

the Epistle

August 2019



Your Generosity Matters Greatly

Recently, the youth of our congregation traveled to Clendenin, WV to serve in a small community hit hard by flooding during hurricanes of the recent years. Your generosity made it possible for them to do this meaningful ministry. But your giving did so much more. Whenever we send youth on the road, they bond in powerful ways, becoming closer while engaged in Christian community. Your offerings and your support of the youth through financial gifts beyond the offering plate make it possible for us to have a strong ministry to youth.

I am impressed by the amount of ministry we do together. In August we will celebrate our nineteenth baptism of the year. Already this year, we've accompanied eleven families as they've traveled journeys of grief. Countless visits have been made in the name of Jesus Christ. Weekly we worship in a beautiful facility. Daily we have hundreds of people in and out of our building because of our ongoing ministry through our Child Life Ministries.

You make it possible for this ministry to flourish. Your regular giving matters. Without it, we cannot be all that God calls us to be in the Waukesha area. Your giving has allowed us to support the work of many people: those who worked with Loaves and Fishes to feed hungry folk in our neighborhood, those who worked together on the Habitat for Humanity projects we did, those who volunteered to serve free meals at Roberta Park. While the visible manpower of each of these actions was undertaken by volunteers, there are costs we bear to do this ministry: keeping up a building to provide a home for these efforts, staffing the office so that we can coordinate and communicate about these ministries, and so on.

Summer is turning toward Autumn and our ministry leaders are actively thinking about the fall. We have some big ambitions for the coming months. We hope to welcome a new pastor later this year. We anticipate more permanent staffing for youth and family ministry.

I invite you to consider growing in your giving to St. Luke's to help us enter into the new season with strength and vitality. In my years of pastor, I've learned that sometimes people fall behind their intended giving during the summer months – vacations and other travel interrupt. If you have gotten behind in what your heart leads you to give, I urge you to remember the valuable things we do in the community and to prod your heart forward in generosity. God relies on us to do many things in the community. Together, we will act in the name of Jesus Christ, following the mission of God into the world.



In Our Church Family

Baptisms

Sawyer Alan Luedtke	June 2
Dahlia Maria Gonzalez	July 14
Ava Ann Simonson	July 21

Deaths

Gloria Arnson	May 30
Tayler Kuechler	June 18
Katherine Marquardt	June 24
Mary Jean Huelsbeck	July 16
June Cain	July 18

August Council Contact

John Lindberg
608-279-6787
lindepack@twc.com

The deadline is Tuesday, August 20
to turn in items for the September issue of
the **Epistle**



St. Luke's to Welcome Tanzanian Partners

October 8 to 24, St. Luke's will welcome visitors from the Meru Diocese in Tanzania. We hope to welcome two visitors to our congregation. They will join us in worship, meet with us in small groups, get to know the ministry of St. Luke's and the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA. We'll get to hear from our partners about the gospel's impact in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro. If you'd like to help support these visitors, talk with Pastor Jordan or Diane Voit. Your financial gifts in support of this visit are deeply appreciated.



The Congregation Council has decided to slightly tweak the Sunday worship times commencing Sunday, September 8. They hope that this change will open up more spaces in the parking lot for the late service and give worship leaders and others more time for preparation and fellowship between services.

Beginning September 7 & 8, worship times will be:

Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday at 8:15 & 10:00 a.m.

Staff News

The ministry of St. Luke's is strong and effective because of our staff. We have more than 30 people working with us to provide a variety of ministries in the community. Please remember to pray for them as they do God's work through St. Luke's. Here's the latest news:

- In July we welcome our new evening custodian, Michael Maile. At the same time, we thank Susan Klabunde for providing much-needed interim custodial work.
- Pastor Jordan is serving as co-chair of the Local Area Committee for the ELCA's Churchwide Assembly being held in Milwaukee, August 5-10. He and Susan Cyr of St. John's Lutheran, Brookfield, are coordinating 600 volunteers who are hosting about 2,400 people from across the United States and the Caribbean.
- Pastor Betty Baires and her husband, Pastor Walter Baires, Assistant to the Bishop for the South Central Synod of Wisconsin are headed to El Salvador to celebrate Pastor Walter's 25 years of ordained ministry. Both pastors continue their service in the United States as missionaries from El Salvador.
- Rachael Eslao completed her Early Childhood Program Development Credentials and presented to the commissioner in June! Rachael (second from the right in the picture) is the fifth CLM staff member to complete a credential through UW-Platteville and the Wisconsin Registry.



