

Miller's Mike April 2021



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

Spring has definitely "sprung" as they say, and I find it most welcome. Temperatures are noticeably warmer, the first signs of Spring "new life" are beginning to show on the branches of the trees. Daylight is now longer into the evening. It's a season of renewal, and it couldn't come at a better time.

While the pandemic has had us in lockdown mode for a year, vaccinations are now available, and the numbers are heading in the right direction. And because of this, we are beginning to move back toward resuming activities that have been difficult or completely off-limits until just the last couple of weeks. The relaxing of these restrictions is the answer to prayer for many in our community. Don't take this the wrong way; for those who are high risk, staying home was definitely the right thing to do. But now that we have the means to mitigate that risk, it will afford us the opportunity to be social again.

Since this comes to us with the arrival of Spring, I can't help but think of the connection to the New Life we are given through our Baptism into Christ. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)*

Christ has called us to leave our old, sinful nature behind. Of course the wicked foe will always tempt us and try to draw us back to the ways of the world. But we have been set free from that life. That is what Christ's death on the cross has done for us. That is what we will hear in our Holy Week worship services. Christ's atoning death on the cross paid the price for our sin and set us free from bondage to it (as we confess each week in our confession). And because we have been set free, we are free to choose the path that Christ has opened for us.

As the season of Lent is drawing to a close, have you reflected on what this means for you? What is that "old, sinful nature" that Christ is calling you to leave behind? What is in your heart that is keeping you from becoming the New Creation that God is working in you? If you have not pondered these questions before now, I invite you to do exactly that as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord.

(Pastor's Message Continued)

On Maundy Thursday, we will remember how Christ redefined the Passover meal and turned it into the meal of the New Covenant. In this New Covenant, Our Lord offers His body to be broken for us, and his precious blood to be shed for us, for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal, he reveals himself to us in a way that we can't quite comprehend, but that brings him closer to us than any other means we have...for now, anyway.

On Good Friday, we will hear again of the pain, suffering, and death he endured for us, to pay that awful price...a price he didn't owe. We will remember the darkness that came over the earth at the death of the Son of God. This selfless act of love is what atoned for our sins, and bridged the gap between us and God.

And then, on the third day, the darkness will be pushed away as the light is brought back into the world. Death could not hold him, and he shows us his decisive victory over sin, death, and the devil. His resurrection is a preview of the plan that God has for all of us. And it is the proof we need to see that there is, indeed, new life in Christ.

I pray that this Holy Week and the Easter Season that follows will help all of you to experience the new life that God wants all of us to have and to enjoy. May He bless you richly in the days and weeks to come!

Yours in the Risen Christ,

Pastor Todd



Hey Youth! Put this on your calendar for **April 24**.

Join us as we play games, eat lunch, and do the important work of packing flood buckets and helping at the disaster response warehouse. [St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church \(NALC\) - Statesville, NC](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Name	Date
Larry Rogers	4/08
Rebekah Stephens	4/08
Wendy Cook	4/09
Sharon Mull	4/12
Ann Sigmon	4/17
Jan Miller	4/19
Kurt Hollar	4/20
Johnny Shook	4/24
Hannah Parris	4/26
Jill Spriggle	4/29
Jack Parkhurst, JR	4/29

Happy Anniversary



Alvin & LaRue Murphy (59)	4/06
---------------------------	------



Remember to Pray For Our Friends and Neighbors	
Faith Tucker	Friend of Mandi Sigmon
Jackson & Bennett Frunzi	Friends of Ann Sigmon
Brad Cook	Todd Cook's brother
Doris Dameron	Gloria Moore's sister
Tammy Yancy	Gloria Moore's niece
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
Rachel Propst	Lori Wilcox & Sharon Mull's Sister-in-Law
Mike & Janelle Bolick	Family of Paul & Sandra Bolick
Wayne Propst	Ann Sigmon's Brother
Demeyer Pearson	Todd Cook's Aunt

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

Remember to Pray For Our Members (At Home)
Bonnie Bell, Carol Berry, Paul Bolick, Aslynn Bumgarner, Lynn Craig, Wayne Craig, Bob Hillier, Ken Hollar, Tim Hollar, Dot Killian, LaRue Murphy, Dolores Propst, Neil Sigmon, Wayne Sipe, and Greyson Stephens.

Please **continue** to keep all in our community that are suffering from Covid-19 in your prayers.

