



June Newsletter 2016



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16,17

About the time we began to learn our ABCs we began to learn our 123s. We soon started to hear that $1 + 1$ was 2; and $2 + 2$ was 4. We came to understand that $1 + 1 + 1$ was 3. We would have been corrected if we had said that $1 + 1 + 1$ equals 1. Math doesn't work that way.

That's one of the reasons why it is so difficult for us to wrap our minds around the essence of God. He defies reason. He doesn't follow the rules of our math. He uses heavenly math.

He does not sit down with us to explain his math. We would not be able to follow his line of thought if he did. Instead, he just states the math facts, and then he shows us.

After leading Israel out of captivity from Egypt he stopped the travels to teach his people. Through his Law he taught them right from wrong. He warned them to listen closely to his words and obey them. He told them some things about himself.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4). With this statement he identifies himself as the single God. This makes sense to us.

But sometimes in the Old Testament he refers to himself in the plural. We might think that he is using the majestic plural, as when a king calls himself "we." But that's not the case. We begin to learn that he is actually three persons. We might doubt that if he did not make it obvious. The New Testament makes it even more clear.

Through his Apostle Matthew he tells us, "Watch this!" Then he proceeds to show us the scene that appeared to the early disciples. There is Jesus coming up from the bank of the river. At the very same time the Holy Spirit appears, in the form of a dove. Simultaneously, God the Father reveals himself by speaking, "This is my Son..."

There we have it! He is one God. But there are three persons in the Godhead. We call it the Trinity—Three-in-One.

What does that mean for us? It means that the Lord is unlike anything we have seen. It means that he operates on a plane much higher than what we are familiar with. It means he is God—and we are not.

So how are we to explain this to a person who does not believe in him? Explanation is not necessary. Truth stands whether we understand it or not, whether we accept it or not. We simply are to declare it.

What does the Triune God expect of us? The same as he expected of his ancient people when he said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).

It doesn't matter that we cannot make sense of all this now.

In heaven, heavenly math will be absolutely clear.

Prayer: O Lord, our God, how great thou art! Too often we try to fit you into our 2×4 minds. Too seldom do we acknowledge that we are only frail children of dust whose understanding is warped as well as limited. Keep reminding us that you are God. Keep showing us that your love for us is the greatest thing about you. Amen.

(copied from Military Devotions on www.wels.net)

<p>Ushers</p> <p>Thank you to those who volunteer to serve as ushers at St. Luke's! You are the first contact visitors have when they enter the building, and your work keeps the service orderly.</p> <p>We are looking for volunteers to usher for our services on the weekends of July 3 & 10, and Labor Day. If you are willing and able to help, please call Barry Mays, the Head Usher. You may reach him at home (989-823-3963) or on his cell phone (989-577-1138).</p>	<p>District Convention</p> <p>Pastor Plocher, Principal Lange, and Mr. Ron Nichol, our lay delegate, will attend the MI District Convention at MLS in early June. They will hear reports on the working of the WELS and discuss some issues that have arisen. Not only are budgetary concerns still present, but also a proposal to change the way salaries are determined. Some work will be done regarding fellowship discussions with another church body, the Church of the Lutheran Confession. The Report to the Twelve Districts is the official document for the convention. It can be found online at www.wels.net.</p>	<p>Summer Service Time</p> <p>We hold one Sunday service during the Summer months. From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, we worship on Sundays at 9:15am. The Monday service continues at 7:15pm. On the three holiday weekends (Memorial, Independence, Labor), we move the evening service to Tuesday to avoid the holiday. Make a note on your calendar and make every effort to use the means of grace regularly.</p>
<p>Board of Elders</p> <p>The Elders are continuing to reach out to those who have not been active at St. Luke's for a while. Letters are being sent to try to reconnect with people with whom we have lost touch. If it is your family or a neighbor who receives a letter, encourage them to respond and renew their connection with God's Word at St. Luke's. If no response is received, we will remove from our spiritual care those whom we are unable to serve. If any of those should want to return to worship and growth in God's Word, they are always welcome!</p>	<p>Confirmations</p> <p>Six people have been instructed in God's Word lately and have made a public profession of their faith. Four eighth graders were confirmed on May 15: Luke Cunningham, Shayna Hecht, Allia Morley, and Emilee Whitney. Two adults were confirmed on May 29: Matthew Bess and Kandace Mistura. We welcome these new communicant members as they also join us kneeling at the Lord's Table to receive the sacrament. May the forgiveness proclaimed and given strengthen us in the faith and also increase our unity in the truth.</p>	<p>Do you know where we are?</p> <p>The Elders are looking for contact information for the following people.</p> <p>James Owensby Victor Brunner Jessica Zimmerman Joshua Zimmerman George Zirkle, Jr. Janelle Jones Jimmie Roberts</p> <p>We are unable to serve those we cannot contact. If you know where these people are, or have a lead that may help us track them down, please contact Kelly in the church office. If we do not make progress in the next month, the Elders will recommend that these names be removed from our congregation.</p>
<p>BOCE Update</p> <p>Your current BOCE members are: Steve Walker, Justin Whitney, Dustin Mecham, and Marc Augsburg. We have one open seat. If you have interested in serving, please speak to any member, John Lange or Pastor Plocher. We would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy schedule to help with our annual Arbor Day school clean up! We had a lot of great help which really helped to make the day a success. We plan to update four very old computers for the faculty and office as well as working on updates to the Athlete's and Student Handbooks. Thank you for all of your prayers as we are already getting ready for the 2016-17 school year. It will be here much sooner than we can imagine.</p>	<p>Encouragement</p> <p>Word of mouth has brought several people to ask more about our church and school. Thank you for your encouragement to your family and friends, and your testimony to the blessings we receive in our congregation. Continue to pray that God bring us many to serve with his law and gospel. Right now, we are looking at an enrollment of 45 in school next year.</p>	

