

THE TOWER

St. Luke's Lutheran Church *Growing in Grace*

July 2020

Volume 13

ISSUE 7



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OUR MISSION

To worship, learn and grow together in the knowledge of God and His Word. We are then sent into the world to share God's love, teach His Word, and serve those in need.



We have gone outside to host services at 8:30 & 11:15 am and our GiG praise service will be at 10:00 am.

These services will be held outdoors and we ask that you bring your own chair.

If you want to come but want to remain in your car we will be broadcasting the service over the radio. Park in the row closest to the grass.

We are requiring masks if you will be out of your car and we will be observing social distancing measures. If you don't have one the comforters have graciously made and provided many masks that will be available.

The restrooms and building will not be available during this service.

Communion will be offered by individually packaged containers that you can pick up from a table or from an usher as you drive in

We ask that the first row of parking near the grassy area be reserved for those remaining in their cars

Offerings can be placed in any of the plates that will be positioned around the area.

We will have live music for the GiG, and vocalists for the traditional services. We will have no responsive liturgy at this time.

We look forward to seeing you!

** We are looking for ushers, helpers with set up and tear down, and so on. If you can help, please reach out to Erin in the office or talk to the pastors.**

Dear friends in Christ,

Where do I even begin? There are days I feel completely overwhelmed by the enormity of the issues facing our world. And other times I recognize that no matter how overwhelmed I am that God is not.

I have been encouraged by our in-person gatherings outside for worship. I dearly missed actually seeing you all and it does my heart good to be with you. For those services, though, we do need some extra/different help. There is help needed to set up and tear down the equipment as well as usher by welcoming and directing cars, helping people find the communion table, etc. If you would like more information on what we need please let me know. Also, if you like to sing and don't mind doing so acapella please let myself or Pastor Kari know for the traditional services. You will notice that Pastor Kari and I are not serving in worship together at this time. We are trying to minimize risk of both of us being ill at the same time by not being in the same places together. Therefore, while one of us is leading worship the other will be hosting a Zoom coffee hour time.

These last few weeks have had me quite busy with preparing for our unique Vacation Bible School this year. Because of the Covid social distancing regulations and for the safety of the children and families involved we are not holding our traditional VBS at the building. Instead, director Hannah Lietaert and I have been creating our own material. The theme of VBS this year is "Awesome God." It looks at all the ways that God is active and working in our lives and how God is stronger than any virus. I am so grateful for everyone who has stepped up to help so far! Please watch for a sign up so that we know who needs a book and materials.

Also, if you have a child in Kids Bible Adventure or Confirmation I have been posting videos for their use in our private Facebook group. If you are not on Facebook let me know and I will provide them in a different way.

I want to thank you all for continuing to be flexible and understanding as we further navigate these uncertain and unique times. This is hard and in tense times emotions can run high so I appreciate the extra measure of grace that you have been extending. A special thank you to our outgoing council members who served faithfully during this time of epidemic and to our incoming council for your willingness to witness to your faith community.

May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Jesus.

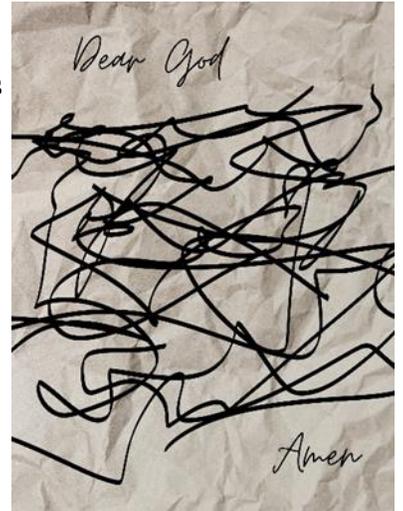
Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Rabe". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Siblings in Christ,

There is a picture that has gone around Facebook that is of a letter board—the kind that has moveable letters that can be placed on the sign to create a message that can be reordered and changed. In that image, there is a prayer that begins “Dear God,” and then all of the rest of the letters are just dumped onto the sign board and ends, “Amen.” I have come to love this image because it captures the deepest prayers of our hearts—the prayers that come in sighs too deep for words, the prayers that we start and stop and are just a jumble because we cannot get the words to form in any language known to humankind. I love this image because I know that even in the days when I am feeling overwhelmed, when it all feels too heavy, when I do not have the words to pray or do not know for what to pray, the Holy Spirit speaks in the language of our hearts and carries our prayers. I love this image because more often than not, I feel inept at articulating exactly what my heart longs to say. But what I know and trust is that even when the days feel heavy and I do not have the words, God hears and God knows, and God is able to bear the weight of the heartaches of the world.

