
February 2018

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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St. Luke's Mission Statement

Our mission is to serve God by teaching and preaching his word in truth and purity, and to reach out with the gospel to our members and to our community.

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26-28

See yourself as God sees you

A person's view of himself tends to be relative—relative to the people around him. For example, I am below average in height. Most of the time, when I am with a group of people, I am looking up and feel quite short. But when I am with my extended family, I am one of the tallest people in the room. And when I am asked to reach something from the top shelf of the pantry, I feel quite tall.

People often view their morality in a similar way. They compare themselves to the people around them and feel either good or bad about themselves depending upon what they see in those other people.

But we do not have a God who compares us to other people. He compares us to himself. He expects us to be as holy, and loving, and caring, and selfless as he is. Unlike when we compare ourselves to other people, when we compare ourselves to the one, true God, we cannot see ourselves as anything but complete moral failures.

Which is why it is such a shock—a wonderful shock—to hear what the apostle Paul tell us in Galatians, chapter 3: “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

What a glorious surprise! Regardless of how you see yourself, regardless of how you stack up when compared to other people, God sees you as sinless because you are clothed in the perfect life of Jesus. He sees every baptized follower of Christ this way. It doesn't matter what gender you are, what color you are, what kind of job you hold, what kind of grades you get, or what language you speak. Through faith in Christ you are a child of the living God!

Now, how does THAT make you feel?

Prayer:

Thank you, Father, for making me your child through faith in your Son, Jesus. Cleanse my guilty conscience with the knowledge that I am holy in your sight. And lead me to live as your child this day. Amen.

(Copied from Daily Devotions from January 12, 2018 on www.wels.net)

Annual Reports

The Annual Report has been printed. For those who attend worship, the publication will be in your church mailbox. God has been gracious to us and given us many blessings to be thankful for! The final pages of the Annual Report are a directory of the members, including phone numbers and email addresses. Keep it handy for reference if you need to contact St. Luke's members. Each family has a number by their entry that corresponds to one of the elders. The last page of the directory lists the elders by number. If you see any errors or have updates as things change, contact the church office to have corrections made.

Ash Wednesday

The beginning of the Lenten Season of the Church Year is February 14. During Wednesday evening worship services we will consider the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He humbled himself to redeem us, and we rejoice that he has accomplished our salvation. The pastors of the Thumb Circuit will come to our congregation to preach under the theme "Jesus Christ Is Our Great High Priest." We will work through the Letter to the Hebrews and see that God has provided us the sacrifice and the mediator we need. Worship is at 6:30pm each Wednesday for six weeks as we anticipate the rejoicing of Easter.

Board of Elders

Our goal for 2018 is to contact each family during the year. It may be a casual conversation at worship sometime, or crossing paths in the community, or a scheduled visit or a phone call. The elders want to encourage you in the Christian faith and to serve you when you are in need. The chairman of the elders is Paul Schultz. The elders intend to pray for you regularly during the year. Please pray for them, too, as they do their work.

Church Council

As the Council begins the new year, we continue to look into measures that will keep our congregation safe from potential threats. We have asked for an assessment of our procedures and will hear a report soon. Meanwhile, we are working to focus our activity along the lines of our mission statement. Keep us in your prayers as we all walk together, rejoicing in our Savior's peace.

Worship Times

The Church Council proposed to the Voters that the congregation have only one Sunday worship service year round. Worship would begin at 9:00, with Sunday School after, at 10:15. We hope this arrangement will allow the most people to participate in both worship and Bible Class. As of this writing, the voters have not yet met to make the decision. It is suggested that we would begin a new schedule after Easter, on April 8. Look for more information in the bulletins and next month's newsletter!

Evangelism Committee

Joel Birsching is the new coordinator, and he is working out a plan for regular congregational training and intentional welcoming of our visitors. He will be asking for help in various ways. Speak with him directly about how you can be involved. This is one of the three major emphases in our mission statement, and we want to incorporate as many people as possible!

