

St. Luke's Visitor

*But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations. Psalm 33:11*

From The Pastor's Pen

*⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ... ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known ...
– Ephesians 3:6, 10*

In worship on **January 5 & 6**, we will be celebrating **Epiphany**. The Wise Men from the East, the Magi, were the first Gentiles to worship Jesus. Most (if not all) of us are Gentiles too. Like them, we bring our gifts to the Lord. Our time, our talents, and our treasures are placed at the feet of the babe of Bethlehem. We pray, "Lord, use these gifts ... use us ... to make known your mysteries to people who don't know you."

In worship on **January 12 & 13**, we will be observing the **Baptism of our Lord**. Our Lord was baptized so that when we are baptized, we might be connected with Him.

In worship on **January 19 & 20**, our theme will be **Life Sunday**. Our Lord is the Author of Life.

In worship on **January 26 & 27**, we will be looking at how Jesus was rejected by his hometown crowd and how he escaped their attempt to kill him. Our prayer is that we would not reject Him, either intentionally or unintentionally.

*"You shall not steal."
Exodus 20:15 & Deuteronomy 5:19*

Stealing is forbidden by God. He wants us to not only NOT take our neighbor's money or property, BUT He also wants to help improve and protect our neighbor's possessions and income. Although we can steal in obvious ways, we also steal in subtle ways. We steal when we ignore copyright laws and when we cheat on our taxes. We steal when we take the credit that others are due. We steal when we do not pay employees what they are worth, and when we are lazy and do not work for the pay that we receive. We also steal from God when we withhold our offerings and tithes (Malachi 3:8).

Thanks be to God for our Savior who has paid for our sins of stealing. Because we are now His, for He has bought us with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20), we do not steal. Instead, we help others to protect their property and income.



January 1 Miranda Peters
 January 3 Terry McCormick, Scott Olesky, Garrett Sass
 January 4 Jaimee Keister
 January 5 Ed Klimek, Lynn Feldhausen, Miranda Mellowship
 January 6 Jacoby Roeser
 January 7 Derrick Fleming
 January 8 Ron Frey, Debbie Falk, Rex Keister, Erik Ukena
 January 11 L. Ann Domsch
 January 12 Lilly Wyatt, Marlene Kunze-Dolan, Randy Wyatt
 January 13 Anna Walsh, Jeb Woodford, Rylan Hudson
 January 14 Connie Kasten, Zoe Hatfield
 January 15 Mike Conrow, Kim Saak
 January 16 Peggy Enright, Amy Hatfield
 January 17 Sylvia Carter
 January 19 David Garcia, Vince Redding, Kris Burnett

January 20 Kay Mathies, Jackie L'Ecuyer, Stephen Heimsoth
 January 21 Liz Beikmann
 January 23 Jaxon Moore
 January 24 Joshua Lohse
 January 25 Tatiana Hull
 January 26 Wanda House, Brandon Valerius
 January 27 Wallace Jeffrey, Ian Hartsook, Kelsie Heitman
 January 28 Kelli Almes, Brooklyn Lohse, Rachel Beach
 January 29 Sean Morgan
 January 31 Joseph Feldhausen, Jonathan Feldhausen
 January 31 Scott Winter



January 10 Bruce and Patricia Oberhelman, Thomas and Melissa Bean
 January 20 Jeff and LeAnn Sturdy
 January 26 Larry and Barbara O'Neill

ST. LUKE'S EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Christmas celebrations in the Early Learning Center filled most of the month of December. The students heard stories about the first Christmas, the gingerbread man and how the candy cane represents the story of Jesus. There was cookie decorating, Christmas movies and ornament making. Also, a lot of time was spent practicing for our Christmas program. The students did a wonderful job! It was such a fun time for both teachers and students. We wish you a blessed New Year! (Pajama Day pictures of each class follows: Mrs. Becca's, Ms. Allie's and Mrs. Laurie's.)





Children's Ministry Chair: Shane Rengstorf, slrengstorf@yahoo.com

BASIC Sub-Chair: Gail Schwanke, 785-210-6250

Sunday School Sub-Chair:

Children's Church/Nursery Sub-Chair: Marilyn Fick, wm_fick@yahoo.com

VBS Sub-Chair: Tiffany Manning, tiffanykaymanning@gmail.com

Family Events Sub-Chair: Darci Paull, 785-565-4123

- No BASIC January 2.
- BASIC co-teacher needed for 1st and 2nd grade and 5th and 6th grade.
- We are in need of a 6th to 8th grade Sunday School teacher.