Remember to Pray For Our Members Of The Military

SP4 Colby Brotherton (ARMY), SSG Brandon Davis (ARMY),
SGT Jordon Tooman (USMC), A1C Owen Tooman (USAF),
SP4 Evan Short (ARMY)

Remember to Pray For Our Members Away From Home

Eula Kate Hefner	210 Winterlochen Drive Jacksonville, NC 28540
Nancy Holmes	232 Stormy Creek Lane Blythewood, SC 29016
Frances Stone	Room 906 Trinity Village, 1265 21 st St. NE Hickory, NC 28601
Karen Teed	P O Box 208 Taylorsville, NC 28681

Name	Job Title	Council E-mail
Doug Yoder	President	president@millersnalc.org
Holly Bennett	Secretary	secretary@millersnalc.org
Paula Harris	Treasurer	treasurer@millersnalc.org
Shawna Deyton	Vice President	vicepresident@millersnalc.org
Todd Cook	Pastor	pastor@millersnalc.org
Lori Wilcox	Evangelism	evangelism@millersnalc.org
Carol Crouch	Fellowship	fellowship@millersnalc.org
Sharon Mull	Finance	finance@millersnalc.org
Jennifer Short	Human Concerns	humanconcerns@millersnalc.org
Jan Miller	Parish Ed	parisheducation@millersnalc.org
Bob Krogman	Property	property@millersnalc.org
Teresa Yoder	Stewardship	stewardship@millersnalc.org
Mandi Sigmon	Worship	mandi@millersnalc.org
<vacant>	Youth	youth@millersnalc.org

Miller's Council Minutes

3/09/2021

9:00 am via Zoom

Present: Doug Yoder, Teresa Yoder, Lori Wilcox, Carol Crouch, Bob Krogman, Sharon Mull, Paula Harris, Jan Miller, Jennifer Short, Pastor Todd Cook.

Absent Holly Bennett, Shawna Deyton, Mandy Sigmon

Doug called the meeting to order and the Pastor opened with prayer.

February council minutes: Bob made a motion to accept Teresa seconded motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Teresa made a motion to accept and Lori seconded motion passed.

Property: Bob reported that we are now in compliance with the Fire Marshall

Evangelism: No report

Fellowship: No report

Finance: No report

Human Concerns: Committee will meet after Church soon.

Parish Ed: VBS planning meeting tentatively set dates for June 20-24 VBS to be held at St Stephens ELCA with activities outside. 4 churches involved Millers, St Stephens ELCA, Mt Zion, Mt Olive.

Stewardship: Thanks for Love month donations. Reminder to designate Thrivent Choice money

Worship: Ordered Palms for Palm Sunday, we will have an Ash Wednesday service.

Youth: No Report

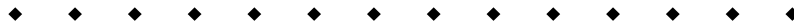
Pastor Report: See attached

New Business: Doug made a motion to open to regular activities with restrictions (Sunday School, Confirmation class, quilting, Bible Study etc.) with nursery becoming available April 4th. Bob seconded motion passed.

Easter Egg Hunt will be held April 3d. Congregation will be asked to donate candy.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

After a 5-minute break we began our meeting with Pastor Hales.



Nursery is opening back up April 4th! We will be available for children 5 and younger. If you are interested in volunteering in the nursery please let Jan Miller know or call the church office.

NOISY OFFERING from March was \$104.00. The next Noisy Offering will be **April 25th**. If anyone has a suggestion where they would like to see this money donated, please see Teresa Yoder or someone with the Stewardship committee.



Mark your calendars! We will be having an **Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 3rd** from 10-12! Can't wait to see everyone for food, fun and Candy!

We are now beginning to open our church facilities back up, based on Gov. Cooper's last executive order. We encourage everyone in our church family to continue to **wear your mask** and **follow CDC recommendations** to help keep the risks of COVID-19 to a minimum. Thank you!



Sunday School and **Bible Studies** are back in action! Can't wait to see you there!

For February 2021

Activity:

Worship Services		
Miller's Sundays	4*	Didn't preach on 2/28
Online worship (not Sunday)	20	
Lenton Service	3	Ash Wednesday, 2 Sundays
Committees Met	1	Alter guild
Clergy Meetings	5	

Old Business

1. Thank you for the flexibility you afforded me to have my surgery done. The recovery has been a little more limiting than I anticipated, but I'm definitely on the mend.

2. Ash Wednesday - the joint service with New Covenant Lutheran Church went quite well, and although I don't think any of their members actually came in person, I think several joined us online. I do want to thank Rev. Henry Pawluk for bringing us a very powerful message to help us kick off the season of Lent.

3. Network upgrade - more progress has been made, with most of the work being done as routing the new network cables above the ceiling, which has been a lot of work. Expect to hear a significant progress report later today.

4. 2020 yearbook & directory - We missed our goal of getting these to Deidra by **Feb 28**. Given the strange year that 2020 was, I don't think the committee reports for last year will be too difficult to put together, but let's get them in so we can get our annual book done.

5. Reopening for other activities - Time for our monthly assessment - I recommend: **Begin allowing other activities**, with caution and following NC governor's & CDC recommendations This includes Sunday School, Bible study, crafting & social activities **Reassess** after Gov. Cooper's current restrictions **end Mar 26**

6. Sound system - Of the two remaining tasks, Stewart finished wiring the circuit in the balcony (thank you Stewart!). I told Larry, and he's scheduled the final programming of the system for Monday, Mar 8. At that time, he will work on the 2nd item (the altar mic that's picking up a radio station). Larry is still willing to train us on the system, so I'm seeking anyone who is interested in receiving this training - please contact me ASAP for training!

