

DiscipleShip

Winter Issue, 2015

St. Luke Lutheran Church & School

Budget Update



3

Where do we stand financially? Find out in Patti Larrimer's update on our budget for 2015.



WALK THRU^{THE} BIBLE[®]

TAKE A WALK. CHANGE THE WORLD.

School News



5

It's that time of year again! Drop by one of our Open Houses any Tuesday in February and discover how a Truly Higher Education can work for your child!

Where will you volunteer?



6

We have several opportunities for you to help out around our community to share the love of Jesus. Find one that's right for you!

Connect with us:



Walking through the New Testament

Last January, one hundred and twelve people ranging from ages 8-91, including twenty St. Luke confirmation students “stepped into the Story” and walked through the Old Testament. This January we’ll do the same with the New Testament! You’ll be able to connect the Old Testament to the New Testament with unprecedented confidence. Passages that were once puzzling will suddenly become clear and long after the live event, you’ll be excited to learn more about Jesus and the Bible.

This fun and interactive journey will take place on Saturday, January 31, from 9AM – 4PM at St. Luke Lutheran Church and School. With the help of Pastor Dennis Whitmore, a certified Walk Thru the Bible presenter, you’ll learn more about the New Testament than you ever thought possible in just a few short hours. Walk where Jesus walked, relive the birth and growth of the early church, and travel with the apostle Paul as he shares the Gospel with the world.

Continued on page 2

(Continued from page 1)

By the end of this engaging, kinesthetic, live event, participants will:

- Creatively learn in chronological order 77 key people, places and events in the New Testament—without taking notes!
- Learn to arrange in sequence the well-known events of the life of Christ.
- Discover what happened during the 400 years between the Old and New Testaments.
- Gain insights and understanding of the events in the book of Acts, the beginning of the church, and the missionary journeys of Paul.
- Tie together the structure of the New Testament into a complete story.

This event is appropriate for those in Grades 4 through adult, or ages 10-100, and thanks to “Teaching” Estate funds most of the costs of this workshop have been covered, making it very affordable for families to attend together. Your cost for the day is just \$5 per person which includes your WTTB workbook and lunch. Deadline for registration is Monday, January 12, but please register as early as possible. Registration forms can be found in the Narthex “grab and go”, the Resource Room, and at the New Life reception station. Childcare will be available but space is limited.



**LOVE THE WORD. LEARN THE WORD.
LIVE THE WORD.**

Join our church family on a journey of eternal significance and learn how to be not only a “hearer” of the Word, but also a “doer” of God’s Word. During our 40 days of Lent we will be conducting our Congregational Journey and will be focusing on 40 Days in the Word.

As we come together in small groups, we will explore the authenticity, reliability and power of God’s Word. This study will encourage spiritual growth for us personally and corporately as the body of Christ. Your St. Luke Ministry team desires that the family of faith at St. Luke learns to:

Love the Word.
Learn the Word.
Live the Word.

This six week study will commence during the week of Ash Wednesday and will finish the week before Holy Week. 40 Days in the Word is a simple, but powerful video-based study where Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church and author of “The Purpose Driven Life” will teach us:

- Six easy-to-learn methods for reading and meditating on Scripture
- Proven techniques for a meaningful quiet time with God
- How to memorize Scripture
- Sound principles for accurate Bible interpretation; and a
- Step-by-Step process for applying God’s word to our lives

(cont’d on page 11)

Official Acts

Baptisms

Blake Carson Waterman

9-21-2014

Parents: Brooke and Chad

Ainsley Marie Brickett

11-2-2014

Parents: Janine and Eric

Ava London Wolf

11-22-2014

Parents: Lindsey Gonzalez and
Shane Wolf

Funerals

Carolyn F. Rettig

6/30/1951 – 10/6/2014

Walter C. Sarver, Jr.

7/16/1926 – 10/31/2014

Howard L. Graham, Jr.

3/1/1926 – 10/19/2014

Dorothy Blankenbuehler

4/16/1922 – 11/13/2014

Harvey J. Hindin

7/20/1929 – 11/22/2014

Weddings

Sheila L. Holby and Steve R. Adams

11/1/2014

Kathryn E. Rummel and Ryan J.

Gibson

11/15/2014

Erin Kell and Justin Pflueger

11/17/2014

Confirmation

Stephen Piechowicz

9/28/2014



It's Budget Time

by Patti Larrimer

The St. Luke Lutheran Church and School preliminary budget will be presented to the voter's on January 26th for the next fiscal year beginning July 1st. When you have an institution that is almost entirely supported by the generosity of others, there is no way of knowing how the year is going to unfold. It is one of the most difficult things to predict.

