



April 2016 Newsletter



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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Easter shows God's love

I love to get candy. Chocolate is best. Reese's is better! Hard boiled eggs aren't my favorite, but I like the artistic effort put forth by many who color them. That plastic green grass is infuriating: you can never get rid of it! In our family, we enjoyed the tradition of hiding baskets (and trying to find them). We never went all out for new clothing or fancy presents. The food was always an important item. My parents still cook a leg of lamb for the holiday.

What is Easter all about in your family?

At church, some of us get up for a very early worship service. Then we have a breakfast in the fellowship hall. Lots of sugar! We have rousing, joyful music in our Easter services. What makes Easter such an unusual day?

It isn't hard to put your finger on it. Easter is the day Jesus rose from the dead. He was dead. He sacrificed himself in the place of every sinner, and his blood paid the debt in full. They placed his body in a tomb. Pilate even had the door sealed so no one could confuse the facts. Every one of Jesus' followers was devastated at his crucifixion. None expected what happened next.

When the angel opened the tomb, Jesus was not there. He had risen, just as he said. Jesus was alive again! He revealed himself to his followers many times and proved the reality. He is no longer dead. Since he is alive, death does not have power over him. Death does not have power over you, either. Sin has been forgiven. Satan has been vanquished. Easter is about Jesus. It shows us God's love. It reveals victory and promises eternal life.

If Easter's message isn't hard to understand, is it hard to see in the way you celebrate Easter? How will your children remember what Easter is all about? Bunny rabbits and colored eggs aren't the center of attention. Jesus is. Can you reorganize your traditions and focus your words so that Jesus is more prominent?

It helps to remember that every Sunday is meant to be a little Easter. It is the first day of the week, the day on which our Lord rose. We gather for worship to rejoice in the resurrection, whether the Sunday is in April or in October. Our songs of joy recognize forgiveness is won and heaven is our home every time we sing them. The pattern of weekly worship says to our family and our friends that Easter is important all year long. That regular worship fills us with Jesus' gospel message and refreshes us in the faith to face every day's hardships. We need Easter Sunday as a reminder of God's love. We need each little Easter to do the same.

Use the opportunity this Easter to cut through the distractions. Make it a point to fix your eyes on Jesus. The resurrection is the heart of our Christian faith. Without it we would have no hope. **“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20)”** You have this confidence: My sins are forgiven. God's words give me life. My Jesus will take me to be with him forever in heaven. Alleluia! Praise the Lord.

Pastor James D. Plocher

<p>HOLY WEEK Worship Schedule</p>	<p>Maundy Thursday worship with Communion 6:30pm Good Friday 1:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service 6:30pm Easter Dawn 6:30am Easter Breakfast 7:30am Easter Festival with Communion 9:30am</p>	
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Voters' Meeting

The Quarterly Voters meeting will be held at noon on Sunday, April 17. We are having it one week early to avoid a conflict with the Mission Festival the next week. In addition to the regular reports, we will hear of progress on the Saginaw Street parsonage, and on the path to a new roof on the school. Bids are being received on that project, and financing is being investigated. Plenty of exciting work is being done at St. Luke's and we encourage every voter to be involved in it by participating in the voters meeting. This is the place to speak up and ask questions so that you are informed. If you are not a voter, you are invited to speak with any voter, or your elder, or the congregation president. They will be happy to express your concerns or questions at the meeting and to explain or answer as they are able. Keep our congregation in your prayers, that God will continue to shower his blessing upon us.

Pastoral Acts

Christian Funeral:
Rose Clinesmith
2-24-2016

Adult Confirmations:
Gerald Hascall
Amy Mocny
Terry Mocny II
Brittany Page
3-6-2016

Altar Flowers

If you wish to place flowers on the altar this year, please sign up on the poster in the entry way. You are responsible for ordering the flowers for the date and making payment with the florist of choice.



Easter Breakfast

The Elders will again serve Easter breakfast after the Dawn service. They will serve pancakes and sausage beginning about 7:30am. Ladies of the congregation are providing egg casseroles and cinnamon rolls, as well as fruit cups. The freewill offering received at the breakfast will be used for the Almoners Fund. This fund is used to help members who are in special need. At present, the Almoners Fund has a zero balance. Thank you for your generosity!

