

Discipleship

Volume 33, No.7
Spring 2019

Things learned along the way...

I have always liked cemeteries. That may seem strange to you, but my aunt used to take me for walks through them, teaching me to appreciate the history and the sacredness of them.

Years and years ago, in the time between 600 - 1700, this ground was referred to as a graveyard, built in the yard around a church. Our ancestors had the desire to be buried within the boundaries of sanctified ground.

What a beautiful picture! You go to worship and all around you are tombstones - a community of the living and the dead.

Imagine, you come to church to worship, surrounded by generations of saints who now in spirit are worshipping Christ at His throne.

Years later, the term graveyard gave way to cemetery, which at it's root means sleeping place. The words cemetery and dormitory both come from the same root word.

This too is a precious word. Reminding us of this truth, our loved ones are only sleeping, waiting to wake up at the shout of the Angel and the blast of the Trumpet.

Whether you call it a graveyard or a cemetery, this is where our story begins -

"Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen, they said to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?' Looking up they saw that the stone had been rolled away ..." Mark 16:2-4a

Ever since that visit to the empty tomb, the graveyard became a cemetery - a sleeping place.

Easter will soon be here. Once again we will have good news from the graveyard!

He is Risen!

Pastor Barry



John 11:25-26 (ESV)

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'"

Easter and Lenten Services



March 6	Ash Wednesday Chapel Ash Wednesday Service	9:00 am 7:00 pm
March 13 - April 10	Wednesdays -Lenten Supper Wednesdays -Lenten Worship	6:00 pm 7:00 pm
April 14	Palm Sunday	8:00, 10:30, 10:45 am
April 18	Maundy Thursday	7:00* pm
April 19	Good Friday Chapel	11:00 am
April 19	Good Friday Worship	7:30 pm
April 20	Holy Saturday Worship	6:00 pm
April 21	Easter Sonrise Service	6:00 am
	Easter Breakfast at St. Luke	7:00 am
	Easter Breakfast at Faith	8:00 am
	Easter Service in the Sanctuary	8:00, 10:30* am
	Easter Service at Faith	9:00* am
	Sunday School	9:15 am
	New Life Easter Service	10:45 *am

*** With communion**

All Wednesday Lenten Services will be held at St. Luke

Convicted Series

We step into the courtroom each Wednesday in Lent with our "Convicted" worship series. Each service put a different biblical person from



the story of Christ's passion and death on trial, accused of an actual crime. We began the series on Ash Wednesday, when we looked at the case against Jesus' disciples on the charge of defamation of character against the woman who anointed Jesus.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt for children of all ages in our community. The festivities will begin at



12:00 pm with an Easter devotional, crafts, and activities. The hunt will commence at 1:00 pm where about 300 excited children will scurry about, trying to collect as many eggs as possible. We are accepting donations of filled plastic eggs. We would also encourage you to feel free to take some of the empty eggs and return them filled by Palm Sunday. Please contact Vicar Brian if you would like to help with any of the preparations through the church office at 724-352-2777.



Were you aware that the church has an endowment fund? Karen Bartos created the Lantern of Hope Endowment Fund in 2014. Every endowment fund is created with a specific purpose in mind. I'm sure you are well aware of the funds that were created for the school with clearly defined purposes, such as the Mark Neubert and Willis Follstaedt Endowment Funds. While those funds were created in memory of those individuals, the Lantern of Hope Endowment was created to sustain the church as a whole.



St. Luke Students volunteered to help serve at the Lighthouse Foundation for a 5 week service club. The Lighthouse Foundation was able to lend support to 7,532 people who received housing, food, transportation, and emergency financial assistance in 2018. Thank you to those students and chaperones for volunteering their time.

LANTERN OF HOPE ENDOWMENT FUND

The purpose of the Lantern of Hope Endowment Fund is to receive gifts and bequests to enhance the work and further the mission and vision of St. Luke Lutheran Church and School by establishing or enhancing ministries additional to, and apart from, the general operation of the congregation with emphasis on the following:

- the poor, the broken, and the outcast
- seed money for new externally-focused ministries that align with teaching, sending and planting
- expansion or improvement of current or future technology projects
- equipping leaders who wish to pursue training or educational classes that relate to mission outreach.

It shall be one of the funds of the congregation of St. Luke Lutheran Church and School.

The goal is to grow an endowment fund large enough that the annual earnings from it can be used to keep St. Luke Lutheran Church running and continuing its Mission of "Making and maturing disciples for ministry and mission," long after we have gone home to be with Jesus.

Please consider making your memorial donations to the Lantern of Hope and remembering this critical endowment in your estate planning.

Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

OFFICIAL ACTS: JANUARY - MARCH 2019

BIRTHS:	Beckett Joseph Young 1-27-19
BAPTISMS:	Jacob Robert Rummel 2-3-19 Landon Shawn Sperring 2-24-19 Emery Ashley Skwirut 3-2-19
MARRIAGES:	Kirsten Stephens & Travis Tasker 1-5-19 Diane Krauland & Ryan Koegler 2-16-19
DEATHS:	Howard H. Morgan, Jr. 1-16-19 Margaret O. Anderson 1-18-19 David F. Yeager 1-29-19 Faye A. Negley 2-19-19 Charles G. Cranmer 2-22-19 Doris E. Seth 3-4-19 Karen McClain 3-11-19 Dolores "Honey" Giesler 3-14-19 Ted Holben 3-17-19 Bernice Rankin 3-27-19 Jerilyn Cordes 3-28-19

St. Luke Food Pantry

Over 25 years ago, St. Luke started it's Food Pantry to help struggling people in the community. The Food Pantry assists residents in the Saxonburg, Butler, Sarver, Freeport, and Kittanning areas. We currently have 23 households participating, but around the latter part of the year, the requests rise to nearly 30 households. The last 3 months of the year as well as January & February are typically when the need for food assistance increases.

St. Luke has 20 volunteers that help shop, pack bags of non-perishable groceries, and organize our food inventory. Dave Pasquini took over as the Food Pantry Coordinator in August 2016. Another volunteer assists Dave with many aspects of the Ministry.

The St. Luke Food Pantry has not adopted a formal mission statement as of yet, but a quote from the Lighthouse Foundation's website is on the refrigerator in the Wilhelm House that reads: "You Have Not Really Lived Until You Do Something for Someone Who Can Never Pay You Back."

The difference between a Food Bank and a Food Pantry is that Food Banks are regulated by the state and you must meet criterion to get food (both perishable and non-perishable). St. Luke's is a Pantry and that means that we are self-supported by our members and do NOT have any requirements to participate. This is a Ministry of St. Luke and not affiliated with any other outside organizations.

Dave typically spends about 20 – 25 hours a month packing, doing inventory, developing packing and shopping lists, gathering food and being at the Wilhelm House for the two pick up days each month. He believes that in addition to supplementing people's need to feed themselves and their families, there is the chance to witness the love of Christ and share our faith with the recipients, thereby helping to meet their spiritual needs. Recipients are often invited to church. Seeing them attend is one way the fruits of the spirit mature. Dave said that being able to witness to the recipients in a private and confidential manner has been a benefit that he did not even realize when he took over as Coordinator. Volunteers laugh, pray, and sometimes even shed tears with recipients. Everyone involved in this Ministry has a heart for people and uses this Ministry as a vessel to witness to others.



The Food Pantry would like to extend it's deepest thanks to all the volunteers, donors, and those who continue to pray for this Ministry and our recipients. They are like family to St. Luke. Donation baskets are by each exit as well as shopping lists of items you can donate. The Food Pantry also accepts monetary donations so we have the necessary funds to shop for food when needed. Check the weekly announcements for items currently desired to be donated. If you or anyone you know needs the Food Pantry Ministry, please contact the church office. If you would like to get involved, you can reach out to Dave through the church office to see where you would like to potentially serve.

There are needs for volunteers behind the scene as well as out front.



PASSING ON A LEGACY OF FAITH



Pastor Eugene L. Reddel Family

Chaplain Eugene L. Reddel passed over to glory on November 15, 2018. His memorial service was held at St. Luke Saturday, March 2, 2019. Gene and his wife Miriam are members of St. Luke and most often attended the Saturday evening worship. During the memorial service, Miriam Reddel (and sons John and Paul) presented Vicar Brian Bocian with Gene's pastoral stoles. Brian will be able to use these upon his ordination a year and a half from now, Lord willing. What a unique honor and blessing to have such a tangible reminder of the legacy of faith that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Reddel was born on November 22, 1938. He left home at 16 to attend St. Paul's Academy and begin his journey towards becoming a pastor. He attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

He married Miriam Dorn before taking his first call to start a church in Chicago. They had two sons, John and Paul while living in Chicago.

Gene later went to Lutheran Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois where he began his CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) training. After training, he began his ministry at St. Jacobus Parish in Queens, NY.

After three years in NY, he became a chaplain at the Veteran's Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. He received more CPE training and became the Chief of Chaplains for the Veterans Administration in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Missouri Synod awarded Gene the prestigious Martin of Tours Medal in 1993. Gene received the Outstanding Chaplain Manager from the VA in 2003. He officially retired in 2008, but kept working at the hospital for another eight years. He was also a vacancy preacher at many churches including Faith Butler, Zion Lawrenceville and St. Luke Cabot, where he remained a member since 2013.