Board of Trustees

The new chairman of the Trustees is Terry Moony. We welcome two new board members, Dave Streeter and Steve Bertoia. We hope to keep our facilities in good shape and prepare for major maintenance needs. If you see something that needs attention, please write a note so we can address it. Thank you for keeping your church and school looking good!



Spring LWMS Rally

St. Luke's will host the Spring Rally on April 7. Pastor Dan Simons will share news of the WELS home mission at Ascension Lutheran Church, in Macomb, MI. We will need help decorating, setting up, preparing and serving food, and cleaning up. Join us to plan the Rally at the Women Serving Christ meeting Sunday, Jan. 28 after the late service.

Mission News

Pastor Kevin Schultz of The Vine Lutheran Church of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho accepted a call to be pastor in one of the fastest growing areas of the Pacific Northwest. There was no core group of WELS members there. They had to build relationships with the unchurched. God had a plan to help. A lady at the local hotel was making arrangements for the church to have meetings there. During this time, she mentioned that her dad had passed away. Pastor listened to her and shared some words of comfort from God's word. Days later he sent her a sympathy card. She called and thanked him for caring. She then asked about their mission church and what kind of church it was going to be. Pastor Schultz shared the information about the church and asked if he could stay in contact with her. He later invited her to be a part of it. She said she would love that. That's how to get started in building relationships one at a time. Please pray for their church, that God will continue to bless their outreach.

BOCE News

The Board of Christian Education (BOCE) is pleased to welcome back Aaron Stallings and Dustin Mecham for a second office term. We are busy with a number of projects, the first being advertising and promotion of our school on Social Media. For those of you who are on Facebook and live within a 10-15 mile radius of the church and school, you may see advertising or boosting of information about our school. If you do see these ads, please make sure to mention it to Dustin Mecham, Justin Whitney, or Mr. Lange as we are interested in how many people are seeing them.

Second, the BOCE continues with significant discussion on All-Day Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year. There are numerous decisions yet to be made in the next month in cooperation with our faculty and include items such as: setting the absolute minimum number of kindergartners needed to make it a go; setting the final date that we will accept kindergartners for 2018-19 (at least to set the minimum necessary); how to adjust if we don't receive application for enough kindergartners; how to adjust if we have enough kindergartners AND add first or second graders (both of which are currently projected to have zero students); as well as beginning planning for future staffed years if we do have a kindergarten this next year. Most of these discussions are very complicated and we ask for your prayers as we plan for our future.

Additionally, a BOCE sub-committee has been seated and are starting work on information gathering concerning an Early Childhood Education (ECE) program here at St. Luke's. A lot of information must be gathered and discussed before any program could take place. This sub-committee will look at local and state requirements for the program first before we add in the WELS requirements. The BOCE again requests your prayers as we consider this future opportunity.

Thanks

Thank you to those who sent cards and gifts to our family during the Christmas season. Your prayers and words of encouragement are priceless! We ask for God's blessing as we work together and rejoice in our Savior from sin.

Pastor and Kelly Plocher

Altar Flowers

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



Sunday School News

Sunday School Superintendent

We are looking for a person who will serve as Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. The job description includes working with the Superintendent to lead devotions at the beginning of the Sunday School hour, and then taking attendance, maintaining good order, and communicating with Pastor regarding how things are going. If you are interested, please speak with current Superintendent Paul Schultz or Pastor.

Singing in Church

The Upper levels of Sunday School will sing in the late service on February 11. The children will practice their song at the opening devotion each Sunday with Mrs. Lange. We treasure the privilege of hearing our children sing praises to their Savior in worship. Thank you to all for their service in this regard.

Vacation Bible School

Our summer education plan is being formulated at this time. We are looking for a coordinator for Vacation Bible School and/or a soccer camp. If you are interested in being involved, even if not in the coordinator role, speak with Pastor soon. We will need craft people as well as teachers and helpers and music people and helpers for snacks and activities.

