

June 2020



Welcome to Holly Grove Lutheran Church!



LOVE GROW SERVE

The Holly Leaf

Mission Statement of Holly Grove Lutheran Church

“As united people of God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our purpose is to provide worship and Christian education, and respond in a loving action to a needy world.”

• Daily Prayers, links, to ELCA , sermons, The Holly Leaf, events & more on our website:
www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org

Find us on Facebook!



Love. Grow. Serve.

Dear friends in Christ,

To the right is a letter from our bishop to another congregation and pastor. We believe this does a good job of explaining the process we are going through to reopen and why we haven't yet returned to regular worship.

There are several Bible passages that relate to this time of isolation. One, of course, is when Christ told his disciples that they should render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. In this case we are trying to balance our need for worship and our respect for public health.

Another passage was when Paul urged his congregation to give proper respect to civil authorities. He understood that God could use them for His own purposes.

The third is Hebrews 10:23-25 which reminds us of the importance of living out our faith and gathering together as a community in Christ. The passage is clear in its direction that we should not be like those who neglect the importance of Christian community. At the same time it reminds us to hold fast to our hope at all times and to live our lives faithfully in all circumstances.

The decisions we face are complicated. The council and I very much want to gather together as a congregation but we want to do so safely. We will continue to follow the guidelines that seem most appropriate from the perspective of protecting people while at the same time trying to return to as normal a life as we can.

May God watch over and keep each of you in these difficult days. Please let the council or me know of any special needs you are aware of and of any prayer requests you may have. We are appreciative of your prayers for us and our decisions in this time.

In Christ's love and hope,
Pastor Joseph



Dear XXXXXXX,

Thanks for your sincere and kind email and for helping us understand better the situation of XXXXXX congregation in XXXXXXXXX. Like you and like most of us (I hope!), I fervently need and long to gather in worship in person with my congregation—and in my case, with multiple congregations. Ultimately, the congregation council (of which the pastor is a member) must decide what to do in regard to in-person worship gatherings. Unlike Episcopalians, Methodists, and Catholics, in our ELCA system neither a bishop nor a Synod Council can dictate ultimately what a congregation might decide to do. In fact, I'm aware of one congregation in the NC Synod that never stopped gathering for worship. And I'm aware that most have observed the only thing that we've announced officially thus far, which is our recommendation that there be no in-person worship with more than 10 at least through the end of May. Many are busy planning protocols for safe gatherings, provided by the ELCA, which you can find at https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Returning_to_In-person_Worship.pdf?_ga=2.106021763.146513814.1590414410-974279847.1581941630under

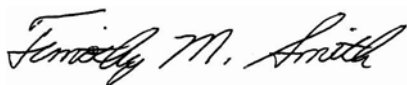
Our Synod Council meets this coming Saturday, May 30 to vote on whether or not we extend those recommendations not to gather, especially indoors. At our last meeting we appointed a task force to give us guidelines for re-gathering in person, and I do know they plan to recommend that our NC Synod congregations, as our Methodist, Episcopalian, and AME Zion sisters and brother have already announced, not gather in person until the NC governor moves us into Phase 3 (4-6 weeks after May 22, likely, taking us roughly until the end of June). Though there are no legal restrictions, due to constitutional decisions by a judge, against places of worship gathering in person, our general perspective is that if theaters can't open, and the general law is no more than 10 indoors and no more than 25 outdoors through Phase 2, if it's not deemed safe for other public gatherings, it's not safe for church gatherings. The virus, of course, doesn't know if it's in a theater or a church.

As for your pastor, we are seeing quite a number of congregations wanting to gather sooner and pastors wanting to wait just a tad longer out of an abundance of caution. There are all sorts of reasons for this, including concern for the community served and especially its vulnerable (65+ and health-compromised) population, which—let's face it—we have a much higher percentage in our congregations than does the general population. I'm also aware, after talking with a 70-year-old interim who within the past 3 years has had two major surgeries and chemotherapy for cancer, that his congregation will likely decide to re-gather in person. With no malice or ill will whatsoever on his part or mine, I have helped walk with that congregation in making their decision that is ultimately theirs, but the pastor has made an "I statement" with my support that he simply does not feel safe just yet and will not be able to lead them in person if, in his estimation, they are gathering too soon. I'm also aware of a young pastor who is pregnant but has not yet announced that to her congregation but is nevertheless compromised, and diabetic pastors, and.....you get the point. And, of course, I am aware that some pastors don't want to go against the recommendations of the NC Synod. Finally, I'm sure you've considered both the moral and the legal ramifications of gathering against synod recommendations, especially if someone catches (and, heaven forbid) dies of the virus while in your congregation's gathering and you got sued because Grandma died and you ignored your judicatory body's recommendations.

