

Discipleship



Inhabit the Story of God

As the seasons transition from Summer to Fall, and then to Winter, so also does the Church move from season to season. Pentecost/Trinity season will soon give way to Adventide and on to Christmastide.

It is tempting to hasten the coming of a particular season, especially because it might mark, and be filled with, special celebrations and festivities. But, we must caution against such urges for fear of missing out on precious opportunities to witness how Christ speaks to us within each and every day of those seasons. Hence, my encouragement to "inhabit the story of God" is an encouragement to inhabit the days in the Church Year.

To do so, we must take time to reflect on what it means to be disciples of Christ--that is, followers of Christ--and more specifically what it means to be baptized into Christ.

What would it be like to literally follow Jesus, to place our feet into His footprints and walk His life--from His birth to His crucifixion to His ascension? Well, it certainly isn't possible, literally speaking. But, with the Church Year (for it follows chronologically the life of Jesus and the works of His Church), it is very much possible!

St. Peter tells us so: *"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps"* (1 Peter 2:21).

St. Paul writes to the Christians in Colossae: *"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him"* (Colossians 2:6).

And, St. John writes: *"By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked"* (1 John 2:6).

St. Paul writes this in his letter to the Galatians: *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me"* (Galatians 2:20).

Each writer recognizes the significance of following in the steps of Jesus whereby each moment of Christ's life offers deeper meaning to the ordinary of our every day.

Do not hasten through such moments like: the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (Sept. 29), the Commemorations of St. Luke (Oct. 18), or St. James (Oct. 23), the Feast of All Saints (Nov. 1), the appropriate days of Adventide (Dec 01-23), or even the days following the Nativity of Our Lord (Dec. 25), such as the Commemoration of The Holy Innocents (Dec. 28) or Epiphany (Jan. 06).

Christ speaks to our lives, yes, even in the days like the Commemoration of St. Thomas the Apostle (Dec. 21). To rush past these days, especially as they fall near the high church season of Christmastide, is to miss out on new and opportune ways Christ inhabits our lives.

So, pause and reflect on the cross of Christ, lest it be emptied of its power (1 Cor. 1:17) in our everyday life. God's blessings to you and your family in the coming seasons as you inhabit the Church Year, which is the story of God.

ALL SAINTS' DAY
DAYLIGHT-SAVINGS TIME ENDS
VETERANS DAY
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
THANKSGIVING EVE

ADVENT SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE EVE
CHRISTMAS EVE
CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, November 1st
Sunday, November 3rd
Monday, November 11th
Sunday, November 24th
Wednesday, November 27th

Wednesday, December 4th
Wednesday, December 11th
Wednesday, December 18th

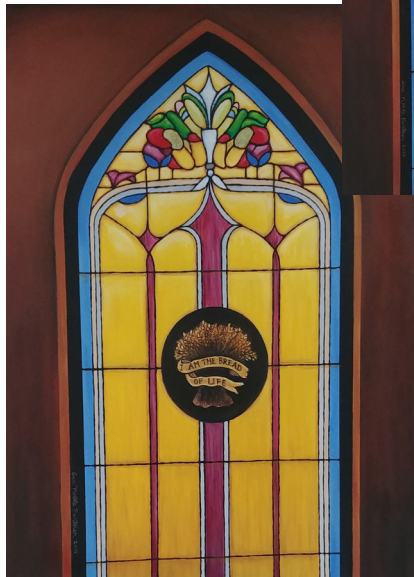
Monday, December 23rd
Tuesday, December 24th
Wednesday, December 25th



AROUND THE HALLS



These beautiful paintings were created by our Art Teacher, Sue Burtner. They are replicas of some of the sanctuary stained glass windows and hang in the hallway by the entrance to the church offices.



Funeral Dinner Mission

The Funeral Dinner Ministry seeks to serve those in the midst of their grief in a tangible way. We prepare, serve, and clean-up a luncheon or dinner for the family. We have about 30 volunteers who help in a variety of ways. Your service can be as simple as donating a 8 x 11 inch side dish, or as involved as you would like to be. We usually serve anywhere from 25 to 100 people. We generally have a 2-3 day notice before the funeral. This mission has an incredible impact on the grieving family and we would welcome you to join us in this outreach. If you have any questions, you can reach Nancy Witsenski or Gwenn Neubert through the church office at 724-352-2777.



COMBINED WORSHIP
August 25th

Lunch in the Activity Center.

Who won the Tug-of-War contest with the strongest pastor at St. Luke?