Youth Ministry Chair: Lori Uffman

Servant Events Sub-Chair: Jerry Feeley

Youth Events Sub-Chair: Jessica Campbell

Gathering Sub-Chair: Kristina Schmidt

- Junior and Senior High Youth Night January 2.
- Bi-Yearly Youth and Parent Meeting January 6 at 12:30 PM, for 5th grade families and up, in the basement fellowship hall.
- Early Quake registration due January 6, \$95 plus forms. This gathering is for Junior and Senior High in Omaha, NE March 8 and 9.
- Junior High Lock-In January 11 and 12.
- We are in need of a male youth leader for our Wednesday night meetings. Contact Charity Smith for more information.

MISCELLANEOUS

January Door Offering: Lutheran For Life

Lutherans For Life believes that the Church is compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are vulnerable and defenseless. Therefore, Lutherans for Life strives to give witness, from a Biblical perspective, to the Church and society on these and other related issues such as chastity, post-abortion healing and family living.

Elizabeth Circle: We will meet at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, January 8, at Linda Frey's home.

Mission of Love: We will meet at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, January 9, in the fellowship hall to continue working on quilts. Come and enjoy a morning of fellowship. Questions: Dorothy Burtness, 785-539-8018.

Ark Encounter/Creation Museum: A trip is planned to visit the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter just south of Cincinnati February 15 to 18. You can register for the trip at stlukesmanhattan.org. The price for the trip is \$150 for round trip bus ticket; museum tickets—\$70 adult (18+), \$60 senior (60+), \$40 youth (13-17), \$25 children (5-12), children under 5 free; \$125 hotel per night; plus food. Payment for museum tickets and travel needs to be turned in to St. Luke's by January 15. Registration and payment turned in by January 1 will receive a free ticket to the Creation Museum's Planetarium show "Created Cosmos." Questions may be directed to Charity Smith.

CONNECT GROUPS

Sunday Adult Bible Class, following fellowship time, Pastor Schmidt

Women's Bible Study, Mondays, 2nd and 4th Monday, 9:30 AM, "John, The Way to True Life," Diane Mosier, 785-776-8615

Lighthouse, an infertility, miscarriage, and infant loss support group, 3rd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, education building, Meghan Loverude, meloverude@gmail.com; Charity Smith, dcestlukesmanhattan.org

Card Making, 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, at Candlewood Frame Shop, Janet Beach and Ann Williams

Men's Bible Breakfast, Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, "Definitions - Understanding God's Living Word," Eastside McDonald's, Walt Fick, 776-0879

Lunch with Jesus, Tuesdays, noon, in the fellowship hall, Charity Smith, 804-874-1225

Smart Money Smart Kids, starts Tuesday, January 8, 6:00 PM (6 week class), Jesse Smith, smithjesse@icloud.com

Mission of Love (working on quilts), 2nd Wednesday of the month, basement fellowship hall, Dorothy Burtness, 539-8018

Cancer Companions, begins February 1, 2019, Via Christi Village Chapel, Judy Boye, 785-320-6355 or judyboye@hotmail.com

STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHT

This month's Council Board Highlight is Adult Ministry. The Adult Ministry Board has the responsibility to grow the faith of adults (18 years and older) in their Savior Jesus. Adult Ministry has 4 sub-chair positions: Education, Assembly, Events & Service.

The Adult Ministry Chair coordinates activities for adult ministries and directs the sub-chairs with planning events that keeps within the approved budget. Events may include service events,

scheduling mixers and events to bring adults together and coordinating Bible studies. A Chair does not have to lead a Bible study and the Kansas District has several resources available to help with ideas.

The committee meets only when necessary. If you have an interest in Adult Ministry, please contact the Church Office or one of the Church Council Executive Board members.

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
January 2019 Newsletter Article**

It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35) and “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See for example what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land:

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins,[a] acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (Ex. 25: 1-9)

Notice in verse two that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to “take for me a contribution” and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up “the contribution for me.”

