

# 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

***"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." – Matthew 3:2***

**Advent** is all about **preparation**. We are preparing – to meet Jesus when He comes in glory, and to celebrate properly his first coming. We prepare through **repentance**. In repentance, we allow the **Law** to do its work on us by convicting us of our sin, and we rejoice in the **Gospel** that our Lord comes to us with His **forgiveness** and **grace**.

Every year, we observe the season of **Advent** with **Wednesday services** at **7:30 PM**. Our Advent Midweek Series this year is entitled, "**The Lord Opens the Womb.**" Our schedule is as follows:

### **Advent Midweek 1 (December 4, 2019)**

*Is Anything Too Hard for the Lord?*

Isaac – Genesis 18:1-5; 21:1-7

### **Advent Midweek 2 (December 11, 2019)**

*His Name is Wonderful*

Samson – Judges 13:1-24

### **Advent Midweek 3 (December 19, 2019)**

*Heard by God*

Samuel – 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

Our **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day** worship times are also listed as follows:

### **Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM – "Happy Birthday Jesus"

7:30 PM – "Lessons and Carols"

10:00 PM – "Candlelight"

### **Christmas Day**

10:00 AM – "The Nativity of our Lord"

Please don't miss the opportunity to invite a friend or family member to worship with us as we celebrate the incarnation of our Lord.

On **Friday, December 6** at 5:30 PM, St. Luke's will have a float in the Mayor's Spirit of the Holidays Lighted **Parade**. If you would like to help with the float, or if you are willing to walk in the parade and pass our candy and flyers, please let me (pastor) know.

We will have a **Voters' Meeting** on **Sunday, December 8**, at **1:00 PM**. We will be voting on the **budget** for the upcoming year.

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Are you able to help with the "Happy Birthday Jesus" Service? We will have a **planning meeting** on **Sunday, December 15, at noon**. Jobs are not difficult, but I can't be in 4 places at once. I need help. Please join us if you can.

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### **Christmas Caroling.**

The congregation will be going caroling on **Sunday, December 15**, at 4:00 PM. We will be ending the evening with a no host dinner at Pizza Ranch.

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### **Christmas programs**

- The St. Luke's Children's Christmas Program will be on **Saturday, December 14, at 4:00 PM**. Rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 7, 9:00 AM, and Wednesday, December 11, 6:00-7:15 PM (during BASIC Training). Our Music Director, Gretchen Hartsook, will be heading up this program.
  - The Christmas Program for our Early Learning Center (ELC) will be on **Sunday, December 15, at 3:00 PM**. After the program, everyone will move to the Fellowship Hall and make cards. These cards will be distributed when we go caroling at 4:00 PM that same day.
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**Re:Vitality** – Our congregation is exploring participation in the LCMS *re:Vitality* Lutheran revitalization program. "Vital" is the key component of "revitalization." Wherever the Word is proclaimed in its purity and God's Sacraments are rightly administered, there is spiritual vitality. *re:Vitality* builds upon spiritual vitality and guides the church in positive actions to take to sustain, adapt, and continue a healthy ministry for years to come. The first step in the *re:Vitality* process is to submit honest feedback about our congregation from everyone involved. We want to encourage every adult (18 years and older) to fill out this simple online questionnaire. The online survey will be available beginning November 10, 2019 and will close ~~December 1, 2019~~ December 15, 2019. Simply go to [www.lcms.org/survey/revitality](http://www.lcms.org/survey/revitality) and enter our congregation code: **C544187**. Paper copies of the survey are available upon request.

We need to hear from everyone, individually. That means husbands and wives should both fill out a questionnaire separately. We want to hear from you whether you've been a member here your whole life, or you're brand new to Christianity; whether you're a member, frequent attendee, or occasional visitor, we want to hear from you.

Your responses are completely anonymous. No one will know your name, and we will not see individual responses. It is important to be honest in your feedback so that we can have an accurate assessment about where we are as a congregation.

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Things are coming along nicely with the construction of our new facilities. If you haven't yet financially contributed to this project, be aware that opportunities abound!

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Please join us on **Sunday mornings** at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall. After **refreshments**, we gather for **Bible Study**. We are currently looking at **Exodus**.

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Opportunities abound for being generous.

