

Miller's Mike October 2020



Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have to take a moment to talk about the subject none of us wants to talk about: the wear of masks, particularly in church. I know we have a variety of opinions about wearing masks during this pandemic. Again, I'm not a medical person, so I don't have expertise here.

However, I'm afraid that we've become a bit too lax, and I think we can find some common ground where all of us can agree. The masks we wear are not to protect ourselves; that is not the purpose of wearing cloth masks. These masks cannot provide that level of protection. We wear masks to protect those around us, particularly those who are most vulnerable (anyone with serious underlying medical conditions, or have compromised immune systems, or are very young or very old). I hope that all of us would agree that nobody wants to get someone else sick. So while we are thinking about masks, please think of it in terms of loving your neighbor.

If we read Governor Cooper's most current Executive Order (#163), we find this language: "...guidance from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ('NCDHHS') strongly recommends that all individuals wear a cloth Face Covering when they may be less than six (6) feet from other people..." (EO 163, 9/4/2020, page 2)

Our Lutheran tradition and the Christian faith tells us that God has given authority to the government, and it is appropriate for us to be law-abiding citizens. To that end, I suggest that we continue to follow these guidelines, similar to what is expected of us when eating at a restaurant:

- * wear a mask when entering the church building and keep it on until we find our seat
- * find a seat that allows you and your household to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others
- * remove the mask only when seated and properly distanced from those not in your household
- * put your mask back on whenever you leave your seat, or to depart from the building
- * when coming up for Communion, either keep your mask on, or stay 6 feet from others, or both.

I continue to believe that these conditions are temporary, and I look forward to the day when we will return to shaking hands, hugging, and not wearing masks. Unfortunately,

(Pastor's Message Continued)

we're just not there yet. So until then, I hope you will join me in a bit of caution for a while longer, as we demonstrate our agape or "self-emptying" and Christ-like love for our neighbors.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about this.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Todd



Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am troubled. We are quickly approaching our annual congregational meeting, and we have seats on the Church Council that will be vacated this year and therefore must be filled.

³⁷ Then [Jesus] said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." (Matthew 9:37)

Unfortunately, our efforts to find volunteers to fill these vacancies have come up empty. This is not a good sign.

⁸ This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. (Titus 3:8)

My fear is that this is a reflection of our values as a church family. What is important to us? How are we to do the work of God's Kingdom if there is no one willing to give their time and God-given gifts to do this work?

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)

This is part of our call to stewardship. We are stewards not just of earthly goods; we are stewards of the gifts God has given us, and as St. Peter reminds us, we are stewards of God's grace. How are we to use His gifts and His grace? I would ask all of you to pray about this in the coming days and weeks, and listen for God's call in your life as it relates to the life of the church. If I can help you as you discern God's call for you, please let me know. If you are willing to serve in one of these positions, please contact Doug Yoder or Shawna Harris.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Todd



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Name	Date
Andrea Hughes	10/02
Erica Stanton	10/03
Blake Jones	10/04
Tim Hollar	10/05
Tony Wilcox	10/05
Chloe Huffman	10/06
Janice Jones	10/11
Nikki Brock	10/15
Alice Kirby	10/21
Sandra Bolick	10/22
Tony Crump	10/22
Jonathan Moore	10/22
Sydney Shillito	10/23
Jennifer Short	10/24
Doug Yoder	10/24
John D. Moore Sr.	10/26
Rachel Rhoney	10/28
Gloria Moore	10/30
Olivia Miller	10/31

Happy Anniversary



Thad & Meredith Mull (19)	10/08
Kyle & Lindsey Huffman (6)	10/18
Bud & Crystal Baumgarner (38)	10/24
Bob & Susan Pihl (42)	10/27
Naaman & Kristen Wolfe- Marshburn (14)	10/28



