

November 2014

St. Luke's Line

St. Luke United Methodist Church

Thanksgiving Basket Distribution
Kids' Cafe Thanksgiving Dinner
Stephen Ministry Reflection

November Outreach
Staff Thanksgiving Memories
Glimpse at December Activities

Introduction of New Members
Upcoming Events & Activities
Stewardship Emphasis & Update



THANKSGIVING

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

THANKS & GIVING

...through the gift of service to our community

God's Pantry Thanksgiving Food Distribution

Once again St. Luke will be one of the sites for God's Pantry community wide Thanksgiving food distribution. Some 2,000 families have been designated to pick up their food boxes from the St. Luke site. Dates are Monday, November 24 and Tuesday, November 25. There will be two shifts scheduled each day from 12 noon to 2 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m.

Many, many willing hands will be needed to prepare for and serve potentially 500 families in each two hour period. Volunteers will be needed to help rearrange the Fellowship Hall as the distribution site and to prepare the lobby to accommodate clients as they wait. Volunteers will be needed for at least one hour prior to each shift to package the perishable food items such as butter, eggs and onions. Volunteers will be needed to greet families and direct them to the registration table which will be manned by God's Pantry staff. Volunteers then will direct clients from registration to the pick up area where many helpful, hardy volunteers will assist them to their cars.

Are you looking for a way to make Thanksgiving more meaningful this year and still have time to cook that turkey or to travel to see family? The entire effort is a way for St. Luke to show hospitality and caring for our community. It also is a great time for those who are unable to serve in the daily God's Pantry work to be a part of this valuable outreach effort. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be posted near the Connection Center desk beginning November 2. If you have questions or want to know more about this project contact Karen Hinkle at kphinkle@twc.com.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4



THANKS & GIVING

...through the gift of fellowship to the children

Kids Cafe Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

On Tuesday, November 25 from 5-8 p.m., Kids' Cafe will host its annual Thanksgiving meal for our children and their families. The meal will be a traditional with turkey, dressing and all the trimmings! Last year, we fed about 85 and this year we expect even more since our Kids' Cafe numbers have continued to grow. This is a wonderful time to get to know parents and other family members of our children better. It is also a time to give thanks for the wonderful facility we have, the faithful volunteers we have, and the opportunity to serve God through this ministry at St. Luke. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Thanksgiving meal on November 25, please contact Donna Knox with your name and how you would like to help at donnaknox1960@yahoo.com.



But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

1 John 3:17



THANKS & GIVING

...through the gift of caring for others

*“This is my commandment,
that you love one another as
I have loved you...”*

John 15:12

Revealing God's Love Through One on One Caring of the Stephen Ministry

Recent sermons by Pastor Mark have challenged each of us to consider how we can grow and mature as Christians and especially how we can reveal God to others through our actions and our lives. One meaningful sermon highlighted that no one among us should or would feel alone and isolated or separated from God if we were attuned to letting the love of God shine in us.

One ministry area at St. Luke is focused on that very tenet. St. Luke has been a Stephen Ministry congregation since 2001 and since then many individuals have been trained and actively participate in all the supervision and education required by the national organization for Stephen Ministry. There currently are about 20 active Stephen Ministers. They are not counselors or therapists, they are trained to be Christian friends who very purposefully listen, support and walk alongside individuals who are dealing with a difficult life situation. Sometimes the caring relationship is short... a few months and others continue for several years for those.

Life hands all of us trials that can be challenging and exhausting. Sometimes you may wonder why things are happening to you and how you will cope. If you or someone you know are facing a challenge that seems overwhelming, whether it is job, a death, illness, relationship, family issues, a need for social contact and interaction, or general life stress, there may be a Stephen Minister just for you. The match is man to man and woman to woman and confidentiality is ensured. You may contact one of the pastors or call Joanne Beidleman, Team Leader for Stephen Ministry at 278-3973 or Karen Hinkle, Referrals Coordinator at 268-8933.

THANKS & GIVING

...as we extend the love of Christ through outreach

Upward 2015

Yes, it is time to begin planning for our fifth season of Upward Basketball at St. Luke! A lot of hands are needed to make the upcoming season a success. If you can support this ministry with your time on Saturdays from January 17–March 7 and/or donations, sign up at the Connection Center or email Ed Towle etowle@stlukeumc.org.

Help the Homeless

With the new facilities at Nathaniel Mission, they are able to have ongoing distribution of needed supplies. If you have large items like men's and women's winter coats, bags of sweatshirts, or blankets, you can drop them off at the mission on Versailles Road. There is a basket at the Connection Center for sample size toiletries, tooth brushes, razors, socks, and t-shirts that are always needed. Thank you for the ongoing support for this ministry.

Thanksgiving Meal for the Homeless on Tuesday, November 25

Help Nathaniel Mission provide a holiday meal for Lexington's most needy. St. Luke will be providing cranberry sauce, rolls and relish trays. Please sign up at the Connection Center and bring your donations to church by Sunday, November 23.

