



June 2018

Around the Mountain

Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church



Pentecost Sunday was a great day as we celebrated the Spirit's presence, peace, and challenge. This was also the Confirmation Day for these two young men, Skyler Alexander Miller and Jackson Zenan Price.

**This is Christ's church.
There is a place for you here.**

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person — questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.



My View From the Mountain

With Pastor Mary Anderson

With the coming of Summer, I have almost come full circle through the seasons of the Church year and of our community year. I came to Mt. Hermon as a supply pastor immediately after Pastor Eric's last Sunday in mid-July and then was officially hired as an interim beginning August 20th. I've walked with you through all the big seasons now except for the unofficial season of Vacation Bible School! I'm looking forward to that week.

The Altar Guild has changed the paraments in our sanctuary to green and they will stay green all through this second half of the Church Year. This is the time of year when we switch our focus from the events of the life of Jesus and instead focus on our own discipleship. Instead of pondering the question: Who is Jesus? we now focus on the question: Who are we as disciples of Jesus?

Green is the color of growth and green means Go! Going into the world as disciples and growing deeper in our faith is what we are all about this summer. Summer is also vacation season for many of us. Maybe we go to our lake places every weekend or we travel far from home for a few weeks. School is out. Camps are in. Expectations are just different. As you go about your summer life, here are some pastoral suggestions:

- Remember that wherever you go for the weekend, for camp, or for vacation, Christ goes with you. Take a picture of where you are and send it to the church office so we can share in your fun and so we can see how our congregation is moving around the country or around the world. Let us know if we have permission to share it on our website and other communications.

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Office Hours

Mon - Fri
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Worship Times

Sunday Worship
9:00 AM

Sunday School
10:15 AM

My View From the Mountain (cont.)

•Remember to continue your financial contributions to the congregation while you are away. Making use of our on-line giving ability is a great way to do that. You can set it up to make a regular contribution or just a one-time contribution.

•Wherever you are on a weekend, find a local church to attend. This allows you to maintain your sabbath-keeping this summer, it will give you an opportunity to experience a different congregation, and it will be faith-forming for your children and grandchildren. Plan to pack “church clothes”!

• You might also want to tune in to my weekly devotional blog to have a little extra Jesus time while away. You can find me at www.ponderanewpma.com.

• Keep Mt. Hermon in your daily and weekly prayers. This summer may be the time when a new pastor is called. We are working to hire a new Parish Administrator and we are faithfully discerning a vision for our future ministry. There is much to pray about and we know prayer is both needful and helpful.

In all that you do this summer – be safe, be faithful, be joyful!

New Office Information

During this Parish Administrator transition, we will shorten our office hours to 9am-1pm Monday through Friday. The Food Pantry will only be held in the morning on Wednesdays. We have volunteers for the office during the mornings and volunteers to assist with our regular publications. No doubt, we will drop the ball on some things. Please let us know what they are! Thanks to all who are helping with various office tasks. If you know of anyone who might be willing to serve as interim Parish Administrator or who might be interested in the permanent position, please invite them to send a resume to Pastor Anderson at mwanderson140@gmail.com.

Interim Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Mary Anderson
803-210-5757
mwanderson140@gmail.com

Cantor

Ruthie Brannen
ruthiebrannen@gmail.com

Sextons

Ricky Bouknight
Allison Swygert
Terry Swygert

Congregational Officers

Danny Scott
President

Terry Swygert
Vice President

Alyson Price
Secretary

Emily Morris
Treasurer

Annette Price
Financial Secretary

New to Mt. Hermon?

If you are a newcomer to our congregation, please know that you are most welcome to anything, any time. Pastor Anderson is glad to meet with you and will continue to be in conversation with you about your journey of faith and life.



Vacation Bible School

God's Good Creation

July 8-12

Children Ages 4- Grade 5 will use the ELCA World Hunger VBS material called God's Good Creation. The focus is on the Earth, on the environment and our stewardship of it. We'll have fun learning about how people around the world are using bees, chickens, and goats to help the world God loves.

Middle School and High School Youth have some great community service projects to do and will have fun times together as well!

Adult Study – The Gospel of Mark

Mt. Hermon is happy to welcome as our teacher this week, Dr. Brent Driggers. A native of Lexington County, he is Professor of New Testament at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University. He teaches courses on the Gospels and specializes in the Gospel of Mark. He and his wife Ingrid are the busy parents of three wonderful boys, ages 17, 14, and 6.

