



November 2016 Newsletter



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Email: stlukesvassar@sbcglobal.net

916 W. Huron Ave. Vassar, MI 48768

989-823-7923
Website: www.vassarlutherans.org

Scripture alone

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever." [Isaiah 40:6-8] And this is the word that was preached to you. — 1 Peter 1:23-25

At the 499th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, perhaps we no longer have a clear idea of what happened and why it is momentous. Do you know what Martin Luther treasured as his focus and motivation? Can you explain to your family and friends what it means that you are a Lutheran?

After you get past the humorous stereotypes and cliches, what makes Lutherans distinct are the things we believe, teach, and confess. We confess that all our doctrines are found in Scripture alone. We don't look to any other writings of any other people. The inspired and true Word of God is our only source. There God reveals what we are to know, believe, and do.

The central message of the Bible is Jesus. He shows that we need him by exposing our sin. Old Testament and New Testament have the same message. We are wretched and rebellious! God sent his Son to stand in our place and be perfect for us. Jesus died in our place, paying the price for all sin. Jesus rose again to proclaim victory and forgiveness and eternal life. Martin Luther was intent that the message of our sin and God's grace be central to the Christian faith. Lutherans who are true today keep Jesus at the center because that is what Scripture does.

Each time we search the Scriptures, we find our Savior. In fact, we intently focus on those words God inspired for our learning and salvation. Whatever our worry or our question or our concern, God has given everything we need in the Bible. We Lutherans turn to those words in every difficulty and with every fear. Through them, our God gives us comfort, confidence and peace.

The introduction to the Formula of Concord, one of the Lutheran Confessions, states:

We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and guiding principle according to which all teachings and teachers are to be evaluated and judged are the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments alone, as it is written, 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path' (Ps. 119[:105]), and Saint Paul: 'If ... an angel from heaven should proclaim to you something contrary, ... let that one be accursed!' (Gal. 1[:8]).

In Scripture alone God himself reveals what he wants us to believe and proclaim. We are not at the whim of changing interpretations or newly discovered traditions. As Peter writes above, the Word of God endures forever. Jesus says that his Word is the truth (John 17:17). God does not, cannot, and will not lie to us. Therefore, we submit to the Word of God, and we confidently trust that what we believe, teach and confess is divine and powerful truth.

As Lutherans in this time and at this place, we are intent to keep the focus on Jesus. We are determined to use God's Word for our benefit and spiritual life. God fills us with his Spirit and gives us peace and joy, because he has given us his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor Plocher

<p>Thanksgiving Day</p> <p>The congregation observes the national day of Thanksgiving with a special service at 9:30 AM on Thursday, November 24. We have so much to give thanks for, and we want to intentionally give thanks to God as we gather for worship.</p>	<p>Opportunities in our Worship</p> <p>You may be aware that the WELS is working toward another new hymnal. The target date is 2024, still a long time away. (Did you know that by that time the “new” hymnals in the pews will be 30 years old?) Committees are working to prepare materials that will be useful for our worship. St. Luke’s has been asked to participate in some preliminary testing over the next months. Some familiar hymns for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany will be provided for us to use. We will be able to give feedback on the printed format and the supplemental materials that are provided.</p> <p>Bible translations have also been a hot topic the last several years. Beginning in the Advent season we will read the lessons in worship from a new translation. The Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV) is a translation made by pastors and professors in our fellowship. A New Testament and Psalms will be available for purchase by Easter. The whole Bible is still a couple years off. As we read from this version, we are looking for feedback from you. You are invited to follow along in the NIV1984 pew Bibles to make comparisons. The first Sunday we will use the new translation is November 27.</p>	
<p>Board of Trustees</p> <p>The big issue this month was a problem with the septic system at the school. It turns out that the pump and the float system in the pump chamber malfunctioned. The result was that the drain tiles were plugged with sand. We were able to flush them out, and they are working again. We do not have to replace our septic field at this time. It is possible we will have additional problems with the pump or the field. We will keep a close eye on it. Thanks to the members who were on hand to dig and repair and give counsel. The cost for the fix was about \$1,800.</p>	<p>Budget Planning for 2017</p> <p>Those who have been elected to serve the congregation are working on the budget plan for next year. One major assumption was confirmed by the voters in October. We will ask for another vicar in May and hopefully continue to have a second student learn among us. The Church Council will keep on looking at our goals for the future and the ministry support that we need and desire. A special voters meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, after the first Advent worship service. At that time the voters will consider the completed budget.</p>	<p>Can you help?</p> <p>The following people are counted as members of St. Luke’s congregation, but we do not have contact information for them. Searching has turned up no leads, so we are asking for your help. If you recognize these names and have information that would help us find them, please speak with Kelly in the church office. We would love to reconnect with them! If no new information is found, we will remove the names from our membership list at the next Church Council meeting. Thank you for your help.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ariel O’Brien Brian Sage Gary Nichol Ron Nichol II Andrew Singer</p>
<p>Communion Rails</p> <p>Several years ago the students at St. Luke’s School gave their mission offering to design new hand rails for the altar area. When people returned to their seats after communion, the rails on the wall were hard to use. Thanks to the dedication of several congregation members, we have installed a rail in the floor by the lectern and another one by the pulpit. They are sturdy and should give support to those who have difficulty with steps. An usher will still stand nearby to give assistance, but please use the new handrails!</p>	<p>Altar Flowers</p> <p>If you wish to place flowers on the altar, please sign up on the poster by the church office. You are responsible for ordering and payment for flowers. Any questions? Please speak with the church secretary.</p>	