Saginaw Street parsonage

Jerry Comstock oversaw an array of willing volunteers to ready the Saginaw Street parsonage for its next use. Work was done on plumbing and electrical, on drywall and flooring, inside and outside work and much painting. Thank you to all who donated their time and effort. It looks like our monetary expenses were around \$2,000. The Church Council is recommending that the home be put on the market for sale as soon as all work is completed. Hopefully that action will take place before the April 17 voters meeting with a formal vote at the meeting. If you have any questions about what was done or where things are going, speak with Jerry or with congregation president John Solgat.

Mission Festival

Several years ago St. Luke's determined to send mission offerings directly to a struggling congregation in Roscommon, MI. A small group of WELS members gathered in a community center, and were served by pastors that came from afar. Their efforts were blessed by God. The congregation is now called Shepherd of the Lakes. They have purchased a building and they support a full time pastor. Their outreach into the community has been welcomed.

Now the congregation wants to thank those who helped them. Their pastor, Rev. Adam Seelow, will come to St. Luke's for a **Mission Festival on Sunday, April 24**. He will point us to Jesus, but also will relate how the gospel is working in Roscommon.



We are planning to have a potluck meal that day to welcome Pastor Seelow and his family. Watch the bulletin board soon to sign up to bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert. We invite you to join us, and to rejoice in the fellowship we share as members of the Wisconsin Synod.



Arbor Day at Church

As the weather warms up, we hope to do some outside sprucing up on Saturday, April 16. We hope to rake the yard and clean out the window wells from winter's winds. Other small jobs can also be taken care of as hands are available. We hope to start about 9:00 and be done by noon. Bring a rake and some gloves, and some eagerness to help!



Spring Cleaning at Church

We use our church and fellowship hall with loving care, but over time it still gathers grime and dust. Each year we aim to do a thorough cleaning to remove what layers we can. It helps the building look and smell good year round, and it allows us to stay on top of regular maintenance. Over the years we have enjoyed a good number of volunteers who were dedicated to our spring cleaning. However, last year we were not able to organize a cleaning effort for a number of reasons. This year we are redoubling our effort to complete the project.

The church office will print slips with the cleaning needs of various areas of the church. You are invited to take as many as you are willing. When those jobs are complete, you can sign the slip and return it to the church office. This allows you to fit the cleaning into your personal schedule. If, however, you would like to clean at a time when others are also around, that is an option. The fellowship and encouragement that is given when a group is present is a gift from God, too. Talk with your friends to schedule a time when you can get together for a cleaning party at church. It surely is good, clean fun! Look for the slips to be available after Easter. We would like to be done with the entire project by the end of April.

Security Concerns



Some of you may be aware that some cars were broken into in our parking lot during a Monday evening worship service in March. The thieves smashed windows and snatched whatever valuables they could see. It is a good reminder to keep hidden from sight things like purses and electronics, even when parking at church. The Church Council is discussing whether we need security cameras and the Trustees are making sure our outside lighting is sufficient. Remember to pay attention to your surroundings and report what looks suspicious. Trust that no matter what befalls us in this life, that our eternity is secure because we have a living Savior!



Replacing the School Roof

Those who serve the congregation on boards and committees are working to prepare for the roof replacement at St. Luke's School. Already the treasurer is pursuing the details for a loan to cover the expense of the project. Special gifts given will reduce the amount of our eventual debt. Bids have been asked for from several companies, and we are still waiting for some of them to be returned. It seems the roof project will cost about \$45,000. Special gifts given to this point come to \$1,500.

Lawn Mowing at School

Spring has come, and things are turning green! That means that the grass will soon have to be mowed. We depend on volunteers to cut the grass at the school property. We have two zero turn mowers to accomplish the task, along with a trim mower and a string trimmer. A sheet is posted on the bulletin board at church so you can choose a time that fits into your schedule. More than one family can work together, if desired. If you need training on the machinery, please speak with either a Trustee or the Principal. Ask Pastor Plocher about gaining access to the shed.



Funding other capital projects

A question was raised at our January voters meeting about adding in several other maintenance projects to the loan that funds the school roof project. This would increase our debt, but accomplish the jobs. Since our congregation members have historically eliminated debts rather quickly, that might be a way to move ahead with work that needs to be done. It would also give us relief from the continual press of future projects that need to be funded. It would, however, make our loan bigger. And, we recognize that there will always be more projects that need to be done.