1. **Grocery Cart / Bread Basket** – All **food** donation placed in the **grocery cart** in the narthex will be given to the Bread Basket. This will also be St. Luke's entrance fee for the Mayor's Spirit of the Holiday Lighted Parade. (More about the parade below.)
2. **Giving Tree / Life Choice Ministries** – The Giving Tree in the narthex has Autumn colored leaves. On these leaves are written items that can be purchased for mom's in need of a little assistance. Simply return the item(s) purchased and place it under the tree.
3. **Fireplace / Stocking the St. Luke's Early Learning Center (ELC)** – Stockings on the Fireplace in the narthex contain needed items for our ELC. We *especially* need *infant care items*. In our new facility, we will be expanding our ELC to include **infant care**. All donated items will be matched by *Thrivent* up to \$2000.
4. **Christmas Tree / Angel Tree** – In December you will see a Christmas Tree in the narthex. This tree will contain ornaments (or tags) with items that can be purchased for needy families at Christmas. If you take a tag, purchase those listed items and place them under the Christmas Tree in the narthex.
5. **LWML / Giving Tuesday** – Donations made to LWML on Giving Tuesday will be matched up to \$20,000.

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Thrivent members, don't forget about your **Action Team cards**. (Thrivent Members get two Action Team Cards a year). You get a team of people together, decide on doing something beneficial for someone else, and apply for a \$250 Action Team Card from Thrivent.

- One year my wife and some of her friends used an Action Team Card to buy a Christmas Tree for a friend whose house had burnt down the year before.
- This year I used one of my cards to provide breakfast for the congregation and asked for a free will donation. Those donations were then given to Life Choice Ministries.
- My second card is being used to purchase candy to give away at the parade. Attached to the candy will be an invitation to St. Luke's Christmas Eve Services and information about our Early Learning Center.

Be creative in thinking about how you might use \$250 to the benefit of others. If you are not a Thrivent member, I believe that we could put you in touch with someone who is.

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It is an honor to serve as your pastor.



# *“Sharing Jesus Christ’s love with those around us.”*



## OCTOBER OFFICIAL ACTS

Profession of Faith

**Jakob Hutter**

Received from Other Lutheran Churches

**Robert and Karen Resser**

Transfer Out

**Stephen and Jessica Heimsoth, Kysa**

Release Member

**Joy Burgess**

**Christy Wagner, Andrew, Jacob, and Lucas**

**Benjamin Lindsey**

**Frederik Lindsey**

Burials

**Catalina “Katie” Coots** (October 20, 2019)

October 23, 2019— Onaga Cemetery, Onaga KS



Date	Saturday 6:00 PM	Sunday 8:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
<b>Nov 30 / Dec 1</b>	Kennedy Danker	Ian Carter	Jocie Brott
<b>December 7/8</b>	Lilly Radke	Kaden Lemaster	Jaden Campbell
<b>December 14/15</b>	Hunter Lang	William Miesner	Jonathan Feldhausen
<b>December 21/22</b>	Payton Sturdy	Colin Olesky	Joseph Feldhausen
<b>December 28/29</b>	Ava Wright	Ethan Olesky	Hunter Lang
<b>December 4</b> - Wednesday Advent Midweek 1 - 7:30 PM - Colin Olesky			
<b>December 11</b> - Wednesday Advent Midweek 2 - 7:30 PM - Simon Schmidt			
<b>December 18</b> - Wednesday Advent Midweek 3 - 7:30 PM - Ethan Olesky			
<b>December 24</b> - Christmas Eve - 4:30 PM - Riley Lynch			
<b>December 24</b> - Christmas Eve - 7:30 PM - Ethan McQuillam			
<b>December 24</b> - Christmas Eve - 10:00 PM - Luke Wilson			
<b>December 25</b> - Christmas Day - 10:00 AM - Zoe Riggs			
<b>December 31</b> - New Year’s Eve - 7:30 PM -			



