

# 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 am and 4:00 pm 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.

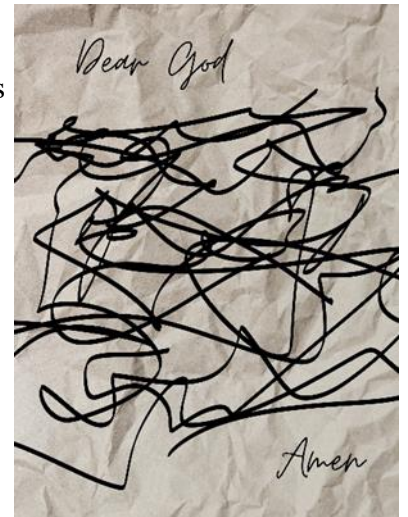
Blessings,

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](mailto: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 Olirch 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



**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

**4:00 pm** — Traditional Worship

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

Please be safe!