The Trustees will provide a list of possible projects to the April Voters meeting, and the discussion will take place there as to whether to include any of them in this summer's loan application. The top of the list includes fixing a sewer flaw at church (\$1,500), carpeting classrooms at the school (\$2,000 each x 4 rooms), replacing carpet and bathrooms in the parsonage (\$estimate still coming), and repairing the bell tower (\$2,000).

Thrivent Choice

Occasionally members of St. Luke's ask if our congregation can apply to receive Thrivent Choice dollars. This is a member benefit for those who use Thrivent as a life insurance company or financial advisor. The Church Council has declined to join the program for several reasons, the primary one being the requirement that we advertize Thrivent when we receive the funds. If members of St. Luke's have Thrivent Choice dollars they wish to designate, we encourage you to consider Michigan Lutheran Seminary or the Saginaw Pregnancy Counseling Center. They are approved organizations and will use your gift to support their work.

Applying for a vicar

At a special voters meeting on March 13, the voters agreed to apply for a vicar for the 2016-2017 school year. What this means is that we will ask for one of the students from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to be sent to St. Luke's for the next school year. He will serve a type of internship as part of his education. The assignment committee will announce their appointments on May 17. At this time we do not know how many places are applying for a vicar, so we do not know if we will even receive one. There are 26 available men who can serve next year, slightly fewer than the number of those who are currently vicars.

If we should receive a vicar, St. Luke's will be involved with the training of a young man for the pastoral ministry. Our congregation will give him experience in doing many of the tasks of the ministry, such as sermon writing and delivery, shut in calls, teaching classes, and organizing the time available to meet the current needs. Pastor Plocher will be involved in that teaching most directly, but each member of the congregation will also be part of the classroom for the vicar. As the year progresses, the vicar will become more confident and experienced, and will require less direct supervision. He will be an overall help to the ministry of our congregation as he will be involved in every aspect of our work.

A vicar would come in mid August and serve an entire year, until the next August. If we should receive a vicar, we would have that year to consider our long term planning and how we will proceed to support the work we desire to do.

If St. Luke's is not assigned a vicar in May, then we will be able to pursue the option of a retired pastor to serve us. There are no retired pastors in the area at this time, and it is possible none will be available at all. If we should need to pursue that course of action, we will do that in late May. Pray for the work of the gospel, that God's will be done among us also.

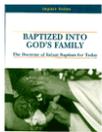
Restroom Monitoring

Parents, please keep watch over your children as they make use of the church restrooms. In recent weeks, several very “messy” situations have been discovered in the restrooms. It is unpleasant for our visitors and for our custodian who is in charge of cleaning up the “mess.” We appreciate your help in keeping our facility presentable.



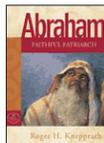
Church Library

See what our church library has to offer for faith building reading materials.



Check out the Impact Series with books on Fellowship, Baptism, Biblical Interpretation and many other topics relevant in our world today.

Or you can read the series, God’s People, which look at the lives of well-known people in the Bible, like Abraham, Noah, Peter, Paul and more.



Dig in to books that will give you the words you need to profess the hope that you have in our Savior.

Pinewood Derby Race

Plan to come watch the upcoming Pinewood Derby races at church on Sunday, April 3. Weigh-in and creative judging begin at 12PM. Races start at 2PM. We will have kids’ and adults’ divisions racing. We plan to have snacks between races, so bring some finger food snacks to share with your friends. See you there!

Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG)

The WELS has begun a new group to offer support to our active and retired military members. You can see what they are doing at www.lutheranmilitary.org.

LMSG is asking for the names of our members who have served in the military in the past, and those who are currently serving. Please consider sharing your information with the church office so we can build a data base of military service in our congregation.

A member is also interested in making a display indicating those who have served in various time frames / conflicts. Your information would be used to fill in the display.



We collect mission box offerings for LWMS April 3-19. We are collecting for World Missions-CAMM Central African Medical Mission, and Home Missions: Devotional Booklets for College Students.

A sign-up sheet for carpooling will be posted on the bulletin board.

