



May 2016 Newsletter



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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A Mother's True Beauty

Helen, the wife of Sparta's King Menelaus, was acclaimed the most beautiful woman of Greece. The Greeks fought the Trojan War to get her back from Troy, where Paris, the son of King Priam, had taken her. In Christopher Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus*, the question is asked concerning Helen, "Was this the face that launched a thousand ships and burned the topless towers of Ilium?"

In May, we honor women with another kind of beauty—the beauty of devotion to maternal duties. We ask, concerning our mother: Is this the face that smiled on us, guided us, and launched us for life's voyage? Are these the hands that served us in a thousand ways and taught us to fold our own hands in prayer? Are these the feet that moved swift and beautiful under the impulse of love? Are these the lips that spoke to us about our Savior's dying love to make us His own? Indeed they are! A mother's sincere devotion far exceeds Helen's beauty because it is the inner beauty of love.

What a wonderful tribute the book of Proverbs gives to the godly mother: *"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praise her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise to the city gate"* (Proverbs 31:28-31)

Having given our mothers such praise, all that remains is that we who are children, young or old, support our words with loving deeds, as our Lord would have it.



(copied from Each Day with Jesus found in the church library)

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 has printed and posted 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 box in the fellowship hall. 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! Thanks to those who have already participated. We hope to wrap up the cleaning effort in early May.



Confirmation

After two years of instruction, four youth are ready to profess their faith and be invited to the Lord's Supper. A public examination will take place on Thursday, May 12, at 6:30pm. The Confirmation ceremony will be in the late service on Sunday, May 15. We welcome these four youth into communicant membership. We pray that you will continue to use the Means of Grace regularly all the days of your life.



Luke Cunningham
 Shayna Hecht
 Allia Morley
 Emilee Whitney

St. Luke's Lutheran School Graduation

The Board of Education presents one student, Emilee Whitney, for graduation from eighth grade. A service of thanksgiving will be held at 6:30pm on Thursday, June 2. After the service, a brief award ceremony will be held in the fellowship hall to recognize students throughout the school with special achievements. All members of the congregation are invited to give thanks to God for the students of his word who attend our school.

Ascension Service

Each year we observe the Ascension of our Lord 40 days after Easter. This year our special service will be on Thursday, May 5, at 6:30pm. Come and rejoice with Jesus' disciples that our Lord has returned victoriously to heaven. His work is done and it has been accepted by the Father. Now Jesus rules all things for the good of his Church, and soon will come back to take us to be with him forever. May our worship be filled with thankful praise!

Summer Service Schedule

May 29 is the first day of the summer worship schedule! We will have one Sunday service at 9:15am. There will be no Sunday School or regular Bible Class for the weeks until September 11. Our weekday evening services will continue on Mondays at 7:15pm. Please note that on Memorial Day weekend, on Independence Day weekend, and on Labor Day weekend, that evening service is moved to Tuesday at 7:15pm to avoid the holiday. Make it your habit to worship regularly over the summer so your faith might continue to be strengthened by the word of your God.

Reminder from the Church Secretary

Please be sure to register for communion either by speaking with a pastor, or by filling out a communion registration card in the narthex and placing it in the basket. This will be a great help to the secretary who keeps a record of attendance in worship and at the Lord's Supper.

Thank 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.



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.



Petunia Planting

The community Keep Vassar Beautiful Committee has set the date for Petunia Planting on Saturday, May 21. They have asked St. Luke's members to coordinate the planting and mulching of our property and one block closer to the library. We hope to have volunteers to put the plants into the ground beginning at 9:00 that day. We also need a group to wet the cocoa shell mulch and shovel it around the plants. The city provides all the materials needed, and also lunch at the band shell. Come and get involved in your community!

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!

Saginaw Street Parsonage

Jerry Comstock and a crew of willing volunteers have the Saginaw Street parsonage ready for the market. The voters agreed to put it up for sale. The Church Council will follow through with the details as we pray for a quick sale. Thank you to all who donated their time and effort to this project. It looks like our monetary expenses will have totaled around \$2,000. If you have any questions about what was done or how things are going, speak with Jerry or with congregation president John Solgat.

Replacing the School Roof

Those who serve the congregation on boards and committees have worked to prepare for the roof replacement at St. Luke's School. The shingles are 25 years old and are badly deteriorated. A bid was accepted from Chuck Harrington for \$44,200. The voters determined to finance the project by initially allocating money from the Credit Line. Special gifts given to the project (currently \$1,700) will reduce the debt. We will work hard to pay off as much of the balance as quickly as possible. The Credit Union says that any debt that remains at the one year mark must be converted into a term loan. We will do that next year, hoping to have a lower balance to pay off.