Call Committee Update

July has been a busy month for the Call Committee. We won't be interviewing candidates for some time. However, we've taken important steps forward during the month just ended. In July, the Call Committee met three times. At the first meeting, it met with Pastor Jennifer Arnold of the Synod Office. She led the committee through an orientation session. At that same meeting, Dayna Bjerke was selected as the committee's chairperson.

In two other meetings, the Call Committee prepared for interviews by setting up its procedures and questions for interviews. It also hosted a local pastor for a "mock interview." In July, our Ministry Site Profile has been activated on the ELCA's website. Now, pastors looking for new calls can see a summary of our opening and initiate conversations with the Synod Office about serving at St. Luke's.

Calling a pastor takes time and patience. We will continue to do as we've done since March. We'll provide regular updates in the newsletter and other publications. Your prayers matter to the ministry of our church. While praying for St. Luke's, remember to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the call process. Pray for the pastor we will call. Remember to watch your newsletters and other publications for updates about the call process. If you have ideas for potential candidates forward them to Dayna Bjerke (dayna.bjerke@gmail.com or 262-424-7135) or Pastor Jordan. We'll pass those names to the synod office who will check their availability.

Council Bullets

from the July 16 Congregation Council Meeting

- Please note: Council approved an adjustment in Sunday worship times to begin in September after Labor Day weekend. Worship times will be **8:15 a.m.** and 10:00 a.m. This 15 minute adjustment is being made to improve traffic patterns (auto and foot), increase access to handicap slots and generally improve parking availability. It will also ease some of the time constraints on our worship leaders and provide them with additional preparation time.
- Do you have it in your heart to share the stories of faith and God's love with the little ones in our congregation? The start of Sunday School is just weeks away and we are still in need of a number of teachers, as well as helpers. Two or three teachers for each class is really ideal and allows the flexibility to alternate Sundays and adapt to personal schedules. Join us as we pray that the Spirit will move those with the gift of education to step forward. Please speak to Pastor Betty if you can help or have suggestions of someone who might have an interest.
- Don't forget to wear name tags! It's a great habit to continue. Several people have spoken to council members about how much they appreciate seeing them on folks every weekend. It strengthens the community!

Finance Committee Update

We continue to enjoy working with Therese Dorfman, St. Luke's new Financial Administrator. Therese has already assessed and implemented improved internal controls as they relate to her responsibilities as guardian of our financial status. We have also received other positive suggestions from Therese on improving some of our cash management processes, such as utilizing online checking and a computerized-check writing system. The Committee is exploring these recommendations and will work with her on any implementation.

As of July 15, the church continues to experience a significant downturn in giving year to date. The Committee wishes to remind congregational members and friends that funding of our usual and ordinary expenses, as well as programs for the community and abroad, need your regular support.

Please consider signing up for online giving by visiting the church's website www.stlukeslutheran.org.

Plans for Tanzanian Guests in October

The Greater Milwaukee Synod has sent a letter of invitation to Bishop Elias Kitoi and eighteen others from the Meru Synod and parishes of the Diocese of Meru to visit the Milwaukee area from October 8-22, 2019. St. Luke's and Ascension are inviting Pastor Nathan Makege, the Pastor-in-Charge of six of our eight partner churches. St. Luke's and Ascension will share pastor's travel expenses. We have also invited Baraka Melitha, the leader of the Maroroni and Kilimamoja Partnership Committees, to visit St. Luke's.



Can you be part of St. Luke's Welcome Meal at church on Sunday, October 13? Mark your calendar. Would you like to welcome one or more of our delegates to stay in your home for a few days? We are planning a fund raiser to help to cover their travel expenses. Watch for details.



Not everyone can travel to Tanzania, but all are encouraged to attend the regular services October 12-13 at which Pastor Makege and Baraka will be presenting a greeting. Mark your calendar with these October dates and plan to get to know our Tanzanian partners.

CONNECTING



Ensemble Start Dates

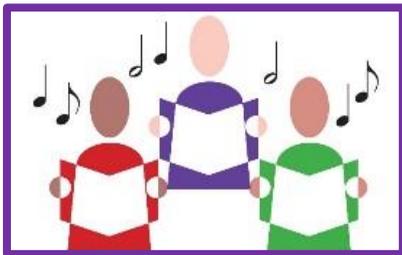
Believe it or not, it's already time to start thinking about our program year starting up already! If you are interested in joining any of our wonderful music ensembles, please contact Michael Schaner, Director of Music Ministries. All are welcome!

- ♪ **Godsbells & Voices of Faith:** Wednesday, August 28
- ♪ **Men's Chorus:** Sunday, September 8 - 11:15-12:00
- ♪ **Joyful Noise and Saints & Sinners:** Thursday, September 12

Times are still the same as last year's chart.