You have until May 1 to register for the National LWMS Convention held June 23-26 in St. Charles, IL.

Synod School News

There are a number of concerts being presented at our synod schools in the month of April. You can view the concerts online livestream or watch the archived concerts at a later date. Take a look at what’s coming up:

Michigan Lutheran Seminary
www.mlsem.org

Sunday, April 10 at 7:00 PM
Concert Choir Homecoming Concert

Sunday, April 17 at 7:00 PM
MLS Band Concert

Martin Luther College
www.mlc-wels.edu

Sunday, April 3 @ 4PM
College Choir Homecoming Concert

Saturday, April 16 at 8:30 PM
Wind Symphony Concert

Sunday, April 17 3:00 PM
Hymn Festival Service

The Thumb Circuit Spring LWMS Rally is Saturday, April 23 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Pigeon, MI. MLS Professors Norv and Kathy Kock will share information about the International Student Program at MLS. Registration begins at 9AM.

Sunday School Lessons for April

April 3	The road to Emmaus
April 10	Jesus appears to his disciple
April 17	Doubting Thomas
April 24	Jesus appears in Galilee



Mission Offering

Thank you to the families who send a Sunday School offering with their child. Your gifts are used in two ways. Half of the offering we send to a mission. This year we are supporting The Wartburg Project, a Bible translation effort by members of the Wisconsin Synod. The other half of our offerings helps to purchase Sunday School materials. The lessons for each student cost about \$20 a year, in addition to the teacher materials. The Sunday School offering is gathered at the opening devotion in the basement. Be sure to arrive in time to participate in the worship that begins our Sunday School time.



Teachers for next year

Now is the time to start thinking about whether you would like to teach Sunday School in the fall. We always need a few new teachers as others move on to serve their Savior in other ways. A substitute can give the regular teacher a welcome break, too. If you are considering it, perhaps you could visit a Sunday School room and observe the teacher, or ask questions regarding the support materials. Speak with Pastor Plocher, and he will fill you in, but you are more than welcome to investigate on your own!

Sunday School schedule

We are nearing the end of the school year, and weekends quickly become full of activities. We will have Sunday School each Sunday at 9:30 through May 22. Beginning Memorial Day weekend we have only one Sunday service. We hope that you will continue a good routine of regular attendance at worship throughout the spring and the summer. Your faith needs continual nourishment in the gospel, and God keeps you strong in the faith through his word.

Thank you for your support of and involvement in Christian Education at St. Luke's.

Vacation Bible School

Our VBS theme this year is "DIVE IN!" Jenni Whitney has volunteered to be our coordinator. The first volunteer she will need is a craft person. She will also be asking for help with organizing snacks and decorating the fellowship hall. Teachers and helpers are also needed. Give her a hand by volunteering, rather than making her find you! VBS dates this year are July 31-August 4. We hope to have a good idea of those who will help by the end of May.

*Your word
is a lamp to
my feet
and
a light
or my path.
Psalm 119:105*

Arbor Day at School

On April 23 the cleanup effort moves to the school property. Principal Lange will have a list of chores to complete, both inside and outside. Families are invited to come, as there will be work for children and adults. The Christian Education Organization will provide treats for those who come. Plan to begin by 9:00 and be done around noon. Thanks for your dedication to maintaining your congregation and its property!

Kindergarten Registration

It's time to think about registering for next year's Kindergarten class! *Children eligible for St. Luke's kindergarten program should be 5 years old on or before September 1.* Applications will be mailed to children on our cradle roll whose birthdate's fall on or before September 1, 2016.

Please **return your registration** application **along with** copies of your child's birth certificate and immunization record to the school office by **April 4th**. Kindergarten registration begins early to allow for the mandatory kindergarten readiness testing. Registration for Gr. K-8 has been sent out and is due back in the school office on May 13th.

If you have any questions about St. Luke's kindergarten program, the registration process, or you know of someone who needs registration paperwork, please contact Mr. Lange, Mrs. Einhardt, or Mrs. Lange at school (989-823-8400).

CEO Happenings

Spring is the time of the year to spruce up our school's campus on Saturday, April 23rd from 9am-noon. Look for more info coming in the church bulletin, school take home folders, and on Facebook. Many hands make light work! Hope to have a great turnout to make our school look AMAZING!