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; His greatness is unfathomable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." Psalm 145: 3-4



Vicar Brian with his new stoles

Getting to Know Our Teachers

Christian Character Building

All year St. Luke students and staff have focused on our theme: "*Be Bold, Be Strong in Him!*" and four specific Christian characteristics *Kindness, Integrity, Respect, and Love*. Each quarter we focus on one of those character traits. The banners in the hallway are great reminders of how we are to treat others and ourselves!

Kindness comes easily when others are kind to us, but the Bible instructs us to be kind to others even when they are not kind to us. (Ephesians 4:32)

Integrity is one of the more challenging characteristics. Being honest and choosing to do what is right can be an internal struggle and takes great courage. (Proverbs 10:9)

Respect towards others and even towards ourselves is a command of our Lord. (1 Peter 2:17)

Love - "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son ...*" (John 3:16). We love others because of the love God showed to us by sending His Son to die for our sins so that we may have eternal life. He continues to show us love everyday through forgiving our sins.

Demonstrating these characteristics in our everyday life takes boldness, courage, and strength. Joshua 1:9 "*... Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*" What comfort this promise brings!

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for our teachers, students, and school!

Kelly Carney, Principal



Mitch Andrews

- 8th grade homeroom
- 5th - 8th Social Studies/Algebra
- 5th - 8th Gym
- 7th - Computer
- 1st year at St. Luke

Education:

- Preschool - 8th St. Luke Lutheran School - Class of 2005
- Grove City College, BA in History & Minor in Exercise Science
- Slippery Rock U., MA in Social Studies Education

Teaching Experience:

- Summit Academy - 2 years
- Redeemer Lutheran - 1 year

Family:

- Parents-Don & Dianne Andrews
- Brother-Ben
- Girlfriend-Jenn Matus

Hobbies-

- Hockey
- Soccer
- Comic books
- Running & lifting
- Superhero movies
- Time with Jenn.

Thoughts on St. Luke:

As an alumnus, it's been an amazing experience to come back and teach at St. Luke. Many of the examples set by my teachers at St. Luke have helped me form my teaching philosophy. I really enjoy being able to form close relationships with the students and watch as they grow spiritually and mentally. My prayer is that I can set an example for these students as past teachers have and inspire others to teach at the school as well.



Sandy Markle

- 3rd grade teacher
- 19 years at St. Luke

Education:

- Butler Area High School
- Slippery Rock U., BS in Elementary Education
- Intermediate Unit IV, continuing education classes

Teaching Experience:

- Butler Area
- Moniteau School District - 2 years

Family:

- Husband-Jerry
- Children-Candice (35), Jerrod (32), Chelsie (29), Daughter-in-law-Kate, Grandson-Jamison, Grandchild on the way.

Hobbies:

- Reading
- Running
- Walking
- Learning

Thoughts on St. Luke:

Being part of the St. Luke community has been and continues to be a rewarding experience. Not only do I teach Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies, etc., I also teach Religion. Monday through Friday, I am given the opportunity to assist students in exploring God's Word. Their knowledge and insight grow and so does their faith. Then their worship and participation in chapel puts that faith into action. WOW!

I enjoy being part of the staff at St. Luke. It is a very giving, caring team that works well together. Being part of this community helps my faith grow, too.

2019 Calendar

SCHOOL NEWS

Lutheran Schools Week

April

5th

5th - 8th Special Friend Day

19th

5th - 8th Good Friday Breakfast

26th

Father/Daughter Dance

30th

Preschool Special Friend Day

May

1st

4th grade Wax Museum

1st - 6th Grade Spring Concert

2nd - 3rd

7th & 8th grade class trip to Gettysburg, Harrisburg, & Hershey

National Day of Prayer

10th

7th & 8th grade Drama Club play

15th

K - 8th grade Servant Day

22nd

Band/Chorus Concert

24th

Track & Field Day

30th

Kindergarten Celebration

June

1st

8th Grade Graduation

5th

K - 8th School Picnic

6th

Last Day of School

Looking Ahead

Vacation

Bible School

July 22 - 26

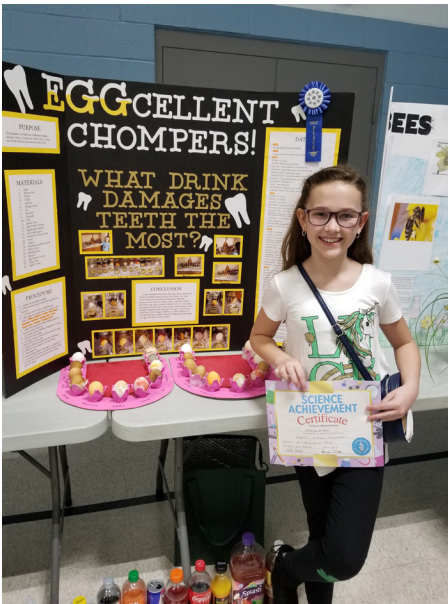
9:00 am - 12:00 pm



**Lighthouse
Foundation
Volunteers**

MORE SCHOOL NEWS...