Fall Kick-Off Party

Michael Schaner invites all returning and interested members of Godsbells, Men's Chorus, and Voices of Faith to a kick-off party at his house on Friday, August 23 at 7:00 p.m. Michael will provide the beverages and his house, and you bring a dish to pass and a chair for outside. We always have a great time, and if you're considering joining one of our ensembles, this is a great way to get to know the other members! His address is: 224 S. East Ave, Waukesha. If you have any questions, contact Michael by calling him at the church, or by e-mailing him at mschaner@stlukeslutheran.org.



Summer Choir

We have one more Sunday with a summer choir for worship! This is for all ages, the only requirement being that you can read. Mr. Schaner will teach you some music to be sung that morning during worship. The date is Sunday, August 11. Warm up will be at 7:45am, and it will be something we can learn that morning. All are invited to attend! If you have any questions, contact Mr. Schaner.

Handbell Petting Zoo

Thank you to those of you who came and enjoyed our Handbell Petting Zoo! We will have another petting zoo Sunday, August 25, and you are invited to come try ringing a handbell or two. It's a lot of fun! If you have any questions, talk to Michael Schaner, Director of Music Ministries, or any current member of Godsbells.



SERVING

Mt. Meru Coffee Hospitality Hour

Mt. Meru Coffee Hour is sponsored during August by Kathy Hager in honor of the Child Life Ministries staff and all of our Sunday School teachers..

Sponsorship is a great way to honor someone or something special. Best of all, 40% of the cost is returned to the farmers of Mt. Meru Diocese. Sign up at *Sign Up Central* or stop by the coffee sales cart for more information. Sponsoring a bag of coffee for fellowship is a great way to celebrate someone or something special.

Help wanted: Would you be willing to sell Mt. Meru Premium Coffee between Sunday services just 1 or 2 times a year? It's an easy volunteer job that does so much good for our Mt. Meru friends. To help or for more information, please stop by the coffee sales cart.

Supporting families, growing futures, changing lives.

Mission Envelopes for August go to support two of the ELCA Seminaries: Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA and Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN.

Food Pantry

During the month of August, the Waukesha County Food Pantry sees a decline in donations and an increase in client need, especially for food products such as cereal, canned fruit and canned protein products. **Close to 500 boxes of cereal are needed each week. More than 300 cans of fruit and 300 cans of protein items such as chicken and tuna are needed daily.** Can you help meet this increased need?



Blood Drive! St. Luke's is hosting a blood drive on Monday, July 29, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Versiti (formerly known as the Blood Center of Wisconsin) will be here. They will be providing a free ticket to the State Fair as an incentive for all who come to donate. Each donation has the potential to save three lives. Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are welcome. To register online visit bit.ly/stlukesjuly2019 or call Marilyn at 262-844-2519.

St. Luke's Habitat Saturdays!

This summer and early fall, St. Luke's volunteers will be able to help Habitat, Waukesha give "a hand up, not a hand out" and help families achieve their dream of home ownership. We have a spot for 10 volunteers on the remaining two Saturdays, August 17 and September 14. We will do our part to help Habitat, Waukesha achieve mission of providing affordable housing for those in need. Our flexible volunteers will always do what is needed, but both the June and July Saturdays look like construction work. Sign-up sheets will go up monthly at *Sign Up Central* – August's is up. For more information, contact Don French, 262-896-0225 or d-french@sbcglobal.net.

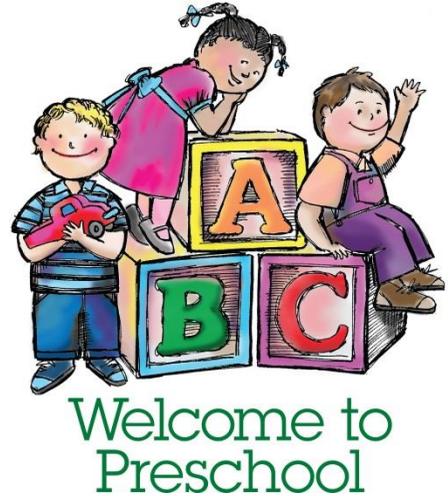


GROWING

Child Life Ministries

A reminder from ST. LUKE'S PRESCHOOL:

This fall marks the 23rd year that St. Luke's Preschool has been in operation! Hurry! There are only a few *limited* openings remain for families with **3 and 4-year-old** children seeking half-day preschool programming. Preschool classes meet from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. during the school year and feature a faith-based Pre-K curriculum, small class sizes, professional early childhood staff, "chapel chats" with our pastor, music classes, loving personalized attention and so much more. Remember wrap-around childcare is also available for families who need childcare before and/or after preschool hours. Children must be toilet trained and must meet the age requirement by September 1.