The week of May 2nd-6th we will be celebrating our 3 teachers with Teacher Appreciation Week! This is a wonderful chance for all of us to say thank you to Mr. Lange, Mrs. Lange, and Mrs. Einhardt for all of the hard work they do for our congregation and school. If you'd like to donate, speak with Kim Korthals. Kim will be putting out more info on what fun activities will be happening each day of Teacher Appreciation Week throughout the month of April. Be sure to check your church mailboxes for flyers.

Basketball Lenten Supper Recap

On Wednesday, March 16th, the Redhawk boys and girls basketball teams hosted their annual Lenten supper. Just under 100 people came and enjoyed our "family favorites" casseroles, sides, and desserts. A freewill offering of \$275.27 was collected to help send our basketball players to the MLS Cardinal Camps in June. "Vintage" Redhawk soccer and cheer uniforms were also sold for \$1/item. The proceeds from the uniform sale were \$42 and these monies will be going into the CEO Uniform Fund to work towards replacing the basketball uniforms. Thank you to the basketball families for providing food, the players for serving and cleaning up, and for those who came out for the meal! It was a fun evening of fellowship & worship!

Register for Summer Camp at Camp Lor-Ray



The theme for this summer is "Two Kingdoms," and we'll look at what it means for young Christians to be in the world but not of it. The daily schedule includes outdoor recreation and games, swimming and canoeing in a private lake, campfires, fellowship, Bible studies and devotions. Staff and counselors are needed, especially Bible study leaders, life guards, and cooks. Apply and register online at camlor-ray.org.

Take a look at the bulletin board by the church office for posters and flyers with more information about dates and grade levels involved in the various programs.

Pregnancy Counseling Center

Thank you to all who have prayed for the center and/or made donations of any kind. We may never realize the impact we as a church have on families who are faced with life-changing decisions and have chosen life!

Items needed include: laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, tissues, toilet paper, paper towels, safety pins, maternity clothing, baby formula, children's Bible storybooks, diaper bags, baby wipes, diapers sizes newborn and size 5-6, pull-ups, baby wash & shampoo, baby clothing. If you have large baby items to donate please call the counseling center at 989-752-7664.

Financial donations can be made payable by check to: Christian Life Resources Saginaw Valley, Inc and mailed to Pregnancy Counseling Center, 916 Gratiot Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602.

Donations can be placed on/under the table in the fellowship hall (near mailboxes). Please speak with Kim Thurston with any questions.

School News for April 2016

From the Faculty

The faculty of St. Luke's Lutheran School wishes to join you in celebrating the completion of the 25th year of our Lutheran elementary school – a quarter century “Built on Christ Alone.” We are so thankful for the love and support you have given the school, its students, and its teachers these past 25 years. We rejoice in hearing so many of our parents and congregation members speak so highly of the quality Lutheran education that our children receive at our school. It is also encouraging to see our parents' willingness to share that information about our school with family and friends.

As our focus is now fixed on the victory of the cross and the guarantee won by Jesus in his resurrection, may we continue to praise God for the gift he has given us in our school. Through our school, may God grant future generations the ability to know of His praise worthy deeds and join us in glorifying our Father in heaven. Thank you dear Father in heaven! - Mr. John Lange



Our faculty wishes you a blessed Lenten season and a joyful Eastertide!



Pre-Registration in Full Swing

Registration for Kindergarten is now taking place. We are anticipating very few applicants this year from our cradle roll. We ask those registering at this time to be prompt in returning their materials so readiness testing may commence. **Kindergarten parents, a copy of your child's birth certificate and immunization record must be turned in with your application.** If any of you have questions about the process or would like other questions answered, please contact the school office or Mrs. Lange directly (823-8400 school / 823-7304 home). We will be glad to answer any questions you may have. **The registration due date is April 4, 2016, but later registrations are ALWAYS WELCOMED.**

Pre-Registration for Grades 1-8 - Our school is currently accepting registrations from member and non-member applicants for the coming 2016-17 school year. **Pre-registration packets** have been delivered to every current school family (via take-home folders) asking them for their **completion and return of materials with fees by Friday, May 13.** Prompt return of materials allows the faculty to make the proper early preparations for their classrooms, gives vital information to the Board of Christian Education about classroom census, and allows our Administrative Assistant to make sure appropriate numbers of school texts and supplies are ordered for the new year.

