



September 2016



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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Therefore, brothers [and sisters], ... let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. — Hebrews 10:19-23

Uncertainty and fear fill our lives. The political climate and the media coverage of it makes us uneasy. Unexpected weather disrupts our routine. Family issues explode our sense of safety. Everywhere we turn there is another catastrophe happening, it seems. We can't even escape on vacation, because we are connected by our phones.

The turmoil "out there" doesn't even compare to the turmoil in our hearts. God exposes the sin we commit, and we hate that he didn't let us continue doing it. Satan tempts us with the alluring pleasures of the world and we want to partake of them. We are determined to fill our ears and eyes with entertainment that undermines the things our God tells us. But we are too easily distracted from reinforcing our faith with his word and sacrament. We honestly desire to be closer to God, and living in faith sounds like a good thing, but in practice, we often fail to make the connection with worship and devotions and Bible study.

The guilt can be debilitating. Why does God let these things happen to me? Why can't I get some peace and quiet? Where can I go to renew and refresh and recharge? Does it seem like God is the enemy sometimes, preventing us from attaining our goals? The whisper of our sinful nature eggs us on. "God doesn't know what he is doing! Why would you give him any of your precious time and attention?"

God calls us from our guilt and despair. He calms our fears and gives strength to our soul. He fills us with peace by his gracious promises. Do you see it in the text above? Your guilty heart has been sprinkled with the blood of Christ, and you are forgiven. You have been washed clean through baptism and you stand before God holy and precious in his sight. Jesus is your confidence! He took your place under the curse of sin and died your death. He rose again and proclaims peace with God. Do you want something solid and unchanging and certain? Jesus is.

Draw near to him in the full assurance of faith. You know he has made heaven your home. This place is full of fear and uncertainty, but heaven is pure and perfect. Don't be distracted from the words your God proclaims to you. Make it your place of refreshing to hear and learn God's Word at worship and at home. The Lord is faithful. That is a powerful truth. God does not promise and fail to deliver. He is not bluster and hype.

What strengthens our weak knees and fearful hearts? The empty tomb. Bread and wine that Jesus promises are his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Words that pour the Holy Spirit into our heart and give us confidence. Hold unswervingly to these! The rest of life is all over the place, but God is faithful. In him, you are safe.

Pastor Plocher

<p>Labor Day Schedule</p> <p>Because of the holiday on September 5, our evening worship service is moved to Tuesday at 7:15pm. The service will include Holy Communion. If you are out of town for the weekend, please make plans to worship with us on Tuesday.</p> 	<p>Two Sunday Services Return!</p> <p>St. Luke's will return to having two Sunday services on September 11th. The early service will begin at 8:15. During that service we will install our Sunday School staff. At 9:15 a Sunday School opening devotion will be held in the church. After the children head to their classrooms, the Teen Bible Class and the Adult Bible Class will begin. Our late service starts at 10:45. Monday evening worship remains at 7:15pm. We pray that God's people make use of every opportunity to hear and learn God's Word.</p>	<p>Christian Stewardship</p> <p>The Elders will promote a stewardship emphasis this Fall that encourages 364 days of Thanksgiving. A book will be available for purchase to facilitate the daily listing of blessings from God. As the list grows, we will become aware of the abundance God has given to us. With hearts filled with God's forgiving peace we are eager to give thanks to the Lord. A Sunday Bible Class and our worship services in November will focus our thoughts on our Jesus and encourage us to be thankful in every circumstance.</p>
<p>Board of Elders</p> <p>The Elders continue their work of praying for each member of St. Luke's regularly. We are currently sending letters to members who have not worshiped in a while to encourage them to reconnect with God's Word. We have been listing in the newsletter the names of members for whom we have no address information. If you can help out with a lead so we can make a connection again, please send it to the church office. May the Lord, God of grace, continue to keep us close to his word and sacraments!</p>	<p>Board of Trustees</p> <p>If the weather was helpful, we should have the church parking lot sealed and striped by the time you read this. We want to maintain the pavement so it does not deteriorate and need replacing. A few other projects remain on the docket, and we are chipping away at them. The school is ready for a new year to begin. Thanks to those who used their abilities and time to assist with the many little things that had to be done. The school roof looks amazing, and should keep the building dry for a very long time. You can track our debt repayment progress in the bulletin.</p>	<p>Symposium</p> <p>Pastor Plocher will be attending a Symposium at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary the week of September 18. Three essays will be presented on the topic of Biblical Hermeneutics. The way a person approaches the Bible makes a difference in how it is interpreted. Hermeneutics is making sure the assumptions the Bible reader has are compatible with all of God's Word. Pastor will be out of town from Sunday afternoon through Tuesday evening. Thank you for supporting this professional development and personal encouragement for your pastor. Vicar Leistekow will be available if you have immediate pastoral needs.</p>
<p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>Lutherans cherish the opportunity to teach and to learn God's Word. We have an intensive course for our 7th and 8th grade youth that not only prepares them for receiving the Lord's Supper, but also gives them a thorough understanding of God's Word. The instruction for public school children begins on Thursday, September 8 after school at 3:45pm. They will meet twice a week to study Christian teaching. This instruction is included during the school day for those in our Lutheran Elementary School.</p>		