Board of Trustees

Another thank you to those who help keep our building and grounds clean and neat. A good group of people helped with Spring cleaning, and many areas were made to shine. A few spots remain. If you are interested in knowing what they are, ask in the church office. Many also helped at Arbor Days last month, and with flower planting in May. Several people are needed throughout the Summer to weed and water. When you see the need, you are invited to step in and fill it, even without asking! Your help is appreciated.

The Trustees are working on several smaller projects, and look forward to the School List from Mr. Lange. We are open to any willing helpers, and are planning a work day in July. The time you are able to give is a wonderful way to thank the Lord for his goodness to you.

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.



Technology Committee

The Committee is planning on purchasing four new computers for the staff at the school. The current machines are about 10 years old, and have outlived their usefulness. Money has been set aside for this purpose, and it will not impact the budget. We hope the transition to new technology goes smoothly for all involved!

School Roof

Chuck Harrington Roofers will begin the school project as soon as school is out. The accepted bid was \$44,200. The financing through Frankenmuth Credit Union is a bit more complicated than was discussed at the last voters meeting. What will happen is that we will use the church Credit Line to pay the bill, and then we have 12 months to eliminate that debt. Whatever is left at the end of that time will need to be rolled into a term loan. We hope to make a significant dent into the repayment so our loan is as small as possible. Your special gifts can be designated for the roof debt.

St. Luke's Graduation

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at the end of the Anniversary 25th year of St. Luke's School. One eighth grade student, Emilee Whitney, will graduate. She is planning on attending Vassar High School. Look for her to be involved in many sports activities! The Graduation service will begin at 6:30pm, and the offering has been designated for the Scholarship Fund.

The Saginaw Street Parsonage

Apparently money moves slowly, so we are still waiting for final papers on the Saginaw Street parsonage. The buyer is committed to the deal, and we are just waiting for everything to clear the paperwork and regulatory hurdles. We hope to have everything done by the end of June. We received the asking price of \$135,900. That should enable us to repay the mortgage and cover the investment of refurbishing the house for its sale. The church council will make a recommendation for where to put any extra. One of the options is that it reduce the loan for the school roof.

School Mowing

Volunteers are required for keeping the grass at school mowed throughout the season. Our main man, Mr. Steve Mecham, just had heart surgery and is unable to ride the mower this Summer. Look at the sign up list again in the church entry, and see where you might be able to lend a hand. We have two zero turn mowers, and a string trimmer. Several people can work together to make the job go much more quickly!

School Pavilion

The BOCE would like to thank everyone who has made a donation towards the school pavilion up to this point. The total so far is \$3,119 toward the \$10,000 estimated cost. This project was authorized and came out of the 25th anniversary celebration for our Lutheran Elementary School. While we have a long ways to go toward raising all of the funds needed to erect this beautiful project, the small steps that are being taken each month will help us reach our goal. Don't forget that you can use your monthly envelope attached to the newsletter to write in a donation for the pavilion in the "other" column. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask a BOCE member, Mr. Lange, or Pastor Plocher.