This year we ask that you pay **50% of the school fees** recommended with your 2016-17 pre-registrations. As you know, the congregation's budget is challenged in the summer months when many of our school bills are paid. The added revenue from your fees this spring will allow us to have the ability to pay for some of the texts we have already purchased, thereby, decreasing the bills needed to be paid in the leaner summer months.

Recruiters Still Needed

To all parents and friends of St. Luke's Lutheran School, remember you are the **front line recruiters!** With our thoughts already turning to fall and the prospect of 44 students in our school, we want to remind you that future parents of our school will question you about any concerns they have about enrolling their children in our Lutheran elementary school. Please accept this God-given challenge and privilege by being prepared to answer the questions of parents who are interested in having their children in our school. Finally, identify potential school parents and introduce yourselves to them - especially those who have children who are nearing or at elementary school age. Encourage them to consider the blessings and benefits of having their children attend our school.

2016 MLS Science and Fine Arts Fair

St. Luke's School was well-represented at the MLS Science and Fine Arts Fair on Saturday, March 5. All 21 students of our 5-8th grades entered their science projects. Our students made a great showing receiving 6 purple ribbons (superior), 8 blue ribbons (excellent), 4 red ribbons (good), and 2 white ribbons (fair).

Further results - Congratulations to the third–sixth grade forensics team whose sub-teams and individuals brought home 3 purple ribbons, 9 blue ribbons, and 6 red ribbons for their efforts! We had 3 participants in the math competition who took 1 purple ribbon, 1 blue ribbon, and 1 white ribbon home. We had one student take home a blue ribbon in the music competition for playing her recorder. We had 3 students take home 1 purple ribbon, 1 red ribbon, and 1 white ribbon in the spelling bee. We had 8 participants in art who took home a total of 8 blue ribbons and 3 red ribbons in their multiple-entry competition. We congratulate all the participants for their hard work and achievements!

Thanks to the parents who worked with their children, challenging them to meet the time schedules needed to produce such quality work. **Parents, our teachers depend on you to give that kind of guidance and reinforcement to your children at home.**

The students' science projects were displayed in the fellowship hall along with art projects and crafts from Grades 3-8. Thanks for supporting our students by viewing their projects on display.

St. Luke's School Arbor Day ~ April 23 from 9:00 - Noon.

The CEO is hosting a full morning of cleaning activities – inside and out - at our school's campus on **SATURDAY, APRIL 23. OUR STRAW-BOSS WILL BE ON THE CAMPUS EARLY TO GUIDE THE MANY PEOPLE NEEDED TO DO SEVERAL OUTDOOR PROJECTS.** Please bring **your** leaf and garden rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels, pruning shears, and clippers for outside work. We need indoor cleaning done as well. Please bring **your own** cleaning supplies: rags, pails, glass cleaner, and cleansers for indoor work. Consider joining us. Many hands make the work light!

On a related note, the children will participate in a Kids' Cleanup the week before April 23. They will break from their regular classwork on a selected afternoon to begin the many small-hand projects around the building and campus.

News from the BALL Athletic Directors' Spring Meeting

The annual athletic directors' meeting was held this year on March 11 at St. John's Lutheran School, Saginaw. Along with the planning of the annual calendar, there were many additional items on the agenda. Large and small school enrollments were reviewed. Several schools will be forced to limit their teams to an A team or a B team in basketball next year due to a lack of enrollment in those age brackets. (For example, St. Luke's will have only a girls' B-team next fall.) After two years of coordinated efforts, the BALL League decided to discontinue their inter-league planning with the WELS schools of the Central Michigan Lutheran Athletic League directly. BALL tournament host schools will still invite members of that league to scrimmage against us and play in our tournaments.

Up-coming league highlights are:

- o BALL Volleyball Invitational on Saturday, April 9 at MLS
- o Friday, May 27, 2016 will be the date for the day-long BALL Track and Field Day at Garber High in Essexville. St. Luke's is the host school.

Mission Offerings at St. Luke's

Our children have just completed the **second trimester of mission offerings** at school. We were able to send a check for **\$292.40** for the Multi-Language Publications of the WELS. This gift will help pay for the costs of translating many fine Lutheran works into twenty-three different languages.

