, clippers, or rakes) to help fill bird feeders, trim bushes, and spread mulch or plan to visit with residents during the morning.*

Congregation council will meet on Sunday, September 10. A light breakfast begins at 7:00 a.m. The meeting follows at 7:30 a.m.

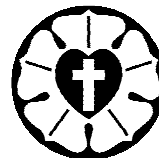
The annual **Sunday School Breakfast** will be Sunday, September 10 at 9:15 a.m. *Please plan to be here for this special event!* Everyone is asked to bring a breakfast item (like casseroles, biscuits, donuts, fruit, juice, or milk) to share.

Women of the ELCA will meet Monday, September 11 at 7:30 p.m.



Choir will rehearse the second and fourth Wednesday nights (September 13 and 27) at 6:00 p.m. *Look for more information on **handbell practice** coming soon.*

Mt. Zion will be hosting a **Pre-Game Dinner** for the North Stanly High School football team on Friday, September 15. *Please talk with Chrissy Chandler if you can help cook, serve, or clean-up!*



Our weekly Ever Reforming Bible Study will resume this month. We meet on Tuesday evenings (September 19 and 26) at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday afternoons (September 20 and 27) following Midweek Prayer.



New on the Bulletin Board:

- + A letter of invitation from St. John's Lutheran Church in Salisbury for **Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony** and flyers for **In God's Own Country**.



There are several special events planned here in North Carolina to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Here are just a few:

A **capstone worship** will be held on Saturday, September 23, at 2:00 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton preaching.

The Salisbury Symphony and Symphony Chorale will be performing Mendelssohn's **Reformation Symphony** in the sanctuary of St. John's Lutheran Church in Salisbury on Saturday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available from www.stjohns-salisbury.org and www.salisburysymphony.org.

In God's Own Country, an international theater production celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation will be presented by the Piedmont Players at the Meroney Theatre in Salisbury on October 12-15 and 18-21. *For more information, call 704/633-5471 or visit piedmontplayers.com.*

An **ecumenical opportunity** for worship will be held Friday, October 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Chapel Hill.

For more information on events for Reformation 500, visit: <https://nclutheran.org/reformation-500/>

God's Work Our Hands Update

As always, there are many ways we can serve our own congregation and the community beyond our walls! Special events this month include **God's Work Our Hands Day of Service** at Trinity Place on Saturday, September 9. We will also be hosting a pre-game dinner for the North Stanly High School Football team on Friday, September 15. More information on both is available on the September events page.

NOTE: Please DO NOT bring any items for Give & Take events at this time. Large items may be placed in the storage building; but please keep smaller items at home for now. We need to keep that room cleared out for the next couple of months.



Information on how you can help support Kairos Prison Ministry, especially Kairos #9 at Southern Correctional Institution in Troy on September 14-17,

is available in the front pew. *Please sign up if you are willing to pray for the weekend, or talk with Pastor Ruth Ann about helping bake cookies (the cookie dough is in the kitchen), writing notes, or providing meals for the inmates attending the weekend.*

One of the best ways to help those impacted by Hurricane Harvey is by donating to Lutheran Disaster Response! Because LDR is supported by the ELCA, 100% of your donation will go directly to disaster response. *Simply place your donation in a special offering envelope marked Hurricane Harvey to donate through Mt. Zion.*

NOTE: Thrivent members may receive matching money for your donation if you give through Thrivent, rather than Mt. Zion. Visit www.thrivent.com for more information.



The North Carolina Leadership School is a new program of our synod, intended to equip lay leaders. This fall, the course **Understanding and Using Our Leadership Gifts**, is being offered on Thursday evenings, beginning September 21. It will be hosted at Christ Lutheran in Charlotte and live-streamed to a number of locations, including St. Martin's/ Albemarle and St. John's/Salisbury. Please visit <https://nclutheran.org/leaders/leadership-school/#register> or talk with Pastor Ruth Ann for more information.

FROM THE MAILBOX



Thank you so much for sharing VBS with St. Martin Lutheran Church in Concord. Jerry, Chad, and I greatly enjoyed the experience. We learned a lot, enjoyed the fellowship, and feel enriched. You are blessed with a beautiful church and a dear, sweet church family.

Again, thank you!
Doreen (Dodi) Shoe

Dear Friends, Mt. Zion Sunday School Class,
Thanks so very much for remembering me often with a beautiful greeting card! Your names are with so many years of sharing ministry together! Remembrance is so welcomed in times of special care in older age. I will be 90 September 4! I trust all are having the best of Christian life!

Gratefully,
Pastor Staley



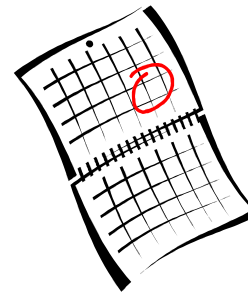
Ask the Pastor will return.

*Please share your questions
with Pastor Ruth Ann
so they can be answered here.*

Yearbook Update

Please update Sherry Donaldson's mailing address to:
P.O. Box 1131
Fort Mill, SC 29716.