For **2-year-olds**, our "First Steps to Preschool" program is a unique child-and-adult offering designed to provide your child with a fun variety of educational, faith-based and social experiences. We have just a few spots available in the weekly (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.) Monday class. Call today!

Contact Liz Anderson at 262-522-6747 or landerson@stlukeslutheran.org for more information. You can also find more details at www.stlukeslutheran.org. St. Luke's Child Life Ministries welcomes all children regardless of race, color, sex, differing abilities, religion, national, or ethnic origin. Please tell others about us! Brochures are at the Welcome Station.

Volunteer for Vacation Bible School!

VBS is August 12 – 16. We have a few spots that need to be filled. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Crew Leaders: Move your age specific group from one place to another within the church, need 3

Crew: Work with crew leaders, we need 4 (including teens).

Floater: Can't be with us every day? Give us a hand when you can.

Registration: Greet parents and children, hand out name tags, and other assorted daily tasks (at the registration table), we need 1.

Contact Laurie Rohrwasser, lrohrwasser@stlukeslutheran.org, if you want to be part of this fun and exciting team!

VBS Registration Continues!

Registration fees are \$25.00 per child. If your child is in CLM full-time VBS week, your CLM fee covers VBS. All checks should be made payable to *St. Luke's Lutheran Church* - memo line: *VBS*. Please talk with Laurie if a scholarship is needed.



Youth: Seven Bridges

The youth are hiking the Seven Bridges Trail of Grant Park in Milwaukee. Join us Sunday, July 28 for this faith outing along the shores of Lake Michigan. As always, watch your phones for specific details. Friends are always welcome!

Youth: S'mores and Bible Study

Enjoy hotdogs, marshmallows and s'mores with friends of faith. Youth will meet at the church for this event on Sunday August 11. Friends are always welcome at all our events and outings. Bring them over for food and fellowship.

Youth: Riverbend Overnight

Enjoy the hospitality offered by this overnight camp out at Riverbend, August 21 & 22! It is offered to us by the Oliver Family. We'll spend time together around the campfire and enjoy time in the water. Friends are welcome!

Discipleship Training

(Confirmation)

- Begins September 8 with a Parent & Youth Meeting
- For students entering Grades 7 and 8
- We meet Sundays, 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Confirmation Update

Our confirmation ministry continues under a new name: Discipleship Training. Our new name helps us remember our focus: growing as disciples of Jesus Christ. Here are basics about Discipleship Training you need to know:

- There will be a parent/youth meeting for those entering grades 7 & 8, Sunday, September 8.
- Those in Grades 7 & 8 will normally meet regularly on Sundays, following the second worship, 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Third year DT students will meet Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. beginning September 11, and continuing until the Sunday we celebrate Affirmation of Baptism, October 27, 2019.
- Sunday morning DT will have occasional road trips, allowing youth opportunities to grow through a variety of experiences. We will utilize parents to help us get to and from these events.
- Our pastors will be regularly involved in Discipleship Training.
- Each week we will incorporate Host Parents into the Discipleship Ministry. Host Parents will have two roles: 1) to provide meals for the group and 2) to participate fully as guides/mentors for the group.
- This year's theme will focus on Old Testament stories, providing an overview of important themes and narratives that shape the Faith. Later in the DT season, we'll look at Luther's Small Catechism.
- During the Lenten season we will continue with Sunday gatherings while also pairing youth with mentors and mid-week Lenten worship as we've done before.

St. Luke's Calendar ~ August 2019

EVERY SUNDAY

8:30/10:00am Worship
9:30am Fellowship Time
6:00pm Men's AA
(unless otherwise noted)

Thursday, August 1

9:30am Prayer Shawl

Friday, August 2

Saturday, August 3

5:00pm Worship

Sunday, August 4

11:30am Executive Committee

Monday, August 5

*ELCA Churchwide Assembly
begins in Milwaukee*

8:00am Amigos
6:45pm Al-Anon
8:00pm Women's AA

Tuesday, August 6

9:30am 1st Tuesday Book Club
6:30pm Call Committee

Wednesday, August 7

9:00am CLM Preschool Fun Day
7:00pm NA

Thursday, August 8

Friday, August 9

Saturday, August 10

*ELCA Churchwide Assembly ends
in Milwaukee*
5:00pm Worship

Sunday, August 11

*Mt. Meru Coffee Sales
Healing Services
Youth: S'mores & Bible Study*
7:45am Summer Choir