From the Church Council

One of the discussions happening at the Church Council meetings is how to have more efficient meetings. Lately it seems we have been spending much more time than needed to do our business at both the council and the voters meetings. We ought to be able to do our work in about an hour, to respect the time of our volunteers. Some options are being discussed, and we hope to work them into our procedures soon. Ideas are also being sought from members. Speak with Pastor Plocher or Vice-President Nate Rupprecht to voice your opinion and give advice. Thank you for your interest in helping your congregation run more smoothly.

Vicar from the congregation

Micah Plocher has reached the stage of his preparation to be a pastor that is the vicar year. He has been assigned to Abiding Grace congregation in Covington, Georgia. He will serve there for one year, and learn from the pastor, gaining valuable experience. After the vicar year, Micah and his bride Megan will return to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon WI, for one more year of classes. Yes, Micah will be married this summer, July 16, in Colorado Springs, CO. His travels are exciting, and so is his service to the church. May God bless his work!

Vicar to the congregation

St. Luke's asked to be assigned a vicar for the coming year. Our request was granted. Tim Leistekow will come to Vassar in August and serve here for twelve months. He will learn from Pastor Plocher and will also gain needed experience in the shepherding of a congregation. Our immediate task is to find housing for the vicar and his wife, Calista. Then we will lay out the duties that he will perform and the path of his work. He will start slowly, I imagine, and will gain confidence as he goes along. While we are looking for housing, Calista is also looking for a full time job for the year they are in Vassar. If you know of possibilities, speak with Pastor Plocher, and he will pass them along. Meanwhile, we can all pray for many blessings as we look forward to the coming year!

High School and College Graduates Recognized

On Sunday, June 5 we honor our high school and college graduates in the 9:15 AM service and with a reception in the fellowship hall after the service.

Our Current List of Graduates includes:

Vassar High School

Logan Amend
Abigail Santoviz
Emily Becker
Allison Blaney
Phillip R. Pellar



Frankenmuth High School

Makenzie Newcomer

Gilbert High School, Gilbert, AZ

Kara Middleton

Saginaw Valley State University

Chelsea Coffey—Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics
Jessica Ostrander—Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science—Pre-Physical Therapy

University of Michigan—Flint

Justin Coffey—Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT)

Ferris State University

Breanna Kozan—Bachelor's in Healthcare Administration

Delta College

Kelsey Hecht
Jackie Torrez—Associate's Degree in General Studies

Full Sail University

Brandon Wenzel

We are sorry if anyone's name was omitted. Please notify the church office and we will be happy to update our records.

Please notify the church office of any change of contact information. Thank you!

Shut-Ins & Military

Alice Ackerman
410 W. Oak St.
Vassar, MI 48768
Birthday: 3-27

Anita Augsburger
5830 Rupprecht Rd.
Vassar, MI 48768
Birthday: 1-3

Coral Bender
462 Goodrich St.
Vassar, MI 48768
Birthday: 4-1

Sherrian Bender
The Lutheran Home
725 W. Genesee Ave.
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
Birthday: 3-27

Duane & Margret Bishop
6755 State Rd.
Vassar, MI 48768
D Birthday: 12-24
M Birthday: 7-1

Grete Gennrich
2381 Plain Rd.
Caro, MI 48723
Birthday: 7-25

Don & Norma Gunther
117 Saginaw St.
Vassar, MI 48768
Don birthday: 1-14
Norma birthday: 5-2

Diana Hood
5658 Jay Rd.
Vassar, MI 48768
Birthday: 8-11

Ed Jasman
9365 W. Sanilac Rd.
Richville, MI 48758
Birthday: 11-25

Don Kralik
Tuscola Medical Care Facility
1285 Cleaver Rd.
Caro, MI 48723
Birthday: 9-4

Loraine McMahon
Hoyt Nursing Home, Rm 305
1202 Weiss St.
Saginaw, MI 48602
Birthday: 11-30

Debbie Neill
Tuscola Co. Medical Care Facility
1285 Cleaver Rd.
Caro, MI 48723
Birthday: 10-25

Riley and Joanie Petty
3245 Waltan Rd.
Vassar, MI 48768
R Birthday: 3-19
J Birthday: 3-26

Gretchen Reif
935 Athletic St.
Vassar, MI 48768
Birthday: 4-12

Pete Roseberry
316 Fitzhugh
Bay City, MI 48708
Birthday: 4-4

Edith Smith
Tuscola Co. Medical Care Facility
1285 Cleaver Rd.
Caro, MI 48723
Birthday: 9-6