Some days, my prayers have consisted of more sighs than articulated words, and jumbled, scribbled, half-formed thoughts than complete sentences. And as my own thoughts and the weight of the circumstances of the world at times catch my prayers along with my breath in the back of my throat, leaving me speechless or praying more as a list than in well-spoken poetry, I am grateful that I can trust in the Holy Spirit to form my prayers for me. I am grateful that God hears our prayers, no matter how beautiful or poetic or articulate they are—and I am grateful that God hears our prayers even when they are little more than a jumble punctuated by sighs.



I know that there is much about these weeks and months that is hard or disappointing or different. I am thankful that you have responded with grace and generosity as we strive to be compassionate and understanding that for the sake of all our people, we are continuing to err on the side of caution. I am grateful that we are working to find ways of still gathering, as safely as we can, which, given what we know at this time, the safest way to worship together is to be outdoors. I know these times are fraught with high emotions and tensions, but I appreciate your extension of grace as we gather in the Burke Garden to hear the Word, pray, and receive communion.

I have two main projects that I am now turning my attentions to. The first is to wrap up my own study and preparations to get the online storytelling forum up and running so that we can learn together how to be more effective at telling our stories. I also noted that there was positive response to a simple Facebook poll asking if people would be interested if I were to work on posting some of the music videos that I had created for our Online Traditional Zoom services, so that you could sing along with the hymns at home in these months when we will not be able to sing together. Keep on the lookout as I work on these and figure out the best way to make them accessible to you.

I am grateful for you, St. Luke’s, and I will continue to hold you in prayer as we make our way through this weird, jumbled time in our world.

In Christ,

Pastor Kari

St. Luke's Vacation Bible School 2020



Materials will be provided in book format along with necessary supplies.

Online components will be available but are not needed to participate

Special thanks to Amanda Wisniewski for designing the artwork!

THANK YOU TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS:



President Paul Manor; Vice President Courtney Kakuska Barthle; Treasurer Laurie Althaus, Facility Fund Treasurer Tom Peterson, Fellowship Leah Hafemeister, Technology Daniel Chase, Worship Life Judy Bock, Property Denzil Bell.

Also a big thank you to our outgoing members for their hard work: Andy Nieman, Mark Durivage, Paul Thomas, Doug Becker, and Christy Weiss

.ST. LUKE’S COUNCIL

VICE PRESIDENT — COURTNEY BARTHLE

Courtney Barthle is the new Vice-President of the St. Luke's Parish Council. Married to Rob for 15 years, she is mom to Camden (12), Zachary (11), Ryan (9), and Harper (8) and daughter to St. Luke's parishioners Connie and Chuck Kakuska. In her day job, she is Senior Director of Social Policy at ICF, a DC-based international consulting firm. Her work focuses on leading teams responsible for improving systems that support vulnerable populations.



**ST. LUKE’S COUNCIL
TREASURER — LAURIE ALTHAUS**

I was raised in Bedford and graduated from Bedford Senior High School. I was a nurse at The Toledo Hospital for 20 years, I quit to be a stay at home Mom, the best job I've ever had! I have been married to Doug for 32 years and we have 3 beautiful children and 3 beautiful granddaughters. After leaving the hospital I went right into volunteering. I served many years on St. Luke's Church Council in many capacities. I served on the Bedford PTA Board at Smith Road Elementary, Bedford Jr. High, Bedford High School and Bedford PTA Council.



I am currently serving on 5 Boards: St. Luke's, The K9 Defender Fund, Bedford Township Lions, Bedford Alumni Association and Miss Washtenaw County. I feel like I am very blessed and my way of giving back is through my Volunteering.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND YOUR PRAYER MINISTRY EMAILS.

Erin is actively sending them out daily as they come in. Please send them to Erin.beard@stlukeschurch.net

CHURCH DOORS HAVE BEEN RE-KEYED.

Please call Erin in the office to make an appointment if you need anything from the building, picking up materials or have questions

WELCA RETREAT CANCELLED FOR 2020

It is with sad hearts that we have to announce the St. Luke's WELCA Retreat this year at Camp Michindoh for 2020 will be cancelled. It is with the safety of our women and everyone involved that we have come to this decision.

With that in mind, we are looking ahead to 2021.

If you would like to opt to have your deposit deferred to next year, we are happy to do that. Linda Olirsch is able to refund your deposit for this year if you request it.

We are sad that we cannot meet like we have for the last 40 or more years but look forward to when we can again!



NEW DIRECTORIES ARE COMING!