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



St. Luke members enjoyed conversation and fellowship twice a month on Saturday evenings over the summer. After our regular worship service, congregants were invited to drink coffee, lemonade and have some snacks. We were trying to re-establish the Biblical tenet found in Romans 12:5 ESV, “so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” It was a joy to see our members linger after the service and invest in each other’s lives. We are thankful to have volunteers who were willing to give of their time to make this happen. Ray and Peg DeCecco chaired this ministry and they felt that it was important for members to get together and become more acquainted with each other, to help each other, pray for each other, and get to know what is going on in the lives of others. Some people stayed for a short time and others stayed for as long as an hour. This was a great opportunity for St. Luke Cabot and St. Luke Butler members to become more unified as one church body.



VBS
JULY 22 -26



134 STUDENTS +



65 VOLUNTEERS =



1 AMAZING WEEK



SERVANT DAY / HOUSE BUILD

September 21st, 2019

- 100 Fleece Stocking Hats
- 105 Newborn Kits
- 90 Walls Framed
- Dress-A-Girl Around the World
- 42 Fleece Blankets
- 150 Bibles marked with verses
- 535 Packed Dry Soup Mix Kits
- Knitted/Crocheted Blankets
- Kid's Depot
- 300 Greeting Cards for the Military



Click on the link below to listen to the interview between Tracey Morgan and Pastor Gandy and Dino Capistrani from Concordia Visiting Nurses.
<https://wiser680.com/concordia-visiting-nurses-88/>

Click on the link below to watch the video of Servant Day/House Build 2019
<https://youtu.be/W9ouDeRFcxE>



OFFICIAL ACTS: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2019

BIRTHS:	Aria Lynn Rabick Violet Grace Skrip Owen Ryan Gibson	July 1, 2019 August 20, 2019 August 20, 2019
BAPTISMS:	Angelo Jacob Martinez Barrett Gear Lauer Pippa Monroe Mackowski Bentley Demek Aria Lynn Rabick Nicholas Wible	July 14, 2019 July 20, 2019 August 4, 2019 August 11, 2019 August 18, 2019 September 8, 2019
MARRIAGES:	Theresa Collier & Chet Allen Jessica Velez & Colton Worthington Cheryl Minton & Troy McClain	July 20, 2019 August 3, 2019 August 17, 2019
NEW MEMBERS:	Theresa Collier Allen Michelle Corll Lois Curfman Renee Curfman Michael Fabian Bryan Kelly Troy McClain Cheryl Minton Luke and Micayla Tinch Carmen Van Patten Dale and Emly Wible Daniel and Thelissa Wible Albert Carter	July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019
MEMBERS BY TRANSFER:	Joan Newman Karen Eurich Sandra Stoner Julie Stoner Stanley and Maria Mills Edward and Carol Johnson Pearlie and Floyd Lauer Howard McCandless Thomas McMahon Richard and Brenda Newman Harold and Carla Pflueger Mary Simmons Robert Stark Margaret and David Goldinger Elaine Needham Andrew Lang Virginia Neubert Keith F. Stivason Eric Miner Deanna Miner Brett Miner Ben Miner and Gloria Linda Hixenbaugh Kevin Turner	July 21, 2019 July 21, 2019
DEATHS:	Joshua M. Smolen Doris D. Dudzinski Bernice Louise Hook James W. Rankin, Jr. Thomas David Neubert Jeanne Marjorie Hauer Olga M. Johns	May 25, 2019* June 30, 2019* July 16, 2019 August 5, 2019 August 19, 2019 August 22, 2019 September 20, 2019

*Our apologies for inadvertently leaving off of the last newsletter.

ST. LUKE SCHOOL FALL EVENTS

2019 - 2020 School Calendar

Aug. 28	First Day of School
Sept. 2	Labor Day
Oct. 11 & 14	Teacher In-Service
Oct. 30	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Nov. 8	Funny Fundraiser
Nov. 28 - 30	Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 2	Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 23 - 31	Christmas Vacation
Jan. 1, 2020	Christmas Vacation
Jan. 20	Teacher In-Service Day
Jan. 26 - Feb. 1	Lutheran Schools Week
Feb. 14 & 17	Presidents' Days
Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday
March 31	Parent-Teacher Conferences
April 2	Parent-Teacher Conferences
April 10	Good Friday
April 13-17	Easter Vacation
May 5 -7	7th & 8th Grade Trip
May 25	Memorial Day
May 11 - 15	Servant Week
June 5	Last Day of School



First Day of School

August 28th



Sparkling eyes and shiny shoes for the first day of school.