There are certain things that our congregation needs to be aware of when it comes to the church and school budget that may give you a better understanding of how things work (at least financially). Hopefully it will help you decide how much more you can support our mission of Making and Maturing Disciples for Ministry and Mission.

We keep our expenses under pretty tight control. For example, we hold our salary increases to 2%, we specifically calculate what we need for materials for bible studies and ministry expenses, and we review the past year's expenses to see what we can eliminate or cut back. There are other expenses that are dictated to us such as increases for healthcare, utilities, and liability insurance premiums. There isn't much we can do about these costs other than search out new vendors and programs if possible.
(cont'd on page 11)

St. Luke Lutheran School News



Wow! What a huge success our first auction was on Friday evening, November 14th. Thanks to all the generous donors who helped us raise \$19,000 including Concordia, our sponsor for the event. We are truly amazed at how God continues to bless our efforts to provide a Truly Higher Education for our community. In addition to supporting our school we were also able to provide \$2,000 to the 1001 Orphans ministry as our tithe from the evening. This ministry was also the recipient of our November chapel offerings. We are grateful to all the volunteers who helped organize this fun event, to all who attended and all who donated. Thank you!



Third graders help pack shoeboxes full of goodies for kids overseas for Operation Christmas Child. We packed over 200 shoeboxes this year! Thanks to everyone who helped make this endeavor such a huge success.



Open House Schedule

What does a Truly Higher Education mean? Come find out at any of our Open Houses in February where you can tour the school, meet our teachers, visit with our principal, peruse our curriculum, and discover why over 200 students call St. Luke Lutheran School home. We feature bussing from 9 school districts, state of the art technology in our classrooms for digital as well as traditional teaching methods, before and after school care in the building, a hot lunch program, after school clubs, Upwards Sports and so much more! Call the school office at 724-352-2221 and book your tour today. www.school.stlukecabot.org.

February 3

Open House & Registration
9AM – 12PM & 7-8PM

February 10

Open House & Registration
9AM – 12PM
Open House/Kdg. Information & Registration, 7-8PM

February 17

Open House & Preschool Registration
9AM – 12PM & 7-8PM

February 24

Open House & Registration
9AM – 12PM & 7-8PM

St. Luke Lutheran School News

DID YOU KNOW...that 350 people at 10:30 AM and 500 people at 7:00 PM worshiped together celebrating the birth of our Savior on Tuesday, December 9 at St. Luke Lutheran School's Kindergarten-5th Grade Children's Christmas Service?

Our own music teacher, Mrs. Diane Beckstead authored the production, called *No Crib For A Bed*, in support of Cribs for Kids, a national organization based in Pittsburgh which provides safe cribs to low-income families, safe sleep education for parents of infants, SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) awareness, and grief counseling for families who have experienced SIDS. While the topic is a sobering one, the message is important. We want all families to know how to safely care for infants, and that includes brothers and sisters.

The story of *No Crib For A Bed* tells about children who are rehearsing for a Christmas play, but run into trouble when certain cast members refuse to put the baby Jesus in a manger (for reasons that become clear as the musical progresses). Although there are many lively, child-friendly songs, some of the subject matter is quite serious. We are reassured that, while sad things sometimes happen, it is an important message to convey.

Our 6th-8th graders offered a variety of theatrical and musical selections from our band, chorus, handbell choir and student actors sharing their joy in welcoming the Baby Jesus on Tuesday, December 16. Much time and effort is spent by the children in preparation for their celebration of the birth of Christ, and is evidenced in every aspect of the service. The students have the entire service and, it is part of their gift to Jesus at Christmas.

Offerings from both our Children's Christmas Services as well as the chapel offerings from month of December will go to Cribs for Kids. Every \$75 provides a family in need with a "Safe Sleep Survival Kit" which includes a Graco Pack 'n Play, a Halo Sleep Sack, crib sheets, a pacifier, and a packet of educational materials about safe infant sleeping. Learn more at: <http://www.cribsforkids.org>.



Our third graders waiting patiently during dress rehearsal



Nothing cuter than kids in their jammies!