Area Reformation Service

The congregations in Bay City and Saginaw have arranged an area worship service to celebrate God’s blessings given through the Lutheran Reformation. It was 499 years ago that the 95 theses were posted on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. We know the clear gospel and proclaim it eagerly because of what happened in history. The next year will give us many opportunities to celebrate the 500th anniversary. Right now we can begin with this special worship service. Come to St. Paul’s in Saginaw (Court and Bond) on Sunday, November 6 for a 4:00 PM worship service. Enjoy the fellowship of people from our area congregations, the beauty of festival worship, and the power of the gospel.

Board of Christian Education

Students in St. Luke’s School have varying needs and abilities. The teachers work hard to meet each individual where they are and lead them forward in education. This year, it has become apparent that our three teachers do not have enough time to complete regular classes and give all the individual help that is needed. The BOCE and the Church Council approved the use of substitute teachers as tutors to meet this need. Two days a week, these teacher-tutors will be available in the afternoon to assist in the classrooms. We have added the cost to our current budget needs and will also include this in our budget for next year. At this time it seems the program is working as a help for both the teachers and the students.

Bible Information Class

Twice a year Pastor Plocher teaches an Information Class. It serves as a way to teach the basic teachings of the Bible to those who are interested in our congregation. Right now nine people are being instructed! The class is also a valuable review for those who have been members of St. Luke’s for years. It is amazing what we have forgotten from 8th grade confirmation class! Consider coming to the next class and digging into God’s Word with your pastor, the vicar, and potential new members. Plans are to begin again in January. We have met on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM, but additional times can be arranged to meet the needs of those involved.

Teen Bible Class

The teen Bible class will start again November 6 at 9:30 AM in the Mother’s Room. Vicar Leistekow will be leading the class to start. The teen Bible Class will be an opportunity for the young adults of our congregation to grow in faith and be equipped with God’s Word to face the challenges all Christians must face.



Junior Ushers

The Board of Elders is working on including our confirmation class boys in a junior usher program. The idea is to ask them to serve in non-communion services. In this way they can learn from mentors who are ushers and also have a taste of this kind of activity in the congregation. The girls in the confirmation classes will also be encouraged to connect with the Altar Guild for mentoring opportunities.

Advent Decorating



Yes, it soon will be time to put up the tree and the decorations for a new church year. Sunday, November 27 is the day we have set aside for this activity. A group will be assigned the assembly of the tree, while others will string lights outside or hang garland inside or assemble the manger scenes. The whole congregation is invited to help, and a meal will be served when things are completed. We especially invite the newest members of St. Luke’s to come and get to know the church family better. We will begin after church, about 1:00 PM if you need a time. We hope to be done by 4:00 PM and enjoying the meal. See you there!