February Lessons

February 4: The Transfiguration
 February 11: The Good Samaritan
 February 18: The Unforgiving Servant
 February 25: The Ten Lepers



A Change in the Routine

At the time this is written, the voters of St. Luke's are considering changing the Sunday schedule so there is one service each Sunday. That would move our Sunday School time a little later, and we would all be in the one worship service beginning at 9:00. Now is a good time to consider how the changes will affect your Sunday habits. We hope that we will be able to encourage each other and build each other up in the faith. Perhaps more of us will be able to stay for Bible Class while our children are in Sunday School. The time with God's Word is precious! Talking with one another about our Christian faith is also an important exercise that prepares us for life during the rest of the week. Look for details in the coming weeks!

Sunday School Offering

Thank you for your gifts in the Sunday School offering. We are currently supporting the mission in Fenton, where a small congregation is preparing to build their first worship facility. Our gifts so far this season total \$193.70. That represents half of our gifts, as the other half helps with the supplies needed for teachers and students each year. As of the end of 2017 the Sunday School Treasurer has closed the separate bank account and merged the finances with the congregation's. Thank you to Kim Korthals for serving as treasurer for many years!

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

St. Luke's Lutheran School News

Current Enrollment: 31

Mrs. Einhardt's Classroom: Mrs. Einhardt is currently teaching grades 2-4. We have no Kindergarten or First Grade this year. This is due in part to an extremely small cradle roll. What a blessing it is that each day begins with morning devotion and a Bible lesson. This is followed by the secular subjects. Students in these three grades are benefiting from plenty of individualized attention.

Mrs. Lange's Classroom: Mrs. Lange's new classroom assignment this year is grades 5-6. What a blessing it is to have just two grade levels in the room this year. The foundations of reading, math, and English are built upon, while world history and writing skills are sharpened. Junior catechism and Old Testament Bible history are this classroom's religion classes. Mrs. Lange has also begun teaching music class with the recorder.

Mr. Lange's Classroom: The children of grades 7-8 are being taught by Mr. Lange. This is the first time in his 37-year career that he is teaching only two grade levels! Pastor Plocher is teaching senior catechism three days a week while Mr. Lange is teaching two days of Bible history or church history per week. Mr. Lange also teaches three levels of math in his room – Math 7, pre-algebra and algebra 1.

Tutors: We are blessed to provide two part-time tutors to give needed support to the students of the middle and upper grades who are new to Lutheran elementary education or who need remediation in specific subject areas. Our tutors are Carla Schultz and Kim Korthals, both WELS-trained teachers. We are blessed and thankful that each tutor can help us one half day per week.

Administrative Assistant: Our teachers are being aided by the faithful work of Mrs. Plocher who serves as our administrative assistant in the school office Tuesday through Thursday mornings. Not only does she coordinate important and not-so-important office work for Mr. Lange, but she often steps in to coordinate our multiple volunteers. On special occasions, she's also been called on to give needed assistance to our students in study hall and spelling tests. Special thanks go to a very fine crew of volunteers who faithfully come in throughout the week. Our teachers could not function as efficiently without these hard workers. Thanks, everyone!

Athletics

St. Luke's is proud to be able to be a member of the Bay Area Lutheran League. Here is a brief overview of the school year activities thus far.

Soccer – Many of the children in grades 4-8 took to the soccer field this fall for some great athletic competition. The team battled to a 0-5-1 record this year. Thanks for volunteering, Coach Schultz.

Basketball - St. Luke's Redhawks once again returned to the basketball court this fall and early winter with the girls' and boys' basketball teams. The teams continue to enjoy success on the court as they develop proper God-pleasing, Christ-centered sportsmanship.

Fall Season - The girls' basketball A-team season was a rough one for the girls. The team, made up of girls from grades 4-8, was plucky though often out matched. They had grit and determination, and, in all games, performed well in front of their fans. They even participated in the MLS A-team tournament – their choice! Our team was coached by Kylie Woolworth and Carla Schultz. Thanks, coaches!