Art & Science Fair March 15th



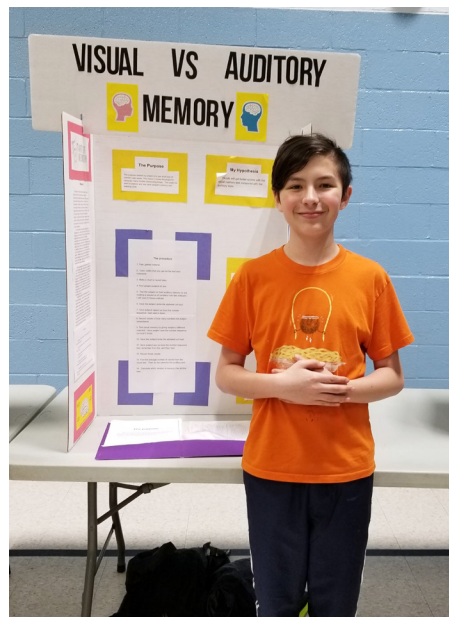
Congratulations to our
4th grade-
1st Place Winner !!



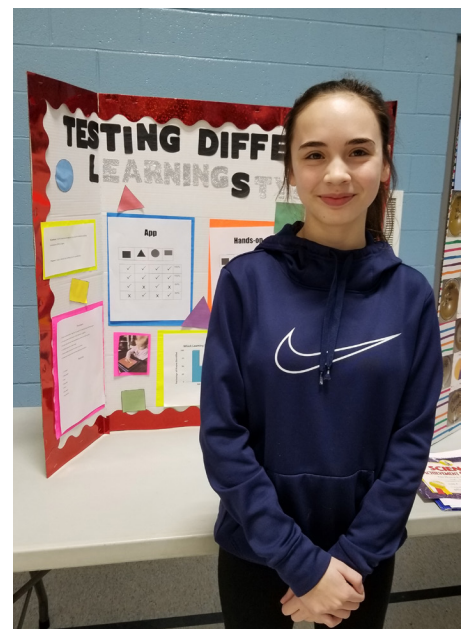
A 5th grade student poses
in front of Art teacher, Mrs.
Burtner's photo op creation.



7th grade student displaying a
volcano project



6th grader anxiously
awaiting judging....



8th grader submitting her last
St. Luke Science Fair project.

St. Luke Youth

CORNERSTONE YOUTH GROUP

January 13th's Cornerstone was filled with a real life version of Hungry-Hungry Hippo, Bible Clue, a Run-For-Your-Life challenge, and more.



Cornerstone met on February 10th to explore what it means to be created in the image of God. They worked in teams to make tin can creations, build their own pizzas and have a time of devotion and prayer.



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH



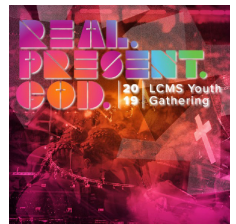
Senior high youth met in the St. Luke parking lot on March 2nd and traveled to Erie to attend a performance by Christian Comedian John Christ.



Senior High students who are going to the National Youth Gathering this summer, volunteered their time and talents to help prepare and serve a meal to congregants on March 27th. They enjoyed an opportunity to serve others during this Lenten season.

18 Youth and 7 Adult Chap-
erones will be attending the
NYG Youth
Gathering from
July 11th - 15th.

There will be participants from across the nation coming together to learn "How Real" and "How Present" is our God. Many St. Luke members generously sponsored these young adults in their faith journey.



St. Luke Lutheran Church & School

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*A community of believers
worshipping and proclaiming
the Good News of
salvation for over 170 years
1847 - 2018*



On April 17, 1952, President Harry Truman signed the National Day of Prayer into law in the United States. President Reagan designated the first Thursday of May as the National Day of Prayer in 1988. Can you set aside some time that day to join with believers across our nation in prayer?

"By the power of Christ, we carry the power of hope to the poor, the broken, and the outcast."