Midweek Advent Services

Advent will be here before November is over. The first Sunday of Advent is November 27. That Wednesday, November 30, will be our first of three midweek Advent services. The theme for these services will be the “Names of the Savior,” culminating in our Christmas Day service on Sunday, December 25. Please join in eager anticipation of our Savior’s arrival!

What does the vicar do?

Since we are new participants in the vicar program, several people have asked what things occupy the time of our vicar. As the supervising pastor, I can say that he is doing quite a bit! First off, he is learning the many ways that a pastor serves a congregation. It is far more than preaching a sermon on Sunday! But it also takes practice to prepare a sermon well. So, we talk about the path to preaching a sermon. It is a good guide to say that it takes an hour of preparation during the week for each minute of preaching on Sunday.

The vicar spends a lot of time teaching as well. He is learning how to teach catechism class to the 7th and 8th graders. He teaches a Bible History class at the school as well. The Bible Information Class is another setting where he learns to teach God's Word. A Teen Bible Class and opportunity to teach Adult Bible Class are Sunday morning teaching opportunities. Remember that teaching takes preparation time, too, and the vicar is just becoming familiar with the process.

Visiting people and bringing them God's Word makes for a beautiful day. The vicar gives communion to our shut in members each month, and he visits those who are sick or in the hospital. As the year progresses he will begin making calls on members and prospects. It is a great help to have two people available to meet with God's people during the short minutes of each week!

The vicar also spends much time coordinating with the pastor. He has questions to ask and insights to learn. As he watches, he sees things to copy and things to avoid in his future ministry. He gets practice in pastoral work as he attends meetings and considers the administration of the congregation. Hopefully, when he returns to school in August, he will be comfortable with the varied work of a congregation so he can continue to grow towards the time when he will be called to serve his own church.

We are grateful that the Lord has given us a vicar this year. We are also thankful for the many ways Vicar Leistekow is able to serve us and his Savior. As you have opportunity, encourage him in his work. Do what you can to include him in your families so he can experience the joys God has given to his people at St. Luke's. Your kindness will also allow him the opportunity to put names and faces together and remember them!

Christmas Tree Decorating Committee

Advent is approaching quickly! The Christmas tree in the church will be decorated on Sunday, November 30 after the late service. Please note that the same people are responsible for taking down the tree on Sunday, January 8 after the late service.



The following people are on the decorating committee this year:

Jeff Sackman, Larry & Cheryl Sage, Jennifer Santoviz, Gary & Brooke Sargent, Jennifer Sargent, Adam & Jennifer Sayles, Jaeland Sayles, Heather Schaefer, Justin Schlicker, Hillary Schnettler, John Schnettler, Charles & Diana Schultz, Darald & Dottie Schultz, Paul & Carla Schultz, Margaret Seal, Christine Shoens, Shane Shoens, Susan Shoens, Andrew Singer, John & Beth Solgat, Autumn Somerville, Cody Somerville, David Somerville, Margaret Somerville, Aaron & Lisa Stallings, Kay Stoddard, David Streeter, Duane & Shirley Streeter, Lisa Stuart, Al & Marge Sugden, Kimberly Sulicki, Ryan Sulicki, and Nancy Sullivan.

Women Serving Christ and Men Serving Christ sheets

The sheets for service in 2017 have been prepared and are currently being handed out. Next year we will host the MLS Choir in January and a New Member Meal in February, along with the regular activities. Consider how you can use your gifts to serve in your congregation. God has been so generous to you, and perhaps you can use those gifts to encourage others in some way. God bless your work!

MLS' Light Up a Student's Life Program

During the months of November and December, the Michigan Lutheran Seminary Foundation sponsors a special giving program to benefit MLS and its students. This special "Light Up a Student's Life" program allows donors to make a gift in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person. Such gifts will be recognized by the lighting of a large Christmas tree that will be located in the commons.

Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, the MLS Foundation has committed to providing \$100,000 to support the significant need for student financial assistance at MLS. The gifts given to the Light Up a Student's Life program are directed to the MLS Foundation's Student Need Fund. This fund provides ongoing financial assistance to the students who attend MLS now and in the future.

For each \$10 contribution, a white light will be illuminated on the Christmas tree in the name of the individual being remembered or honored. A special Christmas card will be sent to the family or honoree recognizing your caring gift to MLS and its students.

Please consider this opportunity to Light Up a Student's Life through Christ-centered education. Your generosity is the heart and spirit of the MLS Foundation. Your gifts will allow us to assist another generation of students to follow our Savior's directive to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Military Members

The following members of St. Luke's have indicated that they have served in some branch of the military in the past. If you know of additional members who have served, please share their information with the church office. Thank you!

Veterans:

Thomas Borcharding
 Ronald Brown
 Eric Clauss
 Donald Clinesmith
 Raymond Cobb
 Jerry Comstock
 Conrad Dowe
 Hallie Greenwood
 Walter Keyes
 William Levis
 Brian Millerov
 Jacob Morse
 Joshua Morse
 Brett Rosencrants
 Gregory Rosencrants
 Paul Schultz
 Cody Somerville
 Carl Stierheim
 Nathan Thornsberry
 Donald Thurston
 Gary Volz
 Robert Ziegler
 James Zoellner

Actively Serving at this time:

John Adams V
 Zachary Lemke
 Kathryn Pellar-Richter
 Charlsey Sayles
 Megan Solgat
 Jacob Somerville
 Todd Wilson

**We thank you
 for your service!**

Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG)

We continue look for ways to support our military members with encouragement from God's Word and with our prayers and mailings. LMSG is a WELS group that helps us in that work with the assistance of the WELS Civilian Chaplain program.

On November 6 & 13, we will be accepting donations in the green ammo box to help LMSG in their work.

Currently LMSG has approved grants to Time of Grace, which provides "Military Minutes," brief devotional thoughts between programming; and to Blue Star Mothers for postage as they prepare care packages to deployed troops. Our chaplain provides the names and addresses of WELS/ELS members who are deployed. Please be sure to share your family member's current address as they are serving.



MLS News and Events

New Student Discount:

All **new students** who apply to Michigan Lutheran Seminary for the 2017-2018 school year before December 15, 2016 will receive a \$150 discount on their tuition. If you know of someone who could benefit from this, please help us spread the word! This is the only discount that will be offered this year. ***This does not apply to current students. Current students are not asked to apply again. Thank you!***

Fall Theater Production:

Michigan Lutheran Seminary will present the play ***You Can't Take It With You. You Can't Take It With You*** is a comical play about the Sycamore Family. The family is a little quirky, with the exception of one daughter, Alice who is "normal". Alice is soon to be engaged to Tony Kirby and humorous things happen when the Kirby family is introduced to the Sycamores. Crazy fireworks in the basement, bad ballet dancing, and the quick wit of Grandpa all make for a very entertaining show. Performances are November 18 and 19 at 7:00 PM and November 20 at 2:30 PM. Tickets are \$10 adults \$5 children (through 8th grade). Please call 793-1010, ext. 264 for tickets!

Operation Giving Thanks

A collection for the students at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary ends on November 15. Please bring your non-perishable food, toiletries and cleaning products to church or school before that date. Thanks!



Upcoming Christmas Concerts in Synod Schools

We have a number of opportunities to focus our minds on our Savior this Advent and Christmas season. Take some time to tune in to listen and watch as our young people share the good news of Jesus' birth with us in God's Word and song.

Martin Luther College

Watch online at: www.mlc-wels.edu
Saturday, December 3 at 8:30 PM
Sunday, December 4 at 5:00 PM

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Watch online at: www.wls.net
Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM

Michigan Lutheran Seminary

Watch online at www.mlsem.org
Friday, December 16 at 7:00 PM

St. Luke's Thanksgiving Lunch



St. Luke's CEO is hosting their annual Thanksgiving Lunch at church on Thursday, November 17 at 12PM. Sign up sheets will be posted soon to bring food, and to help with set up, serving and clean up. We are asking for a \$3 donation per person to help with meal expenses. You can sign up by completing the form in this newsletter and returning it to Holly Main's church mailbox or to the school office by November 11. See you there!