Easter Breakfast Review

Thanks to all who were involved in serving the Easter breakfast. Our Elders and a few others cooked sausage and pancakes for 115 guests. Many egg casseroles were brought to add variety. Fruit cocktail and delicious cinnamon rolls filled out the menu. Our freewill offering was designated for the Almoners Fund, and totaled \$291. Special thanks to Ron Nichol, Dave Einhardt, and Jeanette Dudewicz for all your help.



Vicar Call Day

Keep in your prayers the men who will be receiving their vicar calls on May 17. We hope to be assigned one of them, but even if we are not, we ask for God's blessings upon their continued preparation for the public ministry. Micah Plocher is a member of this class, and will find out his place of service on that day. Micah will be in Vassar to preach for our services on May 22. He and his fiancé Megan Wohlrabe are having an open house in the fellowship hall from noon to 3:00. Please stop in and wish them well both on their July wedding and on the vicar year of service.

If St. Luke's is not assigned a vicar in May, then we will be able to pursue other options, like finding 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 consider that course of action, we will do so in early Summer. Pray for the work of the gospel, that God's will be done among us also.

Board of Elders

This group of men has been asked to assist with the care of the souls in our congregation. The Elders are currently working on a plan to be in better contact with the members of St. Luke's. Several things are under way. The first is an attempt to reconnect with those who are members, but who have not worshiped with us in at least the past year. We are sending letters, looking for a return contact. If we do not hear back, the Elders will recommend that those people be removed from the congregation. Since we are unable to serve them, we will no longer count them as members. Our method is to send letters to those in each of the twelve Elder lists, a month at a time.

For some of those on our membership roster, we do not have contact information. We will list the names from each monthly grouping in the newsletter. If you know of someone to call who can put us in touch with these people, please call the church office. If we do not hear from anyone, we will also recommend these people be removed from our congregational care.

A third emphasis is to have Elders reach out to members who may need encouragement. There are any number of reasons an Elder may call, but perhaps there has been a crisis in the family, or attendance has dropped off, or a person has been ill. It could be that there is no record of communion attendance, even though there has been church attendance. Sometimes an Elder could call to rejoice with you at an anniversary or other family event. Please do not consider the contact from the Elder as disciplinary or as some kind of warning. It is intended to be encouragement from God's people to God's people.

Keep your Elders in your prayers as they serve you and your congregation. We probably will make some errors. We likely will discover that we could do things better. Hopefully we will learn as we go along. Please forgive us our sins, and help us to reflect Christ in all that we do. May God shower his blessings on St. Luke's!

Do you know where we are?

The Elders are looking for contact information for the following people. We have tried the avenues we know about, but have received no response from our efforts. They are members of St. Luke's, but we cannot find them. Some have moved. Others were baptized as babies but never had family in the congregation. Now they are grown up and we still have their names. If you know where these people are, or if you know someone who does, please speak with Kelly in the church office. We cannot serve their spiritual needs if we cannot reach them. If no information turns up in a month, the Elders will recommend these people be removed from our congregation.

Larry Rose, Jr.
Vaughn Smith

Shaylyn Smith
Kevin Schultz

Board of Trustees

The Trustees have a lot of irons in the fire right now. Perhaps a list will give you an idea:

- We hope to have the LED light project finished soon.
- We are talking about the possibility of installing security cameras and revising our “open door” policy.
- Should we purchase an Automatic External Defibrillator?
- Do we need new speakers in the sanctuary?
- How can we upgrade the signs in front of church so they are more visible?
- Can we economically change the landscaping in the front of church?
- We need a new copier in the church office.
- The parking lot should be sealed and striped this summer.
- Four computers need replacing at school.

In addition to those things, we are preparing for warmer weather, getting the lawn equipment going, and keeping up with the smaller maintenance jobs that pop up. We appreciate your help in picking up and cleaning up when you find something that needs attention. It is your church! Thank you for your support of our work, that we may have clean, safe, beautiful and functional facilities.

Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund is distributed to St. Luke’s members who are attending WELS schools. We intend to encourage them in their studies and help them consider service to the church as a pastor or a teacher. A special envelope is in your offering box that is designated for the Scholarship Fund. Consider using it to designate a gift for the nine students expected for next school year:

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Micah Plocher and Nathanael Plocher

Martin Luther College
Gabriel Plocher

Michigan Lutheran Seminary
Leah Plocher, Julie Marker, Josh Barnett, Reese VanLue, Morgan Einhardt, and Evan Korthals

Donations received by June 30 will be distributed in July. In addition, gifts may be given to the Scholarship Endowment Fund, which supports the yearly gifts with a portion of its earnings. The Endowment is currently at \$35,000.