Life at St. Luke Lutheran CHURCH & SCHOOL



Accepting a grant in the amount of \$1,500 from the Wiebe Mission Advancement Fund through the LCMS Foundation is (l-r) Beth Kogler, Brenda Fett, LCMS Foundation representative, Linda Gage, and Pastor Barry. This grant money which is to be matched by St. Luke, will begin a mission project entitled "Backpack Pals" through St. Luke's Mission Board. Watch for details in the summer of 2015 about involving the congregation to fill 100 backpacks with school supplies. The backpacks will be divided among Light of Life Mission, Fishbone Ministries and Unity Mission in Pittsburgh.



Our second annual Trunk-or-Treat featured our youth group volunteers helping out with games, snacks and passing out candy from trunk-to-trunk. See you next year!



Approximately 200 volunteers helped out at our Make A Difference Day on October 18th at 25 local missions and charities in Butler County and the Pittsburgh region. These volunteers pictured helped out at World Vision.



Welcome New Members-Fall 2014

St. Luke Lutheran Church & School-Cabot, PA



We welcome **Anthony and Lisa Genta** from Sarver, PA. Married 27 years, they have 3 sons and 2 granddaughters. Both have a medical background and are certified EMTs. Lisa worked as a Paramedic for years prior to a major injury that forced an early retirement. Anthony ran his own construction business for several years and is presently a PA State Constable. He is also a volunteer for SVFC Fire and Ambulance CO and a First-Aid/CPR/AED instructor.



Please welcome **Bill and Suzanne Larko**, who live in Sarver. Bill is a Regional Sales Manager with First Niagara Bank in Oakmont and Suzanne is a Real Estate Agent with Collodi Realty in Lower Burrell. They both love to travel and to spend time with their kids (Alexander, 14 and Abigail, 9). In their spare time you might find Bill golfing or following Pittsburgh Pro Sports, whereas Suzanne will likely be in the kitchen cooking or baking.



Ron and Hanna Northime followed daughter and son-in-law, Marni and Eric Rettig to church! Now living in Fenelton, Ron was born and raised in Chicora, while Hanna was born in Germany and then the family immigrated to the US and settled in New Castle. Ron is retired from WITCO in Petrolia, while Hanna is retired from the VA in Butler. They have "shared" interests in gardening and golf. And while Ron is hunting, you might find Hanna reading Mystery novels or babysitting the grandchildren. Please make them welcome!



John and Carole Zema have lived in the same house in Sarver for 45 years. They have 2 sons and 7 grandchildren. John retired as a Commercial Artist from PRIZMA and Carol was a teacher, running her own Preschool for many years. They love spending time with their talented grandchildren. We welcome them into our family of faith!

Picture unavailable

We welcome the **Kulczak Family** who is transferring to St. Luke from Lord of Life Lutheran in Westfield, IN. Ed is District Operations Director for Macy's. Mary Rose is a freelance writer who is currently working as a Sales Representative for L.L. Bean. Oldest son, Lucas, is a recent college graduate working at Aldi while he looks for his dream job. Middle son, John, is a Senior at Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana. Youngest son, Sam, is a 5th grader who loves music.



Winter Adult Sunday School Schedule



January 4 – March 29, 2015

Devotion to the Word

Genesis-continued

Pastor Barry J. Keurulainen
Location: Transept

Genesis is a book of beginnings; the universe, humanity, sin, the nation of Israel and the beginning of sacrifices. The rest of the Bible and the ministry of Jesus are rooted in these beginnings. Twenty four weeks for fifty chapters! Most will say, "Can't be done." Hey, let's give it a try. Will you join me?

The Gospel of Mark

Pastor Matthew Barry
Location: Library

Have you ever been on a trip where you were whisked from one exciting moment to the next? It is quite a way to travel as the next adventure is right around the corner! Join us as we are whisked by Mark from one event in the life of Jesus to the next through the pages of his Gospel. Over twelve weeks we will explore the unique style of Mark and what the words and action of Jesus mean for us as His disciples today. Throughout we will attempt to understand the passages in their historical context and how we can apply these teachings to our lives even hundreds of years later.

Discipleship-Spiritual Growth

Discovering My Ministry Discipleship 301

Karen Driscoll
Location: Discipleship Room
#110

Did you know God created you with a unique SHAPE for ministry? Discover the biblical teachings on spiritual gifts and explore how God has given each of us unique gifts, abilities, passion and experiences that prepare us for ministry. Based on these unique qualities, we will guide each person to develop a personal ministry for Jesus' sake.

Vanishing Grace: Whatever Happened to the Good News?