Carl Stierheim
257 Goodrich St.
Vassar, MI 48768
Birthday: 4-20

Duane Streeter
2626 Kirk Rd.
Vassar, MI 48768
Birthday: 9-1

Military:
John Adams V
(waiting for a new address)
Birthday: 9-6

Zachary Lemke
4910 Rustic Arbor Way
Virginia Beach, VA 23455-2600
Birthday: 6-14

FC3 Kathryn Pellar
1501 Hilton St., Apt. 201
Norfolk, VA 23518-4021
Birthday: 3-16

Phillip R. Pellar
Leaves for Army basic training in June
2016
DOB: 9-26

Charlsey Sayles
Leaves for Army basic training 6-7-16
DOB: 10-29

Jaeland Sayles
Army Basic Training at Fort Sill, OK
as of 5-24-16
DOB: 4-24

FA Megan Solgat
(waiting for a new address)
Birthday: 9-25

HN Jacob Somerville
(waiting for a new address)
Birthday: 12-29

Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG)

The following members who have served in the military have shared their information. We thank you for your service.

Duane Bishop—Air Force—1951-1971
Thomas Borcharding—Army—1967-1969
Eric Clauss—Army
Donald Clinesmith—Army—1969-1971
Ray Cobb—Navy—1953-1961
Jerry Comstock—Air Force—1960-1964
Conrad Dowe—USMC
Walter Keyes—Army—1956-1958
Scott Kutsch—Air Force
William Levis—Army—1966-1968
Brian Millerov—Army 1969-1971
Terry Mocny II—USMC
Larry Rose, Jr.—Army
Brett Rosencrants—USMC—2004-2005
Greg Rosencrants—USMC—2001-2005
Paul Schultz—USMC & Reserves—1996-2002
Cody Somerville—USMC
Carl Stierheim—Army Air Force—1942-1946
Donald Thurston—National Guard—1959-1962
Gary Volz—Navy—1951-1955
Robert Ziegler—Army Reserves—1967-1973
James Zoellner—1970-1972

If we **do not** have your name listed, please leave a note in the church office indicating your branch of service and dates and places served.

Sunday School News and Notes

Thank You

To all who helped with Sunday School this past year, thank you. Not only were the classroom teachers important volunteers, but also music directors, accompanists, devotion leaders, substitutes and assistants. Over Summer, we hope to strengthen the way the Sunday School works and begin the Fall with renewed vigor. Parents, continue to teach your children the truths of God's Word at home. Bring them to worship and Sunday School to strengthen their faith and to expand their love of the gospel.

New teachers needed!

The families of St. Luke's have enjoyed learning God's Word in our Sunday School. Volunteers are the heart of what happens there. Teachers study the lessons with Pastor and review the support materials in preparation for each Sunday. Could you use your abilities as a Sunday School teacher? We will be needing several new teachers and substitutes for the Fall. Speak with Pastor Plocher if you are interested in helping.

Mission Offering

Half of the offering from Sunday School will be sent to our special mission: The Wartburg Project. They are preparing a new translation of the Bible for use in our churches. Our total gift will be over \$300. The other half of the offering will support the purchase of materials for each child in Sunday School. Our purchase for next year totals over \$1,200. While the budget covers what is not received in the Sunday School plate, we thank you for your generosity in both places.

Open House

We will begin the next session of Sunday School on September 11, with the roll call of names. Before that day, we are planning an Open House to introduce the teachers to the students, and to give parents an opportunity to discuss the way the program works. Look for more information to come, but plan to spend some time after worship on August 28 to explore Sunday School again.



Vacation Bible School

"Dive In!" is the theme. Water and sea animals and wet activities are the plan. God's Word is the center of our summer Vacation Bible School. It is scheduled for August 1-4, Monday through Thursday, from 6:00-8:00pm at church. Registration information is included in this newsletter, and half sheets for signing up are available at church by the office door. Please sign up your family early, and invite your friends to come with you!

We are looking for those willing to help with VBS. Teachers and helpers and snack organizers and such are very important. Right now we are looking for the craft person to plan all the sticky and wonderfully creative happenings for VBS.

If you have an interest in being involved in any way, speak with Pastor Plocher or Jenni Whitney right now! An online volunteer sign up sheet is available at www.signupgenius.com. Go to find a sign up. Enter jfillhard@hotmail.com. Enter the security letters/numbers. Click on the sign up.