Coming Events – **Mark your calendar now!**



*Make plans now to attend our annual
Homecoming celebration on October 15!*

The transitional parish council is also planning special joint **Reformation 500 Service** for us on Sunday evening, October 29! *Please mark your calendars now and look for more information coming soon!*

From the Pastor:

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:14-16

The first-ever **ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering** (RMG) in Atlanta in August was an incredible continuing education opportunity. The days – and evenings – were filled with worship, bible study, inspirational speakers, workshops, and field trips. I was also able to connect with colleagues from across our church: friends from seminary who have since scattered across the country; those I have known here in North Carolina; and ones I met for the very first time.

I did not come back well-rested, but I did come back encouraged and renewed for ministry!

One thing that I heard, which I have already shared with the congregation council, is this description of church vitality, which was clearly considered in the planning for this event for church leaders. It was paired with the scripture text printed above.

Vital Congregations do these 3 things:

1. Strengthen their relationship with God
2. Nurture relationships
3. Have a strong presence in their community

Notice there is no mention of the usual statistics: neither the number of people attending worship nor the dollars in the budget. Instead, we are reminded that what is central to our ministry is relationships: our relationship with God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; our relationships with each other within the congregation; and our relationship with the community outside our doors.

From the Pastor (continued)

In another meeting recently, I heard someone describe their congregation as being ‘turned in on itself.’ That turning in on ourselves is the exact definition of sin, which separates us from God and from others.

Sometimes we need to be reminded that our main purpose as a congregation is not to focus on attendance statistics or count the cost of what we do, but to shine brightly, so that others may see God at work in our lives.

I rejoice that our calendar is filled with worship and study opportunities, so that each of us can strengthen our relationships with God. It also contains fellowship events and times for conversation, so that we can nurture relationships. And with events like the **God's Work Our Hands** Day of Service, **Kairos #9**, and the dinner for the North Stanly High School football team, we certainly have a strong presence in our community.

Whether you knew it before or not, you are part of a Vital Congregation! I encourage you to participate in as many of these activities as you can – in order to strengthen your relationship with God and with each other, and to help us shine God's light in the community, so that others may come to know God's love.

Blessings,
+ Pastor Ruth Ann

p.s. We've nearly reached the last of our lessons in Genesis and will soon be moving into Exodus! I hope you have been reading along with us to fill in the gaps between the passages we are reading in worship. Here is a list of the Old Testament lessons and psalms we will be reading and discussing in the coming weeks:

Sept 10	Exodus 1:8 - 2:10	Psalm 124
Sept 17	Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26
Sept 24	Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 149
Oct 1	Exodus 14:19-31	Psalm 114

Mt. Zion *Disciples in Action* BINGO

Has been to the top of the bell tower	Attends Bible Study	Helped with a Mobile Food Pantry	Has cooked or served a meal at church	Cleans the Church
Teaches Adult Sunday School	Serves on Altar Guild	Sings in the Choir	Is a Trust Fund Trustee	Prepares Communion
Mows the lawn	Serves as a Teller	GRACE SPACE	Has helped with a Church Workday	Reads lessons during worship
Plays in Monk's Band	Teaches Children's Sunday School	Has knit or crocheted a Prayer Shawl or other item to donate	Serves as an Acolyte or Usher	Has worked in the Attic or Crawlspace or up on a ladder
Serves on Congregational Council	Folds Bulletins	Assists with Communion	Has lead Midweek Prayer	Edits the Glad Tidings

How many do you know? Put a *DIFFERENT* name in each space to complete a row either up and down, across, or diagonally.

The first person to return a BINGO to Pastor Ruth Ann will receive a prize.

There will also be a special prize for anyone who can fill in the ENTIRE board!

Mt. Zion Lutheran

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Next Backpack Buddies delivery is October 27					1 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours	2
3 13th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service 6:30 pm Community Inn Meal	4 Labor Day	5 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	6 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer	7	8 12:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours	9 9:00 am God's Work Our Hands Day of Service
10 14th Sunday after Pentecost 7:00 am Council Breakfast 7:30 am Council Meeting 9:15 am Sunday School Breakfast 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Second Sunday Building Fund Offering	11 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 7:30 pm WELCA	12 Outside Office Hours	13 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer 6:00 pm Choir	14 ~ ~ Pastor Ruth	15 4:30 pm North Stanly HS Football Dinner Ann at Kairos (SCI/Troy)	16 thru Sunday ~ ~
17 15th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	18 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	19 Outside Office Hours 7:00 pm Bible Study	20 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer 1:00 pm Bible Study	21	22 12:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours	23 2:00 pm Bridal Shower
24 16th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	25 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	26 Outside Office Hours 7:00 pm Bible Study	27 10:00 am Pastor's Office Hours 12:00 noon Midweek Prayer 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Civitans Board Mtg	28 ~ ~ Pastor	29 12:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours October Newsletter Information Due Ruth Ann on vacation	30 Fellowship Hall Reserved thru Saturday ~