Pay attention, though, why the Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: “let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.” The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them, that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey.

God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God's son was born of woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and Hell, and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation.



In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so does He do now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.

ST. LUKE'S LWML MINUTE

WE DID IT!! Thanks to everyone who contributed to the LWML Mite collection, St. Luke's LWML beat the \$2,018 Mite goal for 2018!! The monies collected go toward LWML state and national mission projects. March 2019 will end the biennium for the current mission projects; LWML is over three-fourths of the way toward meeting its national goal. If you would still like to give toward this goal you can do so from the link in the LWML page: <http://www.lwml.org/mites-received>.

December 1, 2019, the Mary-Martha Circle hosted the annual Christmas Tea. This year's theme was the 12 Days of Christmas. Susan Brunkow lead the devotion; looking at the Christian meaning behind the 12 days of Christmas. Decorations included 12 Days of Christmas ornaments and golden pears. Many tasty treats were served.



2019 marks the 70th Anniversary of the St. Luke's LWML Society. Throughout the year, we hope to highlight activities of LWML. Our hope is that there is an activity that touches your heart and you consider participating in some of these activities throughout the year. One thing that LWML brings is an opportunity for fellowship with monthly events; either Circle Bible Studies, Mission of Love quilt making or Society-sponsored events. Please watch for the Visitor and bulletin notices for activities. Also, if you have an idea for an activity, please contact one of the St. Luke's LWML Board members (listed below).

June 20-23, 2019 is the National LWML Convention in Atlanta, GA. More details will be coming leading up to this event. If you are interested in attending, please visit: <http://www.kansaslwml.org/2019-national-convention.html>.

We can always use volunteers and if you are interested in learning more, please contact the Society Officers Julie Hatesohl, Alice Wesche, Jill Newland, Marilyn Fick, either at Church or contact us through the Church Directory. We'd love to hear from you!

FROM THE PARISH NURSE



TAKE FIVE FOR HEALTH!

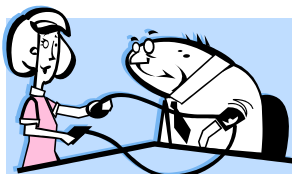
Being healthy and safe takes commitment, but it doesn't have to be time-consuming. Most things are so simple and take so little time, that you'll wonder why you've been avoiding them. Taking just a few of the 1440 minutes in a day is worth having a safer and healthier life for you and your family.

For 5 minute tips visit:
cdc.gov/family/minutes



Happy New Year !

Jamie, Kate & Heidi



CERVICAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month, and there's a lot you can do to prevent cervical cancer. HPV (human papillomavirus) is a very common infection that spreads through sexual activity. About **79 million Americans** currently have HPV, but many people with HPV don't know they are infected. HPV is also a major cause of cervical cancer. Each year, more than 11,000 women in the United States get cervical cancer. **The good news?** The **HPV vaccine can prevent HPV**. Parents can make sure pre-teens get the HPV vaccine at age 11 or 12. Teens and young adults also need to get the HPV vaccine if they didn't get it as pre-teens. Cervical cancer can often be prevented with regular screening tests (called Pap tests) and follow-up care. **Women should get regular Pap tests beginning at age 21.** Women up to age 26 and men up to age 21 can still get the vaccine. Thanks to the health care reform law, you and your family members may be able to get these services at no cost to you. Check with your physician. www.cancer.org.



“RESOLVE” TO BE “WHOLE”

Many people make New Year's resolutions for health and happiness as they shed the old year and plan for the new one ahead. Most have the best intentions of keeping their resolutions, but by mid-January they are forgotten.

But health and happiness aren't a matter of fate. We have a great deal of control over staying healthy and being happy. **It takes 'resolve' to look at ourselves as whole, spiritual beings**—not just a body, but body, mind and spirit—as God sees us.

In **2 Cor. 5:17**, Paul reminds us that we are a “new creation”. That means ALL of who we are. Each part—physical, emotional and spiritual plays a role in our health and wellbeing. Explore what it means to be who you are—a **new creation in Christ**. All of you—mind, body and spirit. But until Jesus Christ returns, **you're still a work-in-progress**. **Martin Luther said**, “This life, therefore, is not godliness, but the process of becoming godly, not health, but getting well, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but **we are on the way**.” www.wheatridge.org