2019 - 2020 St. Luke Staff & Students

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV

" Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

GETTING TO KNOW OUR TEACHERS



Kelly Carney
Principal

The theme for the 2019-2020 school year is: "JOYFUL ALWAYS!" Are you JOYFUL ALWAYS? Sure, there are times we experience great joy. However, there are many other times that we struggle with life's trials. As Christians, we can be JOYFUL ALWAYS because of God's unconditional love. We can be JOYFUL ALWAYS because God hears our prayers. We can be JOYFUL ALWAYS because of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. We can be JOYFUL ALWAYS because of the promise of life eternal. We can be JOYFUL ALWAYS because in Christ there is hope in all of life's circumstances. Christ alone is our JOY!

At St. Luke, it is our mission to provide a truly higher education, in Christ, for Heart, Mind, Body and Spirit. It is also our privilege to assist families in the Christian training of their children so that they may be JOYFUL ALWAYS in their life.

May you be Joyful Always in Christ!
Kelly Carney
Principal



Linda McCall

- Pre-K Teacher
- 27 years at St. Luke

Education:

- Indiana University of PA - BA in Early Childhood & Home Economics

Teaching Experience:

- Knoch High School - 3 years
- Evangel Heights - 3 years

Family:

- Married to Doug for 43 years
- Daughter - Stacy
- Son - Steven

Hobbies:

- Playing organ & piano in church
- Reading - I love a good book
- Spending time with 3 grandchildren - nothing is better than that!

Thoughts on St. Luke:

I am an alumni of St. Luke School as well as my mother and my children. Our family has been so blessed to have a Christian school to attend. I love my job here. I love the kids in my classes and the contact I have with the families. There are many opportunities to show God's love and care. I recommend our school to many people for the Christian education and also for our loving and caring staff.



Diane Beckstead

- Music Teacher
- 13 years at St. Luke

Education:

- Lebanon Valley College - B.S.
- College of St. Rose - M.S.

Teaching Experience:

- Public and private teaching in Wisconsin, New York & Pennsylvania

Family:

- Married to Jeff
- Son - Jacob (26 years old)
- Son - Nathaniel (22 years old)

Hobbies:

- Writing music
- Directing musicals for "Change," which produces children's musicals to benefit worthy causes

Thoughts on St. Luke

It can be difficult to teach so many different grades, but a joy to watch students grow from K through grade 8! I love to watch them become independent musicians and use their gifts from the Lord. As a teacher, I've been blessed with principals who allow me to be creative and independent as well.

WHO IS CARL BAUGHMAN?



CARL BAUGHMAN

Pastors Barry and Ben have invited me to work with the St. Luke congregation, assisting them in preparing couples for marriage as well as offering counseling services to individuals and couples going through difficult times. I thought you might be interested in knowing a little about me.

I was raised in south-central PA, attended Shippensburg University and then Bethany Theological Seminary in Chicago. Following seminary, I pastored a congregation in Dayton, OH, and during this time I felt called to pursue a specialized ministry in counseling. I received a second master's in counseling but after obtaining the degree, I felt I needed more training and completed a two-year residency in faith-based and marital counseling.

After the residency, I worked as a therapist in an outpatient mental health clinic in Indianapolis. By this time, my wife, Karen and I had two sons and we wanted them to grow up closer their grandparents, who lived in New Castle, PA. A position opened to direct a counseling center within the North Main St. Church of God in Butler, which enabled us to live within 35 minutes of my in-laws.

After several years with the Church of God, I was invited to serve as the Executive Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center, headquartered in Sewickley. The Samaritan Center had a satellite office in the Wilhelm House for approximately 20 years until it was integrated into the Butler satellite. I served as the Executive Director of the Samaritan Center for 24 years, retiring in 2017.

I am an ordained minister, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in PA and a Clinical Member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. My wife Karen and I have been married for 45 years, we have 2 married sons and 3 grandsons, and we have lived in Butler for the past 30 years. I believe that for real, deep transformation to take place in a person's life, faith needs to be an integral part of the counseling process. During my career, I was privileged to witness God's healing power in:

- restoring marriages where trust was broken
- bringing hope to lives burdened by depression, anxiety, grief, and other emotional difficulties
- transforming people contemplating self-destructive and suicidal acts into folks filled with hope and vision
- helping parents and children find ways to understand each other

I'm excited to be part of the ministry of the St. Luke congregation. If you would like to schedule an appointment to discuss areas of concern in your life or marriage with a counselor, you can reach me by calling 412-719-8814. I'll be scheduling appointments with folks in St. Luke's bridal room.

James 1:19 ESV

"Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;"



Statue of Jesus

There will be a dedication ceremony for the statue of Jesus on October 27th at 12:15 pm at the cemetery.