**December 1:** Katherine Hickman, Ian Carter  
**December 2:** Rex Hatfield, Luke Wilson, Eric Madsen  
**December 3:** Kasey Sorrell  
**December 4:** Loren Ascher  
**December 6:** Clayton Woods, Carol Deetjen, Kallen Hudson, Debra Motley  
**December 7:** Shaila Febre, Robert Hetzler, Barbee Jorns  
**December 8:** Suellyn Hooper  
**December 9:** Zoe Riggs  
**December 10:** Jane Goff  
**December 11:** Taylor Claussen  
**December 13:** Adam Ukena, Alyssa Gudenkauf, Donnarae O'Connell, Gayle Heitman  
**December 15:** Lois Brunmeier, Lexie Wright, Jasmine Helms  
**December 16:** Theresa Curtis, John Armbrust, Kim Davis, Richard Roland, Alexa Ukena  
**December 17:** LaRae Kraemer  
**December 18:** Knox Pralle, Caitlyn Claussen, Tom Orazem  
**December 20:** David Hatesohl, Gerald Robker, Pearl Caponera, Ann Williams

**December 21:** Sara Holcomb, Taryn Thiele  
**December 22:** Joe Wilson, Lilly Radke  
**December 23:** Jo Woods, Tricia Mills  
**December 24:** Nancy Zidek  
**December 25:** Anita Hinkle  
**December 26:** Jeremy Hinkle  
**December 27:** Shane Maupin, Amy Riggs, Jaxon Ascher  
**December 28:** Daniel Gehrt, Maurice Gehrt, Christy Wagner  
**December 29:** Dennis Tegtmeier, Eli Zidek  
**December 30:** Wallace Becker, Mike Day, Braylee Kortan

**December 31:**  
Fran Vetch,  
Jennifer Petik



**December 2:** Robert & Roneda Sauerbrunn  
**December 3:** Mike & Amanda Hatesohl  
**December 11:** Doug & Sheila Frihart  
**December 14:** Ed & Doris Park, Clayton & Jo Woods  
**December 15 :** Grant & Rebekah Lyons  
**December 20:** Jeff & Jacinda Tucker

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## EARLY LEARNING CENTER (ELC)

We have entered another exciting season at St. Luke's ELC! After a much anticipated break for Thanksgiving, we are now ready to "wait" for Jesus' birthday to come. Each student was given an Advent calendar for their homes. They will take time each day to scratch off one box to reveal a Christmas message. We pray our families will be encouraged to find time with their children each day to connect and prepare for this special day.

In preparation for Christmas, we have also been busy learning new songs for our Christmas program, which is December 15th, at 3:00pm. All are invited to come hear the little ones tell the Christmas story.

As you may have seen in the bulletin, we have been gifted a generous opportunity from Thrivent Financial to help the ELC gather what is needed to care for two new age groups. Our "STOCK-ing the ELC" event will continue until December 14th. You may visit Target or Walmart baby registries to see what is needed or choose a card from a stocking in the ELC or Narthex. All items donated by the 14th will be matched by Thrivent! We truly appreciate all of your continued support for this wonderful ministry at St. Luke's!



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

**BASIC Sub-chair:**

**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 Sunday School - December 22nd or 29th
  - No BASIC - December 25th or Jan 1st
  - We are taking donations for Lutheran World Relief - Goal is \$100 for a goat
  - Emergency Shelter - December/Paper Towel Donations
  - BASIC Christmas Store - December 18th - Donations and Volunteers Needed
  - We are in need of a Sunday School Sub-chair and BASIC Sub-chair.
  - We are in need of substitute teachers for Sunday School and BASIC.
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**Youth Ministry Chair:** Lori Uffman

**Servant Events Sub-chair:** Jerry Feeley

**Youth Events Sub-chair:** Shanda Wilson

**Gathering Sub-chair:**

- Youth Christmas Party - December 15th - 2:00 PM, Boys bring Drinks, Girls bring snacks, Everyone bring a White Elephant gift (\$10 max). Stay after for caroling at local nursing homes beginning at 4:00 pm
  - We are in need of a Gathering Sub-Chair.
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## MISCELLANEOUS

### **December Door Offering: Mayor's Holiday Food and Fund Drive**

The annual Mayor's Holiday Food and Fund Drive provides local individuals and families in need with food assistance year round. Help support this community project!

**Save Your Stamps:** Save your cancelled stamps! They can be sold to a stamp dealer and used for postage for LWR shipments. They do not need to be trimmed, but do try and leave a 1/4 inch border. Contact Dorothy Burtness.

