

## Miller's Mike SEPTEMBER 2020



Brothers and sisters in Christ: grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

I don't know about y'all, but the passage of time has been exceedingly strange during this pandemic lockdown. Some days seem to pass incredibly slowly, while other times, I blink and an entire week is gone. It's really quite strange. This is part of the reason that I've been trying to keep certain things constant and consistent. It's why I wanted to keep the church office open during the week. It's part of why I'm still doing daily videos for Matins (morning prayer). I want us as a church family to remain grounded and focused on God's Word. I wanted our church family to be able to see the church as a constant amid all this chaos.

And there is indeed chaos. I think we're somewhat removed from it in this part of the country, but I would caution all of us to not be overly confident that the chaos will miss us. I'm not trying to stir up fear; I just don't want to go too far to the other extreme, either. I think we need to be cautious and observant. And I'm not talking about the virus.

As I watch the happenings in our country, I'm rather concerned about some of the things I'm seeing unfold on the national stage. Politics have been nasty for quite some time, but have become particularly reprehensible in the last, well, almost 4 years. Regardless of how you feel about our current president, I hope we can all admit that the politics during his administration have gone from merely adversarial to uncivilized, dishonest, and often repulsive. And what bothers me the most about that is that I see Christians jumping in feet-first on both sides, participating in the mud-slinging and the vitriol with great passion. The words that come out of these Christians are decidedly un-Christian when they participate in this diatribe.

In Ephesians chapter 4, Paul offers us some helpful wisdom here:

*<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (NIV)*

### **(Pastor's Message Continued)**

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. EVERY form of malice. Remember: malice is the intention or desire to do evil, to have ill will toward someone. Get rid of it. It has no place in the kingdom of God. It has no place in the heart of a Christian. If you cannot get rid of your bitterness, rage, or anger, then please acknowledge that you need help and find some.

Jesus Christ came for our redemption, yes. But more than that, he came for our reconciliation. He came to reconcile us to God \*and\* to each other. If you look around, we're not seeing reconciliation; we're seeing division and enmity. It is exactly the opposite of what Christ's work was and is for. Ask yourself: who is it that works for the opposite of Christ's goals? Who is it that works to undo what Christ has done? Once you answer that question, then ask yourself this: do you really want to participate in THAT?

If we, as Christians, are going to have a positive impact on the community, state, nation, and world around us, then we must represent Christ and no one else. We must be his ambassadors and exemplify his work and his mission - redemption and reconciliation. This does not mean be soft or be a pushover. But read that passage from Ephesians 4 again. We can be kind without being soft. We can be strong without being bitter. If you want to see how to do that, look to Jesus for your example.

Let's all take some extra time to pray for each other. There are precious few weeks until the 2020 election. I'm afraid that the chaos is only going to get worse as we get closer. Prayer is our best weapon against that chaos. Prayer is powerful. I will be looking for more ways that we can pray together, so if you have ideas, please let me know!

May the peace of God which passes ALL understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Todd





# BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Name	Date
Bob Pihl	9/2
Gary Hefner	9/3
Veda Hoyle	9/3
Ann Sipe	9/4
Kyle Stephens	9/4
Henry Mull	9/4
Shelia Davis	9/8
Mary Deal	9/9
Delores Propst	9/11
Mary Parkhurst	9/13
Doris Mosteller	9/14
Marilyn Miller	9/16
Robin Miller	9/17
Derek Huffman	9/17
Tammy Shook	9/18
Bonnie Bell	9/19
Dot Killian	9/19
Susan Pihl	9/22
John Cook	9/22
Sophie Crist	9/27
Kristen Wolfe	9/30

*Happy Anniversary*



Donna & Tim Hollar (48)	9/02
Ann & Wayne Sipe (66)	9/04
Monica & Ty Shillito (25)	9/09
Gloria & John Moore (52)	9/14
Sharon & Phil Mull (48)	9/23



Remember to Pray For Our Members Away From Home	
Frances Stone	Room 906 Trinity Village, 1265 21 <sup>st</sup> St. NE Hickory, NC 28601
Karen Teed	P O Box 208 Taylorsville, NC 28681