Cyndi Alviani, DCE
Location: Bridal Room #207
(NOTE DATES: Jan. 4, 11, 18,
25 and Feb. 1 ~ 5 Sundays)

Opinions about Christianity are dropping while interest in spirituality is rising. Our world has a desperate need for grace and a need for Christians to truly relate the gospel as good news again. In this five-session study, you will journey with bestselling author Phillip Yancey to explore what kind of news is good to a culture that thinks it has rejected the Christian version.

Practical Christian Living

Celebrate Recovery Small Group Step Study

Eric Rettig
Location: Art Room #111

By working through the lessons and exercises based on the Christ-centered 12 steps and 8 recovery principles of CR, you will begin to experience the true peace and serenity you have been seeking. You will restore and develop stronger relationships with others and with God, and find freedom from life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits.

The Blessing: Giving the Gift of Unconditional Love and Acceptance

Cyndi Alviani, DCE
Location: Bridal Room #207
(NOTE DATES: Feb. 15, 22,
Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 – 6 Sundays)

Want to make sure your kids grow up confident? That they're secure in your love and God's love? That your marriage stays strong? That your parents, friends, and loved ones know how much you care? Then learn to give and live the blessing! This powerful six-week course explains how you can change the life of a child or other loved one as you gain a greater understanding of biblical blessing.



World Vision's 30 Hour Famine is coming up! Our famine will be from February 20th at 6:30PM through Saturday, February 21st at 2:00 PM. This year our theme is: Make it YOUR fight! Most of us don't have to worry about where our next meal will come. However, God calls us to help those in need. So let's make the fight against hunger OUR fight! The 30 Hour Famine uses videos, games, and the actual process of fasting to teach about global hunger. But, it doesn't end there! Through supporting World Vision we can help fight hunger and provide food and clothing for these children. The Famine is in two parts: First, students receive a fundraising packet to ask for funds for World Vision. Secondly, students participate in an overnight lock-in where they learn about world hunger issues and on Saturday morning will do an offsite service project from 9:00AM to noon. We ask God to bless our efforts! Please contact Katie Barry at the church office or at kbarry@stlukecabot.org with any questions or for more details. You can also find out more by visiting our website at www.stlukecabot.org or at World Vision's 30 Hour Famine website at www.30hourfamine.org.

Somebody Should Do Something

by Patricia Neubert

When the Pittsburgh Marathon returned to the city in 2009 after a five year hiatus, race organizers for the 2010 event offered charities the opportunity to raise money for their cause as an official marathon partner.

Three members of St. Luke Church staff recognized the opportunity for good. The challenge lay in creating and administering both a charity program and a running program and committing to the work necessary to succeed at both. Karen Bartos, Meghan Nunes and I would pass each other in the church office and our glance would say, "Someone should do this --- but who?" After a month or so of indecision and with the registration deadline approaching, we all realized that the "someone" who should do something was us. God was calling us to step out of our comfort zone. So, with a few deep breaths and lots of prayer, St. Luke's **Will Run for Food** was born.

Now in its sixth year, **Will Run For Food** is beginning its training and fundraising season for the Pittsburgh Marathon, Half Marathon, 5-Person Relay and 5k, May 2 and 3, 2015. We hope to once again field a team of at least 20 runners/ walkers and 10 volunteers to work at the race expo on May 2. Carpooling is available for the trip to Pittsburgh.

The opportunity is still there, along with the challenge. Would you consider joining us as a participant? How about starting a group to at least walk three miles? Can you give four hours of your time as a volunteer at this year's race expo? All it requires is a friendly face to greet runners and hand out t-shirts. Or perhaps you would consider making a gift to Will Run for Food or to St. Luke School's Run/ Walk a Mile for Food this spring?

To become a participant or volunteer for 2015 Will Run for Food, visit stlukecabot.org or pittsburghmarathon.com. For more information, contact Patricia Neubert, 724-352-4395 or email lotzak@consolidated.net



WHAT:

Pittsburgh Marathon, Half Marathon, 5-Person Relay, and 5K

WHERE:

Pittsburgh, PA

WHEN:

May 2, & 3, 2015

WHO:

All runners and walkers welcome!

WHY:

Benefits Sonshine Ministries, Katie's Kitchen and other relief efforts locally and internationally



January, February, March 2015 Mission Opportunities

by Brenda Fett

The mission board of St. Luke Lutheran Church and School have been very hard at work planning and looking for ways for St. Luke to reach out into the community. Each month throughout 2015 there will be various projects for you to become involved either by serving in a local place or bringing items to the church or school to be distributed at local agencies or missions. Please take note of the opportunities (listed on the right) for the next three months and prayerfully consider your involvement.