Remember to Pray For Our Members Away From Home

Frances Stone	Room 906 Trinity Village, 1265 21 st 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
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
Rex Phillips	Gloria Moore's Aunt
Jerry Barger	Friend of Ann Ward
Joe Christopher	Sue Hillier's Brother-in-Law
Donna Dedder	Jane Isenhour's tenant
Gray Livingstone	Son of Wendy Cook's friend
Lynn Moore	Friend Wendy Crump

Remember to Pray For Our Members (At Home)

Bonnie Bell, Wayne Craig, Dorothy Gragg, Bob Hillier, Ken Hollar, Tim Hollar, Nancy Holmes, Dot Killian, Doris Mosteller, LaRue Murphy, Dolores Propst, Dale Sigmon, Neil Sigmon, Wayne Sipe 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 October. 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

Nancy Holmes has moved to live with her daughter, Heather Martin, and here is her new address if you would like to send a card.

232 Stormy Creek Lane
Blythewood, SC 29016



NOTE!
ADDRESS CHANGE

LEE INDUSTRIES PRESENTS
Safe Harbor's 2020
 Celebrate the Harvest Annual Fundraiser
 "...Inspired Hope..."



Monday, October 12, 2020 at 7 pm
 PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS VIRTUAL CELEBRATION at:
www.safeharbornc.org

I would love for you to hear how God has been moving in the lives of some amazing women on this special night. You will hear how God reached into the depth of the darkness, rescued their lives and put a new hope in their hearts! Safe Harbor provides services that are vital to our community and as a proud supporter, I want to share this ministry with you.

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear"
 1 Peter 3:15

Please visit our website
www.safeharbornc.org for more information

**Miller's Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
September 14th, 2020
7:00PM**

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

Not Present: Paula Harris

Meeting was called to order by Doug Yoder at 7:03pm.

Pastor Todd opened with prayer.

Minutes: Holly Bennett

A motion to accept the August 2020 Minutes was made by Lori. Jan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report: Paula Harris

A motion to accept the August 2020 Treasurer's report was made by Jan. Lori seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Committee Reports

Property: Bob Krogman

There was some flood damage from the steeple that was repaired. In a couple weeks someone is going to come check for mold.

The property committee would like to start looking at getting the heating and air system upgraded in the Parish Hall. Bob brought some quotes from Lanny Huffman at Hickory Sheet Metal. Phase 1 would replace the existing 10 ton air conditioning serving the Parish Hall area with a 15 ton split system heat pump. This would cost approximately \$38,000. Phase 2 would install a 2 ton "mini split" heat pump system in the conference room and would cost approximately \$13,000. Phase 3 would install a 5 ton "mini split" heat pump system to serve the kitchen, activities and game room and would cost approximately \$24,800. Phase 4 would install a Mitsubishi City Multi heat pump system for the ground floor classrooms, boiler and chiller demolition and would cost approximately \$149,200. The property committee would like to look at proceeding with phase 1 and 2 soon. Property Committee is going to work on getting another (competitive) quote and bringing it to council. Property Committee is also going to get a quote on the electrical work that must be done alongside the heating & air work.

Once this information is compiled the council will have a special meeting to discuss. Council is planning on meeting after church on Sunday September 27th to discuss next steps. Council would like to bring this proposal to the congregation. Once all of the information is gathered we will call a special congregational meeting.

Wayne has been having trouble with the humidity in the sanctuary which can cause a lot of problems with the organ. A generous member of our congregation has covered the cost of fixing the dehumidifier for us.

Property committee has had the paint fixed in the sanctuary. They think some of the problem has to do with the humidity in the sanctuary.

Evangelism: Wayne Craig

The evangelism committee met and has been discussing things they could pass out to visitors when they come to church.

Fellowship: Lori Wilcox

Homecoming was a big success. There were about 65-70 people present.

Fellowship will start planning advent services.

Finance: Sharon Mull

Planning to have a meeting on Sept 29th @ 7:00pm at the church.

Human Concerns: Jennifer Short

Working on getting DVD players to a couple members of the congregation.

Parish Ed: Jan Miller

Nothing to report.

Stewardship: Teresa Yoder

We donated \$205.51 from the noisy offering from the month of August to Kyle and Rebekah Stephens to help with medical expenses.