Abundant blessings!

In a recent review of pastoral acts, the following was noted. In the last four years, when we have faced many challenges, the Lord has given his blessing to our work. Praise God for these gifts!

From 2012-2016:

- 57 confirmations
(28 adults and 29 children)
- 36 baptisms
(21 children, 9 adults, 6 non-members)
- 16 marriages
- 23 funerals

Lutheran Military Support Group

The WELS has begun a new ministry for members in the military, both past and present. We hope to compile a list in the church office of those who have served our country in any branch of the military. If you have served and are not listed below, please leave a note or send an email to the church office indicating your name, branch and dates of service. We will update our records as we receive new information.

Those who have indicated service include:

- Duane Bishop—US Air Force—1951-1971
- Thomas Borchering—US Army—1967-1969
- Jerry Comstock—US Air Force—1960-1964
- Walter Keyes—US Army—1956-1958
- William Levis—US Army—1966-1968
- Brian Millerov—US Army—1969-1971
- Brett Rosencrants—USMC—2004-2005
- Greg Rosencrants—USMC 2001-2005
- Paul Schultz—USMC & Reserves – 1996-2002
- Carl Stierheim—US Army Air Force—1942-1946
- Don Thurston—National Guard—1959-1965
- Gary Volz—US Navy
- Jim Zoellner—US Army—1971-1972

Currently serving:

- John Adams V—US Army
- Zachary Lemke—US Navy
- Kathryn Pellar—US Navy
- Megan Solgat—US Navy
- Jacob Somerville—US Navy

Leaving for boot camp summer 2016:

- Phillip Pellar—US Army
- Jaeland Sayles—US Army
- Charlsey Sayles—US Army

Holding our own

After Easter we pause to look at our congregation's well being. There are a lot of questions. Where do we see needs to address? What concerns and uncertainties are there? What about our finances? Who is that new person in the pew? You can find the answers to some of those questions as you read the news items in this newsletter. I would like to speak about a broader issue in this article. It has to do with our collective attitude, the way we approach each other and the way we talk with each other.

It is easy to be negative. We are naturally inclined to gripe and complain. Increasingly in our society we do not trust what people say to us. Not surprisingly, we bring those things with us to church. We second-guess what others determine to be good. We sit on the sidelines and refuse to get involved.

An overly positive outlook would be suspicious. Certainly there are hardships and difficulties. Tough decisions need to be made. Not everything is gushing with wonderfulness and joy.

A realistic understanding is what we need. I don't know of a single member who is looking to destroy our congregation. No one tries to move the congregation into a bad situation. The Church Council, the voters, the pastor, the boards and committees do not have bad motives or evil intentions. They are doing their best to serve the whole congregation. They try to be open and honest and clear to everyone.

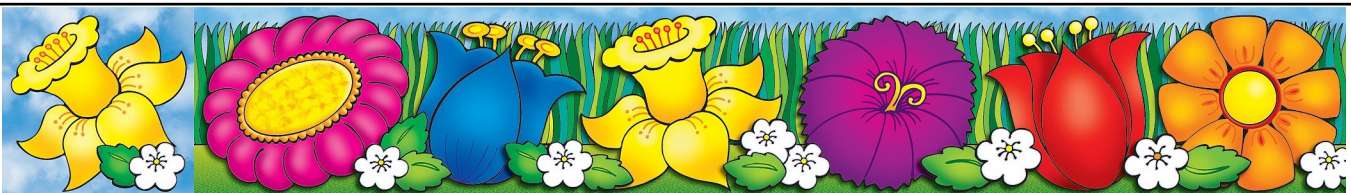
And sometimes they make bad choices. What seemed best turned out worse. Things that work well for some aren't helpful for others. We can have differing opinions, and hindsight is always clearer.

What can we do about it? First of all, we need to forgive those who sinned against us. If you need to speak directly with the person, then do so. But to stand back and mutter about our grievances lets sin fester in us. To gossip about things only makes them worse. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we can talk to each other in love. We may find out it was all a misunderstanding. And if there is sin to repent of, we will do that and rejoice to assure God's people they are forgiven.

Then I would ask that you get involved in the work of St. Luke's. It takes many people to keep our congregation running smoothly. This is your church, and you participate. If your regular worship attendance is not so regular, make room to hear God's word! If you have time, volunteer to help around the church or at the school. Your freely given offerings are important. We need willing people to teach and to serve and to help. There are openings on the Altar Guild, the Ushers, Sunday School, VBS, on Boards and on Committees. God has given you the ability, and you are privileged to use it to his glory.