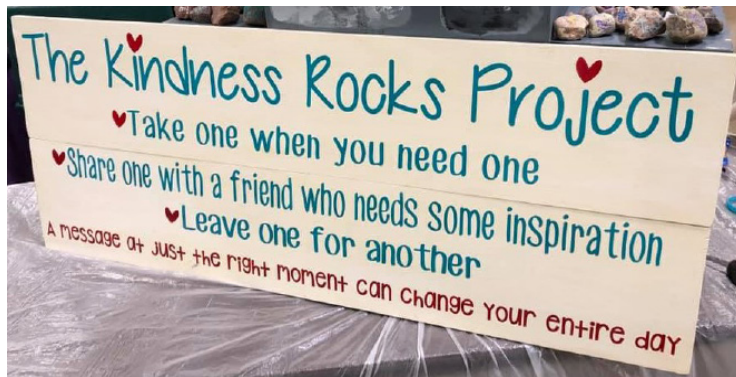
The statue was installed near the Columbarium in August 2019.

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

LCMS YOUTH GATHERING | Minneapolis · July 11-15, 2019



17 youth and 7 adult chaperones went to the National Youth Gathering in July. There were over 21,000 people attending the event from all over the country. The attendees had many opportunities to explore and deepen their faith through bible study, interacting with others, service projects and music. Our students strove to show Christ's love to the people they met during their time in Minnesota. People were struck by the difference in the attitudes of these young people. One person even told Vicar Brian, "We wish you guys were here all the time! I just can't get over this. It's never like this. I like coming to work this week!" What a powerful demonstration of Christ in action.



Psalm 46 "God is our Refuge and Strength".

"I hope that as our youth go forward, that when they see this verse, and hear these words, that it means something to them, that they carry the reality that we have a Real. Present. God. forward into their lives and share it with others."

Pastor Ben



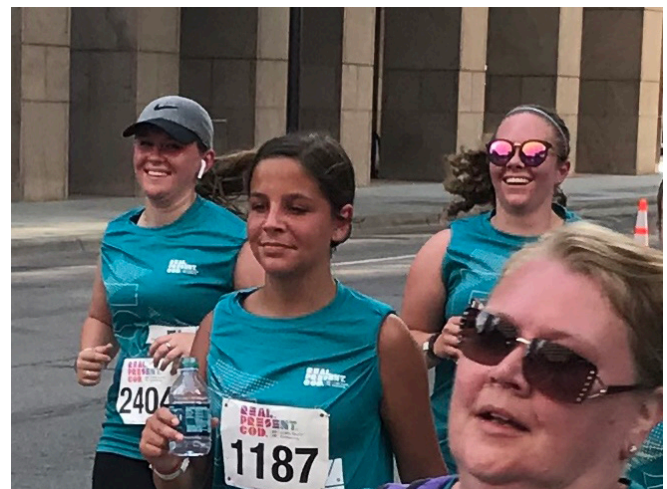
I was so fortunate to be able to participate in the National Youth Gathering this year. Going into the trip, I really didn't know what to expect. I was hoping to gain a more solid base for my faith that I could carry with me to college this fall. The gathering exceeded my expectations. It is unlike any faith event I have ever been to. Just seeing the sheer amount of people coming together that all have the same values and beliefs as me was something I didn't know I needed to see until I did. The sense of community was overwhelming and extremely comforting. There, I learned that God is always with me. I had been told that before but the gathering was able to present that knowledge in such a relevant way to this modern generation of teenagers that we could better see how God was working in our everyday lives. That experience was so rejuvenating to my faith and my relationship with God. If anyone is even considering going to the National Youth Gathering in the slightest, go. I promise you, you will be so happy with your decision. Being together with not only your immediate church family but with such a huge group of LCMS youth is so amazing to witness and you can truly feel God present there.

Anna Fabrizzi



"What three words best describe: 'Real.Present.God.' - I would say, 'Formative, Worshipful, Powerful.'"

Vicar Brian



Click on the link below to watch the NYG 2019 video.
<http://filebox.stlukecabot.org/NYG%202019%20Final%20Version.mp4>

St. Luke Lutheran Church & School

330 Hannahstown Rd.
Cabot, PA 16023
724-352-2777
www.stlukecabot.org

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Butler, PA 16002
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*A community of believers
worshipping and proclaiming
the Good News of
salvation for over 170 years
1847 - 2019*



The IHS symbol on the altar has great meaning in our faith. This symbol is comprised of the first three Greek letters in the name of Jesus.

Sometimes it is interpreted as In His Service or Iesus Hominum Salvatore, which translated means Jesus Savior of Mankind. Be sure to look in the middle of the altar to see this symbol.

"By the power of Christ, we carry the power of hope to the poor, the broken, and the outcast."