Bible Information Class

A new Bible Information Class will begin Thursday September 8. This is a great way for members to re-view the truths they learned in Confirmation Class. If it has been a few years since you have gone over it, you will greatly benefit from the class. Please invite your friends or neighbors to come with you. This class is also the best way for those who are interested in our congregation to learn what we teach and do. The class will meet in the fellowship hall beginning at 7:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

Opening chapel at St. Luke's School

When the school year begins on Monday, August 29, the students at St. Luke's School will walk over to the church for an opening worship service. The whole congregation is invited to attend as we kick off the 26th year of our school by turning to the Word of God for strength and direction. We will begin about 8:35am at church.

Vacation Bible School

The first week of August we had 41 children come to Vacation Bible School. The theme was "Dive In!" and we talked about sea creatures that pointed our attention to gospel truths revealed in God's Word. The Adult Bible Class was taught by Pastor Balogh from St. Paul, Mayville. We had 28 adults attend to discuss how to influence our children with God's Word. Adding in the 27 staff members who helped, we had 96 people in VBS this year! Thanks to Jenni Whitney for coordinating the many details, and to all who helped in any way.



Nominating Committee

The Voters seated a Nominating Committee to recommend names for service in the congregation. They will soon be contacting those who have been selected. Please consider this nomination carefully, as your congregation has the confidence that you have the gifts to serve. We will all benefit from your talents and your perspective. We are a congregation blessed by God with people who are a treasure, and we ask you to serve as God has given you the ability. Elections will take place at the October 23rd Voters meeting. Terms will begin in January 2017.

Adult Bible Class

This Fall Pastor Plocher will begin Sunday Bible Class with a topical study called "My Brother's Keeper." We will discuss the ways God equips us to serve those closest to us with his law and gospel. Our families are important to us, and we eagerly desire that each person also knows Jesus and will join us in heaven eternally. How can we encourage each other to be clear and consistent as we reach out to those we love? Come to Bible Class and find out!

Teen Bible Class

Vicar Leistekow intends to restart the Teen Bible Class later this fall. The exact plan is still under construction, but spread the word and plan to come! Teens will meet with the adult Bible class on September 11 at 9:30am. Look for more information on Teen Bible Class to follow soon!

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 then responsible for ordering and payment for flowers.





Perhaps you are not aware of the historical significance of our time. We are preparing for a landmark observance of Lutheran heritage. It was October 31, 1517 when the unknown monk and university professor Martin Luther posted 95 theses for discussion and debate. Next year will be the 500th anniversary of the date that marks the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation. WELS is making plans, as are many other organizations. Look for the Reformation 500 logo to become widespread in our circles. As we move through this next year, perhaps you will want to participate in some of the celebrations. The church

library has a copy of two Luther movies that can be checked out if you and your family wish to watch them and brush up on your recollection of history. Books are also available on Luther's life. Have fun with Reformation 500!

Pioneers are possible

A couple of parents have expressed an interest in restarting our Lutheran Pioneers and Lutheran Girl Pioneers programs. Are you able to help in some way? Do you think your family would participate? Speak with Pastor Plocher if you can make a presentation or would like to lend a hand. Pioneers seeks to expose our youth to hands on experiences that help them live their faith. It is an acceptable alternate to popular programs that mix spiritually questionable practices with their activities.