Remember to Pray For Our Friends and Neighbors	
Faith Tucker	Friend of Mandi Sigmon
Jackson Frunzi	Friend of Ann Sigmon
Bennett Frunzi	Friend of Ann Sigmon
Brad Cook	Todd Cook's brother
Doris Dameron	Gloria Moore's sister
Tammy Yancy	Gloria Moore's niece
Roger Moore	John Moore's brother
Caitlan Reese	John Cook's Teacher
Patrick DeMauro	Bob & Susan Pihl's Son-in-Law
Lisa Hawn	Carolyn Killian's Daughter-in-Law
Todd Propst	Jane Isenhour & Ann Sigmon's Cousin
Daxtin Hughes	Friend of Jan Miller
Robert Burgess	Alan Burgess' father
Todd Punch	Susie Punch's son
Deena Gamble	Wendy Cook's sister
Nylah & Brittany Simone	Wendy Cook's friend
Thomas Costner	Brother of Faye Bolick
Kathy Kirby	Alice Kirby's Sister-in-Law
Rex Phillips	Gloria Moore's Aunt
Jerry Barger	Friend of Ann Ward
Joe Christopher	Sue Hillier's Brother-in-Law

Remember to Pray For Our Members (At Home)

Wayne Craig, Dorothy Gragg, Ken Hollar, Tim Hollar,  
Nancy Holmes, Dot Killian, Doris Mosteller, LaRue Murphy,  
Dale Sigmon, Neil Sigmon, Donna Shook and  
Greyson Stephens.

Remember to Pray For Our Members Of The Military

SP4 Colby Brotherton (ARMY), SSG Brandon Davis (ARMY),  
SGT Jordon Tooman (USMC), Amn Owen Tooman (USAF),  
SP4 Evan Short (ARMY)

Upon request, names are added to the prayer list for four weeks, unless otherwise indicated or updated.

**Friday Dinner Fellowship**—So sorry to say we will not try to meet in September. This group has been active in our church for over 30 years and I hope we can continue but until it is safer to gather, we will not be meeting. I miss seeing everyone but since we are in high risk group I feel this is best. I hope all are safe and healthy.

Love, Alice Kirby

**Note from Parish Ed-** Due to all the heavy rains that we recently experienced, the storage closet under the stairwell had extensive damage. Unfortunately several items had to be thrown away. We are still in the process of cleaning mold and mildew from this closet, so we can continue to use it safely. On a happy note, thanks to Thrivent monies, we were able to put together and send Back to School kits to 22 of our church children. Special thanks to Lori Wilcox and Sharon Mull for all their help.



**NALC Disaster Fund**

We plan to continue our flood bucket efforts as long as the need exists.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**September 13th, 2020** we will be celebrating Miller’s Lutheran Church’s 180th Anniversary! More details to come and you won’t want to miss this special day.

## **Miller's Lutheran Church**

Council Minutes

August 10th, 2020 7:00PM

via Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Mandi Sigmon, Teresa Yoder, Bob Krogman, Jennifer Short, Paula Harris, Sharon Mull, Lori Wilcox, Holly Bennett, Doug Yoder, Pastor Todd Cook, Wayne Craig, Jan Miller

**Not Present:** Holly Bennett

Opened with Prayer from the Pastor

Trail life Brett Stewart presented some more information and we decided that we would like to attend a meeting to see how they operate.

Tony Crump wants to participate in Police Appreciation Day maybe a breakfast on a Saturday or Sunday. He would take the lead, no date in mind. Could possibly be a Thrivent project for October? Council will discuss and get back to Tony.

Minutes for July were discussed- Shawna made a motion to accept minutes and Bob seconded.

**Treasurer's report:** Discussed- Jan made a motion to accept and Teresa seconded the motion.

**Property:** Light bulbs are out and Bob will be taking care of replacing them. Bee nests were removed and tree was down and removed.

**Evangelism:** No Report

**Fellowship:** Homecoming Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> catering instead of covered dish. Church will pay for catering. Will ask for a freewill offering. Considering sending RSVP. May look into selling Millers Lutheran shirts as a fundraiser during the Homecoming dinner. Chicken Pie, Slaw, green beans for the meal.

**Finance report:** No Report (will be working on the budget soon)

**Parish Ed:** Thanks to Thrivent money, Lori, Sharon and Jan put together 20 back to school kits for our Sunday school kiddos. They were mailed 8/10/2020. Huge Thank you to Lori and Sharon for what they continue to do for the kids.

**Human Concerns:** Videos, Dot Craig and Mariliyn Miller do not have DVD players. Church will provide them one. Karen Teed has no way of watching a video.