I know we all have to take risks, and there is not and will not soon be (and never was?) a completely safe way for us to gather, but we've done so well for 10 weeks, and we're only looking at perhaps 4-5 weeks more, and I, and we as a Synod Council, have made our decisions based on an abundance of caution and what we believe is the best expression, even though it costs a lot, of love for neighbor. It's not as if the church is "closed." We never closed. We went online, and on the phone, and into mailboxes, etc. And when we gather, how sweet it will be! But, as Isaiah 40 says, "Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up on wings as of eagles." I also realize that I, and we as Synod Council, do not have a corner on the truth and moral high ground market. Still, if we err, I would always much rather err on the side of caution in caring for the world God in Christ so loves.

Please share this as you see fit within your congregation and otherwise. Please feel free to disagree, with our respect and prayers for the safest possible pursuit of whatever your congregation decides. Do we as the NC Synod leadership bless, affirm, support, or give permission or exception for in-person gatherings at this point or a decision to re-gather in person right now? No. But we love you and will walk with you in the decisions with which you struggle. God's rich blessings upon XXXXXX congregation and on you.

Bishop Tim Smith





Holly Grove Lutheran Church

212 Holly Grove Lutheran Church Road, Lexington, NC 27292
www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org 336-249-2807

May 13, 2020

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

We had hoped that we would be able to gather again as a congregation in May. However, the Covid-19 crisis proved to be an even greater enemy that anticipated. The government's response has itself created additional burdens for many, especially those who have lost jobs or fight to keep businesses afloat. But, as we continue through the disaster of Covid-19, we trust that there is always hope, for Jesus Christ gives us that promise in Matthew 28:20b: "*lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age!*" While these days have surely been trying for us, we believe we will come out of this stronger than ever. We, as a congregation, will persevere.

In the meantime, as a congregation, we have our monthly expenses that have to be met. We are deeply thankful for those who have faithfully sent in their tithes over these many weeks. But, we still need more members to participate in giving if we are to come out of this time ready to move forward and call our next pastor. We understand that the current situation has hurt many families and not everyone is able to give what they had planned but whatever help you can give is deeply appreciated. While we are meeting minimal expenses we are already \$11,000 behind on our budget and hope we will not continue to fall further behind.

If you are able to contribute, there are several ways that you can give as follows:

1-Drop it off at the Office Complex during office hours or at church on Sunday morning

2-Mail it in

3-Use On-Line Giving

Thank you again for your support, your prayers, and for whatever you are able to give. Please know that you are also in our prayers. If I as your President, or we as a congregation, can be of assistance please feel free to call me. We will do what we can to assist you.

In Christ's Love and Peace,

Andy Ferguson, Council President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Ferguson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of the church logo.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

June 2020



Altar Guild- Sandra Vaughn
Mother's Rose Garden- Carol Varner-In memory of Ina Hedrick

7th

The Holy Trinity

Holy Communion

Basket Offering: Crisis Ministry

Assisting Minister: Carol Conrad

Acolyte: Madison Lohr-Pope

Communion Assistant: Gary Hedrick

Bucket Holder: Gracie Ferguson, Calvin Carrick

Ushers: Dean Chapman, Scott Black, Rex Everhart, Joe Davis

Altar Flowers: The Chapman's-In honor of Mason's birthday

Children's Church: Tina Heitman

Children's Chat: Tina Heitman

14th *2nd Sunday after Pentecost*

Holy Communion

Assisting Minister: Norris Feeney

Acolyte: Isabell Heitman

Communion Assistant: Sarah Grace Davis

Bucket Holder: Conrad Sommer, Isabell Heitman

Ushers: Eddie Heitman, Ty Heitman, Frank Hamilton, Robin Beck

Altar Flowers: The Feeney's-In honor of Brandon, Norris & Ross's birthday

Children's Church: Jane DiBonaventura

Children's Chat: Pastor

21st *3rd Sunday after Pentecost* *Father's Day*

Holy Communion

Assisting Minister: Kim Troutman

Acolyte: Roseila Sommer

Communion Assistant: Sandra Vaughn

Bucket Holder: Gracie Ferguson, Roseila Sommer

Ushers: Mary Ellen Hinson, Jane DiBonaventura, Paula Hedrick, Susan Lohr

Altar Flowers: Micky & Carol Conrad-In honor of our children & grandchildren

Children's Church: Wendy Lohr

Children's Chat: Pastor

28th *4th Sunday after Pentecost* *Holy Communion*

Assisting Minister: Debbie Frank

Acolyte: Gracie Ferguson

Communion Assistant: Rex Everhart

Bucket Holder: Ryah Parsons, Conrad Sommer

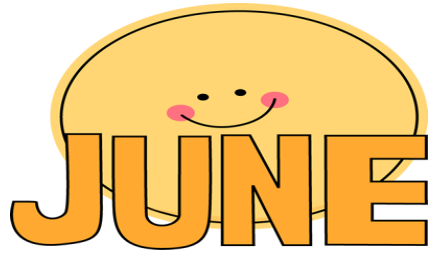
Ushers: Gaven Ferguson, Andy Ferguson, Herbert Frank, Max Carrick