MLS Events

You are invited to the following events at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in the coming weeks:

Thursday, 9/1 at 7PM—Jersey Night: Wear your MLS jersey and sign up to win a prize at our first home football game vs. Hemlock.

Wednesday, 9/14—Grade School Cross Country Meet: Join us at Wickes Park in Saginaw to cheer on our future Cardinals as they run for fun.

Wednesday, 9/14: MLS Youth Flag Football: Practices for the season begin at 5:45 PM tonight at MLS

Friday, 9/23—Varsity Football Homecoming at 7PM

Watch for more details about these events in the coming weeks!

Daily Worship Opportunities Online

Did you know you can join our synod schools for their daily chapel services online? Services are delivered by livestream at all four synod schools and are archived for you to view at your convenience. Just check out the websites at the following addresses:

Michigan Lutheran Seminary: www.mlsem.org (Live at 10:15 AM) (click on Cardinal casts at the bottom of the page)

Luther Preparatory School: www.lps.wels.net (Live at 10:00 AM) (click on LPS Livestream at the right of the page)

Martin Luther College: www.mlc-wels.edu (Live at 11:30AM & 8:15PM) (click on MLC TV at the bottom of the page)

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary: www.wls.wels.net (Live at 8PM) (click on the Chapel video in the middle of the page)

What a blessing technology is for our worship life!

Interactive Faith Online Bible Study

You are invited to join an online Bible study, "What Does This Mean? The Continuing Importance of Luther's Small Catechism" led by Rev. John Braun of NPH. The study will explore the Catechism's importance for Christian morals, beliefs, devotion, and practical life. It will conclude with a discussion of its value for the next generation. The study will be livestreamed twice every Wednesday at 7PM and 9PM EST from September 21 through Oct. 26. Speak with Pastor or visit wels.net/interactive-faith for more information.

Meet Vicar Timothy and Calista Leistekow

I'd like to start by thanking all the members of St. Luke's. Your generosity and hospitality have made Calista and myself feel very welcome here in Vassar. Such a caring and open church and community makes moving to a new place easy.

As the new Vicar, you all will get to see me regularly in front of church, at the school, and various other events. Most of you already know why I'm here: to learn from Pastor Plocher and to serve this congregation as a pastor in training. This short introduction will give everyone a chance to get to know me a little better as a person.

Before joining you in Vassar, Calista and I lived just north of Mequon, Wisconsin while I attended classes at our Seminary there. I enrolled at the Seminary in the fall of 2014. Prior to that, most Seminary students graduate from Martin Luther College (MLC) and enroll at the Seminary the following fall, but Calista and I took a slightly different route.

After we both graduated from MLC in the spring of 2013, Calista and I were married that July, and moved to China that August. We went there with a group called Friends of China, which sends English teachers into China, among other things (if you'd like to know more about our time and work there, please ask one of us. We're happy to talk about our experiences there!). We enjoyed our time there, but I did not want to put off my Seminary education too long, so we returned in time for the 2014-2015 school year at the Seminary.

While I have been pursuing my Seminary education, Calista has been continuing her education as well. Through MLC's online program, Calista has been studying for a Master's degree in special education. She has had a passion for special needs education ever since working with a few special needs students during her student teaching semester, and wants to use her gifts to be a blessing to those students who need some extra help.

As a family, Calista and I enjoy our board game nights. We love the classics, as well as learning newer games. We also love taking our dog Merlin for walks in the neighborhood. We feel at home in the outdoors and like to go hiking and camping, and I especially enjoy being on the water in a canoe.

I pray that this year I can grow in the skills I will need as a pastor. I'm looking forward to regularly preaching and teaching at St. Luke's. Your support and care as a congregation has already been such a blessing to me, and I have no doubt that God will continue to bless me through all of the members here, as well as through my work. So, I pray that I will be a blessing to St. Luke's and its members as well. I look forward to serving you and our Lord with the gifts He has given me.

Military Service at St. Luke's

Please check our listing below for those who have served in the military in any way. If you know of someone who has served or is currently serving but is not yet listed, please notify the church office. Thank you!