**Stewardship:** July noisy offering \$72.55. Would like to start a Dave Ramsey class later.

**Worship and Music:** They will help with Homecoming and getting Bishop Dan a gift.

Activities at the Church will be postponed until Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor asked for the email and domain to be changed. Shawna made a motion and Teresa seconded the motion.

**Nomination committee:** Kyle Huffman, Carol Crouch (checking to see who else in on committee)

Online donations: Tabled till a later date.

Volunteer Training: Pastor will be leading a class in the future.

### **Old Business**

Dumpster letter has been sent out.

### **New Business**

Finance budget still on track.

Mildew in the Parish Hall, need to run the air to fight against that.

Need to check on the humidity in the Sanctuary.

Trail Life: Bob made a motion to visit a meeting and then discuss further. Shawna seconded the motion.

Discussed Tony Crump's suggestion for the appreciation meal for First Responders. Lori made motion to proceed and Bob seconded.

Shawna made a motion to adjourn meeting, Wayne seconded and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## Pastor Todd's Report to Council for July 2020

Worship Services	3
Miller's Sundays	3
Online worship (not Sunday)	22
Funeral/Graveside services	2
Committees Met	1
Clergy Meetings (these are starting back up!)	1

Activity:

### **Old Business**

**2019 yearbook & directory** - Still missing quite a few committee reports. Let's commit to finalizing this by the end of August, so we can begin preparing for next year's yearbook.

**Back to one service** - Our average attendance for July was 49.5. I think the move to one service is working. I've had no feedback otherwise, but I'm still open to suggestions and feedback.

**Reopening for other activities** - Time for our monthly assessment - What's our criteria for allowing other activities to start up again?

**Confirmation mini-Camp** - July 21-23 I took some of our Confirmation students to the Lake House along with Pr. Roger Hull (Atonement LC in Wilkesboro) and 3 of his students. We reviewed the "Big 3" from the Small Catechism: 10 Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed. It went even better than we expected. Thanks to all who supported this (especially Property Committee for prepping the yard & house)!

**Miller's 180th anniversary** - I received an email from the NALC staff that Bishop Dan \*is\* planning to join us, as of July 29. I've contacted several of our former pastors, so far Pr. Woodard and Pr. Kanupp said they would like to join us. Who is on the team to plan this?

**Sound system** - I need the team to meet and let me know when that is going to be. I have some info & insight I'd like to share with this team.



**New email addresses:** Are there any changes to what I suggested for email addresses before we implement? We didn't vote on this last month; as it's a fairly significant change, we should do that.

**Door switch** - we have a new bid for installing a remote door switch for the secretary. I'd like to suggest we go ahead and do this.

**Daily videos** - While I took one week off of these for my vacation, I resumed immediately upon return, and will continue to do these daily for the foreseeable future.

**Constitution Revision** Team/ Committee - when this team is ready to meet, please let me know so I can pass along my notes. It would be best if we could get at least a couple of the more important changes on the agenda for our November Congregational Meeting.

## **New Business**

**Visits** - I am still not comfortable with doing in-home visits, but I want to continue to offer for people to come to the church for private meetings, as I did last month. I've also done Holy Communion for one couple privately. I will gladly do this for anyone who requests it.

**Network upgrade** - Shawn Sigmon has put together an equipment list that he needs to be able to upgrade our network, provide better wifi in the sanctuary, but also to the parish hall, and will allow for us to install networked cameras on the outside of our building. This initial plan puts one camera at the door (to go with the intercom and the door switch). These are the first steps we need to take toward making our building more secure (which is long overdue).

**Nominating Committee** - where do we stand? If we don't have some names already for the positions that need to be filled, we're behind the curve.

**Congregational Annual Meeting** - All committee chairs, please look at your committee responsibilities and see what you need to have completed by the annual meeting. That's only 3 Council meetings away!

**Electronic/Online Giving** - Have any Council members received feedback on this? Last month I recommended we seek input and come to a decision during the August Council meeting.

**Volunteer training** - I am going to start scheduling gatherings of those who fill different roles on Sunday mornings (acolytes, worship assistants, altar guild, etc.), just to get all teams on the same page. Will put these on the monthly calendar. Please support these when they occur.

