

JOY MISSION CHURCH Newsletter

We are a congregation on a mission!

March Ministry of the Month: **Tartu Academy of Theology & Home for Hope**

On Thursday, March 9th, Pastor Siimon Haamer shared his family's rich history of faithful ministry in Estonia during Russian occupation AND all that the Holy Spirit is doing to spread the Word of God and the gospel of Christ in modern times. This work includes a vibrant youth ministry; pastoral counseling; Bible classes; hosting Ukrainian refugees; community care; a weekly radio broadcast to Estonia and Russia; and much, much more!



Pastor Siimon Haamer (left); a Ukrainian families at Home for Hope (middle); youth worker Mattias Haamer (right)



MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Marty & Diane Lyles Emily Lyles

Marty is a retired high school band director. Diane is a retired music teacher. Emily teaches art at USC.



Darin & Lynn Roberts *associate members*

Darin is the chief operating officer of SC Specialty Cut Flowers. Lynn is a head agent for Windstream.




April Ministry of the Month: Medicine Mart prescription assistance

Medicine Mart is a locally-owned pharmacy that helps customers get prescription medicines at the lowest prices possible. We are excited to partner with them in their ministry. Watch the bulletin insert for more info.

SAVE THE DATE: May 20th for the **Carolinas Mission Region Flood Bucket Build** at Advent Lutheran Church, Kings Mountain. We will collect Comet & cleaning rags. More info. on the way!

Lent, Holy Week, & Easter Worship Schedule:

- **Wednesday (3/29)** 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & meal at Tom's Den
- **Palm Sunday (4/2)** 11:00 a.m. Worship w/Procession of Palms, location TBD
- **Maundy Thursday (4/6)** 7:00 p.m. Worship & Communion (no meal), location TBD
- **Good Friday (4/7)** 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service, Passion of Christ (no meal), location TBD
- **Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Day (4/9)** 11:00 a.m. Festival Service, location TBD

 *Invite your friends, family, & neighbors to join us for worship!*

Want to become a part of Joy? Contact the pastor for more information.



We love God, love neighbor, and serve with joy in Jesus' name through worship, fellowship, and discipleship.

JOY MISSION CHURCH

DISCIPLESHIP CORNER

STRIVING FOR JESUS

*Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.*

Psalm 127:1

We have worked hard these last five years. Steeped in prayer and filled with hope, we have toiled and labored for God's kingdom as the people of Joy Mission Church. We have grown from a handful of faithful Christians to a full and flourishing congregation. With the help of sister NALC congregations in North and South Carolina and the generosity and hospitality of Thompson Funeral Home, we have been able to steward resources well and purchase a church building of our own!

This is no small or unremarkable task. We are no arm-chair Lutherans - the "frozen chosen" who rest on God's grace without ever putting faith into action. At our Lord's call, we are moving forward in faith! We are stepping out of the boat with Him, joining Jesus on His mission – on a wonderful new adventure of both challenges and opportunities. We are excited, delighted, and maybe a little... scared. What if we flop? What if we fail? What if we are in over our heads?

There is no, "if." We, *alone*, can be assured that we WILL flop, fail, and fall short. But when we walk with Jesus – remaining steadfast in His Word and living faithfully for Him and His glory, we WILL not and CANNOT fail. The Lord guarantees our success! We are part of HIS Church, "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18b)

King David sought to build a house for the Lord, but He declared to David, "the Lord will make *you* a house." (2 Samuel 7:11b, emphasis added). Writing to the early Church, St. Paul declared, "I planted, Apollos watered, but *God* gave the growth." (1 Corinthians 3:6, emphasis added) There are many more examples in God's Word, but always, it is the Lord who brings success to His people, His Church.

Our work is not to strive for success, but to strive for Christ – to live for Him: to love Him, to serve Him, and to love and serve others in His name. When Jesus is our purpose and goal, HE will give the growth. He will build the house. And our labor will never be in vain.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, help us keep you always at the center of this congregation and the center of our lives, that we may give you glory, as you build and grow us according to your perfect will. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

To the glory of God alone (Soli Deo gloria!)
Pastor Paulette

We are NOT the mission. Our mission is the Great Commission:

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20)

This is why we exist - to: **Love God. Love neighbor. Serve with joy in Jesus' name.**



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