John Adams V	Thomas Borcharding	Eric Clauss	Donald Clinesmith	Raymond Cobb
Jerry Comstock	Conrad Dowe	Walter Keyes	Zachary Lemke	William Levis
Brian Millerov	Jacob Morse	Joshua Morse	Kathryn Pellar	Brett Rosencrants
Greg Rosencrants	Charlsey Sayles	Paul Schultz	Megan Solgat	Cody Somerville
Jacob Somerville	Carl Stierheim	Donald Thurston	Gary Volz	Todd Wilson
Robert Ziegler	James Zoellner			

There is interest in creating a display acknowledging your service. We also would like to share the names of our veterans with the WELS Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG).

Sunday School Page

Open House

Every family is invited to our annual Sunday School Open House. We will get to meet the teachers and check out their new rooms. Children will have an activity in their classrooms while the parents review plans and procedures for the year. The Open House is Sunday, August 28 right after church. We will begin in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

Rally Day

The first day of Sunday School is September 11. Remember, that is the first day we return to a two service schedule for Sundays! Take note of the times things are happening so you don't miss out.

Everyone involved with Sunday School and Bible Class is asked to meet in the church immediately following the first service, about 9:15. (The ushers will open the doors after the service is over so those who prefer to attend the second service can come in and sit down.) We will have a brief devotion and then the Sunday School Superintendent will read the names of the students and send them off to their classrooms. Adults and Teens will then be excused to their classes as well.

Teacher Installation

All our Sunday School teachers and substitutes will be installed into their teaching positions during the 8:15am service on September 11. We entrust our children to them for the faithful teaching of God's Word. We thank our teachers for their willing service and we pray that God will give them joy in their work.

Parent Alert!

Parents of children in the lower grades, you are asked to pick up your children from the classroom. This will ensure that no one gets lost in the rush of people after Sunday School. Older siblings can also gather the younger ones together.

Parents have a golden opportunity to model Christian faith to their children with their own worship attendance. Treasure the time you have to sing and pray together with your fellow believers.

Traffic Notes

Please be aware of the potential for a traffic jam in the parking lot. You are invited to park in the grassy lot when you come to church. The ground is solid and free of debris. Some ways to reduce traffic flow problems are to attend Adult Bible Class and have a parking space already chosen; park away from the door and walk in to get your child; stay for late church with your child. Please use the driveway off Huron Avenue (M-15) as an entrance only!

Sunday School Mission Offering

Each Sunday, the children in Sunday School have the opportunity to support the sharing of God's Word both at St. Luke's and beyond. During the weekly opening devotions, an offering will be gathered from those present. Parents and teachers are invited to participate, along with the children.

Our offerings this year will be divided between a mission offering and the needs of our Sunday School (supplies and books). We will send our gifts to Friends of China. This group sends WELS members to teach the English language in China. While they are there, they have opportunity to speak informally about Jesus. Vicar and Calista Leis-tekow spent one year in China doing this kind of work. We hope to learn more about it as we get to know them better.

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

St. Luke's Lutheran School News

Principal's Fall Address - Welcome to another school year founded in God's grace! Our Lutheran elementary school is celebrating its 26th year of providing Christ-centered elementary education to our congregation members, to sister congregation members, and to our community. The faculty and staff are thankful for all the encouragement you have given them in their calling at your school. They believe it has been their privilege to teach every subject in light of God's Word at St. Luke's Lutheran Elementary School in Vassar these past 25 years. Our congregation has been blessed with stability as well. Our faculty has a combined teacher service record of over 90 years of teaching in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod – We also can boast of the quality instruction our students receive from both Pastor Plocher and Vicar Leistikow. We pray that God continues to bless our school, its students, teachers, and parents as we learn to serve Him with greater faith day after day.

OPENING CENSUS – God-willing, our school will begin its 26th year on, Monday, August 29th. As of this printing, **forty-three** students are enrolled in our school. Our numbers are a bit lower this year after graduating one student last spring. At this time we have no Kindergarteners enrolled in our school. We pray that the Lord would strengthen the tie that binds our school to the families of our congregation so that a greater percentage of our children daily hear of God's great love for them.

This year our classroom assignments are as follows: Mrs. Lange currently has seven first and second grade students. Mrs. Einhardt has a total of sixteen students in her third – fifth grade classroom. Mr. Lange has twenty sixth through eighth grade students in the upper grades. Pastor Plocher and Vicar Leistikow will have twelve 7-8th grade catechism students this year. We hope to graduate **seven eighth graders next spring**. Currently, we have no students from our sister congregations of St. Paul's, Mayville, or King of Kings, Frankenmuth. We have no mission prospect families either at this time.