Coats Needed

Fall is upon us! With the morning growing cooler as we move into winter, Kentucky Refugee Ministry (KRM) is in need of winter coats for newly-arrived/arriving refugee families. We can accept new and gently used coats. We are also in need of warm blankets, hats, gloves and scarves. Items can be dropped off at St. Luke UMC and marked KRM or at Kentucky Refugee Ministries, 1206 North Limestone, Lexington, KY 40505 (226-5661). For more information, contact Reid Buchanan 269-4687 or e-mail rbuchanan@stlukeumc.org.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

THANKS & GIVING

...by sharing Thanksgiving past



Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 118:1

Through a series of unfortunate events that occurred three Thanksgivings in a row, our family takes a more unconventional approach to the holiday. Each year we plan something different! Once we had a traditional turkey dinner—in October! It worked for us and we enjoyed our family time, just on a different day than everyone else. Another year we had a large pot of chili! Last year, we all planned to run a 5K together, but the 14 degree temperature that day convinced us to just stay home. In the afternoon, we went to see “Frozen.” What will 2014 hold for the Cutshall family? We haven’t decided yet, but we do like knowing that we aren’t trying to make the day perfect, so it’s a LOT less stressful! We focus on being thankful all year long!

Susan Cutshall
Director of Children's Ministries

My Thanksgiving memories growing up? Gosh--food, friends, food, family, food, laughter, food, stories, food... always enough food for whoever showed up, and bringing extra people was always welcomed and encouraged, being thankful for being together and being able to share!

Nora Conner
Director of Ministries

THANKS & GIVING

...as we prepare our hearts for Christmas

Operation Christmas Child®

A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' Name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes will be available on Sunday, November 2 to pick up along with a list of items and returned on Sunday, November 9 or Sunday, November 16. Donations of items can be made on November 2-9. For more information, contact Reid Buchanan at 269-4687/rbuchanan@stlukeumc.org.

Shoebox Packing Party on Friday, November 14

Come one, come all. This will be a time of fun, food and fellowship. The party starts at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and ends by 8:30-8:45 p.m. Pizza and drinks will be provided. Please sign up at the Connection Center. For additional information, contact Joe Keyser at 225-9984/jwkeyser@aol.com.

Help Prepare Shoebox Gifts at a Processing Center On December 14

On Sunday, December 14 following the 11:10 a.m. worship service, Earl Brady will be leading a group to Atlanta to assist in preparing shoeboxes at the processing center. The group will depart St. Luke at 12:30 p.m. and return to St. Luke on Tuesday evening. Transportation will be provided by St. Luke for 14. Two nights lodging and food cost are covered by the participant. To sign up or for additional information, contact Earl Brady at 619-0160/earlbrady13@gmail.com.

Mission Christ Tree

As is the Christmas tradition at St. Luke, we will share love with needy families. We will be ministering to families we reach through Kids' Café and the ESL program. Each child will receive a clothing item and a toy and adults will receive a grocery gift card. The tree will be up Thanksgiving weekend. Look for additional information in upcoming bulletins.

Christmas Cookie Ministry

Join in this special holiday activity of baking cookies and making candy to be distributed to those working Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You can start baking and freezing right now. We will pack goodies Christmas Eve Day at church. Families can pick up cookie boxes and deliver them to selected sites for first responders, nurses' stations, nursing home staff, and others serving the public, missing their own family time.

*Do not be anxious
about anything,
but in everything
by prayer and
supplication with
thanksgiving let your
requests be made
known to God.
Philippians 4:6*

THANKS & GIVING

...as we prepare our hearts for Christmas



In the year 4 B.C., the brutal King Herod was the puppet King of Israel. The Romans were the ones who were really in control in the ancient land of Israel. King Herod and the High Priest Ciaphus ruled at the pleasure of the Roman Governor Quirinius. The people of Israel lived lives of despair. There was the constant threat of war. Oppression in place of freedom. A tax rate of nearly 80% for those who were able to find work. Unemployment was high. There were beggars at the gates of every city. People were hungry. Violence and crime were widespread. Families were torn apart. And the church seemed out of touch with the day to day sufferings of the people. But the people of Israel still remembered the promises of the prophets concerning a Messiah, a great King from the line of David, who would come and establish a Kingdom

of right and justice. The people dreamed of peace, and joy and salvation. They dreamed of a Savior. And they dared to hope. But as the years passed, and their despair grew, the prophecies seemed to be just an impossible dream . . . but then . . . into the gloom and despair and fear and hopelessness God came in the form of a baby, His Son, Jesus Christ. And the hopes and fears of all the years intersected in Bethlehem on one miraculous night. And the impossible dream became real. Now more than 2,000 years later, the world is once more in chaos and turmoil. A world at war, terrorists at home and abroad. Hope often turns to despair. Starvation. Homelessness. Disease. Violence in the streets of our cities. This year, do we dare to dream that God will do it again.