You may also register your children online to attend VBS at <http://www.123contactform.com/form-1972097/Event-Registration-Form>.

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

St. Luke's Lutheran School News

Teacher Appreciation Week Celebrated

Our sincere thanks to all the families who supported the Teacher Appreciation Week at our school the week of May 2-6. We are grateful to our loving God who has given us our calling to serve you at this time and in this place. You honored us in a most unique way. Thank you not only for the gifts and treats but also for your continuing prayers and encouragements. Also, thank you to the those parents who coordinated all the special events of the week! ~ Mrs. Einhardt, Mr. & Mrs. Lange

Student Information Requested

We do not yet have any Kindergarten students registered for the fall of 2016. This is a rarity! This may be in part due to our congregation's very small cradle roll for that year. We currently have open enrollment for grades K-8. We ask the Lord to continue to bless our school with families interested in Lutheran elementary education.

All parents and friends of St. Luke's School, remember you are the front line recruiters for our school. Interested parents will seek you out when it comes to questions and concerns about enrolling their children in our Lutheran elementary school that has multi-grade, multi-age classrooms. Please accept the challenge and privilege of being prepared to answer the questions of parents who are interested in having their children in our school. Finally, identify and introduce yourselves to potential parents in our congregation who have children nearing or at elementary school age. Encourage them to consider the blessings and benefits of having their children attend our school. Please consider this your special blessing to be the liaisons between our school and potential students and their families.

Government Assistance at St. Luke's Lutheran School?

The state and local governments and St. Luke's Lutheran School have a very limited relationship when it comes to funding the education of our children at St. Luke's. Vassar Public Schools provides transportation services for our students who live in the country. It also secures testing and remediation for students in speech and special education. That is the limit of the state aid our school gets. St. Luke's LES does not participate in any federal funding.

You may recently have heard or read about the WELS school, St. John's LES of Baraboo, Wisconsin that has had some media trouble lately. According to the *Baraboo Republic News*, St. John's Lutheran School (WELS) takes federal funding for certain programs such as free and reduced priced lunches for disadvantaged students. Therefore, the school falls under federal regulation and must comply with civil rights laws. Recently the school has come under the scrutiny of a Madison-based Freedom from Religion Foundation for its discipline policies that state that the school has the right to discipline and ultimately expel students who may be homosexual or transgender. The Foundation has filed a discrimination complaint against St. John's, saying it discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has forwarded the complaint to the U.S. Department of Agriculture which administers the federal free and reduced-priced lunch program.

As you recall, President Obama recently instructed public schools to allow transgender students the right to use the bathroom that matches their gender identity rather than their birth certificate. Schools that don't comply may be sued and lose federal funding. In the case of St. John's and many other WELS schools seeking financial stability, the camel has gotten its nose under the tent of WELS Lutheran elementary education through this seemingly innocuous federal funding to aid underprivileged students.

As the Board of Christian Education of your congregation has always seen it, receiving state and federal funding takes parochial schools down a slippery slope. The story stated above is one of the many other reasons why St. Luke's LES has never pursued federal funding and why it would take measures to refuse state funding if such regulations were imposed on the school for receiving state-funded service.

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God bless St. Luke's congregation for the twenty-five years of financial support it has had for its school. May God richly bless the members of our congregation and its school for the full support it has given to their school!

Greetings from Russia!

Siberian spring has arrived and the missionaries and their families send their greetings and thanks to the members of St. Luke's for allowing Mr. Lange to give time in his weekdays and weekends in service to them on the field. Your support of Mr. Lange allows his work with them to continue.

Sports at St. Luke's

Track & Field—Our school participates in two track and field events each spring. One was the Bay Area Lutheran League's track and field event which was hosted by St. Luke's LES and held on May 27 at Garber High School in Essexville. Children from first through eighth grade participated in three different track and field events. The teachers from each participating school helped run the events on the field. Our parents chaperoned and served as pseudo-coaches from the stands. We made a great day of it and held our own against some pretty fierce competition. Thanks, parents, for helping out as chaperones.

The second event is scheduled for the Grades 5-8 only. The MLS Invitational Track Meet will be held in the late morning through early afternoon of June 1. It is run a bit more like the traditional high school track and field meet. Students and professors from MLS run this meet for us. It allows our students the opportunity to compete against other WELS schools from as far away as Detroit and Grand Rapids.