As a part of our congregation's ministry plan for the coming year, our Board of Christian Education will be working on finding ways to increase the percentage of member students attending our school and generate excitement for our school in our congregation. They will also study the means by which our fine Lutheran elementary school can make its presence known in our community. Their hopes are also to create interest in mission prospect families to attend our school.

OPENING DAY ACTIVITIES - After the children report to their classrooms, the entire student body will walk to church for an opening service at 8:35 AM. The opening day walk to church is a twenty-six year tradition dating back to the first day our school opened. When the students return to school, they will receive their new textbooks. It is always a treat to see the kids page through the books they will be using for the new year. The remainder of the first morning will be used to review procedures and rules for the classrooms and school. Of course, the first recess of the new school year – a very important event – will be held! One faculty member heard a parent say, "I can hardly wait until the children go back to school!" Prophetic as it may seem, it will be good to be back studying God's Word every day – growing in wisdom of His Word and the knowledge of the creation He has given us to manage wisely.

It is our prayer that God bless our faculty, parents, and students' use of the time He has given us to give Him honor, thanks, and praise. May this endeavor, and all we do at St. Luke's Lutheran School, be done to His glory!

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ATHLETICS AT ST. LUKE'S

SOCCKER As of this printing, the soccer team still awaits its first practice with Mrs. Schultz. We do have **two home games** scheduled this fall! Those dates are Thursday, September 15 (Trinity) and Tuesday, September 27 (Bethel). These hour-long games against our Bay Area Athletic League opponents **begin at 4:00 PM**. We will **publish our game dates and times in the church bulletin** as a reminder to all of our fans. Come out and enjoy the fast-moving Redhawks in action on our field!

LEAGUE ACTIVITIES Our school belongs to the Bay Area Lutheran League (BALL) - a league made up of eight WELS schools from the Saginaw Bay area. The BALL begins its sports season with a soccer season (September). It then continues with girls' basketball (early October – mid-December). The boys' basketball and girls' cheerleading teams hold their seasons next (January – February). Co-ed volleyball is in early spring (March - April). We end the year with a Track and Field Day on the Friday before Memorial Day weekend.

CROSS COUNTRY – GRADES 3-8 Michigan Lutheran Seminary also hosts a fall cross country meet. This year it will be Wednesday, September 14 at Wickes Park, Saginaw at **4:30 PM**. They also host the Michigan District Girls (December) and Boys (February) A-Team Basketball Tournaments during our regular seasons. Finally, MLS holds a Michigan District track and field meet for WELS schools during the last Wednesday of the school year.

GIRLS' B-TEAM BASKETBALL Later in September our B-team girls' basketball team will begin their practice for their fall season. Girls in grades 4-7 will be eligible to participate on the team. Mrs. Jennifer Sayles has volunteered to return to coach the B-team team this fall. She will be assisted by her daughter Jaeland. Please watch future church and school publications for the start-up date and the mandatory parent meeting.

PART-TIME EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT GROUPS & VOLUNTEERS - Our Christian Education Organization (CEO) holds its first meeting of the year on **Thursday, September 22, at 6:30 PM in Room 4 of our school**. This educational support group is intended to allow families to help develop and promote extracurricular programs in our school. Every member of St. Luke's congregation can also get involved in this group by attending and participating in regular meetings or becoming an event organizer or helper. Our executive committee consists of Chairman Marc Augsburg, Vice Chairman (open /male), Treasurer Carla Schultz, and Secretary Kim Korthals.

A second way you can serve our school is as a **daytime school volunteer**. There are many duties that can be performed by a volunteer staff that will release our faculty and school staff from certain time-consuming jobs allowing them to complete their higher priority work. Here are some of the **in-school jobs** that need to be done in a typical school year: spelling test givers and spelling book correctors, Wednesday folder stuffers, milk program coordinator, weekly lunch deliverer/servers, scholastic book order coordinator, chapel mission money recorder, arts and crafts presenters, recess monitors, and a hallway bulletin board creator. ***Each year, a background check (IChat) will be performed on each volunteer before he or she works on our school campus, coaches, or chaperones trips.*** This check will assure the safety of our students, parents, faculty, and school.

There may be additional ways that you can help. You may be able to do work out of the home as well. If you know of any other way that you can serve and would like to help out, please contact Kelly Plocher or Mr. Lange at the school office to discuss your service with them (823-8400).