**LWML Annual Christmas Tea:** All ladies are invited to the **LWML Annual Christmas Tea**, Saturday, December 7, at 10:00 AM. The tea will be held at the Stone Valley Club House, 2813 Stone Valley Drive. For more information, contact Dorothy Burtness or Kate McNeal.

**Hunter Safety Course:** Trail Life USA Troop Master Josh Martin is offering a Hunter Safety course. It is a two-day course over December 13th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM and December 14th from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. The minimum age for the course is 11 years old. If you would like to register or have any questions about the course, please contact Josh Martin at 210-693-2888.



## CONNECT GROUPS

**Sunday Adult Bible Class**, following fellowship time, Exodus, Pastor Schmidt

**Women's Bible Study**, 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, review sermon notes from Sunday's service, eastside McDonald's, Walt Fick, 785-776-0879 or fick.walter@att.net

**Young Adult Group**, Tuesdays, 7:30 PM, senior high youth room in education building, Kaitlin Krause, 918-899-6927 or kaitlinjoy.krause@gmail.com

**Parents' Night**, Parents with any age child are welcome to spend time together in fellowship, discussion and devotions. 1st Tuesday of the month, 6:00 PM, basement fellowship hall, Charity Smith, dcestlukesmanhattan.org, or Rachel Sielaff, Rachel\_louree@hotmail.com. Childcare is available at \$10 per child; RSVP required for childcare. Food provided.

**Mission of Love** (working on quilts), 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9:00 AM, basement fellowship hall, Dorothy Burtness, 539-8018

**Cancer Companions**, Fridays, 1:30 PM, Via Christi Village Chapel, Jamie Spikes, 785-537-3929; Judy Boye, 785-320-6355

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## MUSIC NOTES

### Children's Choirs & Confirmation Class Music Dates 2019-2020

- Saturday, December 7: Children's Christmas Program rehearsal during Parents' Day Out from 9:00 to 11:00 AM
- Saturday, December 14: Children's Christmas Program at 4:00 PM, meet in Fellowship Hall at 3:30 PM (New this year—youth and children's vocal/instrumental Christmas solos/duets welcome!)
- Sunday, December 15: Confirmation Class Chime Choir at both services, meet in sanctuary at 8:00 AM; finished by 11:10 AM
- Sunday, February 23: Children's Choirs during late service; meet in Fellowship Hall at 10:45 AM
- Sunday, April 5: Confirmation Class Chime Choir at confirmation service (TBD)
- Sunday, April 26: Children's Choirs during early service; meet in Fellowship Hall at 8:15 AM
- Wednesday, May 6: Children's Choirs (and anyone who would like to perform) at the Spring Concert at 6:30 PM

## THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DECEMBER 2019

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, is teaching those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. This is because worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and to what we're devoted. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two

masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

But you say: “I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell.” Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument.

Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you when you are worth more than they are?

For you know that you are worth more than them. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No!

He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserve because of it. He was raised again on the third day to overcome sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about this and find security in it, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that God – who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son, and sanctifies you by His Spirit – will not keep His promises of sustaining you in this life.

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**CANCER COMPANIONS - “Celebrating Christmas in Your Cancer Journey”**

We will have a special, *one time program* called “***Celebrating Christmas in Your Cancer Journey Bible Study***”.

**It will be Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> - 1:30 at Via Christi Village Chapel.** Even if you have not attended Cancer Companions support group, and you or someone you know has cancer, plan to come. Come, let go of the holiday stress, and find renewal in seeing your cancer and Jesus through the eyes of God this Christmas.

The following is an excerpt from *Celebrating Christmas in Your Cancer Journey Bible Study*.

**“God can do powerful things through the comfort of others.”**

I believe God places those people around us so we can receive comfort BUT we have to see the gift that’s right there waiting for us.

What do you think God has orchestrated for you this Christmas? Do you think that you sharing about your cancer walk could bring about a celebration for you? That wonderful celebration of connecting with someone this Christmas?... I think it could be incredible.

***“...and they will call him Immanuel.”(which means God with us.)***  
**Matthew 1:23b**



## FLINT HILLS LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

With so many activities going on, Flint Hills Lutherans for Life will not be meeting in December, but we will meet January 12<sup>th</sup>. Look for an announcement of the meeting location!