Altar Flowers: The Parsons-In honor of Ryah's 4th birthday

Children's Church: Kristal Ferguson

Children's Chat: Sarah Grace Davis

If you are scheduled to do Assisting Minister, Altar Guild or Altar Flowers we encourage all to continue to fulfill those duties. If you are unable, please reach out to Andy.



Covid-19 Information

The 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic is a pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The disease was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei, China in December 2019. [wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)

Disease: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Virus strain: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)

- **First case:** December 1, 2019

Origin: Wuhan, Hubei, China

- **Symptoms:** Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19: Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.
- **Incubation period:** 1-14 days
- **Mode of transmission:** Human-to-human transmission via respiratory droplets
- **Prevention tips:** Avoiding close contact with sick individuals; frequently washing hands with soap and water; not touching the eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands; and practicing good respiratory hygiene



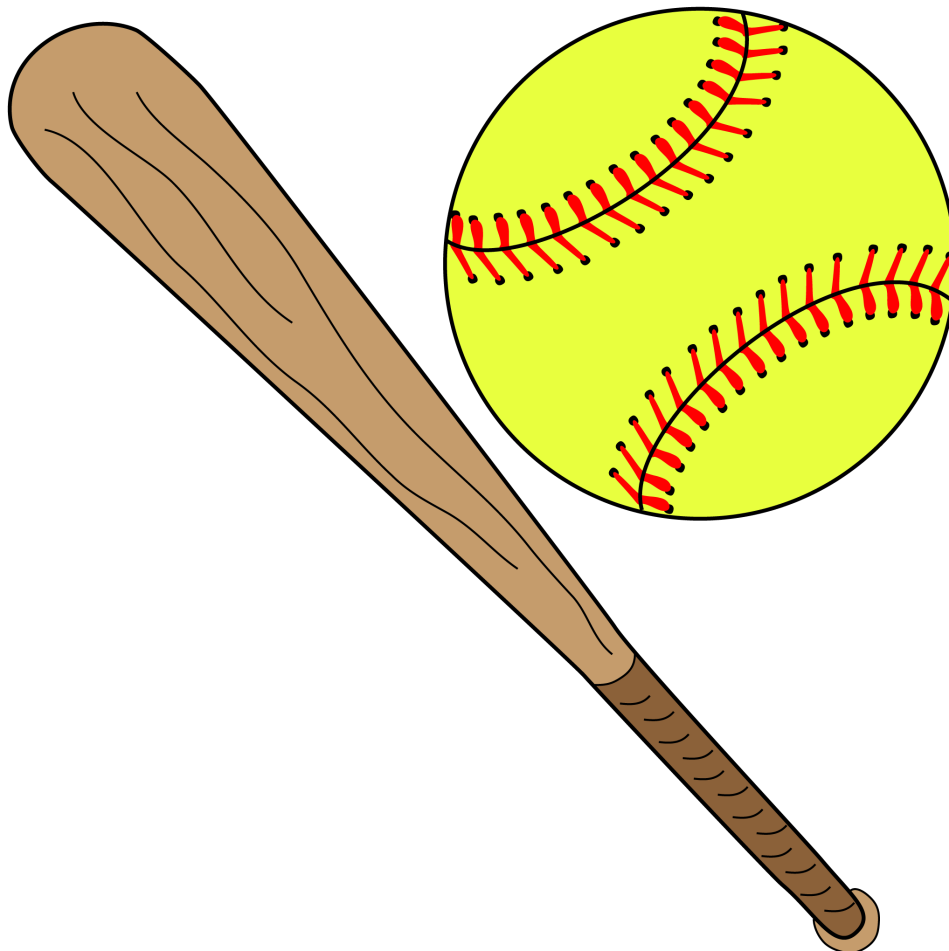


Birthday & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Nathan Baker</i>	2	3 <i>Carey Fritts Angie Varner Cliff Hill</i>	4 <i>Tracy Everhart</i>	5 <i>Makenna Hedrick Bobby/Janna Waitman</i>	6 <i>Mason Chapman</i>
7	8 <i>Bill Roberts Todd Kepley</i>	9 <i>Brandon Conrad Anna Lohr</i>	10 <i>Jon Proctor</i>	11 <i>Joe/Bonnie Hedrick Joe/Jennifer Davis</i>	12 <i>Tim Hylton John/Teresa Fritts</i>	13 <i>Norris Feeney</i>
14 <i>Dottie Curry</i>	15 <i>Paul Conrad William Curry</i>	16 <i>Ross Sommer</i>	17 <i>Matthew Parsons</i>	18 <i>Ted/Sherry Proctor</i>	19 <i>Mandy Fritts Jim/Jan Watkins</i>	20 <i>Matthew/Monica Parsons</i>
21 <i>Frank Hamilton Eddie Heitman Carol Varner</i>	22	23	24 <i>Herb Lohr Clifton/Kim Payne</i>	25 <i>Shane Lawrence Ryah Parsons Kristopher/Erin Burkhart</i>	26	27 <i>Eddie/Tina Heitman</i>
28 <i>Jeanine Hamilton Rex Everhart</i>	29	30 <i>Dakota Gates Paul/Carolina Conrad Max/Libby Carrick</i>				

HGLC Ballfield Facility Use