Winter Season - The boys' A team has just taken the court. This year we put one boys' team comprised of seven boys in grades 4-8 on the court. Friday, January 5, our boys' A-team opened with a victory over Emanuel, Tawas City, a team whose school is dealing with a lower enrollment like ours. Our team is coached by John Korthals. Thank you, Coach K.

Our cheer squad of seven girls from grades 4-7 leads the fans with their cheers from the courtside. Their positive cheer routines are appreciated and keep us motivated to cheer "for" the good play of both teams! Thanks, Coach Karen Leach for your patience and persistence!

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We wish to thank the many parents of the school who donate their time for coaching, score keeping, and running the concession stand. Your help allows us to provide a solid sports program in soccer, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, coed volleyball, and track and field. We are always looking for the next generation of coaches as often our current parents "graduate" with their children into high school sports. Please consider coaching as a further way to serve your Lord in His church and school.

Physical Plant and Conditions

Currently most of the children's physical needs are being met by the school facility. The children are able to learn in a well-heated, well-lit building under clean conditions. Our school finished the 25th anniversary pavilion this summer. The school families appreciate the efforts made by the congregation to enhance the beauty of our campus. The project to replace the fluorescent light fixtures with LED bulbs was completed. These LEDs will last longer, be more cost-efficient, and are environmentally friendly.

However, the school is showing some of its age. Its carpets are well-worn; most are 27 years old. A couple of rooms need painting, and the lockers are rusting. Hopefully we will be able to address these cosmetic issues this summer. Thankfully, most of the regular maintenance work and repair projects are being done economically by congregation members under the guidance of the Trustees.

Pastor Plocher is our liaison to our very active Board of Trustees as he communicates the school's physical needs to that Board. The faculty feels that we are in the capable hands of a caring Board of Trustees who will do their best to stay on top of any problems.

Christian Education Organization (CEO)

The CEO, as we have nicknamed it, has been quite busy this year. Apart from its usual service and fellowship activities (like the Soup Supper, Book Fair, and Operations Giving Thanks and J.O.Y.), this school year the CEO has sponsored tuition grants for the outdoor education classes of grades 5-6 totaling over \$500 so far. They also hosted the ever-popular Harvest Festival. Currently, they are studying the feasibility of hosting a trip to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. The members of the CEO are always looking for more family members to attend meetings and activities. Please consider joining the group.

Working with the Board of Christian Education (BOCE)

The members of the Board of Christian Education are Marc Augsburger (chairman), Justin Whitney (treasurer), Steve Walker (secretary), Dustin Mecham (CEO contact), and Aaron Stallings (sister congregation contact).

This year the BOCE, in recognizing a much smaller cradle roll, will focus its main attention on using social media to advertise the school to the public. Members of the BOCE are working on the official Facebook Page, reviewing social media use policy, and researching the costs of localized advertisement on Facebook. It is their hope that more families from the area learn of St. Luke's Lutheran School and come to use it as a means to educate their children about Jesus while at the same time getting a quality secular education.

The BOCE members will also be contacting congregation members who have children of school age to encourage them to consider sending their children to our school. Their efforts will begin with the ***Cradle Roll*** families and continue through the elementary grades. The BOCE sees the health and growth of our congregation's Lutheran elementary school starting with a firm foundation consisting of our own members in the school. Therefore, we will begin our recruitment at home - in St. Luke's congregation. Currently, **approximately 50%** of our congregation's children are attending our school.

The BOCE has also asked the faculty to study the shifting student census in the various grades to effectively use the three teachers on the staff to best meet the needs of their students. Currently, the BOCE is pursuing an All-Day Kindergarten classroom which will primarily be an outreach effort to non-members since we have very low expectations from our Kindergarten cradle roll.