Friends for Freedom

Many of us know someone who is struggling with same-sex attraction. Friends for Freedom is a support group for the families and friends of those struggling with same sex attraction. Friends for Freedom (FFF) is meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016, at 6:30 PM at the Amazing Grace Christian Resource Center, 1901 Broadway, Bay City, Michigan. This is a time of prayer, study of God's Word, and confidential sharing in an effort to support Christian brothers and sisters who are hurting. For more information, contact Pastor Starr directly at 989-450-1708. You are welcome and you are not alone!



364 Days of Thanksgiving Bible Study

Thank you. Only two words, but when spoken from a thankful heart they express what God desires from Christians – an appreciation of blessings. Our gracious God shows us daily with a multitude of blessings – and many times we don't see them. Join us beginning November 6 for a three-week study called, "364 Days of Thanksgiving" that will help you refocus on God's gifts and live each day with gratitude. Sign up on the bulletin board or stop in the fellowship hall and sign up to order the companion book/journal that goes along with the Bible study. The cost is \$15. The order deadline is Sunday, October 30. We hope to use this journal to encourage us in our thankfulness throughout the year.

Sunday School Page

Sunday School Lessons

The Sunday School lessons this year will work through an outline of Bible History stories. These lessons will serve as a foundation for our Sunday School children's knowledge of the Bible. In addition, the 7th and 8th graders are learning basic devotional skills to help them in their faith life in the future. We pray that God would bless the Sunday School teachers and their students through the study of God's Word.

Nov. 6	Jacob Deceives Isaac
Nov. 13	Jacob's Flight and Vision
Nov. 20	Jacob and Laban
Nov. 27	Joseph Sold by His Brothers



Teacher's meetings

Moving forward, the Sunday School teachers' meetings will be held as needed. Because of busy schedules, there has been difficulty in finding a time and date that will consistently work for the majority of our teachers. All Sunday School teachers are encouraged to stay connected. If there is a question or concern about your class or materials, please contact Vicar Leis-tekow.

Mission Offerings

Every Sunday, the Sunday School students will have an opportunity to give an offering. The offering is collected during the week's opening devotion. The Sunday School offering is divided between funding the needs for our Sunday School materials and a mission chosen at the beginning of the Sunday School year.

This year's designated mission is Friends of China (FoC). FoC is a group that sends WELS members to China to teach English. While there, these teachers have the opportunity to live their faith and make relationships with Chinese people who are not familiar with Christianity. During their evenings and weekends, FoC teachers use the opportunities presented them to speak about Jesus with their new friends. Vicar and Calista Leis-tekow spent a year in Shanghai, China with FoC.

Singing Schedule

Once again, we look forward to hearing our Sunday School children beautify our worship. The upper grade children (grades 3-8) will sing in the late service on November 13.



All Sunday School teachers have received copies of the Christmas service materials. They have instructions included in the packet about making copies of the service for the benefit of students. The Christmas season is fast approaching! Thank you to Mrs. Lange for organizing the service and distributing the packets.

Children's Christmas Service Treat Bags

In the past, we have distributed bags of candy for children following the Children's Christmas service. The candy has usually been donated. This is advance notice for those who would like to donate candy for the bags: with November upon us, candy prices will drop soon. If you are interested in donating candy, now might be the time to purchase it. Thank you for your consideration!

Christmas

The Children's Christmas Service will be on December 18 at 4:30 PM. While Christmas is still a long way off, the Sunday School will begin preparing soon so they have ample time to be ready. In addition to regular practices during the Sunday School hour, children will also have practices on December 10 and 17 beginning at 10:30 AM. All those involved with Sunday School, please make an effort to attend these extra practices.

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

Principal's Thanksgiving Address

On behalf of the faculty and volunteer staff of St. Luke's Lutheran School I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the families of our congregation who continue to pray for our Lutheran elementary school. We have recognized the many blessings that God has showered on our school this year. After twenty-five years in God's grace, we are convinced that with God's boundless love and your continued support, we will continue to study, learn, and live in the warmth of God's love here at St. Luke's Lutheran School for another twenty-five years, God-willing.