**Carolinas Mission District Convocation** - I was asked to host this Zoom meeting on Aug 6. It went well. I'll give a full report next month. The big item on the agenda was restructuring. Miller's is now part of the Catawba Valley Mission District, which is part of the Carolinas Mission Region. Our Mission District Dean is still Pr. Nathan Yoder. More next month.

**NALC Online Convocation** - Doug & I were scheduled to "attend" this on Aug 7 & 8. I'll give a full report on this next month.

Given everything that's going on with Property Committee right now, it's clear that we need to start seriously thinking about long-term planning. All committees, please build your **wish lists** so that we can review them as a council and build a prioritized list of everything. Did we set a due date for this?

Reminder: our constitution calls for each standing committee to meet at least quarterly. I can set up a Zoom meeting for any committee that wants to use that instead of meeting in person; I just need a few days' notice to get it scheduled.

Please contact me directly if there are any questions about this report.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Todd

**Nominating Committee** - the Nominating Committee needs our help. There are several positions on our Church Council that are currently being served by members who have reached their term limits. This means they must step down from Council for a while. The Council is our governing body; they make the decisions that guide our ministries, our vision, and the actions we take to set and reach our goals. The church cannot function properly without a full Council. We are currently operating with one empty Council seat. If you are not currently serving on Council, we ask you to please pray about this, and whether God is calling you to serve your congregation as a Council member. If you have questions or would like to know more, please see Pr. Todd or any member of Council. And please remember: God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called!

<b>SEPTEMBER 2020 VOLUNTEERS</b>	
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Wendy Crump & Sherry Rhoney
<b>SOUND TECH</b>	Tony Crump
<b>USHER CHAIRMAN</b>	Rick Deyton
<b>USHERS/SECURITY</b>	Howard Abernethy, Dane Hoyle & Shawn Sigmon

<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANT</b>	
9/6	Beth Hefner
9/13	Scott Shook
9/20	Hannah Shook
9/27	Jan Miller

<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	
9/6	Gary Hefner



9/6	John Cook
9/13	Ross Cook
9/20	Jaylen Pless
9/27	Veda Hoyle

### **NOISY OFFERING REMINDER**

"NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY", is the last Sunday of each month. Remember to save up your spare change and fill your pockets on **SEPTEMBER 27th**. Thank you everyone for your continued support and generosity. We appreciate everyone's contributions! If you have an idea of how we can use this offering to benefit our community, please contact Stewardship Committee, Teresa Yoder.



### THE NALC IS PRO-LIFE

Each year the NALC has a Life Conference near Washington D.C. before the Annual March For Life in Washington. We are encouraged to be Pro-Life Christians. You can be a Pro-Life Christian by doing the following;

1. **PRAYING** fervently for a reawakening to the sanctity of every human life.
  2. **SUPPORTING** both women and men facing unexpected pregnancies and their babies through the health-affirming work of pro-life pregnancy resource centers.
  3. **ENCOURAGING** leaders in your, community and nation to embrace and promote pro-life values.
- SHARING** your pro-life values with family, friends, and neighbors with grace and conviction.

Abortion has devastated the hearts and homes of women, men and families — and ended the lives of tens of millions of preborn babies, all of whom were made in the image of God. We cannot let this continue. We are compelled to help the world *see life* clearly, to stand and speak up on behalf of preborn human life, to provide care for women and men facing unexpected pregnancies, and to call for an end to abortion.

You can see Life 2020, an online event that will expose the lies and pain of abortion and celebrate the miraculous wonder of life. Watch and share the digital premiere that includes powerful Pro-Life stories of hope, compelling Christian commentary, and soul-stirring music. PLUS a 4D Ultra Sound of a baby, offering a window into the reality of life in the womb. It is on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm. Text 'heartbeat' to 72000 or go to [FocusOnTheFamily.com/SeeLife](http://FocusOnTheFamily.com/SeeLife).

### Lunch on Homecoming



Lunch will be catered on homecoming Sunday, September 13th. Tickets will be sold at \$5 per person. Please see Lori Wilcox to purchase your ticket or come by the church office by Sept 6th so we will have an accurate head count to give the caterers.

**Miller's Lutheran Online Store**— we now have an online store for apparel and accessories. Check out the website below. Purchases can be mailed directly to you, picked up at the store or the church. Great way to show off our church!

[www.millerslutheranapparel.itemorder.com/sale](http://www.millerslutheranapparel.itemorder.com/sale)