And pray for your congregation. We are under intense pressure from Satan and the world. The sinful nature that resides in each of us is never quiet. Dissension and discord and suspicion and distrust are waiting to flourish among us. The answer is Christ. He defeated sin by his death on the cross. He proclaims victory to us by his resurrection. He assures us of forgiveness in his word and sacraments. Jesus has brought us together as his body, to be nourished and fed by his gospel. Use the gospel incessantly! Draw near to your God who comforts you with his peace. Pray for God's people to work together in harmony, and then devote yourself to making it happen.

Pastor Plocher



Additional Projects

The voters, at the April 17 meeting, agreed to do work on our bell tower. It seems that water is seeping through the cap and causing the white marks on the bricks. We will work with Piazza Masonry to repair the damage before it gets worse. An initial estimate for the work was \$2,000. We will roll the actual amount into the financing for the school roof loan. None of the other projects on the to-do list were deemed to be so important that we should borrow money to complete them. We hope to continue to do regular maintenance and upkeep though our yearly budget and regular gifts to the Lord's work at St. Luke's.

Changing to FCU

St. Luke's will be transferring its banking business to Frankenmuth Credit Union over the next few weeks. We hope it will be a seamless transition, but unexpected things will surely come up. The Credit Union is able to serve our needs without additional fees, which the bank was unable to match. If you have any questions, ask them of the treasurer, Bill Dudewicz.

Church Library

As the summer months approach and you have a little free time, check out the offerings in our church library. Spend some time together doing activities centered around God's Word. There are a number of books filled with activity suggestions for our families. Try some family devotion books to develop a new habit of time in the Word as a family while the schedule is slower. Check out a book on a topic about which you have had questions, and learn what God's Word says about it. Refresh your memory on some of the things you learned in school and catechism.

We welcome new additions given to the church library. If you have gently used books which you no longer need, consider donating them to the church library for others to enjoy as well.

We have great resources for all ages in our church library. Check it out soon!

Commencement Concerts, Call Services, and Graduation Services at our Synod Schools

Martin Luther College

www.mlc-wels.edu

Commencement Concerts
 Fri., 5/13 at 5PM and 8:30 PM
 Graduation Service
 Sat., 5/14 at 11AM
 Teacher Call Service
 Sat., 5/14 at 3:30 PM

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

www.wls.net

Vicar Call Service
 Tues., 5/17 at 8PM
 Senior Call Service
 Thurs., 5/19 11AM
 Graduation Concert
 Thurs., 5/19 at 8PM
 Graduation Service
 Fri., 5/20 at 11AM

Michigan Lutheran Seminary

www.mlsem.org

Commencement Concert
 Fri., 5/27 at 7PM
 Graduation Service
 Sat., 5/28 at 10:30AM

Church Website

You can find the most up to date calendar for church and school activities on our church website at:

vassarlutherans.org

You will also find sermons and newsletters posted there. Check it out. Let us know how you like it. What changes would be helpful to you as members of St. Luke's? Drop a note in the church office or send an email to:

stlukesvassar@sbcglobal.net

to let us know how we can improve our use of this valuable tool.



Sunday School Page

Geraniums for our Moms

Mother's Day gives us an opportunity to thank God for the moms he has given us. At St. Luke's we invite you to bring potted geraniums in honor of your mothers. We will plant the flowers in the front flower bed this Spring and watch them grow all Summer long. This is not just an activity for the younger children! Adults, too are encouraged to bring flowers (one, or a whole flat!) in memory of your mother, or in her honor. The date is May 8. A table will be set up in the entry by the office where you can put your geraniums.

End of the Season

Sunday School will have its last day on May 22. For the Summer months we will have one service on Sundays, and give our teachers a rest. They have faithfully taught your children for the last nine months, preparing lessons and organizing classroom activities. They have worked with your children so they are ready to sing in worship services and they helped prepare the Christmas Service. Thank you to all who have been involved!

Lessons for May

- May 1 Jesus ascends into heaven
- May 8 Pentecost
- May 15 A beggar is healed
- May 22 Peter and John



Our Sunday School takes a break for the summer months from Memorial Day through Labor Day, but this is not a break from God's Word. See you in worship!

