

THE TOWER

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

August 2020

Volume 13

ISSUE 8



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.

REOPENING TEAM GUIDELINES IN THE MAIL

Our Re-opening committee has been doing extensive work to bring our worship back inside God's House.

Recently we sent out our guidelines which detail steps we have taken and what we are doing to prepare for "In-House" worship. With that, there have been a few unfortunate circumstances that have delayed our ability to come back inside.

Despite that, we are still working our way to that goal.

Please refer to the guidelines that were sent. They are also available to view through our email chain.

If you did not receive a copy of our guidelines and would like one sent to you, or if you have questions, please reach out to Erin in the office. She will be happy to get one to you.

Peace be with you. We look forward to worshipping in God's house soon.



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PASTOR ROBYN'S VACATION:

Pastor Robyn will be on vacation August 10 – 17.



CHURCH DOORS HAVE BEEN RE-KEYED

Please call Erin in the office to make an appointment or call ahead if you are planning to stop by the building.

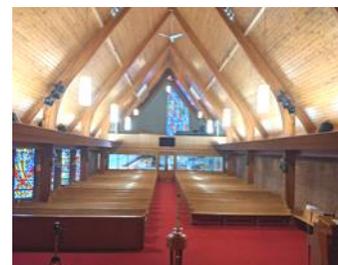


ERIN'S HOURS

Erin is available in the office Wednesday thru Friday 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. She works from home Monday and Tuesday 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please call ahead when headed to the building so we know you are coming or if it is safe to enter.

MOLD REMOVAL IN FACILITY

We appreciate all of your patience as we managed and corrected some issues within the Church concerning mold in the sanctuary, Leppien Rooms, pre-school and Sunday school rooms. The facility was thoroughly and professionally cleaned and disinfected. Thank you!



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is my hope that this finds you well. I am struggling as I write this article to wrap my head around all the ways the world has changed in such a short time. Our reopening team has been working hard to make a plan for us to safely re-enter our building for worship. Unfortunately it seems as though that was not in the cards for us right now as first mold and then a new executive order due to the increasing number of cases of Covid. Please know that as we plan we are doing so in a way to try to be faithful as well as considering the safety of our members. At this time we are asking that our members follow the directives of the governor of their state in regards to worship attendance. Should Governor DeWine or Governor Whitmer move to a shelter in place order we ask that you honor that and not attempt to attend worship. Should Governor Whitmer move us back to Phase 3 we will return to Zoom only worship services.

Normally in this article I'd be talking about all the things coming up as we get ready to begin the programmatic year but this time that won't happen until at least next month as we try to figure out what this will look like for Confirmation, First Communion, Bible Sunday and Kids Bible Adventure. Yet, even though things will have to be different I am still hopeful for what will be in store. I am so pleased with how our VBS program came together this year. It was very different and it took many people working together to create our own program but we did it and the final product was beautiful. The kits are being distributed Sunday, August 2 (between 8:30 and 12:15) and Monday, August 3 (between 4 and 7 pm). I am convinced that even though our program will not be happening in person in the building the story of God's love will still reach those youth who participate! Just because we had to change our presentation doesn't mean that our shared story of salvation changes. Therefore, I am convinced that we will be able to come up with unique, innovative ways to hold our programming without being able to gather in person.

For when we are able to worship in the building it is critical that we have people willing to serve as ushers for these indoor services or else we will have to remain outdoors. We will have a training date set for anyone interested. What we will need ushers to do: take names for tracing purposes; direct people to hand sanitizers and masks; take temperatures using a no touch thermometer; and direct people as to how to enter and exit the worship space safely. If you would like to serve in this way or would like to know more please let myself, Pastor Kari or Erin Beard know.

We are also looking for ways to improve our online worship experience. It would be helpful if you could share with us whether or not you participate in either Facebook Live services or our Zoom services. If you do not, if you would share with us if there is something we are not doing that would help you join in the services that would help our planning.

And please, if you need pastoral care, do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Kari or myself. Though we may not be in the building as often we are still ready to walk with you in your needs.