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November. As a people of God, we don't need a national holiday to realize that God has made America the most blessed place to live. Let us always be mindful that our bountiful God has showered us with His blessings. We lack nothing material. We have freedoms that citizens of other countries can only dream about. We are able to worship the one true God without fear of reprisal or prejudice.

But are we truly thankful? For what are you most thankful this Thanksgiving holiday? Family? Friends? A steady job? Good health? Happy kids? Money in the bank? All of these are truly things for which we should be thankful. I know that you would agree that our greatest blessing comes from the Father's boundless love which caused Him to send His Son to earth to redeem us wretched, sinful people and give us that which we don't deserve - the eternal glories of heaven.

May God the Holy Spirit lead our children (and us) to see the bountiful riches we possess here in this world and the greater blessings found in heaven which are ours through His Son, Jesus Christ. May He grant generations of God's people the use of St. Luke's Lutheran School to gain an education in faithful living in God's grace and glory.

Lord God, heavenly Father, from whom without ceasing we receive exceedingly abundantly all good gifts and by whom we are guarded daily from every evil; Grant us we beseech you by your Spirit that we in true faith may acknowledge your goodness with our whole heart and may now and evermore thank and praise your loving-kindness and tender mercy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen
~ Prayer by Martin Luther

2015 Michigan District Teacher's Conference **"Different to Make a Difference"**

The 104th Michigan District Teachers' Conference of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod convened at St. Paul's Lutheran School, Livonia, Michigan, on October 5-7, 2016. The theme of this year's conference was "Abide with Me" based on John 15:1-8.

The conference began with a worship service with Holy Communion. Pastor Jim Hoff served as liturgist and gave the sermon. Conference chairman Dave Knittel then formally welcomed **over ten** new teachers to the conference and district.

During the Wednesday afternoon session, Pastor Tim Glende gave the opening address entitled, "Strengthening Our School Leaders". The conference business meeting with elections was held next. Various

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reports followed, including reports from District President Seifert, MLC, MLS, and Huron Valley Lutheran High School. Mr. Thomas Plitzuweit gave a report for the Commission on Lutheran Schools. Following the business meeting, the teachers were able to relax and enjoy each other's fellowship at the "Gemuetlicher Abend" held in Livonia. Due to their personal schedules, your faculty did not attend the evening fellowship.

Thursday morning began with a Bible study led by area pastors. This was followed by various roundtable groups. Throughout the remainder of the day, teachers could attend seventeen special interest sectionals. Your teachers attended the following:

Child Protection Policies – Victor Vieth
 Discover America field trips – Julie Krieger
 Learning Focused Instruction – John Meyer
 The Nuts and Bolts of Writing Workshop –
 Jonathon Roux

Chromebooks Introduction – Silas Warren
 Picture Books Around the World – Peggy Ogg
 Practiced Ideas for Workstations/Centers - Shelly
 Kubath

Friday's schedule began with the second conference address, "When Faith Hurts" given by Victor Vieth. Following another breakout session, the business meeting reconvened; various reports were given including: Excuse, Greetings and Commemorations, Resolution, and Press Report. The conference adjourned with a closing devotion by Michigan District President John Seifert. The 2016 MDTC conference will take place at Trinity, Bay City on October 4-6, 2017.

All Things Academic

Terra Nova Standardized Testing - The children of grades three through eight took their annual testing during the last week of September. This coincided with the same dates that the 300+ schools of the WELS were taking theirs. Test results of St. Luke's and the WELS will be available before Christmas. Typically St. Luke's and the WELS score above the 50th percentile on these standardized tests taken nationally by public and parochial schools alike.

Fall Sports

Girls' basketball B-team season has begun. The girls are under the leadership of Coaches Andrea Baker and Carla Schultz. We thank them for taking the time to introduce our third through sixth graders to the sport. We are a very inexperienced B-team this year – comprised of three sixth graders, three fifth graders, and three fourth graders.