Worship and Music: Mandi Sigmon

The pastor is going to start having some meetings to focus efforts in different areas of how we conduct Sunday worship services. The first meeting will be for all Worship Assistants, on Sunday September 27 at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Youth:

- Nothing to report.

Pastor's Report (see attached)

Old Business

- Tony is still working on putting together a Police/First Responder appreciation event.

Bob and Doug are going to visit a TrailLife USA meeting and will report back.

New Business

Shawna made a motion to use the online giving system Vanco for a 3 month trial period. Lori seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Lori made a motion to table all talk about lifting COVID-19-based activity restrictions until next month. Teresa seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Wayne Propst has asked for the deed to the lake house to be rewritten, and has offered to cover the cost of the legal fees. Doug will contact a lawyer to get this done.

Mary Killian passed away in December 2019. A couple of months ago we received a summons to appear in court, which involved Mary Killian's estate. There are some back taxes owed on one of her assets, and every beneficiary received a summons, and we are listed in her will. Doug contacted an attorney and got the summons delayed indefinitely so that we could sort out the details of our part in the estate.

Shawna made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting at 9:04pm. Bob seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Next council meeting will be on Monday October 12th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Holly Bennett

On Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020, we will celebrate the **40th anniversary** of having **Wayne & Lynn Craig** as our church's beloved music leaders. These two very talented and faithful Christians have blessed us with their God-given musical gifts for countless worship services, funerals, and weddings. The Miller's family is deeply grateful to both Wayne and Lynn for spreading Christ's love and light in our church and our community through your music. Please join us in thanking Wayne & Lynn for their faithful service to God and His children. May our Heavenly Father bless both of them richly!

Activity:

Worship Services	5
Miller's Sundays	5
Online worship (not Sunday)	26
Committees Met	3
Clergy Meetings	4

Old Business

1. **2019 yearbook & directory** - down to only 4 reports left (mine is one of them). I'll finish mine this week, and I'll notify the others.
2. **Online giving** - Vanco is offering a 3-month free trial, no obligation. I would like to volunteer to try this. Would any members of Council join me for this trial?
3. **3. Reopening for other activities** - Time for our monthly assessment - What's our criteria for allowing other activities to start up again? How does "Phase 2.5" affect our decision?
4. **Campfirmation 2021** - planning will begin soon for next summer's Confirmation Camp. So far, we're looking to go back to the Moravian Camp. More to come.
5. **Miller's 180th anniversary** - lots of planning to make this happen - will report on it next month. Thanks to Lori Wilcox for taking the lead on this!
6. **Sound system** - Larry Gragg is asking to meet with us again...I still need to sit down with the group. Can we do both in one get-together?
7. **7. New email addresses:** these have been created and sent out, but some have had some difficulties getting started. I can help, and we'll publish the new ones in the next newsletter.
8. **Door switch** - this is done, and it works very well!
9. **Daily videos** - I continue to hear good feedback and many thanks for these. I now consider this an ongoing ministry. I have changed Tuesdays to Vespers (evening prayer) at 7 pm (due to scheduling challenges), but the rest will stay as Matins (morning prayer) for now. I'm open to ideas!
10. **Constitution Revision Team/Committee** - who is going to call a meeting of this team? We're down to 62 days until the Annual Meeting - Nov 15. We have to get some things ready.
11. **Visits** - I want to delay doing in-home visits for one more month (or until hospitals and nursing homes open up to pastoral visits), but I want to continue to offer for people to come to the church for private meetings. I've also done Holy Communion for two couples privately. I will gladly do this for anyone who requests it.

New Business

1. **Network upgrade** - Shawn (Sigmon) has to find a new network switch, and our shopping list will be finalized. This is the first part that has to go in. As soon as I have that info from him, we'll purchase the parts and get our Intranet improved. This will not only provide better wifi in the sanctuary, but also to the parish hall, & 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).