Our **final offering** will be a collection to fund the design and creation of new lighted signs at the church. We believe that the children will be able to give a substantial gift to this sign project which will call attention to the entrances of the church and office. A new sign will be designed to replace the letter-inset of the brick sign, as well.

Mackinaw Trip Can Drive

Many thanks to everyone who contributed cans and bottle deposit receipts to the upper grade children's Mackinaw Trip. As of March 21, **\$147.10** had been donated – that's 1471 cans and bottles! The money gathered will defray student costs for traveling and two meals. The collection program is now in its final two months. Please keep bringing in your cans and bottles for our trip. Thanks for donating to our trip!

Bay Area WELS Children's Choir

On Sunday, March 13 the ten children of St. Luke's Festival Choir joined three other children's choirs of Bay Area WELS schools to present the Bay Area Lutheran Children's Choir Concert. The children sang three songs in mass choir and one piece of their own choosing. The piece our choir sang under the direction of Mrs. Lange was entitled, "Gaudeamus Hodie". The children's choirs were also joined by the Concert Choir of Michigan Lutheran Seminary for a piece called "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful". Almost eighty students from our area WELS Lutheran elementary schools participated in this year's concert. *What a treat it was to hear those young voices proclaiming God's praises!*

Welcome New Student

McKenna Peche, a fourth grade transfer from Central School, joined Mrs. Einhardt's classroom this past week. Her parents are Jason and Kim Peche of Vassar. The Peches are interested in becoming members of St. Luke's Church, as well. Welcome to you, Peche Family, and may God bless you as you begin your Lutheran elementary education!

Redhawk Co-ed Volleyball

The Redhawk volleyball team is having a spirited year. Ten 5th-8th grade boys and girls went out for the sport this year. We had a good core of returning veterans who helped the coaches pass on the skills and rules needed to be successful in the sport. We thank coaches VanLue and Mecham for all their hard work in teaching a life-long sport to the kids! As of this writing the team has a 3-1 match record with two matches to play.

On Saturday, April 9, the Redhawks and their fans travel to Michigan Lutheran Seminary for the annual invitational tournament, this year being hosted by Trinity, Bay City.

Third Quarter Comes to an End

As of this writing our teachers are preparing their Third Quarter Grades. This is the time of the year that we make the toughest assessments of our children's progress. It is during this marking period that we try to determine readiness for the next grade level or for the next subject level. It is not an easy task because oftentimes parents will subjectively see advancement in a subject area or in a grade level as an automatic event. However, it is not always to the student's benefit to do so.

Oftentimes at this time of year a student will display major challenges in keeping up academically or socially with his or her peers. Subjects are becoming more and more difficult to complete well at school or at home. Reading comprehension is becoming more difficult as the year progresses. The student just feels behind. The teachers and parents may notice this.

(continued on next page)

It is at this quarter marking period that a teacher may ask a parent to really contemplate having their child remain in the same grade level for the next year. Or if mastery in a specific subject is lacking, a teacher may suggest having the student repeat that subject over the following year on the same level. This is done NOT to punish the child, but to encourage growth in that particular subject area or on that particular grade level. It is also this time of year that parents with social and academic concerns should be meeting with their child's teacher discussing their concerns about their child's progress and then mapping out the future academic career of their child.

These decisions are not easy, and often there is much resistance from the student in question. Yet our goal as teachers is to insure that each child in our school get as much out of their year as possible - that they develop their talents to their richest measure. Parents, please help us and your children to this God-pleasing end.

We truly are thankful to have been able to serve St. Luke's as your elementary teachers again this year. We thank Him for the almost 80 years of experience that our faculty has in education which we will use to help you educate your children. Keep us in your prayers as we continue to serve our God to the best of our abilities. Soli Deo Gloria – to God be the Glory.

Dates for your calendars:

- **Arbor Day** ~ April 23 from 9:00 AM to Noon
- **Confirmand Examination** ~ May 12 at 6:30 PM
- **Confirmation** ~ May 15 second service.
- **Straits of Mackinaw Class Trip**~ May 24-26
- **Track and Field Day** ~ May 27, Garber High School, Essexville
- **Graduation & Academic Awards Ceremony**~ June 2 at 6:30 PM

Spirit Apparel

Now that basketball ball season is over, we are getting ready for track and field. Order forms will be sent out to the students shortly. If anybody is interested in other school apparel, please contact Rachel Whitney.