Student and Athletes Handbook Changes

Our Board of Christian Education has recently completed its handbook revision for 2016. The work mainly deals with updating fees and schedules and clarifying wording to make our publications as accurate as possible. **Some noteworthy changes and clarifications follow below.**

Student Handbook

Student Entry Probationary Period established: "All new member and nonmember enrollees will be under probationary status until it can be determined that St. Luke's Lutheran School can meet the student's academic needs. (Such a probationary period will be no less than two weeks and not exceeding six weeks.)"

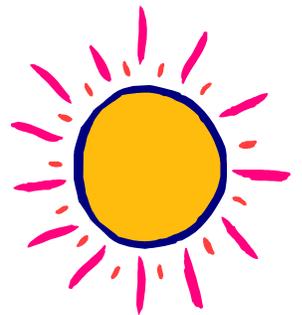
Minimum Kindergarten Entrance Age – St. Luke's has now been joined by the Michigan Department of Education in establishing the minimum entrance age of FIVE years old on or before September 1 of the student's Kindergarten year.

- **Excessive Student Absence and Tardy Policy** – The new policy will now reflect a policy more similar to the public school system which sends "letters of excessive tardies" and "letters of excessive absences" to the parents. These letters remind the parents of contact with the ISD's truancy officer under the "neglect clause" and are placed in the students' permanent file.

New and Immediate Dress Code Change – As fashions change so must the dress code. New this spring - **"Yoga pants, leggings, and any other form fitting pants may be worn only with a finger-tip length shirt or tunic."**

Athletes Handbook

The importance of at least one parent attending the coaches' meeting was discussed. Wording was approved that stated "the preseason meeting at which Athletes' Contracts are turned in, Coaches' Philosophies and Season Calendar are discussed, and Questions and Concerns are voiced," would still be a **mandatory parent meeting** with the new caveat that... **"no child will be allowed to participate in any further practice or receive a uniform until absent parent(s) meet with coach and AD to discuss what was missed at the meeting."**



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“All sports teams, except Volleyball (grades 5-8), will now have an entry level of Fourth Grade.” The minimum grade requirement stipulation was left in to allow the BOCE the opportunity to use Third Graders, if and only if, they are needed to form a B-team.

Mission Offering Report

As of this writing our third trimester offering has just passed the **\$230** mark. This final trimester offering will be used to pay for the design of a new lighted church sign. We thank our students for generously and lovingly supporting this future project of our church.

Our School Nears the End of Its Twenty-fifth Anniversary Year

Our memorable anniversary year is almost over. Our forty-five students have made great progress this year. The faculty is pleased to be working with such great dedicated, Christian families. We are grateful for God's love that binds us together in our Lutheran elementary school.

We will graduate one eighth grade student this year. Emilee Whitney plans to attend Vassar High School next fall. We wish her God's richest blessings as she goes on with her education representing her grade school, her family, and her Lord. May she continue to be Christ's light in her new school.

Summertime Dates to Note The school calendar for 2016-2017 has gone out in the Wednesday folders. Here are the first special dates to note:

Summer Calendar Forecast

Michigan District Convention	June 6-8@ MLs
Office Closure w/weekly mail pick up	June 17 -August 19
E-AC Meeting @ CMM in Wisconsin	June 25 – July 1
School Supplies List in Church News	August 1
VBS week	August 1 - 4
CEO's Campus Clean-up	August 20 (inside and outside)
Final Registration Sunday	August 21 @ 10:30 AM
Teacher In-service date:	August 22 @ 10 AM
Student Orientation (1/2 day)	August 29 @ 8:20 AM

Summer Activities at the School

During the summer, when we're least likely to see or remember the school, we still need your help! The summer months bring the need for mowing and weeding.

Mowing – We have two efficient fast-moving zero-turn mowers to keep up with the grass mowing needs. We need your help to man those mowers! There is a sign-up on the church bulletin board for mowing weeks. Please be aware, however, if you sign up you'll still need to check the conditions at school. Rain does marvelous things to our grass, but without it the lawn (not weeds) goes dormant.

THE SHED KEY MAY BE PICKED UP FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS, OR YOU MAY SPEAK TO MR. LANGE OR ONE OF THE PASTORS FOR THE LOAN OF THE KEY.

Weeding - The weeding of the school landscaping does not have a sign-up sheet. However, we still need volunteers to do the work. You may work on your own or gather a crew to do a morning or day's work around the building. The east (parking lot) and south (WELS Ln) sides need most of the attention.

If you can help but need some guidance or advice you may speak with Mr. Lange who can guide you through the procedure or coordinate your efforts with other volunteers.