Mission Offering

As we wind up the season, we will also conclude our mission offering for the Wartburg Project. This new translation of the Bible, done by those in our fellowship, will be available soon. The translation has been named: The Evangelical Heritage Bible (EHV). Our offerings total just under \$300 at this time. Remember to send your Sunday School offering with your child to the opening devotions held in the basement at the beginning of the Sunday School hour. Thank you for your dedication and generosity!

Next Year's Sunday School

It is not too early to think about how you can help teach our children in Sunday School come September. Some of our teachers may find other ways to serve the Savior. There may be new opportunities that could use your talents and time. Consider how you will be involved, and help pass the Good News of Jesus to the next generation. Speak with Pastor Plocher to volunteer.

Vacation Bible School 2016

Dive In! The theme for VBS is all things nautical. We will swim and fish and learn about Jesus for four days this summer. Mark the dates: August 1-4, Monday through Thursday, from 6:00-8:00pm. Jenni Whitney is our coordinator, and she will be asking for help with craft planning, organizing snacks, and decorating the fellowship hall. She is looking for teachers and helpers, and hopes to have the staff set before June. Give her a hand by volunteering, rather than making her find you!

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

Pine Car Derby Recap

With 26 pine car derby participants, there were many races, and fun was had by all. Thank you to all who gave time to help the children make the day enjoyable! Building a car using tools and guidance is a life lesson that these kids will take into adulthood.

There were many close races so that Mr. Dustin Mecham even had to video to see who the winner was. In the end though there were three young ladies who came out on top. 1st place went to Adalae Partridge, 2nd went to Eve Schultz, and 3rd place went to Lily Wilson. We also gave out 2 trophies for most creative cars; Jason Whitney and Elisabeth Leach took home these awards.

Thank you to all who brought food---it was an awesome spread!! We look forward to next year! And.....be ready for an adult race: ;)

Paul and Carla Schultz

Cardinal Camp Lenten Supper Recap

On Wednesday, March 16th, the St Luke's girls and boys basketball teams hosted the last Lenten supper of the season. We had around 100 people come to enjoy a meal of "family favorite" casseroles and desserts. The boys and girls of the basketball teams did a wonderful job serving, hosting, and cleaning up the meal. A freewill offering of \$275.27 was collected to help defray the cost of players attending the MLS Cardinal Basketball Camps in June. Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the meal and made it such a successful event!

Graduate Names Needed

On Sunday, June 5 we will honor our high school and college graduates in our worship service. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

The church office needs to know the names of high school



and college graduates to assure we have an accurate list. For the high school graduates, we need to know from which high school they will be graduating, where they plan to attend college, their major, and, when school starts, their future college address. For college graduates we need to know from which college they graduated and the degree they received.

Please bring this information to the church office by May 15th for publication. Thanks!

MLS Commencement Concert and Graduation

On Friday, May 27 at 7:00 PM, the students of Michigan Lutheran Seminary will present their secular commencement concert in the gymnasium. You are cordially invited to attend this entertaining event.

On Saturday, May 28, the Class of 2016 will receive their diplomas in a worship service at 10:30 AM. We pray for our members, God bless the graduates as they begin a new chapter in life!



CEO Activities

We are starting to wind down the school year over on WELS Lane and with this time of year comes our annual Teacher Appreciation Week. This year it falls on May 2nd through the 6th. We spend this week celebrating our 3 faculty members: Mr. Lange, Mrs. Einhardt, and Mrs. Lange. There are special "events" happening each day of the week. Check your church mailbox for more information on how you can help us say THANK YOU to our teachers for all the wonderful work they do for our school & congregation. Contact Kim Korthals with questions at 989.928.9249.

Confirmation Anniversaries

As we celebrate the confirmation of our 8th grade confirmands, please take some time to remember those who were confirmed in our congregation in past years, both as children and as adults. You may see the name of a family member or an old friend. Perhaps you could connect with them once again and speak with them of our common bond of faith as we look ahead to our home in heaven, or you could give thanks to God for completing his work of faith in those who are already rejoicing with the Lord.