Thanks to Mary Jean Bell, Judy Schreiber, they have been working diligently to update our contact information for our members of the Congregation. As soon as the directories are available, we will let you all know. A lot of our phone numbers and addresses for those we break bread with have changed. Look for that soon!



THANK YOU

Dear St. Luke's,

The family of Jacob Myers, Sr. Are so thankful fo the women of the church who so graciously provided food, their time, and friendship during a very difficult time for all of us. You and your church are such a blessing and it was a big part of Jake's life.

We will never forget your kindness.

Much appreciated — The Myers Family



THANK YOU!

Our heartfelt gratitude for those who reached out to us during Dad Bell's declining health.

Your calls, prayers, thoughts and cards meant so much to us.

Our family gathering had to be only ten family members. It was not the tribute we wanted to give him. As a World War II veteran and public service employee in fire and police, we missed those honors. We were grateful for the presentation of the America flag.

Deepest thanks to Pastor Robyn for her service. He loved to joke with her when she visited and served communion

John E. Bell, Sr. was 96 years old. He was married to Ila for 72 years.



Thank You!

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation to Paul Thomas for all of the guidance he has given me over the years and taking on new responsibilities in the office and the faith in me that I could do it well.

He has been an unbelievable mentor, a guide to work that is honest, good and true.

Thank you Paul for the time you took out of your busy schedule to teach, advise and coach me in the new roles I took on and instilling confidence that it was working!

He has been a wealth of information, knowledge, and if I could emulate his organizational skills I totally would!

Thank You for your leadership in doing God's Work!

Sincerely— Erin Beard, St. Luke's Office Administrator



THANK YOU!

St. Luke's Endowment Committee,

Thank you for your continued support. So far we have distributed 290 baskets to families in need. We cannot wait to start serving hot meals on Saturday mornings. We have been blessed to be able to help those in need. Thank you for your support in this time.

-God Bless You All — Fellowship Matters

THANK YOU!

Dear Endowment Fund Committee,

On behalf of the Bedford heart Heroes, I'd like to express our sincere gratitude for approving our grant request. Your funds will allow us to replace three Automated External Defibrillators (AED). We will place these new units at Bedford High School, Bedford Junior High School and the Bedford Senior Citizens Center. Each of their units were at least 15 years old. This will provide our largest and most vulnerable populations with the newest and most technologically updated defibrillators. We are grateful for your help in making Bedford a more heart safe community.

Thank you for sharing God's blessings with us and our community in this way. The Bedford Community is better because of all of you and your service.

With Sincere Appreciation and Thanks,

Roxann Satkowski — Co Chairperson, Bedford Heart Heroes Committee

THANK YOU!

Dear St. Luke's Endowment Committee:

The Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation gratefully acknowledges receiving a grant from the Endowment Committee in the amount of \$3,931.00 designated for a sensory room at the Maumee Youth Center in Liberty Center for use by the Genacross Lutheran Services programs for Family and Youth, received on May 4th, 2020.

Your gift is deeply appreciated and enables Genacross Lutheran Services to continue providing quality Christian care to those in need in the community.

May God Continue to bless you as we, in partnership together, remain "inspired by the Christian Faith and embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life's journey" (Mission Statement).

Sincerely— Kathleen B Lemmerbrock—Exec Director
Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation

Carol Halter wants to extend a great big Thank You for all of the Get Well Cards that were sent from the Shepherding Committee, to Mary Jean Bell, Judy Schreiber for their hard work on the directories and their delivery, to Sharon Merickel, Phyllis Snyder, Shawn Emerson, and Dory Noble. Also thanks to Erin for delivering the paper information for the worship and the agenda for the congregation meeting!

Thanks for all that you do!



July Birthdays

July 1st

Will Joesten, Jim Joesten

July 2nd

Alyssa Maldonado, Aubrey Kurek,
Nathan Thomas, Margaret Sutherland

July 3rd

Katie Cornprobst, Austin Ingall,
Kenneth Smith, Jr.

July 4th

The United States!

July 5th

Bobby Schoch

July 6th

Roy Gephart

July 7th

George Thompson

July 8th

Billy Strable

July 9th

Joyce Schoch

July 10th

Kris Crammond, Ethan Lingle,
Mary Jean Bell

July 11th

Dale Manore

July 12th

July 13th

Cheri Delp

July 14th

Katie Truscinski , Maura Peterson,
Julian Biansco

July 15th

Frank Noble

July 16th

Beth Matthews,



July Birthdays continued...