Blessings,



St Luke's Family,

These months have been long and filled with anxiety and tension, but I continue to be grateful for your faithfulness and commitment to remaining the Body of Christ in the world even as we explore what that means in different ways while we love our neighbors and do our part to keep others safe and healthy. I've been thinking this week about the ways in which God can show up in surprising ways. As I write this, I'm looking at spending the next few days with my family in an abundance of caution, isolating at home while my daughter recovers from some virus that we can't identify. She's had a fever for a few days now, and after having her to the doctor, with as much certainty as we can muster in today's circumstances, we're fairly sure this is just a normal childhood virus. But, we were encouraged to monitor her and ourselves over the next few days while her body fights whatever "icky-ness" is making her sick, and to do our best to avoid anyone who might be vulnerable or high-risk, *just in case*.

As I breathed a sigh of relief that we likely don't need to be too concerned, though are being cautious, I couldn't help reflecting this afternoon on the ways in which God shows up in our lives, sometimes in small, sometimes nearly unnoticeable ways unless we're really looking closely. It's a small thing in the grand scheme of things, but at the writing of this, two days away from Sunday, I'm grateful that this just happened to be a week where we had already been planning for me to lead worship online, rather than in person while Pr Robyn would be leading outdoor services. When things have already been rapidly changing and shifting and moving, and we've had to plan and change our plans and plan again, this small coincidence in timing feels like God's hand saying, "It's ok. I've got this. You can take a little breath." It probably sounds a little silly from the outside, but in many ways, knowing that we don't have to change our plans is a relief.

As I've been sitting next to our Little Llama, as we call her, while she's taking another nap, I've been thinking about other times in my life when God has shown up in what feels like small, or only coincidental ways. There have been lots of moments in my life when something happens—sometimes Big Things, but usually most often in small things—when God shows up. I'm not always aware of God showing up in those kinds of moments, but thinking back now, I can hear God's voice telling me to take that moment to breathe, to be still, to rest. Sometimes, what we most need from God, is the small little moments of grace. It reminds me of the meme that shows up on Facebook every so often. It says, "This is your gentle reminder that one time in the Bible, Elijah was like, 'God, I'm so mad! I want to die!' so God said, 'Here's some food. Why don't you have a nap?' So Elijah slept, ate, and decided things weren't so bad. Never underestimate the spiritual power of a nap and a snack."

Naps and snacks. Breathers. A moment of rest and reprieve. None of these are Big Things. We've all got enough Big Things to deal with and tackle these days. It's easier to see God show up in the Big Things but sometimes we miss all the small ways God shows up in our lives—a phone call to remind us that we're loved, a bird song on a rainy day to remind us of God's presence, a moment of quiet in the middle of a busy and overwhelming day, a coincidence in timing to take a breath, a snack to nourish our bodies to continue our day's work. Small things. Yet, God meets us and is with us, both in the Big Things and the small. Sometimes, we just need a little reminder.

Church, I hope that you continue to look for the ways in which God shows up in your lives, especially in the small ways that God comes into your life. Look for those good moments, or the moments of rest, moments that point to hope. Even when our days are easy, our lives are filled with "God moments" big and small. I encourage you to open your hearts to be more aware of God's work in those moments and give thanks for God's little reminders of grace.

In Christ,

Pastor Kari

STORYTELLING ONLINE FORUM

(Postponed)

Storytelling Online Forum—In conversation with Council, I have decided to postpone this online class for now while we are still navigating the necessary changes to our worship and worship practices. I continue preparations and planning, so that we might begin in the fall. Be on the lookout for some sample videos and other materials to get a better idea of what we will be doing. I hope you plan to take part! I think this will be a lot of fun! And in the meantime, I encourage you to look up some famous storytellers like Margot Leitman or David Sedaris or listen to storytelling programs like the Moth Radio Hour to get a glimpse into what storytelling can look like!

~ Pastor Kari

STAYING CONNECTED!

Let office know:

- Change of address
- Change of phone
- Change of name
- Additions to family



You may email Erin at erin.beard@stlukeschurch.net
 Call the office 734-847-8275

OUTDOOR WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

We are needing volunteers for volunteers for set up, ushers, and tear down for Sundays. Erin is taking names of those who would be available to help in this and if what worship you would be willing to help in. Please give her a call at the office or email her at erin.beard@stlukeschurch.net to let her know when you would be available.



SHINKLE'S AND ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY

Altar flower delivery is still available for those who would like the flowers they had put on the flower dedication calendar. If you would like your flowers delivered, please let Erin know and she will arrange it with the flower shop.