The BOCE has also attempted to seat an Early Childhood Education study committee. As of this writing, they have not found a volunteer to head the committee as chairman to lead in the extensive research that is required to start such an extensive program. If a committee is seated, and if such a program is deemed feasible by St. Luke's congregation, the program would be two years from opening due to the extensive preparations, regulations, and inspections required by the state and the calling of an ECE director to serve in this new ministry. (continued on next page)

The BOCE continues to work with the Primary and Intermediate grade teachers and the administrative assistant to organize a ***Staying Connected with Pre-K Families*** program with our Pre-Kindergarten-aged children and their parents to remind them that St. Luke's will have a Kindergarten class awaiting them when their children are of age.

The greatest way you can help in this effort is by encouraging your friends and members of your own families to consider sending their children to our school. Our cradle roll is currently very small. Please encourage young families who may be interested in our church to check us out – visit for the day and speak with the principal or other members of the faculty. We must have the parents of the next generation bring their children to our school if the school is to remain viable and able to produce well-founded church leaders for the next generation.

Please welcome any contact that our BOCE members may make to your family. Respond truthfully and openly to their inquiries so that our congregation may have the best Lutheran elementary school possible.

The BOCE will soon be involved in its annual review of the school fees that each school family pays so that by March we can begin the process of pre-registration for Kindergarten and Grades 1-8.

Mission Offerings (3 trimesters)

Our children continue to gather their mission offerings in our chapel service each week. Here are the projects on which we are currently working. To God alone be the glory!

St. Luke's project: St. Luke's Scholarship Fund ~ \$303.62 given

Home mission project: *Adopt a MLS Student* (Currently \$80 +)

Home mission project: *Adopt a MLC Student*

ACT Aspire Standardized Testing

On the week of April 16 the children of grades 4-8 will participate in our annual spring testing. Such standardized testing by a renown group as ACT insures our faculty and Board of Christian Education of a quality assessment on the progress of our school curriculum, our students, and our teachers have made. More information will be coming out in future newsletters about the test and how to prepare your children for the test. Results of our school's assessment will be published this summer.

MLS Fine Arts Fair and St. Luke's Science Fair

The children of St. Luke's LES have once again been invited to participate in the MLS Fine Arts Fair held on March 3. This event is the longest running extracurricular event in St. Luke's history – even longer than our association with the Bay Area Lutheran League. This daylong event is the culmination of weeks of studying spelling lists, reviewing math facts, rehearsing forensic verses, and preparing art and science projects for display. This day also serves as the beginning of the week-long Science and Art Fair at St. Luke's with displays made in the fellowship hall at church.

Bay Area WELS Children's Spring Concert Cancelled

The spring concert of the Bay Area WELS Joint Children's Choir has been cancelled for this year. We are thankful that we were able to celebrate the Lutheran Reformation together with this choir and look forward to participating once again in 2019.

From "Siberia with Love"

With the Board for World Mission work in which Mr. Lange is involved, he has regular contact with our one American missionary in Russia, Luke Wolfgramm. Twice a month during the school year he and Mrs. Lange speak with Missionary Wolfgramm and his wife Jennifer talking about the challenges and the joys of the ministry in Siberia. The Langes feel that this is one small way that they can "hold up the prophets' hands" in that mission field. Mr. Lange is also responsible for making monthly stateside contacts with our synod offices and the members of the Board for World Missions to coordinate the work of our missionaries with our Wisconsin Synod. Mr. Lange has often commented on how his work with our foreign missionaries has affected his own ministry and the teaching he does with his students. He is grateful for this opportunity to serve our synod and our God in this way.

The Wolfgramms send their greetings and love to you. They ask you and all the members of our synod to pray that the Holy Spirit works through their ministry so that many more people of Siberia come to know the true Gospel joy found in Jesus.

Keys to future work at St. Luke's Lutheran School...

- 2018-19 School Calendar
- 2018-19 Studying School Census & Classroom Assignments
- Pre-registration for 2018-19
- Introducing the *new Spring* WELS Standardized Testing Program
- Member/ non-member recruitment
- Using social media and local news to Advertise (BOCE)
- MLS Recruitment

General Mills Box Tops

The next submission of General Mills Box Tops will be sent in at the end of February. Please turn in all Box Tops by 2/15/2018. Collection boxes are located in the fellowship hall and at the school.