75 Years Ago—1941

April 6—Youth

Gerald Robert Catterfeld
Donna June Gohsmann
Gertrude Mariann Stuwe
Shirley Jean Swanson
Marie H. L. Weinmueller

October 5—Adult

Carl Blaesser
Mrs. Bernardine Brauer
Celia Keinath
Erwin Keinath
Harold Keinath
Ivan Middleton
Howard Perry
Joseph Szagesh
Mrs. Velma Szagesh

50 Years Ago—1966

March 20—Adult

Merle Anderson
Carol Margaret Beadle
Bonnie Brinkman
Debra Crump
Robert Kralik

May 15—Youth

Karen Ann Engelhart
Thomas Marvin Gohsman
Aaron Ernest Korthals
Jean Ellen Nickodemus
Kathryn Louise Reif
Robert James Sonderhouse
John Charles Swaffer

25 Years Ago—1991

May 19—Adult & Youth

Benjamin Blaney
Katherine Cypher
Keith Hecht
Randall Vincent
Eva Mae Gohs
Kevin Scott Hecht
Jonathan Joseph Jobson
Mandy Marie Margeson
Jason Thomas McKendree
Jessica Kristen Mecham
Joni Marie Seal
Edward James Sullivan
Steven Joseph Walker

October 6—Adult

Kermit Anderson
Deborah Clemens
Gerald Reeve
Joyce Reeve
Timothy Sohn
Jose Torrez

10 Years Ago—2006

January 2—Adult

Edward Dean Halcro
Brett Jacob LaMay
Jennifer Lynn Whitney

May 21—Youth

Stephen Michael Anklam
Lindsay Marie Augsburg
Zachary Dale Becker
Kelli Lynn Borcharding
Shayne Eric Brown
Lawrence Wesley Hascall
Kelsey Sue Hecht
Breanna Sue Kozan
Madison Louise Kutsch
Bridget Louise Mistura
Kathryn Rose Pellar
Micah James Plocher
Bradley Coy Rose
Hillary Michelle Schnettler
Garrett John Troike
Hannah Jane Weber
Kassandra Marie Woolwine

July 17—Adult

Zachary Martin Lemke



News from St. Luke's School

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

Our twenty-fifth school year is all but in the books. It has been a bitter sweet year for your faculty, the students, and their families. The devil really worked hard to wreck the joy with which we entered our twenty-fifth year! The turmoil of November seemed to rip our hearts out. We were lifeless, cold, and left wondering. But then the light of Gospel, our Jesus, spoke to us his Words of comfort. Thanksgiving came and we took stock of the bounties of God's blessings. Advent arrived and we began to look forward to the Son who would destroy the Devil's power. We celebrated the birth of the Christ child and saw the birth of hope that comes to all people through that little Child of Bethlehem. The cold winter months sought to chill our love for church life, and yet each Sunday we met to hear how God's Son is assuring us that His promises of deliverance and blessing are ours. We entered Lent and heard of the great joy Jesus had in becoming our substitute – taking on our sin's punishment and dying our death. We sang our alleluias to our Risen Lord knowing the joy that death itself could not hold Jesus and will not hold us his believers. In the aftermath of that resurrection and while we wait for the Lord's ascension, we are compelled to share the joy that Jesus is risen to all who do not know it.

Our hearts may feel a little beaten; we may not have had the kind of anniversary year we expected. But our Lord continued to bless us in unique and glorious ways. May we begin our next quarter century knowing and confessing His promises that he never will leave us nor forsake. We will forward to that heavenly home He is preparing for us! Come, Lord Jesus! - Mr. John Lange

Our Student Body

We are back to **45** students! Our hard working students have made great progress so far this year according the talents God has given them. The faculty considers themselves blessed to be working with such great Christian families. We appreciate the tie of God's love that binds us together in our Lutheran elementary school.

Next fall's school enrollment indicates we will be holding our own, with a graduating class of **one** and at this time anticipating **one** Kindergarten enrollment. It looks like **forty-five** will be a realistic enrollment figure. Please keep all the children of our congregation in your prayers. If you have family and friends with children of school age who do not send their children to St. Luke's, please talk to them about sending their children to our school to learn more of their loving Savior and to receive a great education, as well.

Immunization Information Requested

To those of our families with students entering our Kindergarten this year, we thank you for your prompt compliance of turning in your immunization forms. Immunization records for incoming Kindergarten students must be turned in with their applications. For all other grade levels, if you have children who **need boosters** or a new shot series (for example, 12 year old immunization series), make sure all your immunizations are taken care of before your child begins in the fall of 2016. Please note federal and state law mandates that families must have an up-to-date immunization record filed with the school in order for your child to attend. Your child **cannot attend** without these vital updates completed.

These records help us maintain the healthiest students possible at St. Luke's. They are also mandated by the county and the state which monitor our records of compliance. If you have any further questions, please contact your family health provider or the Tuscola County Health Department. Thank you for your cooperation and compliance with this regulation.

Reminder - Registration Runs Through May 13

Currently, registration for the 2016-17 school year is taking place. Registration helps in two main ways. First, it helps the faculty confirm the number of students in each classroom so the proper space is allotted, and the correct number of textbooks is on hand. Second, we will use the registration monies to build up the church checkbook reserves which are used to pay for needed supplies and workbooks for the students.