STOMACH ULCERS

The acids in your stomach can irritate the inside lining of your stomach, causing an open sore called an ulcer. This can also occur in the upper colon, called your duodenum. Ulcers are caused by a type of bacteria called *Helicobacter Pylori* causing an infection. Stress and spicy foods do not cause ulcers but can make symptoms worse. Long term use of aspirin or anti-inflammatory non-steroidal medications such as Motrin and Advil, can be a risk in developing an ulcer.

Three fourths of people do not have symptoms. The most common symptom is a burning pain or heartburn in the stomach area, especially when the stomach is empty. Other symptoms are a feeling of fullness and bloating. People with ulcers can have a fatty food intolerance, appetite changes and weight loss, shortness of breath, and the most severe is vomiting blood and black stools.

If you have any of the above symptoms go to the doctor, and he will decide from your symptoms if further testing needs to be done. The most common test is an endoscopy, which is a hollow tube with a light on the end the Dr. inserts down into your stomach to directly examine the stomach lining. A barium swallow is often ordered, when you swallow a white liquid which will reveal the ulcer on X-Ray.

Treatment for an ulcer is rather simple. Antibiotics are given for a couple weeks, along with antacid medications which reduces stomach acids and protects the stomach lining. Surgery is rare now since these medications are so effective. While being treated, avoid alcohol and smoking, eat a healthy diet including yogurt and probiotics, and avoid stress which is always a healthy lifestyle.

Be safe the rest of the summer.

Blessings, Judy Diener R.N.



GIVING ONLINE AND THROUGH THE MAIL

We are daily retrieving mail coming to the office. If you prefer to give through the mail, your envelopes are mail-able. If you would like to give online through your bank or through online giving like tithe.ly, we have resources to help you get set up for that.



ST. LUKE'S VBS!

Hannah Lietaert and I will still be passing out VBS kits on Sunday from 8:30 - 12:00. You can pull up under the overhang and we will bring it out to your car. Thanks!

CONFIRMATION MEETING

PARENTS AND STUDENTS

On Wednesday, August 19, at 7:00 pm pastor Robyn will be hosting a Zoom meeting regarding confirmation. If you have a student currently involved or a student that is entering 7th grade that would like to be involved please plan to attend. The Meeting ID: 958 8299 0119 and Passcode: 510852.



STUDENTS IN 3rd, 5th, 7th AND 9-12th GRADES:

Pastor Robyn is looking to make sure she has complete lists. Please let her know if you have a student entering into any of these grades in the fall.



SOCIAL CONCERNS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

School Supplies Collection – The Social Concerns Ministry will begin collecting school supplies on Sunday, July 26. While we have always collected school supplies at this time of year to help the Salvation Army provide backpacks filled with supplies for students who need them, this year we will be doing something a little different.

We have 14 teachers who are members of our congregation or whose names have been submitted to us by congregation members and either teach in Bedford or the nearby communities. Every year, these teachers provide their students with supplies that are not furnished by the schools but paid for by the teachers out of their own pockets. We would like to provide these teachers with a generous supply of items since the students will not be able to share the supplies due to the Coronavirus outbreak and more of the items will be needed. The supplies are listed below.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Clorox Wipes | Hand Sanitizer | Hand Soap |
| Washable/Disposable Masks | Crayola Markers/Thick & Thin | Glue Sticks/Glue Bottles |
| “Ticonderoga” Pencils #3 | Pink Erasers | Lysol Spray |
| Kleenex Boxes | Pencil Boxes | Small Boxes of Crayons |
| Scissors/Small Safety | | |

Paper is usually provided by the schools.

We will be collecting these items from July 26 through August 30.

You can either call the office during the week to make an appointment when someone will be in the office to accept your donation or bring your donations to Sunday worship. A box will be provided near the check in table for your donations. Our teachers rarely get the recognition they deserve, and this is one way of saying “thank you” for all you do.

Love is patient. Love is kind.

We most often think of the Love Chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, as being directed to a bride and groom. But when Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians, he was actually writing to a troubled church during troubled times. As Paul paints his picture of what agape love is, he consciously or unconsciously draws us a portrait of a person—Jesus himself. He is the living embodiment of this outgoing, long-suffering, self-giving, self-effacing love.