Shop with Scrip

Scrip order will be placed on February 12th and February 26th. The monies raised go to help offset the cost of the outdoor field trips at St. Luke's Lutheran School. The CEO brought in \$238.12 for November of 2017 and \$229.56 for December of 2017. **Thank You** to everyone who placed orders. If you would like to learn how Shop with Scrip works just ask Melissa Augsburger. You can contact her at 989-286-3025 or visit www.shopwithscrip.com. There is a 2 minute video that also explains how this program works and you can also find a complete list of retailers there. There is a binder labeled Scrip program in the school office and the church fellowship hall which has order forms and a complete list of retailers. Orders can be placed in Marc and Melissa Augsburger's church mailbox or dropped off in the school office by 3:00pm on the above dates. Orders are available on Thursday or Friday that same week.

Shoparoo

Thank you to every for snapping pictures of receipts or turning them in for others to process. Shoparoo is an app you can find on your smart phone. Snap pictures of your receipts and earn "Roo Points" which turn into money for St. Luke's School. Don't have a smart phone, but still want to help? Leave your receipts in the box labeled "Shoparoo Receipts." There is a box located at the school and in the Church fellowship hall. If you need your receipts back, just put in an envelope with your name on it and we will return your receipts to your church mailbox. Receipt are only valid for 14 days. For example, a receipt dated 10/1/2017 must be processed in the app by 10/14/2017. If you have any questions about the app and how it works, just ask Joanne Fall, Kelli Wilson, Todd and Karen Leach, or Marc or Melissa Augsburger.

Scholarship Committee

St. Luke's has been encouraging its members who attend Synod schools through the Scholarship Fund for 21 years. Your donations are added to the proceeds from a small endowment and they are given to each student. In April we will distribute thirteen scholarships! If you would like to add your donation, there is a special envelope in your envelope box between January and February. Please make your gift before the end of March to have it included in this year's formula. Thank you for your generosity!

Pastor-Teacher Conference

Each winter the pastors and Lutheran Elementary School teachers of the Northern Conference meet for a day of continuing education and mutual encouragement. This month we will gather at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth. Over 100 called workers will worship, hear reports, eat, and learn together. We rejoice in our fellowship and will be renewed in our zeal to teach and reach as many as possible with the saving gospel.

Adult Bible Class

Sunday mornings in Bible Class we have been studying Reformation history and Christian truths. In February we will complete that study and move on to several shorter lessons on timely topics. Plan your Sunday so that you can study God's Word with your fellow Christians. This is the place you have the chance to ask questions about current issues and receive encouragement in your daily struggles. We hope to see you there!

CEO Soup Supper

You are invited to a Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday, February 14 in the fellowship hall from 5:00-6:15 PM. The menu includes: soup, crackers, rolls & butter, and desserts. If you wish, you may sign up to bring something at church or school. A free will offering will be taken to be divided between the Outdoor Education Fund and the Uniform Fund of St. Luke's Lutheran School. See you there!

Operation Giving Thanks

St. Luke's CEO is collecting items for the Saginaw Pregnancy Care Center beginning Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. Watch for a collection spot in the entry way at church and at school. Every gift is appreciated and much needed as the Center shares Jesus with each client who enters their doors. Your prayers are also welcome for the moms and children who are in contact with the Center.

Lutheran Mobile Clinic (CAMM)**Lilongwe, Malawi****January, 2018**

December is the end of year; January, the beginning. It happens this way every year. It is nothing new, right? Many people use this time to reflect on things they are grateful for in the past year and things they are looking forward to in the New Year.

Well, this December is the end of more than a year for me. It is nearly the end of my three-year tenure as Nurse in Charge. It is the beginning of new adventures for Lutheran Mobile Clinic's new Nurse In Charge, Beth Evans, and it is the beginning of new adventures for me, wherever the Lord will put me!