Lenten Prayer Request from Russia

- Thank God for our three Russian pastors – Alexei, Arkady, and Viktor! Please pray that God would continue to bless them.
- Thank God for our Daylight teachers! Please pray that they would make many contacts and be allowed to see some fruits of their labors. Pray that more teachers would desire to serve in Russia next school year.
- Please pray that the children in Iskitim would grow in their faith. Pray that their parents would also want to learn about their Savior.
- Please pray for the health of our Russian /English translator Andrei who recently suffered a heart attack.
- Please pray for the congregation in Crimea during this time of political transition.
- Please pray for all our members during the continued economic crisis.
- Please pray for peace among our nations so that we can continue our valuable work in Asia.
- Please pray that God would bless our missionaries' efforts to share the Good News during Lent and Easter!

Financial Update February 2016

Income	\$34,489.48
Expenses	<u>\$31,110.38</u>
	\$ 3,379.10

*Monthly budgeted need is \$37,430.67

Special Envelope

Contributions can be made to any of the funds below by using the special offering envelopes in the narthex or included with this newsletter. Be sure to name the fund on the envelope before you put it into the offering plate.

- Property Maintenance and Improvement Trust Fund—funds will be used for unexpected upkeep on our properties
- Scholarship Fund – distributed each year to students attending synod schools.
- Scholarship Endowment Fund – proceeds supplement the Scholarship Fund annually.
- Building Trust Fund – To pay for future building projects.
- St. Luke’s Rainy Day Fund – this fund helps the congregation when cash flow is slow. Repayment of the loan to ourselves is made through your generous gifts to the General Fund and/or special gifts to this line item.
- Roof Fund—To reduce the amount borrowed to replace the shingles on the church.

Treasurer’s Update

Budgetary offerings were: \$34,489.48
 Budgetary expenses were: \$31,110.38
 Net Income was: \$3,379.10

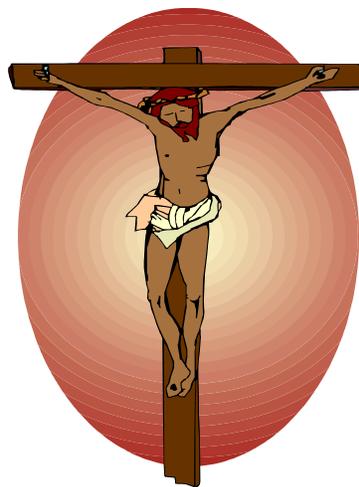
To fully fund the work we do at St. Luke’s, we budget \$37,430.67 per month, so our offerings were short of this target by \$2,941.19. For the year we are behind \$12,576.82.

Our General Budget Checkbook Balance: -\$3,393.63 as of 3/8/16, which reflects our internal borrowing.

The Rainy Day Fund balance: \$12,396.00

The LACE Loan balance: \$121,681.00

Respectfully submitted,
 Bill Dudewicz, Treasurer



Memorials

Memorials were given to the Roof fund in loving memory of Rose Clinesmith by Margaret Somerville, Al & Marge Sugden, Bob & Meg Ziegler, and Dorothy Martini.

A memorial was given to the Rainy Day Fund in loving memory of Teresa Greenwood by Stephanie Normand.

A memorial was given to the Rainy Day Fund in loving memory of Jean Hecht by Don & Sharon Thurston.

A memorial was given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of Teresa Greenwood and Rose Clinesmith by Duane & Shirley Streeter.

Memorials were given to the General Fund in loving memory of Rose Clinesmith by Frank Rakoczy, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence R. Martin, Tom Borcharding, Sheila Fauver, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Aurnhamer, Don & Onna Clinesmith, Wally & Sandy Keyes, Jack & Evelyn DeLong & family, Carson & Diana Waterman, and Charles & Diana Schultz.

A memorial was given to St. Luke’s Lutheran School in loving memory of Rose Clinesmith by Marv & Dorothy Dowe.

A memorial was given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of Allen Reinbold by Jim & Sally Zoellner.

A special gift was given to the Roof Fund by Duane & Shirley Streeter in celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary.