

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

"This is my beloved Son; listen to him." – Mark 9:7b

Our Heavenly Father doesn't speak very often in Scripture. His Word, the Son, is the One who does most of the talking. But at our Lord's Transfiguration, the Father speaks. His words are directed to the three disciples that are with Jesus and Moses and Elijah. He tells them that He loves His Son, and that they should listen to Him.

Listening involves more than just hearing. Listening involves paying attention to and obeying. Listen involves following instructions and valuing the important things.

Jesus is the mouthpiece of God. The author of the book of Hebrews states it this way: "in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:2a).

So how are you doing when it comes to "listening" to Jesus?

- *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Hebrews 13:5b)
- *"I am with you always."* (Matthew 28:20b)
- *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* (John 10:11)
- *"Take, eat; this is my body. ... Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."* (Matthew 26:26b-28)
- *And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.* (John 17:3)

We hold on to the words of Jesus. For in them is life.

The Transfiguration of our Lord will be celebrated on **February 10 & 11.**

The **Lenten** season begins with **Ash Wednesday**, which is February 14. We will have a service at 7:30 p.m. with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.



The Lenten season is a time of repentance, fasting, and prayer. It is 40 days, which does not include Sundays. During the season of Lent, we have services every Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. During this Lenten season, we will be looking at the Passion of Christ from John's Gospel.



We are boldly and unapologetically pro-life.

St. Luke's is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). We believe that abortion is contrary to God's Word and "is not a moral option, except as a tragically unavoidable byproduct of medical procedures necessary to prevent the death of another human being, viz., the mother" (1979 Res. 3-02A).

This is a controversial topic in our society. Not many people enjoy controversy, but we are also aware that if we are not permitted to state what we believe, people will not know what we believe. With this in mind, I want to share with you over the next couple of months how you might respond to pro-abortion arguments.

When someone says “We need abortion for cases of rape,” we could respond:

Rape is a horrific crime, and the rapist should be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. Women who are survivors of rape need care, support, healing, and community. Abortion can never undo the violence that has been committed. Instead, abortion subjects the woman and her child to yet another form of violence. Under current law, rapists aren’t allowed to be sentenced to the death penalty. Putting the child to death gives more rights to the rapist than the child conceived from his crime. Our value as humans does not come from the circumstances of our conception. No one should be devalued for the crimes of their biological father.

This response is found in a flyer entitled “How to *Defend* Life” published by houstoncoalition.com.

Pastor’s Bible Study is on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. Our topic: ***Christians in a Woke World***. It is a Bible Study book written by Rev. Paul Dare and has 16 lessons. In this study, we are examining Cultural Marxism from a Biblical perspective.



Christianity and Lutheranism: Pastor’s New Member Class will begin on **Sunday, February 18, 2:00-3:30 p.m.** It will go for about 8 or 9 weeks. This is the class that leads to membership. It’s also for those who are interested in learning what we believe. If you would like a review of your confirmation training, this is also the class for you.



Theology on Tap – We will meet on **Tuesday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m.** at **Rockin K’s** (1880 Kimball Ave., Unit 100, Manhattan, KS 66502). The presenter (via zoom) will be **Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Kennedy**, pastor at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in San Antonio, TX. He is also the author of ***Jesus Said What?*** (published by Concordia Publishing House).



Please don’t miss opportunities to pass *the faith* on to your children and grandchildren.

- **BASIC Training** is on **Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 p.m.**
- **Sunday School** is on **Sundays, 9:45-10:45 a.m.**



American Heritage Girls & Trail Life USA (Troops KS-0057) are owned and operated by St. Luke’s. Both troops have committees. **Dave Mack** has been our Trail Life committee Chairman for the last couple of years. He has stepped down from that role at the end of last year. We thank him for his leadership and service with the troop. The troop is now looking for a new chairman. **Scott Olesky** has served as both the AHG and TLUSA Ministry Liaison for the last several years. He will be stepping down from this position at the end of March. We are also grateful for his leadership and service. **Dave and Kate McNeal** have agreed to step into that liaison role for the congregation – Kate for the girls, Dave for the boys. We are grateful for their willingness to serve.



The girls meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, and the boys meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Both groups have leadership positions available. If you are able to serve, please speak with me (pastor). We will work to get you grafted into these ministries.



The **TLUSA** troop will be having a **Chili Feed Fund Raiser** on **Saturday, February 10**, from **noon to 4 p.m.** Your generosity in supporting the troop is greatly appreciated.

Adventure > Character > Leadership

Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) Annual **Pancake Supper** will be on **Sunday, February 4, 4:30-6:30 p.m.** All free will donations will go to support the District's Church Workers Fund.



If you can't join us in worship in *person*, please join us via YouTube.



It is an honor to serve as your pastor.

“Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.”



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2023 OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms

**Cooper Paul Dobie
Everly Marie Banks
Isla Rose Benne**

Transferred to the Kingdom of God
Darlene Moorman



Date	Saturday 6:00 PM	Sunday 8:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
February 3/5		Logan Olesky	Jackson Fong
February 10/11	Annalise Orona	Taryn Thiele	Tucker Lynch
February 14 - Ash Wednesday		Jackson Fong	
February 17/18		Tessa Thiele	Sarah Oelke
February 21—Lent Midweek 2		Annalise Orona	
February 24/25		Gavin Hudson	Allie Winter



First and foremost, I just want to say a big, “Thank you!” to the family at St Luke’s! So many of you have been praying and continue to be praying for my wife and me. We are so appreciative and blessed by these prayers. We believe God has a plan for our transition and we are striving to be patient and thankful for all the little ways He is caring for us during this period.

Upon my arrival, so many of you extended warm greetings and best wishes. I feel truly welcomed and encouraged in my new role at St Luke’s. Many of you have even shared your time, stories, and hopes for St. Luke’s with me. I can confidently say God is working in the hearts and mind of the family at St. Luke’s! The desires and hopes I have heard from people are focused on our heavenly Father’s glory and the community God has placed around us here in Manhattan. Loving God and loving others **IS** the focus of the family here at St. Luke’s!

The month of January has been a month of observation and connecting with the current leadership at St. Luke’s. I have shadowed our child ministry team as they led Sunday Bible study, the Wednesday night BASIC program, the ice-skating fellowship event, and sat in with them during their monthly leadership meeting. What a wonderful group of people partnering with St. Luke’s and the families here to encourage each other in faith and love for one another!

The youth ministry team has also welcomed me in and allowed me to participate in their Sunday morning Bible study and the Wednesday night gatherings at the blue house. There is no doubt our youth team loves the youth at St. Luke’s. The leadership team is working diligently to prepare for the next couple of years of youth ministry as our group ebbs and flows with different graduating class sizes.

Our St. Luke’s Elders’ group has been so encouraging and have a committed focus to care for the people God has placed here. I have been given the opportunity to sit in the Elder’s meeting and to meet with each of them individually. This has been a wonderful experience. God has blessed us with an excellent group of elders. I would encourage all the members of St. Luke’s to get to know them and to encourage them as you are able.

The St. Luke’s Early Learning Center has gone through transitions over the last 60 days. Our new director is working hard to get up to speed. Our teachers are adjusting to new roles, striving to be flexible, and continue to be focused on leading our ELC children in faith and academic achievement. I believe my role with our ELC is to be an encourager to our director, our teachers, and to the parents. I also believe God has given me a unique opportunity in my role to strengthen the ministry partnership between our ELC staff, parents, and church members.

This first month has been an amazing adventure! I am looking forward to continuing to meet more of you and to grow in ministry with you!

In the meantime, please join me as I pray for our Pastor, our leaders, our volunteers, for all the families at St Luke’s. God is working in, around, and through us for His glory and for the benefit of the community around us. In situations like these Satan takes immense pleasure in causing discord and unrest. Please pray that each of us will “Fix our eyes on Christ” and that we would not be distracted by Satan’s efforts.

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the day of Christ approaching!” Hebrews 10:23-25



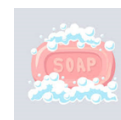
February 1: Lola Hanson, Harper Lohse
February 2: Derek Feld, Linda Graham
February 3: Hayden Berg, Crystal Danker
February 4: Sinok Crawford, William WehmueLLer
February 7: Maxine Ganske
February 9: Dean Genschorck
February 13: Kathy Dieball, Pat Hanson
February 14: Gail Schwanke, Makayla Larson
February 16: Arlyn Stiebe, Derek Schmidt, Carroll Hackbart
February 17: Lynn Thomas, Adam Fick
February 18: Grace Burris
February 20: Eric Cheng, Hannah Feeley
February 21: Tessa Thiele
February 24: Luke Wells
February 25: Judy Boye
February 27: Chloe Robison, Jon Brott
February 28: Jodie Barta

February 4 : King & Sinok Crawford
February 15: David & Janet Beach
February 18: John & Brenda Miesner



Children's Ministry Chair: Tiffany Manning
BASIC Sub-chair:
Sunday School Sub-chair: Marilyn Fick
Children's Care Sub-chair: Darci Paull
Family Events Sub-chair: Sarah Larson
VBS Sub-chair: Tracie Hudson

- February 7th - BASIC Store/Family Night
- Sunday School - Sundays @ 9:45 a.m.
- BASIC - Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.
- Emergency Shelter Donations - February is Bar Soap





Youth Night Leader: Natalie Winter
Servant Events Sub-chair: Scott Stone
Youth Events Sub-chair:
Gathering/Fund Raising Sub-chair: Jana Winter

- During Lent, Sr High Youth meets at the church from 6:00-7:15 p.m.
 - Sr High Youth - Meets Wednesday nights @ 6:00 p.m. at the Blue House
-

CONNECT GROUPS

Sunday Adult Bible Class, Pastor Schmidt

Lutheran Layman's League, David & Julie Hatesohl, 785-845-8124 or 785-236-0493 or phoebehat@gmail.com.

Table Talk, Sundays at Noon during the school year. Meal for college students here at the church

Women's Bible Study, 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, Diane Mosier, sdmosier_2000@yahoo.com

Card Making, Janet Beach and Ann Williams

Campus Ministry Bible Study, Mondays @ 9:00 PM, during the school year; meets at the Blue House

Men's Bible Breakfast, 7:00 AM Tuesdays, Vista Drive In, Walt Fick, 785-776-0879 or fick.walter@att.net

Mission of Love (working on quilts), 2nd Tuesday of the month, 9:00 AM, Dorothy Burtness, 785-341-5530.

Cancer Companions, Jamie Spikes, 785-313-1587; Judy Boye, 785-320-6355

Theology on Tap, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM, Rockin K's, 1880 Kimball Avenue, Manhattan

Campus Ministry Vespers, Thursdays @ 8:00 PM, during the school year; Meets at the Blue House

TRAIL LIFE USA AND AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

St. Luke's owns and operates **KS0057 Troop**, Trail Life and American Heritage Girls. **These groups meet during the school year.** For TLUSA, boys Kindergarten through 5th grade meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month from 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM. Boys 6th grade through 12th grade meet every Monday of the month from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

AHG meet the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.



LUTHERAN LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

LEAVE THE COOKING TO US!!!! It is time again for the Lutheran Laymen's League's **Pancake Supper!! February 4th from 4:30 - 6:30** at the church. Join us for pancakes and sausage. Free will donations accepted.



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

LWML

Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) Prayer Service - Please join the Lutheran Women in Mission for the annual LWML Prayer Service on **Saturday, February 10th at 10:00 AM at St. Luke's.** This year's Prayer Service is called Grace Mercy Peace. Everyone is welcomed to join this service. The Day of Prayer offering will go to the Herington Joint Parish to assist with purchasing materials for the new joint congregation.

CHRISTIAN CARE CORNER

Christian Care at St. Luke's has several resources available to members of our congregation. Here is a brief summary of the resources currently available:

Prayer eMail – Do you have a prayer request? Do you want to know when people in our congregation have a prayer request? Barb Hackbart (email address: brghack@gmail.com) serves as the coordinator for this prayer ministry. If you have a prayer request or to request to be on the email list, send Barb an email to let her know.

Cancer Companions – Cancer Companions walk with those coping with cancer (past and present) and their family members and friends. The group meets at St. Luke's Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Jamie Spikes (785.313.1587) or Judy Boye (785.320.6355).

Parish Nurses – The first Sunday of every month, nurses are available following the 8:30 a.m. worship service for blood pressure checks and answer health questions. The nurses meet with members in the front row of the church. For questions, please contact Jamie Spikes (785.313.1587).

Card Ministry – Members who provide their birthdate and/or wedding anniversary to the Church Office will get their special day mentioned in the Church bulletin and will receive a card in your mailbox folder from a team who make cards for church members. To share your birthdate or anniversary date, please notify Sue in the Church Office. If you wish to help with making cards, please contact Janet Beach (785.317.1526) or Ann Williams (785.770.7794).

Homestead Ministry – If you are homebound and need a visit, you can always call the Church Office and request a visit. Pastor does visit folks on a regular basis; but we also have caring individuals, lead by Liana Eagan, who can visit, provide weekly bulletins and assist you in your spiritual journey. Again, if you are homebound and need a visit, please contact the Church Office.

Older Adult Ministry – The LCMS Kansas District does provide opportunities for older adults. Please mark your calendars for July 21-22, 2024 for Saints Alive at 55; a conference that will be at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Salina, Kansas. The theme for this conference will be "What's Love Got to Do With It", based on Matthew 22:36-39. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Cliff Winter and Bible study leader will be Rev. Mark Boxman.

We are always looking for opportunities to serve our congregation here at St. Luke's. If you have recommendations or ideas, please contact the Christian Care Chair, Julie Hatesohl; phoebehat@gmail.com or 785.236.0493



- The Children's Choir will be sing at the Traditional Service on Sunday, February 25th
- Look for the JuBellation Handbell Choir and the Adult Vocal Choir to perform during the month
- If interested in being part of the Praise Band for the Praise & Worship Service (especially a drummer), please contact Gretchen Hartsook.



Are you a college student? Come join fellow college students for Bible study. LCMSU has **Bible study on Monday nights from 8-10 p.m. at the Blue House (354 N Delaware)**. This semester we are studying different religions. Every **Sunday, Table Talk (free lunch) is at noon at St. Luke's**. The first Sunday of the month, Table Talk is hosted at Christ Lutheran, 4592 Green Valley Road, Manhattan, KS 66502. Looking further into the semester, we will have a **Spring Retreat**. The dates are set for **April 19th-21st**. We will be going to **Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR) in Colorado**. Contact Megan Jones (meganjonesvc@ksu.edu or 316-253-5808) if you have questions or would like to register.

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but *help and support him in every physical need*” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

CANCER COMPANIONS



We are excited to be **starting a new book: “Finding Hope in Your Cancer Journey”**. It is written by Karen Tripp, President and Founder of Cancer Companions. Cancer Companions is a safe and supportive place for anyone in treatment for cancer, post treatment or caregivers. “Finding Hope in Your Cancer Journey” is meant to draw participants closer to Christ. *“Draw closer to God and He will draw closer to you,” James 4:8a* **Cancer Companions meets Tuesday’s at 1:30 here at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church. No need to pre-register ... just come.**



FLINT HILLS LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Just As ... I Am

That was the theme for the 2024 Life Week. There were many great topics such as, Just As ... I Am in Marriage or Adoption or Creation and Identity.

There were also topics on a Terminal Diagnosis. Or the Aging Community, those with Disabilities, and those with Mental Health issues. Also, those who are being Persecuted or who are Homeless.

Lutherans For Life are *For Life* – All of life from conception to natural death. We are *For Life* because *God is For Life*. We want to be a positive and gospel affirming voice for God.

As humans we tend to let our feelings and emotions decide what is right and wrong. We may know God loves and cherishes the unborn, but when it affects someone, we love, do we turn to God for love and support? Or do we turn to those who tell us we can solve “our problem” with death?

God did not pick and choose whom He would love OR who would have eternal life. He included EVERYONE. Aren't you glad He did? He chose YOU and those with a terminal illness, the aging, those with a disability, an unplanned pregnancy, who are persecuted or homeless and He chose the unborn.

Just As ... I AM. God loves YOU Just As .. *You Are*, with all YOUR flaws and limitations and sins.

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." - James 1:22



PROPERTY HELP

The **OGRS Old Guys Repairing Stuff** do minor maintenance, fixing at the church and grounds. A couple more recent items if you noticed was cleaning the sanctuary chairs (did you notice?), touch up paint in the kitchen, and some improvements in the offices. **Last year there were over 70 items completed by volunteers and the cost savings is estimated to be near \$20,000.** If you would like to participate in any way call Brad Brunkow 580-716-8187.



DID YOU KNOW?

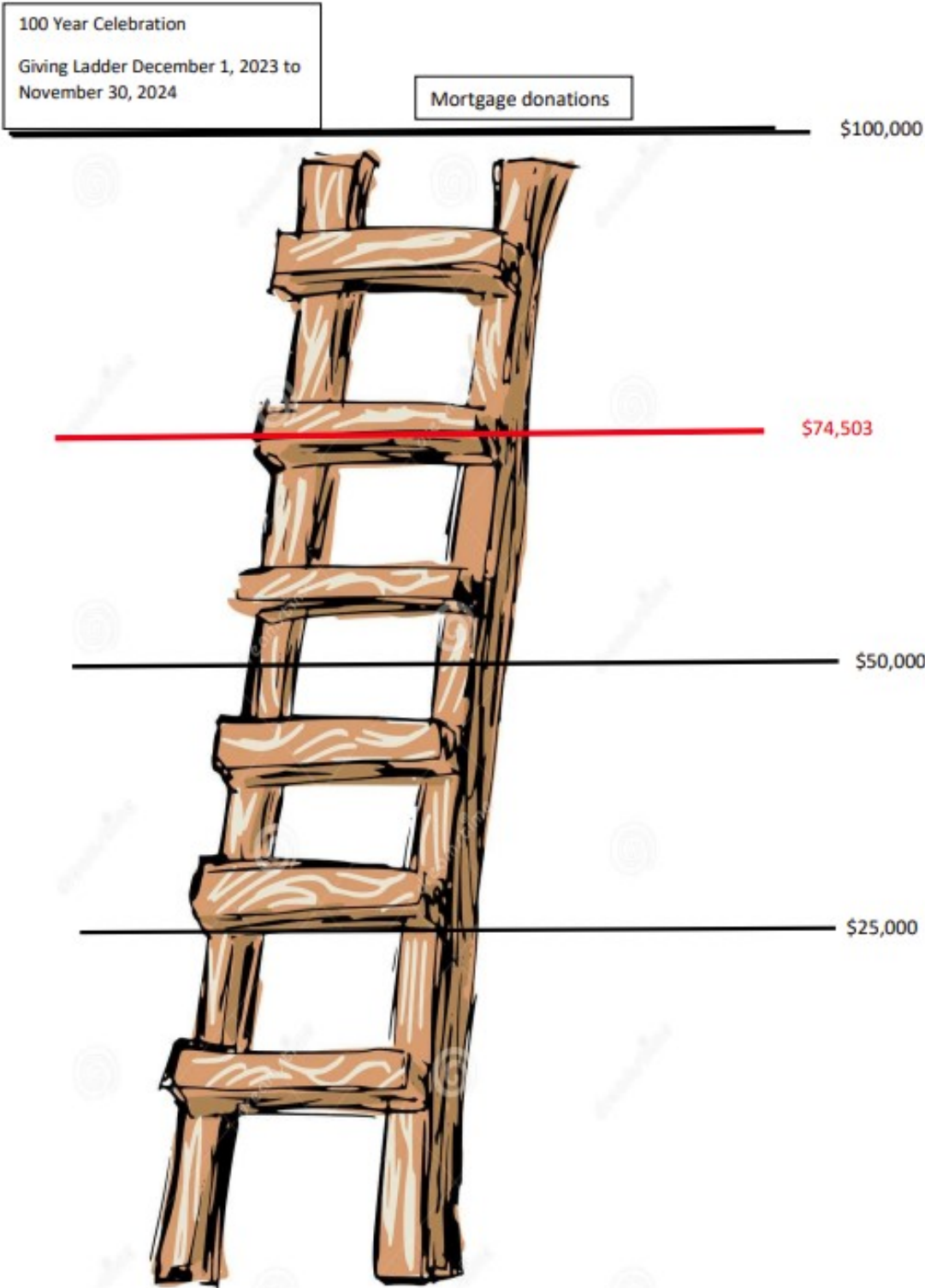
Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) is well known for it's support for missions and missionaries around the world. This biennium, the **national LWML has a goal of raising \$2,350,000 for mission grants.** This month's featured LWML grant is \$100,000 to Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) for production of Scripture based materials in both Braille and also Specialized Large Print.

Lutheran Braille Workers freely supplies large print and braille materials for blind and visually impaired people around the world. The \$100,000 LWML grant will help in developing, formatting, producing, and distributing fifty to one hundred new Scripture-based and theologically related materials to people in need around the world.

To learn more about LWML's mission grants or to donate, go to lwml.org.

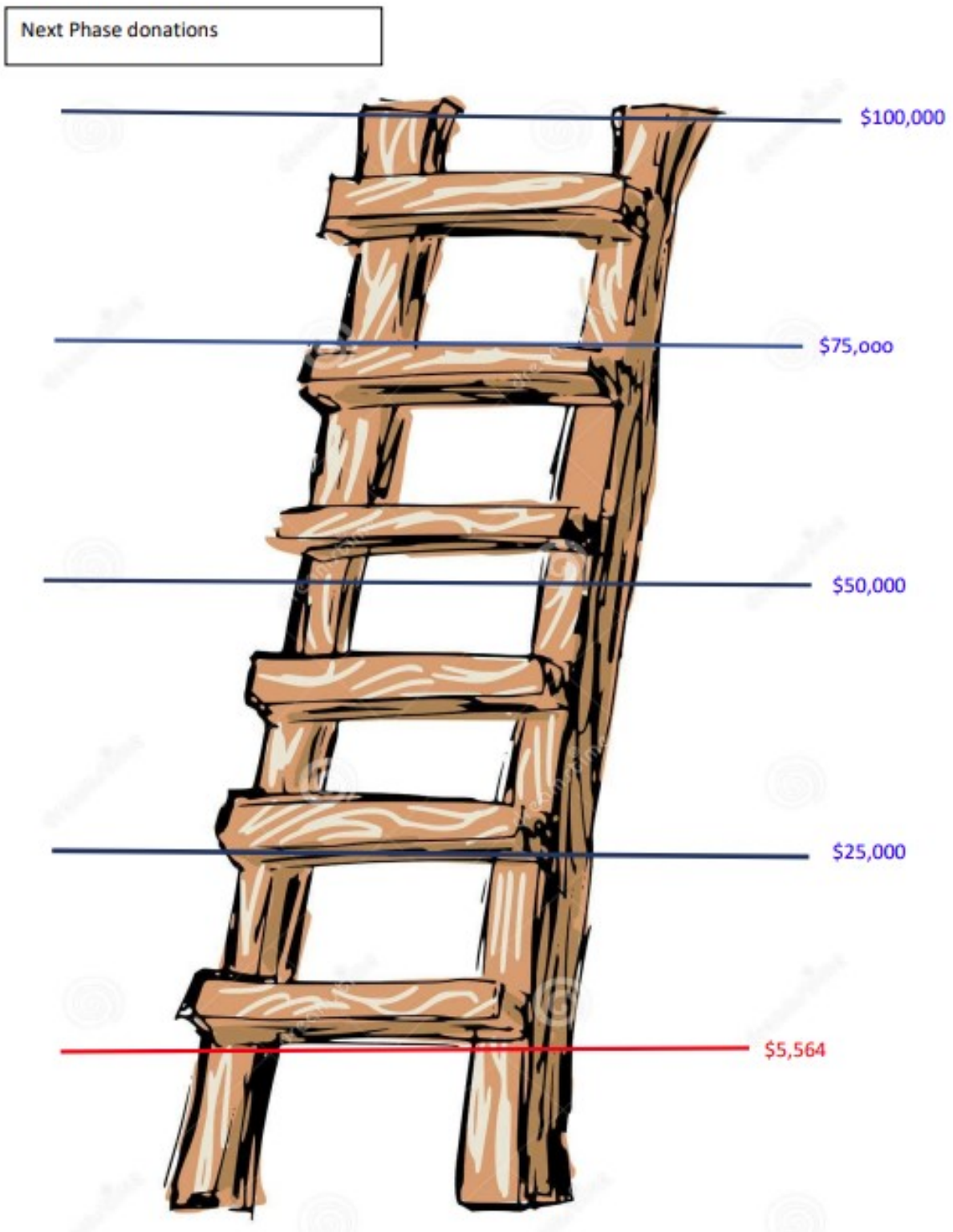
100 Years Celebration

THANK YOU to all who donated to the mortgage and the next phase of the building project. Below is the progress we made on our \$100,000 for the mortgage and \$100,000 for the next phase.



100 Years Celebration

THANK YOU to all who donated to the mortgage and the next phase of the building project. Below is the progress we made on our \$100,000 for the mortgage and \$100,000 for the next phase.





TRAVELING BULLETIN

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Prairie Village, KS
David & Julie Hatesohl

First Presbyterian Church, Fargo, ND
Duane & Jeanette Campbell

Hope Lutheran Church, DeWitt, MI

(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 other churches are doing. Thanks!)