More importantly, the birth of our Savior is the start of a new beginning for each of us. The beginning of His life became the beginning of ours through God's grace. He loved us so much that He sent His Son to come to Earth, to live a perfect life and pay the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf, so that we can have eternal peace with Him. What an amazing gift we have received.

As my time in Malawi is coming to a close, I've not only been reflecting on this past year, but on the past three years. A friend of mine once described her work in Malawi as "the toughest job [she] ever loved." I've always held that statement quite close to my heart, as I feel like it so succinctly describes my time in Malawi as well. Working as the Nurse In Charge was tough. I learned a lot about tropical medicine, about working in resource limited settings, about working in a different culture, about management and expectations. I've seen and experienced things I would have never imagined—both good and bad. But for all of the challenges, the Lutheran Mobile Clinic does amazing work. In my three years, we have seen more than 158,560 people come through our four clinic doors for care, we've hosted approximately 540 clinic days, and distributed over 1,820 nets to pregnant women—just to name a few quantifiable highlights. There are some highlights I can't put eloquent words to or justify by numbers. There are some experiences that no matter how I describe the details, the description won't be quite right, it won't do the experience justice. But I've been so privileged to be a part of it!

My prayer for this upcoming year is for your continued support of Lutheran Mobile Clinic and Central Africa Medical Mission. Because of your generous support our clinics will continue to provide opportunities to hear the Gospel on a regular basis and provide physical care to every patient that comes to our clinic sites. I also pray the Lord provides a smooth transition for LMC administration as we all adjust to our new beginnings.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 22: 13). He is our beginning and our end. Through Him we have everything. With assurance like that, bring on the new adventures!

Yours Sister in Christ,
Amanda Oswalt

**Financial Update
December 2017**

Income	\$ 44,106
Expenses	<u>\$ 36,291</u>
	\$ 7,815

*Monthly budgeted need is \$35,910

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 is intended for the repayment of the loan for the school roof.

Memorials

A memorial was given to the General Fund in loving memory of Frank Gouine by Nancy Klopff.

Memorials were given to the Roof Fund in loving memory of Andy Heminitz, Pat Conzelmann, Harry Conzelmann, and Wallace Weiss by Jim & Sally Zoellner.

A memorial was given to the Rainy Day Fund in loving memory of Gretchen Reif by Carol Hartman.

A memorial was given to Missions in loving memory of Ronald Keinath by the Rupprecht family.

Pastoral Acts

Baptism:

Charlotte Elizabeth Rupprecht
1-7-18

Transfer in from Faith Lutheran Church, Radcliffe, KY:

Nicole Hicks, Kaylee and Piper
1-16-18

Received by Profession of Faith:

Todd Nelson
1-16-18

**Treasurer’s Update
December 2017**

Budgetary Offerings: \$44,105.76
Budgetary Expense: \$36,290.78
Income for Month: \$ 7,814.98

Our internal borrowing as of 1/16/18 is -\$3,770.04.

The Rainy Day Fund Balance: \$70.00.

The Roof Loan Balance: \$4,484.02

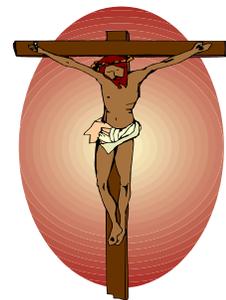
For the year 2017:

Budgetary Offerings: \$382,027.77

Budgetary Expense: \$406,865.21

Note: We used all of the Rainy Day Fund monies to pay our regular bills and our CMO for 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Dudewicz, Treasurer



How great is the love
the Father has lavished
on us, that we should be
called children of God!
And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1

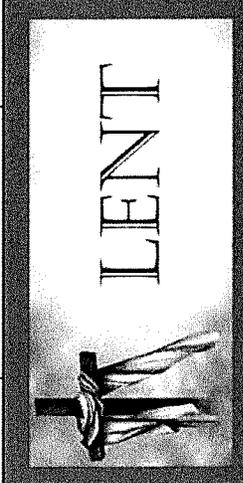


Fellowship Dinner

All members are invited to a “Valentine” dinner as we celebrate Jesus’ love for us and our love for each other as family in Christ. All singles and couples are welcome to come share a meal and spend time together on Sunday, February 18 beginning at 5PM in the fellowship hall. Plan on fun conversation and games. Bring your favorite card or board game to share after the meal. Watch for meal details soon!

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Vassar, MI

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Ushers: 8:15 AM Ron Nichol* Al Sugden Steve Walsh Bob Ziegler Altar Guild: Cynthia Lange & Debby Hubbard	10:45 AM Brandon Frank* Walt Lemke Chris Rupprecht Garrett Troike	Mondays Mark Buyack Elder John Solgat	Finance Brian Millerov* Chris Rupprecht Eric Kern	1 1:30 pm M.L.S Open House 3:45 pm PS Catechism 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	2 1:30 pm LES to Dr. Slime presentation @ Trinity, BC 6:30 pm LES BBB HOME vs. St. John, BC @ Immanuel, Frankenrost	3 9:00 am PS Catechism	
4 8:15 am Comm. Worship 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 am Comm. Worship	5 LES NO School- Pastor-Teacher Conf. @ King of Kings, Frankenmuth 3:30 pm LES BBB practice @ 1st Baptist 7:15 pm Comm. Worship	6 Pastor Conference @ King of Kings, Frankenmuth 6:30 pm Elders Mtg	7 LES Chicken Drummy Hot Lunch 3:30 pm LES BBB practice @ 1st Baptist 3:30 pm LES Cheer practice 7:00 pm Interactive Faith Bible class	8 3:45 pm PS Catechism 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	9 11:20 am LES BBB Game 1 @ MLS WELS Large School BBB Tourney @ MLS Feb. 9-10 Mysterious Marriage Retreat in 'Muth Feb. 9-11	10 9:00 am PS Catechism	
11 Transfiguration Sunday 8:15 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 am Worship 10:45 am SS Upper Grades sing	12 3:30 pm LES BBB practice @ 1st Baptist 3:30 pm LES Cheer practice in RM 1 7:15 pm Worship 8:15 pm Trustees	13 6:30 pm Church Council	14 Ash Wednesday LES Pizza Hot Lunch 5:00 pm CEO Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 6:30 pm LES sings in worship CEO Operation Good News begins	15 3:30 pm LES BBB practice @ 1st Baptist 3:30 pm LES Cheer practice 3:45 pm PS Catechism 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	16	17 7:15 am Men Alive Rally @ Bay City 9:00 am PS Catechism 10:00 am Mommy & Me @ church 3:00 pm Circuit Pastor Mtg	
18 Church Newsletter deadline 8:15 am Comm. Worship 9:30 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 am Comm. Worship 5:00 pm WSC "Valentine" Dinner	19 LES CARPOOL DAY 3:30 pm LES BBB practice @ 1st Baptist 3:30 pm LES Cheer practice in RM 1 7:15 pm Comm. Worship	20 6:30 pm Worship Committee	21 LES Hot Dog Lunch 6:30 pm Lenten Worship	22 3:30 pm LES BBB practice @ 1st Baptist 3:30 pm LES Cheer practice 3:45 pm PS Catechism 7:00 pm Bible Information Class	23 LES CARPOOL HOME 9:00 am NL Committee 11:30 am LES Early Dismissal	24 MLS Booster Club VB Tournament 9:00 am PS Catechism	
25 8:15 am MLS Booster Club 9:30 am VB Tournament 10:45 am Bible Class & Sunday School 10:45 am Worship	26 LES NO School - Mid-Winter Break 7:15 pm Worship	27 LES Progress Reports 3:45 pm Faculty Meeting	28 LES McDonald's Hot Lunch 6:30 pm Lenten Worship				BALL BBB Tourney @ Trinity, BC Feb. 23-24