The **second annual Kansas District Life Conference** will be held January 22, 2020, at St. John's Lutheran Church (901 SW Fillmore St., Topeka).

The conference will begin with check-in at 9:00 a.m., followed by Matins at 9:30. Speakers will include the Rev. Timothy Roth of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Humboldt, who will address the political phrase "Right to Life." **At 12:45, attendees can participate in the annual March for Life in downtown Topeka**, which will provide an opportunity to learn more about the battle to defend life in our own state.

Following the March for Life, participants will gather again at St. John's for Vespers and will discuss strategies for speaking the fullness of the Word of God concerning our lives and "Life" itself.

To register: Contact Pr. Matthew Durance at [pr.matthew.durance@gmail.com](mailto:pr.matthew.durance@gmail.com), or call him at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church office, 785-747-2407. The first 50 registrants will receive a free "Eyes of Life" hat at the conference.

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## ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION MINUTE

December 7 will be the annual LWML Christmas event. Elizabeth Circle has been planning for this event. Please watch the bulletin for details.

### Upcoming Events:

- December 7: LWML Christmas Brunch at 10:00 AM at 2813 Stone Valley Drive (Clubhouse)
- April 17-19, 2020: Kansas District Convention, Topeka, KS

If you have questions about Lutheran Women in Mission or want to get involved, please contact the Society Officers: Julie Hatesohl, Alice Wesche, Jill Newland, Marilyn Fick, Dorothy Burtness or Liana Eagan, either at Church or through the Church Directory. We'd love to hear from you!

## TRAVELING BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran, Alta Vista, KS, Brad & Susan Brunkow  
Ascension Lutheran, Wichita, KS, Tom & Pat Orazem  
St. John Lutheran, Alma, KS, Carroll & Barbara Hackbart  
St. Peter Lutheran, Holyrood, KS, Carroll & Barbara Hackbart, Jim & Kroenlein Johnson  
Holy Cross Lutheran, Wichita, KS, Jim & Kroenlein Johnson  
Life Pointe Church, Ft. Collins, CO, Morris & Jean Olson

(When you worship at another church, please bring the worship folder and bulletin to the church office with your name on. We will post your name and where you've worshipped, hopefully stimulating conversation of where you've visited. And, our staff will get the chance to see what

# From The Parish Nurse



## **National Influenza**

## **Vaccination Week**

**Dec. 4-10**

## **Winter Skin Care Tips!**

- \* Drink more water to hydrate the skin.
- \* Avoid hot baths and showers-very drying to skin
- \* Moisturize, moisturize, moisturize!
- \* Don't forget to use sunscreen daily!
- \* Avoid wet socks and gloves-very irritating to skin.
- \* Use a humidifier in

Christmas Blessings !



## Healthy Holidays



The holidays offer plenty of reasons to be stressed out causing us to abandon healthy choices and to forget about the REASON for the season.

With holiday family reunions , travel, food and fun looming in your calendar, what are some ways that you can prepare yourself and your family to cope better this season?

Stick to your normal routines. Continue to get enough sleep and make healthy food choices. One day — or a few days — of unhealthy choices doesn't mean you should give up for the whole season. Get yourself back on track and keep trying. Try not to skip meals. It is best to eat normally throughout the day rather than trying to "save up" calories to splurge on one meal.

Wash your hands. This is a simple self-care tip that can help keep illness away. You are in contact with more people during the holidays, so you are exposed to more germs. Practice gratefulness and compassion.

## Hand Awareness

Parents are the driving force behind many of their children's habits when they are young. It becomes very important to teach Hand Awareness before age five, so children will become life long practitioners of Henry's 4 Principles.

It goes without saying that we are teaching adults "subliminally" by saying they are teaching the children. The reality is the adults are NOT Hand Aware, just watch their habits. This Program will help the adults "stay well" for the rest of their lives also.

The Henry the Hand Foundation strives to help you "Stay Well" throughout the year by practicing our 4 Principles of Hand Awareness (*endorsed by the American Medical Association and American Academy of Family Physicians in 2001*).

1. Wash your hands when they are dirty and before eating.
2. Do not cough into hands.
3. Do not sneeze into hands.
4. Above all, do not put your fingers in your eyes, nose or mouth!

**Henry the Hand Foundation <http://www.henrythehand.com>**