July 17th

Padget Noble, Fred Georgeson

July 18th

Darlene Cook, Miranda Schoch,
Fynlee Ann Smith

July 19th

Jordan Schoch

July 22nd

Jenna Strable, Garrett Johnson,
Doriz Lezon, Sophia Kubera

July 23rd

Russell Yockey

July 24th

Richard Schoch, Earl Cornprobst,

July 25th

John Leichty, Nathaniel Whitenburg

July 26th

Ernest Frye

July 27th

Tara Althaus,

July 28th

Doris Przeslawski

July 30th

Peter Lehr, Lily Fair

July 31st

Olivia Currie, Kendall Currie



Altar Flower Deliveries are still available from Shinkles. Please let Erin know in the office if you are signed up for altar flowers and would like them delivered to your home address.

July Anniversaries

July 2nd

Paul & Dep Manor

July 9th

Melissa & Tony Kurek

July 21st

Ernest & Barbara Frye

July 28th

Carl & Michelle Hallstrom



Bedford Hills Golf Club and The Schreiber Family present

**The Chad Schreiber
Benefit Scramble**

Bedford Hills Golf Club
Sunday, July 12, 2020
Tee Time 1:30pm Dinner Served After

4 Person Scramble \$340 per team
Optional Skins Pot \$20 per team

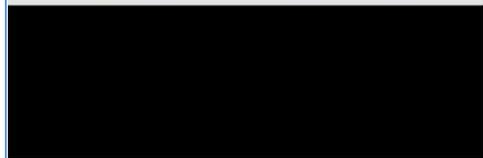
Closest to the Pin Betting Holes 50/50 Raffle
Raffle/Auction Items Men's Long Drive
Optional Skins Pot Women's Long Drive

Dinner Includes: BBQ Pulled Pork Sliders, Beef Brisket, Baked Macaroni and Cheese, Sweet Cornbread Bake, Potato Salad, Lemonade, Iced Tea, and Soft Drinks

All proceeds benefit Chad Schreiber to help defray medical costs for his recent Quadruple Bypass and 30 day stay at The Cleveland Clinic.

Come enjoy a day of food and fun and support a great local family!

Contact Clint Schreiber for Details (419) 764-9609



INSECT BITES

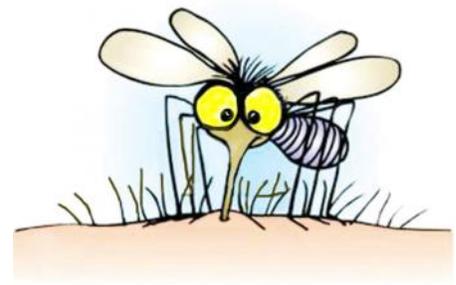
As we are enjoying being outside in the summer, we must be aware of insects that can bite you, usually on areas of the body not covered. Bees, mosquitos, spiders, fire ants, wasps, chiggers, mites, and ticks are among the most common culprits. Venom is deposited through the insect's mouth or stinger. At the site there may be red bumps, rash, itchy blotches, blisters, hives, swelling, pain and itching. The common first aid recommended is to wash the area with soap and water, make sure the stinger is out, then apply an ice pack to the area. Applying over the counter soothing lotions, pain relievers, and antihistamines are also suggested. Raising the affected area on a swollen extremity helps to reduce the swelling.

There are some individuals who have life threatening reactions to insect bites. They may have chills, fever, red streaks at the site of the bite, itching, facial swelling, dizziness, confusion, and shortness of breath. Some people carry an EpiPen because of previous reactions, needing to be used in a life-threatening situation and an immediate 911 call.

There are a couple of dangerous spiders found in Michigan. The Brown Recluse spider found around rotting wood and the Black Widow spider can cause severe life-threatening responses. Call your Dr. immediately if you feel one of these spiders may have bit you. It may help if you would look up pictures of them if you think they may be in your area. Mosquitos can cause West Nile Virus, and ticks can cause Lyme Disease, but most insects are harmless in this area.

Wear protective clothing if you are in an area with a lot of insects. Using insect repellents is also very helpful in preventing these annoying insect bites.

Stay safe the rest of the summer. God's blessings always, Judy Diener R.N.





St. Luke's Lutheran Church
1690 Sterns Road
Temperance, MI 48182

Robyn Kistemaker, Pastor
robyn.kistemaker@stlukeschurch.net

Kari Rinas, Pastor
Kari.rinas@stlukeschurch.net

***Or Email* pastor@stlukeschurch.net**
www.stlukeschurch.net
office@stlukeschurch.net

Sunday Worship Schedule

OUTDOOR WORSHIP!

8:30 am — Traditional Service

10:00 am — GiG Praise Service

11:15 am — Traditional Worship

Please bring a chair and your mask and join us for worship outside until we phase into indoor worship.

Please be safe!