Monday, August 12

8:00am Amigos
9:00am Vacation Bible School
6:45pm Al-Anon
8:00pm Women's AA

Tuesday, August 13

9:00am Vacation Bible School
1:00pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, August 14

9:00am Vacation Bible School
1:00pm Waukesha MS Self
Help Group
7:00pm NA

Thursday, August 15

9:00am Vacation Bible School
9:30am Prayer Shawl

Friday, August 16

9:00am Vacation Bible School

Saturday, August 17

Habitat Work Day
5:00pm Worship

Sunday, August 18

Monday, August 19

8:00am Amigos
6:45pm Al-Anon
8:00pm Women's AA

Tuesday, August 20

1:00pm Staff Meeting
6:00pm CLM Staff
6:00pm Finance Committee
6:30pm Congregation Council

Wednesday, August 21

Youth: Riverbend Campout
5:30pm Facilities/Maintenance
6:30pm Personnel Committee
7:00pm NA

Thursday, August 22

Youth: Riverbend Campout
11:00am Meru Partners
5:30pm Stewardship

Friday, August 23

Saturday, August 24

5:00pm Worship

Sunday, August 25

*Mt. Meru Coffee Sales
Handbell Petting Zoo*

Monday, August 26

8:00am Amigos
6:45pm Al-Anon
8:00pm Women's AA

Tuesday, August 27

8:30am Holy Stuffers
1:00pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, August 28

9:00am Preschool Orientation
6:00pm Godsbells
7:00pm NA
7:15pm Voices of Faith

Thursday, August 29

9:00am Preschool Orientation

Friday, August 30

Saturday, August 31

5:00pm Worship

CLM Child Care

6:30am-6:00pm
Monday-Friday
(unless otherwise noted)

Church Office Hours

8:00am-4:00pm
(unless otherwise noted)

Registration for the Outreach for Hope Family Bike Rides on September 7th is now open!

Simply visit: ofhbikeride.com

...and choose from the three bike rides listed. That's right - there are now THREE Family Bike Rides, all of them held on Saturday, September 7th.

1. WAUKESHA COUNTY

The original ride - as always, starting at St. Bruno's in Dousman.

2. OZAUKEE COUNTY

Added a few years back, this ride begins at Grace Lutheran in Grafton.

3. RACINE/KENOSHA COUNTY

NEW this year! This ride begins at Petrifying Springs Park (near UW-Parkside) Kenosha.

Each of the three rides has its own website, accessible through ofhbikeride.com (or visit our website, outreachforhope.org and click on "2019 Bike Ride.")

- [Want to ride, alone or with a companion?](#) Visit the website and register as an Individual Rider.
- [Want to ride with your family \(three or more riders\)?](#) Visit the website and register as a Family Leader.
- [Want to volunteer?](#) Visit the website and register as a Volunteer (no fee.)

Don't forget, as you register, to create a fundraising page. This is a fundraising event and EVERY rider's and volunteer's help is needed. Your friends, family and fellow church members would love to support a good cause in your name!

[Want to help fundraise without biking or volunteering?](#) Out of town on September 7? Visit the website and volunteer as a Virtual Rider (no fee.) Create your fundraising page and get started!

[Want to help publicize this event at your congregation?](#) Contact phil@outreachforhope.org for more information.

All proceeds fundraised for the Family Bike Ride are used to fund grants to the 20+ ministries serving low-income neighborhoods in Southeastern Wisconsin. Outreach for Hope thanks you for your support!

the Epistle

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
300 Carroll Street
Waukesha, WI 53186-4787

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Services: Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 8:30 & 10:00am

Holy Communion: Every week at all services

Pastors: Lindsay Jordan, Betty Baires

Church Office Phone: 262-542-2545

E-Mail: office@stlukeslutheran.org

Website: www.stlukeslutheran.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sllcawauk

Vacation Bible School Service Project

VBS Week: August 12-16, 2019

This year VBS has taken on Operation Kid to Kid! This mission is to help moms and babies in Zambia get the best beginnings possible. Malnutrition during the first 2 years can lead to irreversible issues that limit babies from reaching their full potential in life. BUT, it's preventable - and our VBS kids can help! Each \$10 donation through Operation Kid to Kid will provide supplemental nutrition and education to a mom and child for 2 years! WOW!

In addition, we will be helping local babies too! We will be collecting baby food to donate to the local food pantry, so that we can make sure the babies in Waukesha are getting the nutrition they need! Look for our VBS giving tree before, during, and shortly after VBS week. Here you will be able to leave all of your donations!