These are only a few of the ways in which we can begin to reach out to those in need in our local area and the Greater Pittsburgh area. Please continue to watch the Sunday announcements for details regarding these opportunities. The Lord has blessed us so much at St. Luke. Let us use the time, talents and treasures He has given us to serve Him.

New MOMs Ministry Starting

Ministry of Moms (MOM) has begun! We meet the first and third Thursday of each month from 5:30PM – 7:30PM. Moms are welcomed to join us as we share a meal together and then have time to study God's Word and socialize with one another. Childcare is provided for those too young for Kid's Club. We also have play group on Mondays from 10AM -11AM in the Wilhelm House and will have a few special events throughout the year. It is my goal to set up a list of people who would be willing to prepare meals for families as they welcome a newborn home. We have two signed up already but we need more so we can take turns making meals. Also, are you a prayer warrior? Can you pray for an expectant mom by name and write her an email or note each month to let her know we are supporting her as she prepares to welcome a little one? Please contact Katie Barry at kbarry@stlukecabot.org for more information.

Places to Serve

January

24 : World Vision, Sewickley

9:00 AM to noon. Volunteers will sort and repack corporately donated products to send to children and adults world-wide. 10-12 volunteers needed.

February

19: Katie's Kitchen, St. Mark's, Butler

4:45PM – 6:15PM. Volunteers will help serve about 120 people a hot meal. This is a great service project for families.

Entire month:

During the month of February we have the opportunity to support a hands on mission project, the "Care Bag Project", through Light of Life Rescue Mission. Light of Life Rescue Mission in Pittsburgh receives individuals who are homeless or need of learning life skills to move on and improve their lives. Every individual or family of St. Luke will have a chance to fill a 1-gallon Zip-lock baggie with items needed to support this project. Simply gather the items, put them in the gallon baggie and return it to church. From there it will be taken to Light of Life Rescue Mission. Items needed: One washcloth, disposable razor, bandages, lip balm, nail clipper, comb, chewing gum, toothbrush, towelettes, travel size bar of soap, shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste. Watch for details to come in the weekly announcements.

March

24: Produce to People, Farmer's Market, Butler

4:00PM – 6:00PM. Many volunteers needed to help distribute food to those in need in Butler County through the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank.

28: Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank

9:00AM – 1:00PM. Volunteers needed to sort, pack and prepare food items at the main warehouse to be distributed throughout the greater Pittsburgh area.

Budget (cont'd)

The school has come a long way by currently covering 50% of their labor, utility, and supply costs through tuition and grants, but the church still covers 100% of all building repairs and maintenance costs. These costs (which include lawn care and snow removal) totaled \$31,307 last year and \$26,419 the previous year. Should we consider asking the school to cover 50% of those costs as well?

When discussing budget there is the revenue side to consider as well, which is what covers all these costs. Our giving has been flat for the past two years. Where our budgeted expenses increase an average of 4% per year, our giving has only increased 1%. How high of an increase in tuition would people be willing to pay to help cover half of the building repair and maintenance costs? How much are you willing to tithe and increase your offerings? Please prayerfully consider all of these questions as we ask for your budget approval in April.

40 Days (cont'd)

Small groups will also work together, putting their faith into practice with a Micah 6:8 Assignment. In this way, we are not only doers of the Word individually, but as a group! With the Micah 6:8 Assignment each group will select, plan and initiate a group outreach project.

Projects will be planned during Lent but most will be carried out after Easter. The Ministry team is excited about this component of the Congregational Journey as service is vital to the health of a small group as well as helps build a greater sense of Christian care and community for all involved.

Watch for small group sign-ups to take place in January. Please keep this important Congregational Faith Journey in your prayers. May God's Spirit, working through His powerful Word, fall afresh on us during our 40 Days in the Word.

Our new lobby:



January Congregational Verse

Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately.

~ II Timothy 2: 15, NET

St. Luke Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

330 Hannahstown Road
Cabot, PA 16023
www.stlukecabot.org

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Return Service Requested

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

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St. Luke Lutheran Church & School
Cabot, PA



**WANT TO HAVE FUN +
BE A SPIRITUAL EXAMPLE?**

You're Invited To
A Brand New SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY in Saxonburg!
THURSDAY NIGHTS, 6:30-9

ABBA'S HOUSE - Main Street

What is BASE?

- Hanging out with friends
- Music
- Food
- Games (pool table, ping pong, etc)
- Skits
- Relevant talks
- Mission work

*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young,
but set an example for the believers in speech,
in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12*