The B-team girls will play in a one day tournament on Saturday, November 6 at Trinity, Bay City. By the time of this publication our Lady Redhawks will have completed their only two home games of the season. Watch the church calendar for location of the remainder of their away games.

Fall School Activities

Bay Area WELS Schools Outdoor Education at Camp Timbers

The students of our school's 5-6th grades shared time with five other WELS schools – a combined 48 students - in learning about the outdoors at YMCA Camp Timbers, east of West Branch. The children had an opportunity to learn about the local beavers and their habits, to try their paddling skills in canoeing, to scale the 30 foot climbing wall, to survive the survival course, to learn about what it takes to be a lumberjack and citizen of the town of Piper, and to team up to accomplish challenging tasks as a unit. The children had opportunity to enjoy many different outdoor free-time activities – from Piper Pete's Plunge to gaga-ball.

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The children were led in morning and evening devotions by teachers from the Bay area WELS schools. Four Michigan Lutheran Seminary seniors came along to be our high school counselors on the trip. The MLS counselors led us in prayer at each meal. This three day experience gave the MLS seniors a good taste of the teaching ministry. It was also a good opportunity for the 5-6th graders to hang out with MLS students and consider their own attendance at Seminary.

Special thanks go to Andrea Baker and Karen Leach, our two lady chaperons. Ladies, your patience and guidance helped tremendously. Final thanks go to the Christian Education Organization for their tuition support of \$400 which allowed our fourteen students to go to this outdoor education event at a greatly reduced price.

Look for excerpts from the students' daily journals to find out more about our students' impressions about this style of learning.

Can Collection Begins Again

Our 7-8th graders have begun their can collection again to reduce the estimated cost of \$220 for their Wolverine Camps Outdoor Education trip this February. This trip will be taken with our friends from the Bay Area Lutheran WELS schools. Please save your cans and bottles as a contribution to this trip. There is a drop off box at both the school and church. We also **gladly accept** can and bottle deposit slips for cashing in. Members of the class are even willing to stop by at your home to pick up your donations!

Fire Safety Days at St. Luke's School

October was the observance of fire safety days at St. Luke's. Ted Gamet came to St. Luke's to remind us of the importance of treating fire with respect. He also told us about the need for constant care of the smoke detectors in our homes. Thanks for coming, Mr. Gamet.

Mission Offering for Trimester 1

Our current trimester offering for *Friends of China* has already exceeded the \$200 mark. We are well on our way to reach our goal of \$300 per trimester. Vicar and Calista Leistikow will be giving a presentation to our school children during a chapel period in November.

Advent Soup Supper

It's hard to believe that the Advent season is just around the corner, but time always has a way of sneaking up on us. Our Advent Soup Supper will take place on Wednesday, November 30 from 5:00pm-6:15 PM in the church fellowship hall. Sign-up sheets to bring soup, rolls, milk, desserts, etc. will be posted soon so keep your eyes on the bulletin board at church and the office window at school. A free will offering will be collected that will go towards our uniform and camp funds for St. Luke's School. Please join us for food, fellowship, and worship. If you have any questions, contact Joanne Fall (989.798.7242), Kelli Wilson, or Dealia Partridge.

Joanne Fall

St. Luke's Book Fair

The annual book fair is being held in late October this year at St. Luke's School. The fair will have a different feel to it as we welcome new vendor, Lowry's Books out of Three Rivers, Michigan. We hope to have just as much fun as we have had in the past with this weeklong event. Look for more details regarding the success of the fair in the December newsletter!



Amazon Smile

St. Luke's has a unique Amazon Smile link that makes it easy for people to support our organization. In your browser, just enter: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2334784>. This will allow St. Luke's to receive 0.5% of the price of all the eligible purchases you make on Amazon.

Camp Timbers Journal Entries from the 5th and 6th Graders

Students in St. Luke's 5th and 6th grades spent three days at Camp Timbers in West Branch, MI enjoying outdoor education opportunities. Here are some of their highlights.

Wednesday Events

Haley Strunk: Today I had fun canoeing because we went to the beach early and played "Whomp-em" and "Spud." The weather, on the other hand, was rainy and cold.