- Please direct teams, groups, clubs etc. that request and/or inquire about the use of the ball field to Joe Davis at 336-242-7933. The Recreation Committee has implemented Guidelines, Application, Liability Waiver & Release, Fee Schedule, etc. Application, Liability Waiver & Release, Team Roster, up to date team insurance policy, payment will need to be approved and received prior to facility use.
- *Use of the property is by permission only and is not a general use public facility.*





**The Conrad Reunion has been cancelled due to the
COVID-19 Pandemic.**

Thank you!
Amy Horn - Conrad Reunion President
(If you have questions, call me on my cell phone- 336-250-1616)

COVID-19 SURVEY FOR HOLLY GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1. When our local government lifts its ban or guidance against churches meeting, which best describes your attitude towards returning to a worship service at church?

- I will return at first opportunity with no reservations.
- I will return at first opportunity but with some concerns and precautions.
- I will wait several additional weeks before I attend.

2. What precautions, if any, do you expect our church to take for worship gatherings?
Select all that apply.

- Encourage everyone to wear masks.
- Require worship assistants to wear gloves.
- Limit handouts of any kind [e.g. bulletins, newsletters, inserts, etc.]
- Encourage social distancing in the Sanctuary.
- Prop doors open so people do not have to touch door handles.
- Set up one-way foot traffic entering and exiting the building.
- Provide hand sanitizer stations.
- Discourage passing of the peace.
- None of these.

Other: [Please specify]

3. When our local government lifts its ban or guidance against public gatherings, which of the following would you prefer for our church?

- Resume in person worship services at our church immediately.
- Continue on-line worship services only.
- Offer both in-person and on-line worship services.

Your feedback is important. Please mail or drop the completed survey off at the church office no later than Friday, June 5th.

Silent, Strong Dad

He never looks for praises.
He's never one to boast.
He just goes on quietly working
For those he loves the most.
His dreams are seldom spoken.
His wants are very few,
And most of the time his worries
Will go unspoken, too.
He's there...a firm foundation
Through all our storms of life,
A sturdy hand to hold onto
In times of stress and strife.
A true friend we can turn to
When times are good or bad.
One of our greatest blessings,
The man that we call Dad.