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Greetings from Missionary Wolfgramm – After a very productive late-June meeting of the Administrative Committee for Europe at the WELS Center for Mission and Ministry in Waukesha, Wisconsin, only one of our WELS ex-patriot missionaries is back on the field. Late this spring Ben Foxen took a Call to serve as pastor in Peoria, AZ where he will be assisting a congregation establish a daughter congregation in a planned community not far away. The Wolfgramms, now 18 year veterans of the Russian Field, will spend the majority of their time working with the Russian Lutheran Church's four pastors Alexei, Arkady, Viktor, and Vladimir in helping them prepare for the up-coming church season. There are also two new Lutheran seminary candidates starting their training this fall - Andre and Yaraslav. (God will keep His single missionary VERY busy!)

Our "English as a Second Language Program" (*Daylight in Russia*) continues in its fourth year. One team of veteran *Daylight* teachers has already arrived on site. This WELS husband and wife team will be students in the university city of Tomsk (central Siberia). Under the new religious laws of the land, they may lead an English language club which we hope will enable them to make potential mission contacts which can then be contacted by Luke. A second team of young men will return to southern city of Iskitim to assist Pastor Luke with Sunday school, youth ministry, and English language classes.

The Wolfgramms will also begin preparations for their Thanksgiving Day services (typically late September) when the members of the five congregations (including one deaf congregation) will celebrate the harvest from their own personal dachas д́а́ча (farms). They use this Sunday in September as the start of their year much the same way we do at St. Luke's with Rally Day. Sunday school and Bible classes will begin again. A tea (potluck) will be served to bring the people together socially. Contacts with mission prospects and outreach will also begin with Bible information courses starting or continuing from last spring. New this fall is that our missionary, now by law, must carry additional paperwork signed by each congregation's president indicating that his congregation has invited Luke to share the gospel on its behalf. This seems like another way Satan is trying to complicate the spread of the simple, rich message of the gospel among the Russian people.

Luke and Jennifer Wolfgramm also send their greetings and love to us, their friends at St. Luke's. (You may recall that Luke was serving as vicar during the pastoral vacancy year when Pastor Naumann accepted the call to St. Luke's in the spring of 1996.) Once again the Wolfgramms are on the Russian Field as the only ex-patriot missionaries of the WELS. They ask for our prayers for success, peace, happiness, and the continued resolve to spread the gospel message to the people of Siberia. They are already praying that the start of the fall season will see the Spirit's abundant blessings as they begin another year of service to the Lord. We can join them in that prayer that the Holy Spirit will richly bless the Word in our five sister congregations of Siberia, and the churches in Sevastopol, Crimea, and Chelyabinsk, near the Ural Mountains in Russia proper. We pray that if the time ever comes when we, the WELS, must leave the Russian Field that our faithful work has left a lasting, Lutheran tradition of teaching the Word in its truth and purity, and that the men we are now training and working with continue to study of God's Word and proclaim the gospel boldly.

Luke and Jennifer also ask that we keep their family in our prayers. This will also be a year of family change for them. Christina (age 17) is in her final year of high school. She plans to attend Martin Luther College in New Ulm next fall. Katie (age 16) is preparing to enroll in an American engineering university within two years. Peter (age 8) continues to be a good student and basketball player in his elementary school located across Lenin Square from the Wolfgramm's home in Berdsk.



The annual convention in St. Charles, IL on June 23-26 welcomed nearly 1100 WELS women from around the world.. During the convention members attended several workshops and learned from world and home speakers what God is doing through WELS missionaries with their prayers and support. Three new officers and a Pastoral Advisor were voted in.

The Home Mission chose was “Summer Student Assistants” which allows Seminary students to help mission churches for 10 weeks each summer. The World Mission is “Television Broadcast for the Muslim World and Theological Seminars” which is a way to build up Christians in countries where persecution of Christians is encouraged. Each mission received over \$38,000.

The plate collection was divided between “Outreach to Asians” and “Apache Leadership and Maintenance.”

Next year the National Convention will be held in Orlando, FL.

Pregnancy Care Center

Thank you to all who have graciously donated their time and gifts to the Pregnancy Care Center! Please remember to include your name and address on your donations before placing them in the fellowship hall near the mailboxes. (This saves me some time looking for who donated and their address.) The purpose of the address is to allow PCC to acknowledge your donation for tax purposes and to say thank you!