Nathan Whitney: Today for my freetime activities I played "Ga-Ga Ball" and went on Piper's Plunge. In today's devotion we talked about how Jesus does not care about our sinful bodies, and that he see a clean body.

Colin Main: We did archery, and we did an obstacle course, and we wrote in our journals. We have a counselor, Zach Amstein in our cabin with Nate, Silas, Jason, Charles, and Mr. Lange.

Madison Barnett: We worked together well when we did "Team Course." We had to climb over a box or crawl. We also did the balance scale, and the balance beam where you had to try to get to the right spot.

Elisabeth Leach: Today it was very rainy, but we still had a lot of fun. First of all we played games, then we went to a history lesson.

Thursday Events

Morgan Baker: Today the weather was cold, very cold. The Elks had lunch for hopping. Most Elks are from St. Luke's. I thought it was fun when we all played "Capture the Flag."

Adalae Partridge: Today we went to the rock wall. I reached my goal and fell down. We got to see pitcher plants. We also had a contest that we had to eat our lasagna without our forks. We also got popsicles.

Madisyn Woolworth: Today the weather was colder than yesterday and I went to OLS, archery, and nature study. It was awesome.

Silas Schultz: We learned how to start a fire, then we all built shelters. After supper we had Mission Impossible, we failed. Next, was Lumber Jack Auction and we won!

Paige Mocny: Today is our last night and it was the coolest. We saw pitcher plants for the first time. I can cross that off my list.

Friday Events

Baeli Partridge: Archery is so fun! I made it in red! The Coyotes got to shoot eight arrows each. It's fun there at camp.

Jason Whitney: I got up this morning and packed up all my things to get ready to go home. Then I ate breakfast and went canoeing and had to take off my socks and shoes. My feet got very cold.

Charles VanLue: Today was kind of cold. The only activity I did today was archery. I hit a fake boar in the lung. After archery we took pictures.

A sincere thank you to St. Luke's CEO for their financial help to make these outdoor education opportunities possible for our students!



Financial Update September 2016

Income \$34,210
Expenses \$42,589
 -\$ 8,379

*Monthly budgeted need is \$34,836

Special Envelope

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

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

Treasurer's Update

September budgetary income: \$34,210.34
September budgetary expense: \$42,589.08
September net income: -\$8,378.34
Rainy Day Fund Balance: \$15,388.91
Roof Loan Balance: \$35,886.47
Our General Budget Checkbook Balance is -\$11,762.72, which indicates our internal borrowing.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Dudewicz, Treasurer

Pastoral Acts

Holy Baptism:

Colton Ray Schaefer
10-9-16

Christian Marriage:

Aaron Rupprecht and Kaylee Stevenson at Salem, Owosso, MI
9-24-16

Transfer Out:

Dustin Brunner to St. John, Battle Creek, MI
10-11-16

Release by request:

Kara Stevens
10-11-16

Removed (no contact):

Melissa Dupuis (Kaylee Kennard & Jacob Haley)
Gerald, Leighana, and Troy Harris
Dustin Letts (Hannah)
Jason Masker
Jason Seal (Teagan & Tristan)
Ian Straley
Scott Teschendorf
10-11-16

Memorials & Special Gifts

A special gift was given to the Rainy Day Fund in celebration of Ron Brown’s 80th birthday by Myron & Ruth Schiefer.

A memorial was given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of Harvey Bruder by Ruth Bruder.

A memorial was given to St. Luke’s School in loving memory of Ralph Muter by Richard & Ann Fillhard and Walter Ayotte.

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

A memorial was given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of Lyra Leah Revesz by Dorothy Martini.

Memorials were given to the Rainy Day Fund in loving memory of Don Kischnick, Violet Hadaway, and Angela McElroy by Fran Emling.

A memorial was given to the Rainy Day Fund in loving memory of Angela McElroy by Jerry & Jennie Comstock.

A memorial was given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of Don Kischnick by Don & Sharon Thurston.

A memorial was given to the Rainy Day fund in loving memory of Alice Fox by Lori Corell.