Please be **prompt** in your registration. Consider this like a monthly bill to be paid. Thank you!

Sports at St. Luke's

Our school continues to have a full spectrum of sports for our students to learn and enjoy. We are thankful for the efforts of all our volunteer coaches this year. We enjoy your enthusiasm for the sport and for your patience in teaching our children.

Volleyball - Under the leadership of coaches Jesse VanLue, Jacob Zieroff, and Pat Mecham our six boys and four girls have just completed another successful season. The team finished below 0.500 in BALL League play (5-6). Congratulations to the girls, the boys, and our coaches who played their regular season and an invitational tournament against some pretty awesome teams. The team bowed out early in this year's league invitational at MLS. Whatever the outcome, we are proud of our Redhawks!

Track & Field – Our school participates in two track and field events each spring. One is the Bay Area Lutheran League's May 27th event. Children from **first through eighth grade** are allowed to participate in three different events. The teachers from each participating school help run the events on the track and field. Our parents, therefore, must serve as chaperons and pseudo-coaches from the stands. Our school makes a big day of it, and we usually hold our own against some pretty fierce competitors. This year St. Luke's is hosting the event. We may be asking for your help in preparing for and organizing the big day.

The second track and field event is for the **upper grades** (5-8) only. It is the MLS Invitational Track Meet held this year on Wednesday afternoon, June 1. This track and field event is run a bit more like the traditional high school track and field meet. It allows our students the opportunity to compete against other WELS Lutheran schools from as far away as the suburbs of Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Lansing.

Mission Offering Report

As of this writing our third trimester offering has just gone over the \$150 mark. This final trimester offering will be used to design a new lighted sign for St. Luke's Church. This sign will be lighted with a new logo that calls attention to the congregation's work. We thank the kids for designating their thoughtful gift in such a way. We are excited to participate in the work of our congregation.

The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from ...Me

WELS teacher, Dr. Joel Nelson points out, "Yes, parent, you are one of the most important, if not THE most important person in your child's life...When it comes to spiritual matters, your modeling and example are HUUUUUUUGE!"

Dr. Nelson points out the view point of another expert: "Because of the extensive exposure parents have to their own children, they leave an indelible impression that radically affects how receptive their children will be to the gospel. There is over-whelming evidence that parents are, almost always, the single most significant determining factor in the development of their children...Parents play a role second only to that of the Holy Spirit in building the spiritual foundation of their children." (DeVries, *Family-Based Youth Ministry*)

(School News continues on the next page)

Thanks to Our Volunteers and Those Behind the Scenes

For those of you who were able to volunteer this year, thank you for the time and effort you put in. We literally could not do the things we do without you! Thank you to those of you who keep our school in your prayers; we appreciate your support.

God has blessed our school greatly once again this year. To our teachers, whose countless hours of preparation and teaching have made our school a great one, we thank you! And above all, to our God, without whose Risen Son, we would have no reason to gather as a Lutheran elementary school, we give you our praise.

Spring Arbor Day

As of this writing, our spring arbor day has already been completed. We appreciate those of you who came out to the school to complete the lists of indoor and outdoor projects that appear each spring. This year was no different than the rest. Special thanks go to the members of the CEO who organized the event which assures the proper care of our fine school facility.

Special Dates to Come ...

May 13 - Examination Service - Please come and listen to the 2016 confirmands demonstrate their knowledge of Luther's Catechism and Christian doctrine in the examination service held at 6:30 PM, Thursday, May 13.

May 15 - Confirmation Service - Those same confirmands will take their vows of faithfulness in the 2nd service on Sunday, May 15. We ask the Lord of the church to strengthen and preserve these fine young Christians in their faith until their end.

Graduation June 2 @ 6:30 PM - We will be graduating Emilee Whitney on June 2nd this year in a 6:30 PM service. Emilee will also serve as class speaker that night. We wish Emilee God's greatest blessings in her future endeavors and remind her of His constant presence and care for her in her life in Christ. May God grant her great success in all things she does according to His will.

Following the service, please join us to congratulate many of our students in our annual awards ceremony. At this gathering we will celebrate the academic, musical, and attendance achievements of our LES children. Finally, there will be a reception for family and friends hosted by our seventh grade families after the awards ceremony.

Summertime Dates to Note

As of this printing the final school calendar for 2016-2017 has been adopted. Here are some dates to which I can already alert you.