I was recently asked how one may go about making financial donations to the center by a member of St. Luke's. Financial donations can be made payable by check to: Christian Life Resources Saginaw Valley, Inc. and mailed to: Pregnancy Care Center, 916 Gratiot Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602.

Please see Kim Thurston with any questions. Thank you again to each and everyone of you for your ongoing prayers, donations, and support of this wonderful center.

College/Military Addresses & Email Addresses Needed

Family members of our members away, please share the updated mailing address and email address of your student or military service person. The church secretary sends out newsletters and other mailings to keep our members away in the loop at church. We also encourage them through the WELS Campus Ministry and WELS Military Chaplaincy programs.

Help us help them stay in touch with the Means of Grace while they are away.

Music Participation Reminder

Any individual or group wishing to sing or add music to a worship service must first be approved by the Worship Committee. Requests to serve and participate must be made to the Worship Committee at one of their *regular meetings well in advance of the anticipated participation date*. The Worship Committee must have time to evaluate the proposed musical selection and method of performance. Their meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month and are noted on the church calendar.



MLS Youth Activities

Flag Football: Boys in gr. 1-5 are invited to register for the season by September 11. All games and practices will be held at MLS. Cost is \$45 and includes a shirt and mouth guard. Visit mlsem.org/events/flagfootball for more information. The season begins September 14.

Junior Poms Clinic: All girls in Gr. K-5 are invited to a Junior Poms Clinic on Sunday, October 9 beginning at 1:00 PM. The girls will perform with the MLS Poms team at halftime of the Varsity football game on Friday, Oct. 14. The cost is \$23 and includes a t-shirt and a light snack. Register online at mlsem.org/events/jrpoms by September 26.

Shut-Ins and Military Personnel

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

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

Margret Bishop
6755 State Rd.
Vassar, MI 48768
Birthday: 7-1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Joanie Petty
3245 Waltan Rd.
Vassar, MI 48768
Birthday: 3-26

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

Edith Smith
Tuscola Co. Medical Care Facility
1285 Cleaver Rd., Rm 217A
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:
S John Adams V
Address unlisted
Birthday: 9-6

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

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

PV2 Charlsey Sayles
Fort Sam Houston
San Antonio, TX
(waiting for mailing address)
Birthday: 10-29

FA Solgat, Megan M.
P. O. Box 2032
National City, CA 91951-2032
Birthday: 9-25

HN Jacob Somerville
2133 Via Sonora
Oceanside, CA 92054-6347
Birthday: 12-29

Please keep these shut-in members and military members in your prayers as they are unable to be with us for worship. If you wish, you may send a note of encouragement to them as well.

Golf Outing

The members of St. Luke's are invited to a golf outing on Sunday, September 18 at Willow Springs Golf Course. Tee time will be 2:00 PM. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. Contact Barry Mays with any questions. We hope you can join us for fun and fellowship!

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. This is where we are setting aside funds for our roof replacement.
- 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 - Repaying the Frankenmuth Credit Union Loan

Memorials & Special Gifts

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

A memorial was given to St. Luke’s Lutheran School in loving memory of Carol Mays by Barry and Ruth Mays.

A memorial was given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of Thomas Schultz by Jim and Sally Zoellner.

A memorial was given to the Rainy Day Fund in loving memory of Jack Arnold by Jim and Bonnie Heidenberger.

Treasurer's Update

Budgetary Offerings: \$23,401.56

Budgetary Expense: \$77,068.28, which includes \$42,000 in capital expense (school roof and sewer repair at Church)

Net Income: -\$53,666.72

General Budget Checking Balance as of 8/3/2016: -\$14,355.82, which reflects our internal borrowing.

Line of Credit Opening Balance: \$38,300.00.

The Vassar Building Center and Chuck Harrington Roofing have been paid.

Total cost for project: \$40,500.10.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Dudewicz,
Treasurer

**Financial Update
July 2016**

Income	\$23,402
Expenses	<u>-35,068</u>
	\$-11,666

*Monthly budgeted need is \$36,865.

**But just as you excel in everything -
in faith, in speech, in knowledge,
in complete earnestness
and in your love for us -
see that you also excel
in this grace of giving.**

2 Corinthians 8:7