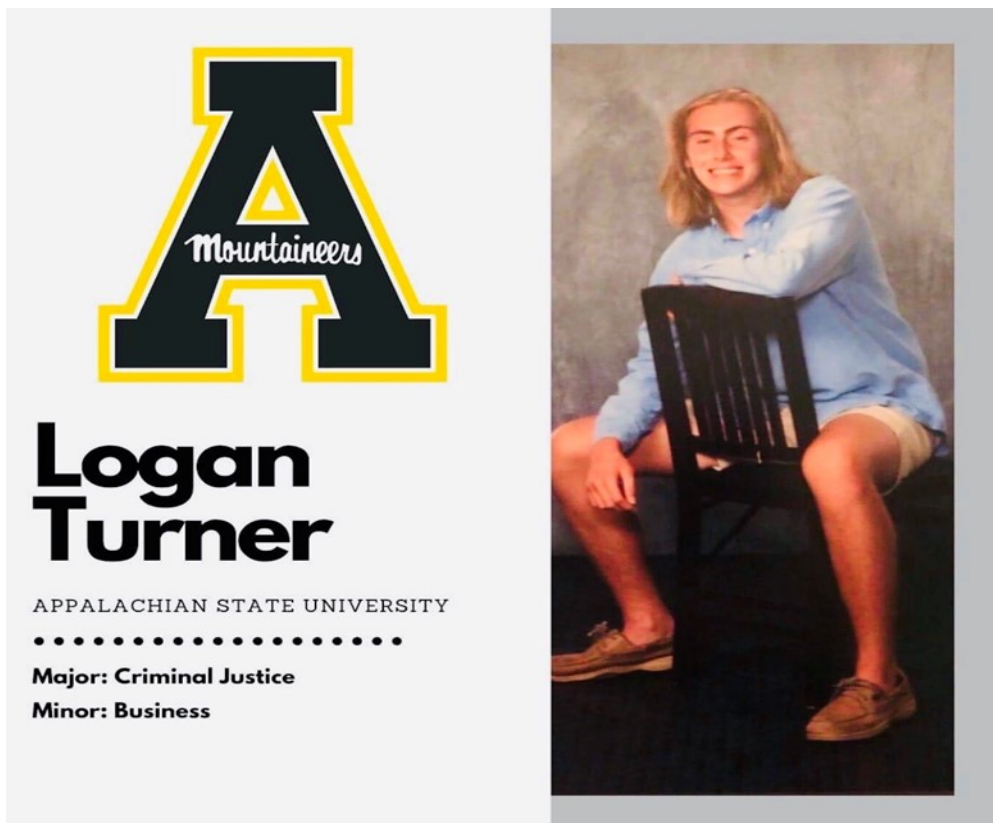
Happy Father's Day to All our Fathers!



Congratulations to Our Graduate Logan Turner!



A graphic for a senior sendoff. On the left is a portrait of Logan Turner, a young man with long blonde hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and shorts, sitting on a black chair. To the right is a white box with a blue border containing the text: "SENIOR Sendoff" (with "SENIOR" in blue block letters and "Sendoff" in yellow script), "Logan Turner" (in bold black), "Central Davidson High School", "Played soccer and tennis all four years, member of the National Honor Society, will attend App State majoring in criminal justice". At the bottom right of the graphic is the "FOX 8 myFOX8.com" logo.



A graphic for Appalachian State University. On the left is the university's logo, a large black letter 'A' with a yellow outline and the word "Mountaineers" in white script across it. Below the logo is the name "Logan Turner" in large, bold black letters. Underneath that, it says "APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY" followed by a row of ten dots. At the bottom, it lists "Major: Criminal Justice" and "Minor: Business". On the right is a portrait of Logan Turner, the same young man as in the first graphic, sitting on a black chair.



Please pray for:

Our Members:

- **Burnette Monteith**
- **Gary Hedrick**
- **Walter Blower**
- **Aldean Conrad**
- **Teresa Fritts**
- **Gene Kepley**
- **Dwight Everhart**
- **Steve Garner**
- **Randi Rose Hileman**
- **Carey Fritts**
- **Libby Carrick**
- **Barbara Kepley**
- **Mary Malone**
- **Joe Davis**
- **Bryan Queen**
- **Bill Roberts**

Our Friends & Family:

- Robert (Buddy) Brown
- Gary Helms-cousin of Gaynell Davis
- The Family of Cleston Nester-friend of Lynn & Lateffa Dennis
- Kenneth Miller-Friend of Joe & Bonnie Hedrick
- Charlotte Cable-Aunt of Jay Proctor
- Lynn Helms-cousin of Gaynell Davis
- Kay Kepley
- Randy Wafford
- The Family of Tommy Barnhart
- Eva Rae Clark-Neil Clark's Mother
- David Chappell-Friend of Kelly Carrick
- Pauline Young-Sister-In-Law of Dottie Curry
- Brooke Springer-Mary Malone's Grand-daughter
- Edwina Louya
- Banks Dellinger-Brother of Janna Waitman
- Houston Roberts-Son of Bill Roberts
- Bobbie Lynn Bingham-Bonnie Hedrick's Cousin
- Gunner Hedrick- Cousin of Gracie & Gaven
- Our service men and women all over the world
- Those unemployed, looking for work

****Names are generally rotated off after three weeks but we are happy to add them again if requested. Please send Prayer Requests to: hglcoffice@gmail.com or leave a message at the church office complex (336-249-2807)





Holly Grove Lutheran Church
212 Holly Grove Lutheran Church Rd
Lexington, NC 27292
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www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org
office: hglcoffice@gmail.com

Sundays

915AM Sunday School
1030AM Worship



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.