THANKS & GIVING

...as we welcome new members to our church family



Meet the Reinkes, Keith and Mariann. They have moved here from Bowling Green, Ohio (that's right there is a Bowling Green in Ohio.) They have two boys and a girl, all in college; in fact, Keith and Mariann are also in college.

Marianne is working on her Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership while Keith is getting his M.B.A., both at Bowling Green State University.

They found St. Luke when they dropped in on one of our Wednesday night events and liked it. On Sunday, Chris Bacon invited them to his Sunday School Class and they loved Lowell Langefeld's sermon. They describe St. Luke as very friendly and has made them feel very welcome.

Welcome, Reinkes, we look forward to getting to know you better.

Meet Chih, Yen-Din, Deven, and Heidi Chang. Chih and Yen-Din were born in South Korea. Chih grew up in Louisville and Yen-Din grew up in Taiwan. The family moved to Lexington from Pikeville in June of 2013.

St. Luke was recommended to them by their Pastor at Pikeville United Methodist Church and we are glad he did. They first attended St. Luke in September of 2013 and joined this last summer of 2014.

For fun they like to camp, hang out with friends, travel, sing and enjoy God's creation. Now that sounds like lots of fun and Kentucky is a great place to do these things.

Welcome Chang family and may God bless our time together with you.





Meet Joan Woodall who joined St. Luke UMC last August. She has lived in Kentucky her entire life. She raised her two children in Lexington. One has stayed and blessed her with grandchildren and even a great grandchild. Her daughter is in North Carolina, but we won't hold that against her.

Joan's great grandson lives in Lexington and Joan enjoys spending lots of time with him. She also enjoys the company of her small black miniature poodle. She enjoys cooking and we will have to get her to some of our potluck suppers so we can enjoy what she enjoys cooking.

Her passion is her family and her home. She describes herself as a homebody but is starting to travel some with her children. We are so glad to have this gracious lady in the St. Luke's family.

St. Luke Confirmands Featured in December Newsletter

Several youth are currently engaged in a seven-week class leading them to become members of the United Methodist Church. Once the class is completed on November 7, the attendees will be invited to come before our church family to make a formal membership commitment and offered congratulations by the congregation. In next month's issue, the confirmands will be featured in our new membership section. Make sure to check it out!

United Methodist Women Upcoming Meeting

What: Evening Circle meeting
When: Tuesday, November 4 at 6 p.m.
Where: Library at St. Luke

Our program is about the World Thank Offering.
Come and join us in learning.

Bazaar? Interested?

United Methodist Women are in the process of investigating the possibility of putting together a Bazaar. The event would be on Saturday, December 6 from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. We are surveying for interested vendors. If you are a crafter and want to participate, or know someone who would be interested, contact Kathy Silberman at 699-1582 or Connie Rouse at 273-9720.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

Budget Needs for September, 2014	\$ 96,910.48
*Total Income for September, 2014	\$ 83,651.17
Deficit for the month	(\$ 13,259.31)
Budget Needs Year-To-Date (as of 9/30/2014)	\$ 944,877.18
Total Income Year-To-Date (as of 9/30/2014)	\$ 838,103.62
Deficit for the year	(\$ 106,773.56)
Total Income Year-To-Date (as of 9/30/2014)	\$ 838,103.62
Expenditures Year-To-Date (as of 9/30/2014)	\$ 929,959.31
Alms Donations – September	\$ 4,301.00
Mortgage Balance (as of 9/30/2014)	\$ 2,964,780.26

*(Total Income includes contributions, building use fees and Kroger card receipts.)

“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance ...”

...‘What should we do then?’ the crowd asked. John answered, ‘The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.’”

— Luke 3:8a, 10-11

St. Luke Needs Your Help!

In the church we look forward to the fall season as we return to an active schedule after a summer of reduced attendance as people travel. We also look forward to contributions growing as attendance increases and people begin to catch up on their tithes. Unfortunately, that has not happened this year.

As of September 30, our donations trail our budgeted need by \$106,773.56 and contributions so far in October have done nothing to reduce that deficit. After many years of dealing with tight budgets any surplus that we had is gone and we now are faced with the possibility that we may have to use our “emergency fund” to meet our commitments to our staff, missionaries, ministries and the Methodist Church as well as paying other bills. When our budget deficit is this large, it dramatically affects our ability to fund ministry programs, both existing and potentially new programs. We need your help. We are asking that each member and constituent of St. Luke do the following:

- Examine your giving and if you are behind in your tithe for the year, please catch up as quickly as possible.
- If God has blessed you with a “surplus” of income during this year, consider giving a part of that gift to the church.
- As we enter the season where we prayerfully consider our tithing pledge for 2015 please think about increasing your tithe for 2015.

St. Luke is a church that provides wonderful ministry to our community and beyond, but we must have your continued financial support to do this.

Thank you and may God richly bless each of you.
The Finance Team of St. Luke United Methodist Church