These nights of Vacation Bible School, we'll talk about what makes the Gospel of Mark distinctive among the four New Testament Gospels. This class will present Mark's special contribution to our Christian faith – how we understand Jesus' mission and our own place within that mission. Come ready to be challenged by Jesus' announcement that "the kingdom of God has come near" (Mark 1:15)!

Please feel free to bring your friends and neighbors.

Special Friday Fieldtrip!

On VBS Friday, July 13th, all children and adults are invited to go with us on a field trip to Bowers' Farm in Pomaria, owned by wonderful Lutherans, Sarah and Brandon Bowers. This is a small sustainable multi-species grazing farm, offering local homegrown food that is raised with respect and

honor. We'll see chickens, sheep, cows, pigs, a goat, and a couple of donkeys. We'll hear about how Bowers' Farm is helping the Earth in the way they farm and raise their animals. This will be a morning trip and will finish with lunch on the road.



*Dr. Brent Driggers,
Adult VBS Leader*

Registration Forms will be available soon.

Council Notes

Farming Church: A New Leadership Opportunity for Mt. Hermon

On the Day of Pentecost, the Council announced that we have joined five other congregations around the synod in a two-year process of discerning what God is calling us to do as a congregation and as a community. This will involve various webinars, coaching

sessions, and cluster meetings to help us move forward in our vision for ministry. We will inform the congregation all along the way. For this process, our congregation is in a cluster with Nazareth, Lexington, and St. Thomas, Chapin.

Congregational Council Mini Minutes for May 2018

Reports:

Pastor Anderson presented her report for April and May

Emily Morris, Treasurer, submitted her report. Questions from April meeting about errors have been corrected. It was suggested that we set a meeting with Maddison Dye to review funds. It was also suggested that we put together a team to review current contracts, payments, etc to determine any changes needed for savings or consolidation. Finance committee will set this up.

Annette Price, Financial Secretary, submitted a report for March 2018 and the 1st quarter.

Executive Committee: A Thank you note with a donation of \$75 was received from St. Michael's for the use of the church bus.

Board/Committee Reports/Business:

Property Board:

Recent projects include painting, door closures and replacements, and sidewalk repair.

Recommendation: *See Finance Committee report*

Personnel Committee:

Executive Session

Finance Committee:

Several members are looking into the current envelope cost and alternatives to what we are currently using. We are on track for making our full Synodical payment for this year. So far \$4,000 has been paid towards this amount.

Recommendation 1: *Committee has received several quotes on payroll services. Recommended that we contract with Advantage Payroll Services for a cost of \$97.08 per month. This will include direct deposit for employees as well as preparation and filing of tax documents.*

PASSED

Recommendation 2: *Property Board recommends that Century Glass replace 11 windows, which are cracked, for a cost of \$4,011.13. Deductible is \$5,000. Finance committee recommended that we*

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Congregational Council Mini Minutes for May 2018 (cont.)

roll extra funds from parking lot fund into this and name this as next Capitol Campaign.

PASSED

Member Care:

Reminder to council to make contact with your care group.

Old Business

- Delegates for Synod assembly will be Pastor Anderson and Cyndi Thurman.
- Call committee has made several visits and conducted interviews. They have one more interview from the original list provided as well as an additional candidate to visit and interview.

New Business

- Two requests have been made for the use of our church bus:
 1. SC Synod requests the use of the bus at the assembly on Friday afternoon, June 1st to take participants to various Discipleship Experiences.
 2. GraceWorks Youth camp requests the use of the bus to transport participants to service project locations. This would be during the week of July 16-July 20

Both requests passed with understanding that the driver would be supplied by Mt. Hermon.