The Summertime Trustees List - If you have time to share there are some items on the Trustees summertime to-do list that could be done. If you are interested in helping, please speak to Tom Borcharding, Pastor Plocher, or Mr. Lange about this helpful service to your school.

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IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A PRODUCTIVE, YET UNNOTICED RELEASE OF YOUR SUMMERTIME ENERGY, PLEASE GIVE THOUGHT TO COMING UP TO THE SCHOOL THIS SUMMER TO DO SOME OF THESE NEEDED MAINTENANCE ITEMS.

A Final Thought from the Faculty The faculty of St. Luke's Lutheran School wishes to express its joy in celebrating the completion of the 25th year of our Lutheran elementary school. We are so thankful for the love and support you have given the school and its teachers these past years. We rejoice in hearing so many of our parents and congregation members talk so highly of the quality education that our children receive at our school. It is encouraging to see their willingness to share that information about our school with family and friends.

Let us be ever-mindful of all of God's gifts to us, but let us especially cherish God's gift of our school where our children daily learn of His Son, Jesus, and the great love He had for us in delivering us from sin. Let us give Him our thanks and honor for giving us a means to train the next generation of our congregation in the eternal truths of His Word. God bless St. Luke's Lutheran School with many more decades of service to Him!

~JFL

Teachers' Appreciation Week Recap

I am so very happy & humbled to report that we had another astounding Teachers' Appreciation Week! We had many wonderful volunteers who baked, cooked, and volunteered their time, money, and gifts to make the week a success. On Monday, we kicked off the week with the students purchasing \$1 flowers to put in a classroom vase for each teacher. The next day the teachers were treated to their favorite meal & dessert to take home to enjoy for supper. Wednesday saw the chance for our teachers to take an hour off and enjoy a take out lunch from Dragon Palace while 3 parents came in to supervise the lunch/recess hour. To kickoff Thursday morning, the teachers got to snack on cinnamon rolls and their favorite beverage. We finished the week on an amazing note with the students dressing in their teacher's favorite color! We also got to enjoy ice cream sundaes while giving the teachers their flower pots full of goodies. Because of all the wonderful monetary and gift donations, each teacher received over \$150 in gift cards to their favorite movies, restaurants, and stores. Plus, they received school supplies, snacks, lotions, and candles. I cannot thank you all enough for making TAW such a wonderful success! It was fun to spoil our teachers and let them know just how much they are loved! Thank you everyone!

Church Library

Our church library will be inventoried during the month of June. If you have books to return, please do so soon, so we can do a complete inventory. We are always happy to receive donations of "new" books, videos, and other items. Please speak with Kelly Plocher if you have any donations or if you have suggestions for additions to the church library.

Saginaw Pregnancy Care Center

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young." Isaiah 40:11

Happy month of June!! Just a note to inform there has been a name change from the Saginaw Pregnancy Counseling Center to the Saginaw Pregnancy Care Center. The word "Counseling" has been removed to avoid any legal complications.

The PCC is also in need of volunteers to sort clothes as more baby clothes are arriving during the yard "sailing" months of the year. There is also a specific need of pack-n-plays, L and XL onesies, and 2T-3T-4T clothing (toddler sizes). Please continue to pray for the volunteers and those being reached by the PCC in our community.

Please see Kim Thurston with any questions. Thanks!

A Special thank you to the Saginaw street house WOW team!

A note of thanks to all the people that turned the TLC items of the Saginaw street house into a house with the WOW factor. When the team was finished and you walked into the house your first impression was WOW! We could move right into this house with no work to be done. (Maybe as attested to by the quick purchase agreement) The crew included: **Car-pentry** by Ed and Karen Baldwin and team, John Woolworth and crew, **electrical** by Jim, Sr. and Jim Walker, Jr., **plumbing** by Steve Bertoia, **painting** by Don and Sharon Thurston, Martha Walsh, John Solgat and Tom Borcharding, **carpet cleaning** by John Solgat, **general house cleaning** by Sharon Thurston, Karen Baldwin, Martha Walsh, and the **trash removal** team of Dave Einhardt and John Lange and crews. Many thanks to all for a job well done and to any I missed thank you also. Our Lord as blessed us very richly with many talents in our congregation. ~ Jerry Comstock

Martin Luther Elder Care Ministries

MLC will again be offering the online course entitled, “Geriatric and Care Facility Ministry” this fall. This course trains lay men and women to assist their pastors in ministering to the aging.