June 12-15 MLS Boys' Basketball Camp Grades 7-9

June 15-17 MLS Boys' Basketball Camp Grades 5-7

June 15-17 MLS Football Camp Grades 7-9

June 17 MLS Football Camp Grades 4-6 from 5-8 PM

June 19-22 MLS Girls' Basketball Camp Grades 5-9

August 1-4 VBS – “Dive In”

Early August – Summertime Newsletter published and sent

August 20 – Fall Campus Cleanup 9 AM - noon

August 21 – Registration Sunday 10:30 AM (after service)

August 29 – Student Orientation Day - 8:00 AM—school doors open
8:45 opening service at church

(School News continues on the next page)

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 zero turn radius mowers to keep up with the grass mowing needs. We need your help to man those mowers! There is a sign-up sheet 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. Steve Mecham or Mr. Lange can give you a brief tutorial on the use of our zero turn riding mowers if you would like.

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 accord or gather a crew to do a morning or day's work around the building. The east (parking lot) and south (WELS Lane) sides need most of the attention.

Summertime Maintenance List - The trustees have a summertime maintenance list to help keep the school and its grounds in tip-top shape. If you have a few hours this summer to help with anything from painting to plant maintenance, give Pastor Plocher, Tom Borcharding, or Mr. Lange a call. Many hands make the work light!

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.

Summer Plans for the Teachers

Mrs. Lange - Mrs. Lange will spend her summer assisting Mr. Lange with work around the house, traveling to visit relatives, "signing" with Mrs. Einhardt, and visiting the two Russian missionary families who will be back in the States. She will also be reading for entertainment and hopes that her students will do the same.

Mrs. Einhardt - This summer Mrs. Einhardt will be taking her turn on the organ bench, practicing her new-found language - American Sign Language, and be available to help her family in whatever way they may need.

Mr. Lange –Mr. Lange will use a portion of the summer to regain his depleted math-teaching batteries. He will be attending the Pastor-Teacher-Delegate Conference in June at MLS. He will be meeting in Waukesha, Wisconsin with our two Russian missionaries. He still joyfully serves as an administrative committee member of our WELS Board for World Missions' Europe Committee. Mrs. Lange has some plans for "things that need to be done." Finally, Mr. Lange hopes to put in a few more hours paddling his kayak and in his rowboat while floatin', boatin', 'n fishin'!

A Final Thought...

As a congregation, how grateful we should be to be able to train our own congregation's children in the way of the Lord while giving them a solid secular education. Far too often we let other "earthly" things get in our way of displaying our true love and devotion to the Lord and His Word. Our school gives us the opportunity to practice living our lives in a God-pleasing way – being reinforced and encouraged by classmates and teachers who share our faith.

Let us always be thankful for 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 has 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 pastors, teachers, and congregation leaders in the eternal truths of His Word.

~JFL

Financial Update

March 2016

Income \$ 34,838
 Expenses \$ 29,555
 \$ 5,283

*Monthly budgeted need is \$37,432.

Treasurer's Report

Budgetary Offerings: \$34,838.18
 Budgetary Expense: \$29,554.58
 Budgetary Requirements each month: \$37,431.67, so we are behind in budgetary giving \$2,593.49

Year to date: (First Quarter Totals)
 Budgetary Offerings: \$95,278.63, so we are behind in budgetary giving \$17,013.38
 Budgetary Expenses: \$91,991.69

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.
- Church Roof Fund — We are repaying the Frankenmuth Credit Union loan for replacing the church roof

As of 4-16-2016 our General Budget Checkbook Balance is \$-12,637.46, which reflects our internal borrowing
 The Rainy Day Fund Balance: \$13,596.00
 The LACE Loan Balance: \$121,343.00

Respectfully submitted,
 Bill Dudewicz, Treasurer

Memorials

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

A memorial was given to the General Fund in loving memory of Marvin Rupprecht by Nate & Vickie Rupprecht.

A special gift was given to the School Tech Fund by Mary Rupprecht in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Larry & Linda Zwerk.

A memorial was given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of Marie Geyer by Harrietta Botkins.

A special gift was given to the Roof Fund by Al & Marge Sugden in celebration of Duane & Shirley Streeter's 50th wedding anniversary.

Memorials were given to the Rainy Day Fund in loving memory of Carol Baker, Manuel Hernandez, & Robert Alexander by Don & Diane Kralik.

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:

Carter Rosencrants
 Thomas Rosencrants II
 4-2-16

Aiden Peche
 4-3-16

Received by Profession of Faith:

Jason & Kim Peche, and children Aiden, McKenna, Austin Kemp
 4-12-16

Heidi Davis, and son Ian Stoick
 4-12-16