- Cemetery Committee shared a letter sent by a member of HC Dreher family raising concerns over the condition of the cemetery. It was recommended that the Cemetery committee develop a job description for acceptable upkeep of the cemetery. This will be given to the Property Board to get additional bids on this work. This is to be done by July 1st. Cemetery committee will follow up with HC Dreher family to let them know we are looking into their concerns in this way. Questions were raised as to whether funds are large enough for this to be paid without using the principle. Finance committee will include this fund in the review with Maddison Dye.
- Farming Church event was attended by Pastor Anderson, Terry Swygert, and Rebekah Swygert. 10-12 churches attended this event. Next meeting is May 19th for the churches who have decided to participate. This program is a two year commitment focused on the cultural change in the church, and includes monthly coaching for Pastors, cluster meetings, and webinars. SC Synod is backing this program and paying 2/3 of the cost. Cost for each congregation is \$500 per year. A recommendation was made that council members agree to participate in the program and that funding come from Thrivent funds. **PASSED**
- Use of the Fellowship Hall was requested for Primary voting polls if a June 26 run-off is needed. Joel Price, Sr. is Poll manager and would be present the entire time. **PASSED**
- Revised Cantor contract was presented. A recommendation was made to accept the contract as presented. **PASSED**

Alyson Price, Council Secretary

Month at a Glance

June 1-2

Synod Assembly

June 3

9:00 a.m. Worship including Blessing of
our Graduates
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
3:00-5:00 p.m. Graduate Reception

June 4-8

Pastor Anderson in Philadelphia

June 5

5:30 p.m. Executive Team

June 10

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Handbell Camp for Youth
11:30 a.m. Communication Team
12:15 p.m. Youth Lunch followed by
outing

June 17

9:00 a.m. Worship including Boy Scout
Recognition
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

June 19

6:30 p.m. Pub & Pray at British Bulldog

June 24

9:00 a.m. Worship including Sending to
ELCA Youth Gathering
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
11:30 a.m. Usher Lunch

June 27-July 1

ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston

*Every Wednesday Food Pantry open in the
mornings.*

*Exercise Classes led by Dot Mathias are currently on
a break.*

Want to add an event? Just email office@mthlc.org with the name of the event, the date, and the time.

Cantor's Corner

A Youth Handbell Camp will be offered during Youth Sunday School, June 10th. Cantor Ruthie will give us a fun beginner session as we discover how these instruments can be used to make a joyful noise! The Worship Board will provide us with a lunch afterwards. The LCY Fun Day at the Lake begins after lunch.

Handbell Choir will begin again this Fall. Contact Ruthie Brannen if you are interested in being a part or if you would like to know more.



*Eagle Scouts continue to serve as
Joel and Wynne Price do so well.*



Lutheran Church Youth

Graduation is Saturday, June 3

We will celebrate our two high school graduates, Alyssa Stevens and Jacob Marsh, this Sunday with prayers and blessings. With great appreciation for the special role all of you at Mt. Hermon have played in the lives of their children, the Marsh and Stevenson families invite you to join them for a Graduation Celebration honoring Alyssa Stevens & Jacob Marsh

Sunday, June 3, 2018

Drop-in from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Jacob Mathias Marsh

Graduating from River Bluff High School, Jacob is a member of National Honor Society and BETA Club. He is a student of Lexington District 1's Center for Law and Global Policy. Through the Law Center, he was fortunate to serve Internships with Assistant United States Attorney JD Rowell, Senator Ronnie Cromer and the SC House Republican Caucus. He also was a member of the We the People Team which was the 2017-2018 State Champion for SC. Their team traveled to Washington DC to compete nationally. Jacob has run Cross Country and Track and has Lettered all four years. He was awarded the Unsung Hero Award for 3 years and the Perseverance Award during his senior year. Jacob loved serving his church as the Youth Representative on Church Council and is looking forward to the National Youth Gathering in Houston. Jacob will be attending Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, NC where he has been awarded the LR Scholars, LR Opportunity Award and Legacy Scholarship. He will run Cross Country and Track at LR and is excited about the new adventures ahead!



Alyssa Mae Stevens

Graduating from Brookland-Cayce High School, Alyssa is currently serving as the Youth Representative on our church council and is excited to attend the National Youth Gathering in Houston next month. At BCHS, Alyssa is a member of the Quest Program, National Honor Society, and BETA Club, and has served as a Bearcat Mentor and Math Honor Society tutor. Outside of the classroom, she has been a four-year starter at goalkeeper for the Lady Bearcats soccer team and three-year captain. She has received All-Region honors three years. Last season, the Lady Bearcats finished second in the state at Class AAA and Alyssa was named to the SC Class AAA All-State Team. This fall, Alyssa will be attending Berry College in Rome, Georgia. She is honored to have received the Dean's Scholarship and is looking forward to the opportunity to continue playing soccer for the Berry Vikings!