This course was first offered in the Fall of 2015 with 13 men registering. There are a number of women in Michigan WELS/ELS congregations actively involved in ministering to the elderly or who would be a blessing to such a ministry. This course would be of great value to them.

We have a brochure in the church office which explains the course in detail and how to register for it. The brochures also outline the 50% tuition rebate from Martin Luther Elder Care Ministries which is available to any member of a Michigan WELS/ELS congregation who registers. Take a look at the website at www.mlecm.org for more information.

Memorials and Gifts

A memorial was given to the General Fund in loving memory of Carol Baker by Wally & Sandy Keyes.

A memorials were given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of Marie Geyer, Jack Olinger, Judith Weller, Lyndsey Piesko, Mildred Rogner, Sharon Ropp, and Hilda Schmandt by Jim & Sally Zoellner.

Memorials were given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of Carol Baker by Jerry & Sue Heinlein, Bob & Meg Ziegler, and Dorothy Martini.

Memorials were given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of James Bieberitz by Nancy Klopff and Dorothy Martini.

A memorial was given to the Rainy Day Fund in loving memory of Glen Leach by Rosemary Thiebault & Henry & Nancy Cross.

A memorial was given to the General Fund in loving memory of Sylvia Keyes by Wally & Sandy Keyes.

A special gift was given to St. Luke’s Lutheran School by Keith & Shelley Murringer.

A memorial was given to the Rainy Day Fund in loving memory of Bill Clark, and Jim Bieberitz by Frances Emling.

A memorial was given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of Wes Martin, Sr. by Wanda Martin and family.

LWMS Befriend a Mission

It is St. Luke’s turn to support and encourage our missionaries in June.

Our World Mission:

Mr. Brad Krause
Cto De las Residencias #239
El Moral 2
Leon, Guanajuato CP 37125
Mexico

His anniversary is 6/27— a good time to send a card.

Our Home Mission:

Living Hope Lutheran Church
15485 Emporia St.
Brighton, CO 80602

Let them know you care for and pray for them.

Pastors Institute

Pastor Plocher will attend the annual Pastors Institute June 13-14 at MLS. A Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary professor will teach the gathered pastors about evangelism and the life of the congregation. Over the day and a half, there will be nine hours of instruction. As continuing education, this seminar will help your pastor be aware of what is happening and be familiar with good information. Thank you for supporting the continuing education of your called workers.

<p style="text-align: center;">Financial Update April 2016</p> <p>Income \$ 26,545 Expenses \$ <u>33,089</u> -\$ 6,544</p> <p>*Monthly budgeted need is \$37,431.00.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>April Budgetary Offerings: \$26,545.15 April Budgetary Expense: \$33,089.00 April Net Income: -\$6,544.15</p> <p>To fully fund the work we do at St. Luke's we require \$37,431 per month, so this month we are behind \$10,885.60. Year to date we are behind our Budgetary Requirements \$27,898.80</p> <p>Our General Budget Checkbook balance is: -\$11,984.00 which reflects our internal borrowing.</p> <p>The Rainy Day Fund Balance is: \$14,164.00 The LACE Loan Balance is: \$120,854.00</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Bill Dudewicz, Treasurer</p>	
<p>Special Envelope</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Pastoral Acts</p> <p>Baptisms: Riley Nicole Elliott 5-1-16</p> <p>Matthew James Bess 5-7-16</p> <p>Christian Funeral Carol Baker 5-7-16</p> <p>Released by Request: Terry Hecht Aaron Hecht Linsey Kukuski Kreil Denise Millerov Jodi Diamond & Kaitlyn Richard Kralik Robert Kralik, Jr. Cynthia Briggs 5-10-16</p>	<p>Removed—unable to contact: Sarah Stuart Jennifer Gawne Kaye Curell Wesley Martin, Jr. Thomas Whitney Susan Whitney Bradley Rose Delma Schultz Donna Engelhart Jason Collis Michael Clemens James Rose, Sr., and James, Jr. 5-10-16</p> <p>Teen Confirmations Luke Harrison Cunningham Shayna Dorhea Hecht Allia Danielle Morley Emilee Rose Whitney 5-15-15</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roof Fund—this fund helps repay the loan at Frankenmuth Credit Union borrowed for replacing the church roof. 	<p>Scholarship Committee</p> <p>If you desire to give a gift to the Scholarship Fund for disbursement in July, the deadline is the end of June. You can use the envelope in your box, or the special envelope with this newsletter. We expect 9 students will be in Synod schools this fall. Thank you for your generosity!</p>	