2. **Nominating Committee** - I am very concerned about this, as I have heard no progress (I hope I'm wrong). If we don't have some names already for the positions that need to be filled, we may have to ask the congregation for an exception to the Constitution, & extend some term limits (this needs to be discussed by the Constitution Revision Team).
 3. **Congregational Annual Meeting** - REMINDER - All committee chairs, please look at your committee responsibilities and see what you need to have completed by the annual meeting. That's only 2 Council meetings away!
 4. **Volunteer training** - September 27 @ 2:00 pm, I will hold a meeting of all worship assistants. I will keep it to 1 hour (or less). This is the first of several meetings I want to have with those who fill different roles on Sunday mornings (acolytes, altar guild, ushers, etc.), just to get all teams on the same page. I will put these on the monthly calendar starting next month. Please support these when they occur.
 5. **Carolinas Mission District Convocation** - 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. I was voted to represent our mission district as the clergy representative to the Mission Regional Council for a one-year term.
 6. **NALC Online Convocation** - Doug & I sat through this online convocation on Aug 7 & 8. Most of it was reports on happenings in the NALC in the last year, and most of that was good news. They did propose 3 Constitutional Amendments, which we must ratify at our annual meeting. I will pass out hard copies of the Amendments to discuss. They involve frequency of the annual convocation (moving to every 2 years), formalizing the naming of regional subdivisions within the NALC (which won't affect us - we are already in compliance with the Amendment), and the allocation of lay delegates. The changes reflect a change in how we now operate after 10 years of growth and maturity.
- * **Property Committee** has been really busy as of late, which is forcing them to start thinking a little farther ahead than we have in the past. it's clear that we need to start seriously thinking about long-term planning. I have started a **wish list** for some of the committees, but I need all of your help in developing them. Let's put some work into these, so that we can review them as a council and build a prioritized list of everything. Can we have these ready by November 9th?
 - * **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

OCTOBER 2020 VOLUNTEERS	
ALTAR GUILD	Doug & Teresa Yoder
SOUND TECH	Kay Willis
USHER CHAIRMAN	Larry Rogers
USHERS/SECURITY	Scott Shook, Bud Baumgarner & John Cook
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	
10/4	Doug Yoder
10/11	Mandi Sigmon
10/18	Gary Hefner
10/25	Jan Miller
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	
10/4	Lori Wilcox



10/4	Mandi Sigmon
10/11	Breanna Murphy
10/18	John Cook
10/25	Ross Cook

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 **October 25th**. 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.

DIAPERS NEEDED



The Pregnancy Care Center is in need of diapers. All sizes will be appreciated but the big need is for sizes newborn, 4 and 5. Please leave in the box located in the Narthex.... And Susan Pihl will get them to the Center. Thank you!

Sharing Shepherds 2020 Update

Sharing Shepherds is an outreach ministry of a concerned group of local Lutheran churches. It provides food, clothing, Christmas gifts, vouchers for utility bills, and a good bit of Christian love to selected parents/ children living in the most economically challenged areas of West Virginia.

Over the past three years, Miller's Lutheran Church has enthusiastically supported this seasonal event. We knew the operational rules and we operated like a "well-oiled machine"...until this year's COVID-19 pandemic.

Now the rules have changed, and we're being asked to adapt - at least for the moment. This year we're foregoing our caravan of cars and instead a few select leaders will make the trip up. Also, rather than providing traditional items like clothing, food and toys, we're requesting monetary donations - of any amount - to be used to purchase grocery store gift cards as well as power vouchers to help with heating homes and keeping the lights on.

Sharing Shepherds is accepting donations from now until Thanksgiving. Checks can be made out to "Bethel Lutheran Church" and note that it's for "Sharing Shepherds". The leadership team plans to distribute the gift cards and power vouchers to selected families during the first week in December.

The address for donations is:
Bethel Lutheran Church
Attn: Perry Voncannon
335 East Ridge Road
Salisbury, NC 28144

No amount is too small. If you need a receipt, please include a note with your donation.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7 | ESV

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



NALC Disaster Fund

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