Lutheran Church Youth (cont.)

Getting Ready for Summer!

The LCY is wrapping up the year on Sunday June 10th with a fun day at the lake (weather permitting). We would like to thank everyone for their support of the LCY group this past year. We will start the year up again around August/September.

Blast Off for Books!

2018's ELCA National Youth Gathering will be collecting books for students in Pre-K – 6th grade. Help us collect 100,000 books for the children of Houston.

How to Help? “Rocket Stations” are set-up in the Fellowship Hall and in the main hallway of the Education Building. All you need to do is take a rocket tag and purchase the book listed on the rocket. Donations are due by June 10, 2018



Bryce Addy assists in the ceremony for Connor Eargle to cross over to become a Boy Scout!

Small Groups + Great Groups

An Usher Lunch and Conversation will be held by the Worship Board on June 24th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. All current ushers and any who would like to begin serving the congregation in this way are invited to attend. We'll talk about needs, expectations, what's working well and what needs to be changed to support this vital hospitality ministry of our congregation. For this event, we anticipate doing more comparing of notes than actual "training." This is also a chance for us to thank all of you who have been serving the church in this way. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Pub and Pray (what's that you say?)

The next night of dinner and Bible/Church Trivia will be June 19th, 6:30pm, at The British Bulldog Pub on Bower Parkway in the Harbison area of Columbia. Join your Mt. Hermon members and friends for a Dutch Treat dinner and brew and then enjoy competing in a friendly game of trivia led by Pastor Anderson. No need to rsvp, just come and join us!



A big crowd from Mt. Hermon at the Lutheran Men in Mission Committee of 100 Dinner where Linda Waters-Hamilton was recognize for her generosity!

The Church Beyond our Doors

Traveling Soon?

As part of the work for his Boy Scout Citizenship in the Community badge, Jackson Price will be helping Transitions Homeless Shelter collect travel-sized items for those in need. You can help by saving your unused travel sized items or by purchasing some new items from the local drugstore.

Items needed include: lotion, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.

Collections will be accepted now through July 29, 2018. Look for collection boxes throughout the church.



An Arts Camp in Allendale, SC is a new effort by the SC Synod, Simpson United Methodist Church and RICH Learning International. This is one of Lutheran Pastor Rich Melheim's wonderful efforts to communicate the gospel to children and adults. As you probably know, Allendale County struggles greatly with a lack of resources in their schools and in their neighborhoods. This free camp for children ages 3-4 and 5-7 will run from June 18-August 3rd. Mt. Hermon member and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary student, **Rebekah Swygert**, will be serving on staff there. This camp uses a new way of learning based on the latest brain science that embeds the basics of letters, numbers, color, and spelling through music, dance, theater and art. We can't wait to hear more about it!

And you can help this effort by bringing new or gently used books appropriate for children ages 3-8 to the church. These books will be used at the camp and then the children will be able to take home their very own book. We will take them to the Synod office so they can make their way to Allendale and Williamsburg counties.

Church Together

Our Congregational Sympathies to Pastor Eric Friedrichs and family at the death of his mother, Ann, at the end of May. Pastor Anderson visited with the family at Lutheridge and gave them our prayers and our sympathy. If you would like to contact the family, you may reach them at:

Pastor Eric and Tara Friedrichs

17654 Nathan's Drive

Tampa, FL 33647

We Will Recognize Boys Scouts, Skyler Miller and Jackson Price, on June 17th by awarding them each their "God and Church" badge. Working with their parents and Pastor Anderson over the past several months, they have worked to learn more about their Christian faith and about the Lutheran beliefs and practices. They have worked to deepen their faith and so will now be awarded the religious emblem of the Lutheran denomination to wear on their Scout uniform.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Prayer Lists, and Worship Assistants

We normally have this information in our monthly newsletter and we know it's valuable to our readers. We are in the early days of being without a regular Parish Administrator and know have reliable information on all these things when we need to publish. Thanks for your patience, happy celebrations to all our birthday and anniversary folks, and for those who regularly serve in various tasks, we will be in touch with you separately.

Thank Yous

Laura Stevens wishes to thank her Mount Hermon family for the prayers, calls, cards, and words of encouragement she has received following the death of her father. The Stevens Family greatly appreciates all of your uplifting support.