7. Parish Hall HVAC - awaiting completion of the network upgrade to connect the thermostats to the network. I think everything else is complete with this phase.

8. New email addresses: one of the capabilities our new email addresses give us is access to Google's version of Zoom. So, we have another option if there's ever a conflict of the use of the Carolinas Mission Region Zoom account.

9. Daily videos - will continue for now; I'm still in talks with a few other pastors to share this through the week. It's proving to be a bit of a scheduling challenge, but I'll keep working on it. I also have been talking with the Trinity Village staff; they're going to start sharing my daily videos and our Sunday worship services with their folks, now that they are allowing gatherings in the common areas.

10. Constitution Revision Team/Committee - the team leader has a group of 5 people, and is going to have their first meeting this week. I have provided them with the materials they need to get started. Thanks to all who stepped up to tackle this!

11. Volunteer training - I had a good meeting with the Altar Guild. The next will likely be with the Sound Techs, since we want to have our training with Larry. Will advise as soon as I can get it on the schedule.

12. Visits - As for in-person visits, I spoke with Trinity Village, and they are discussing how to begin allowing families to visit inside the facility. I suspect this will happen fairly soon, and when they do, I will begin visits again, for those who are comfortable with that. I will continue offering **private visits** with me at the church, as well as **private Holy Communion** for those who can come to the church.

New Business

1. 2021 Council Retreat - This is why we are here today. I would like us to consider doing this every year, to help us think ahead, to assess our Kingdom Work, and to plan for where we want to be in 5 years, 10 years, 20 years... Doing annual retreats is a step toward that sort of thinking. I propose putting this on the calendar annually.

Wish Lists: I've been told that a couple of committees have done some work on wish lists...

Reminder: our constitution says that **each standing committee must meet at least once per quarter**. 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

APRIL 2021 VOLUNTEERS	
ALTAR GUILD	Mandi Sigmon and Carol Crouch— 1st & 2nd Sundays, Holy Week Wendy Crump and Sherry Rhoney— 3rd & 4th Sundays
SOUND TECH	Lori Wilcox
USHER CHAIRMAN	Alvin Murphy
USHERS/SECURITY	John Moore, Alan Burgess, Ross Cook
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	
4/01 Maundy Thursday	Mandi Sigmon
4/02 Good Friday	Veda Hoyle
4/04 Easter Sunday	Doug Yoder
4/11	Jan Miller
4/18	Veda Hoyle
4/25	Gary Hefner

COMMUNION ASSISTANT	
4/01	Jan Miller
4/04	Mandi Sigmon
4/11	Doug Yoder
4/18	Diane Sigmon
4/18	Beth Hefner

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS	
4/04	Lori Wilcox/ Sharon Mull
4/11	
4/18	
4/25	

ACOLYTES	
4/01	John Cook
4/04	John Cook Crucifer- Jaylen Pless
4/11	Mandi Sigmon
4/18	Breanna Murphy
4/25	Jaylen Pless

Friday Dinner Fellowship – Nara’s
April 9th at 5:30 pm

For those who have never joined in on the Friday night Dinner Fellowship... If you like to socialize, meet new people, get to know fellow members of the church better, laugh, eat without having to prepare a dish or cleaning up afterwards, this event is for you. We meet once a month on or close to the 2nd Friday of the month. We go to different restaurants, thus we are afforded a variety of foods and menus from which to choose. This event is for those over 21 who enjoy people and food. You are also welcome to invite people from the community or your family. **Alice Kirby** organizes and coordinates these events, so if you have any questions please contact her at **828-256-2224**.

Finance Committee Report

Church Offerings for February

Church Offerings YTD

	Given	Monthly Funds Needed	YTD Given	Total Funds Needed
Offerings	\$13,931	\$17,520	\$28,640	\$210,234
Rental and Utilities	\$667		\$1,260	
Other/Thrivant	\$186		\$186	
Total	\$14,784		\$30,086	

Church Expenses for Feb.

Church Expenses YTD

<u>Feb. Spent</u>	<u>Feb. Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Spent</u>	<u>Total Budgeted</u>
\$16,401	\$17,520	\$33,953	\$210,234

Bank Account Balance — As of February 26th, 2021

Account

General Fund	\$10,078.84
--------------	-------------

Special Funds

Capital Projects	\$15,052.01
Carillion	\$2,997.00
Columbarium	\$4,095.00
Heating & Air	\$114,753.15
Hunger	\$4,695.67
Members In Need	\$1,852.13
Memorials (Not Designated)	\$7,947.01
Music & Organ Fund	\$4,105.82
Sound System	\$2,519.59
Special Funds Total	\$158,017.38

**Complete reports are available to
review, upon request, during office hours.**