The Love Chapter is a guiding point of this most important characteristic that God wants us to learn and practice. Therefore, it was this scripture that your WELCA Retreat committees prayed on while determining the course to take with Retreat 2020. After prayerful discernment and careful consideration regarding the health and safety of our Sisters in Christ, we have made the difficult decision to cancel WELCA Retreat 2020. It is the kindest and most patient act we can do in agape love for our Sisters in Christ.

We are pleased to announce that we have secured dates for Retreat 2021 and that your 2020 Chairs have agreed to stay on for 2021. Please save September 10 - 12, 2021 in your calendar.

If you made a deposit for this year's retreat, you have two options. You may apply your deposit to Retreat 2021 or you may request a refund. (*If needing a refund, please let Linda know soon so she can issue one to you.*) Please contact Linda Olrich directly with how you would like to handle your deposit, 419.350.0336.

Though we will not be meeting in person at Camp Michindoh, please look for information to follow on a Sisters in Christ Devotional Series that we will hold virtually this fall to keep us connected in learning, prayer, and fellowship.

Finally, we do not want this year to pass without sharing in the benevolence that we have traditionally provided to our church and community. The Retreat and Bible Study Chairs are pleased to announce that this year we will make a donation to the general operations of St. Luke's Church. The church has remained steadfast in providing care and worship during these unprecedented times at the peril of sustained giving and so we joyfully support the ministry of St. Luke's Church.

Be safe, be well.

In patient and kind agape love, Your Retreat and Bible Study Chairs

Marcia Folger, Linda Olrich, Gloria Heigel, Julie Sanderson, Abby Holmblad, Sue Neiman

Birthdays

August 1

Joshua Ondrus, Debra Manor, Megan Leonard

August 2nd

Lynn Warren, Joyce Begg,

August 4th

Kyle Hudgin, Donna Lennex

August 5th

Alyssa Clise, Trent Sloan, Ann Myer

August 6

Carol Hallstrom, John Bourn

August 7

Barbara Frye

August 10

Sophie Ressler, Leslie Lehberger, Courtney Barthle, Celest Hansen, Korynn Lehberger, Scott Thompson

August 11

Becky Arndt



August 12

Linda Hubaker,

August 15

Jacob Ondrus, Lynne Henzler

August 16

Seth Beard, Paige Zilke

August 17

Blake Theodorou

August 18

Jake Giesige

August 20

Jo Ann Thompson, Nathan Beard, David Ziemke, Judy Sengstock, Jessica Sloan,

August 21

Beverly Johnson, Don Yockey, James Shuherk, Cole Crouch, Angie Yockey,

Birthdays Continued

August 22

Sally Georgeson, Nicholas Lennex, Erin Beard, Abbie Crammond

August 23

Alaina Lowe, Mahjida Steffin, Jessica Zilke, Drew Vogel, Larry Przeslawski

August 24

Kim Giesige

August 25

Jacob Yeager, Ash Williams

August 26

Amelia Majerski,

August 27

Sophia Knapp

August 28

Melissa Crammond,

August 29

Leah Hafemeister, Judy Gephart,

August 30

Jeff Weiss

August 31

Scott Heiden, Michael Greeley, Ruth Thompson, Laura Van Camp, Dorisse Benz

August Baptisms

Dallas Duslak, Eloise Cress, Emmett Clark



THANK YOU!

Dear St. Luke's Endowment Committee,

I am both honored and humbled to be the recipient of the 2020 St. Luke's Scholarship. As a child, the foundation of my faith began at St. Luke's. As I begin my career at The Ohio State University, it brings me such gratitude to know that the church is supporting me not only spiritually, but financially as well. I will do my best to make St Luke's proud. My goal is to pay it forward someday to another college senior.

In Christ,

Logan Theodorou



Anniversaries

August 15th

Ryan & Pamela Bristol

August 16th

Denzil & Mary Jean Bell

August 17th

Myrl & Glenda Galdeen

August 18th

Richard & Carol Schoch

August 20th

Jerry & Sharon Merickel

August 21st

Andy & Sue Nieman

August 23rd

Ron & Kathleen Ressler

August 24th

James & Chris Shuherk





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

Phone 734.847.8275

Secretary Office Hours: Mon & Tues (*from home*) 10:00-3:00
Weds thru Friday (*in office*) 10:00-3:00 **email** erin.beard@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!

