



Winter 2020

Pastor Ben's Ponderings ...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

By the time you'll be reading this we'll be through the "busy season" and hopefully returning to calmer, more normal routines of home and work life. As I write this, it's 6 days before Christmas, and we're right in the throes of preparing bulletins for worship, writing sermons and Children's Messages, reading Luke 2 with homebound members and much more. It's most certainly a "wonderful time of the year," but normal routines are all but out the window at this point. In the midst of it all, though, the hectic rush here and there, amidst all of the preparations being made one thing is clear — we do all of this in service of the Babe of Bethlehem — Jesus Christ — whose birth brings hope, peace, joy, and love.

I'm writing this article to encourage you to consider a new devotional opportunity as things slow down after the holidays. In December, each household in our congregation received a 2020 Bible Reading Plan booklet. It was generously donated by a member who was blessed by it this past year. Beginning with January 1st you can read through the entire Bible in 365 days. By reading 4-5 chapters per day, one from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a Proverb, and a New Testament chapter you'll make it through the Bible in just one year. I pray that you will consider this opportunity to grow in knowledge and appreciation for God's word! We're promised that the word is living and active — always up to something, and always accomplishing what God sends it out for.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." — Psalm 119:105

God bless you as you consider adding this practice to your 2020 daily routine.

Pastor Ben



WHAT'S NEW AT ST. LUKE ?

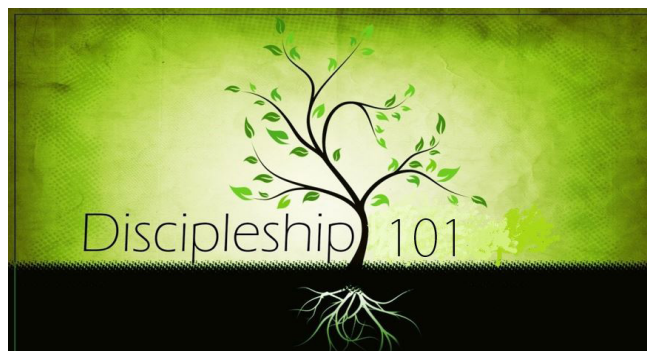
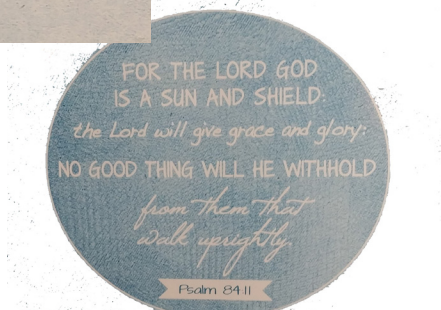
By now you should have received your Daily Bible Reading Calendar. Consider making reading your Bible every day a top priority for 2020.

"Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years." — Charles Spurgeon

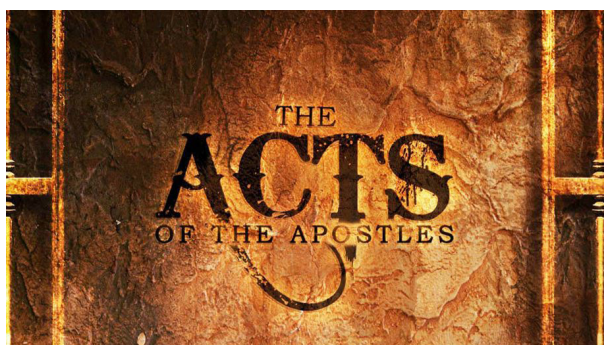
"We are the Bibles the world is reading; we are the creeds the world is needing; we are the sermons the world is heeding." — Billy Graham

"The Word of God I think of as a straight edge, which shows up our own crookedness. We can't really tell how crooked our thinking is until we line it up with the straight edge of Scripture." — Elisabeth Elliot

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe."
Proverbs 18:10



If you know anyone who would like to learn more about the Lutheran faith, refresh your knowledge, or join St. Luke specifically, we will be beginning a new 8 — week **Discipleship 101** class soon. Call the church office at 724-352-2777 with any questions.



THURSDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
resumes on January 9th from 10:00 - 11:30 am.
We'll be studying the book of Acts. Women of all ages are welcome in our midst.

OFFICIAL ACTS: DECEMBER 2019- JANUARY 2020

DEATHS: Sam Oesterling December 16, 2019

WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

"You have cancer"—3 words...

3 life changing words that are sure to evoke a cluster of emotions. Women whose journey is marked by cancer are invited to a 4 — week circle of women on the various stages of this odyssey. We begin on Saturday, February 1st at 4:00 pm in the Old Schoolhouse.



CAMP PIONEER



TRUNK OR TREAT



Christmas at St. Luke



Cornerstone White Elephant
Gag Gift Exchange



Ugly Sweater &
Ornament Exchange Party



Senior High
Ice Skating at PPG Place



College Kick-off Lunch

GETTING TO KNOW OUR TEACHERS



The winter months are upon us and although the days are short, we certainly have busy days at St. Luke School!

The month of January brings many basketball games for our 5-8 grade students. Come cheer for the St. Luke Lions as they compete against other area Christian schools. We also celebrate National Lutheran School's Week on January 26 - February 1 with many fun activities. We are one of nearly 2000 Lutheran preschools, schools and high schools that have the privilege to provide excellent academic preparation and spiritual formation to our students. St. Luke Lutheran School has been providing an excellent Christian education to families for 154 years. There are presently 230 students who hear the Gospel message every day. What a blessing! We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families.

In February the students collect coins for the four missions we are supporting this school year: Disaster Relief, Lighthouse Foundation, ServLife and Soles4Souls. We encourage church members to join our efforts and fill a bank with coins. Every Tuesday in February, St. Luke hosts an Open House. Invite your friends and family to come visit us, meet our teachers and get information on our school and its mission.

March provides lots of fun activities for the students and families. We celebrate Reading and Dr. Seuss with green eggs and ham. Yum! All are welcome to the Art and Science Fair Night on March 20th. It takes a lot of preparation and is an exciting night for the students to show their families all their beautiful art projects and impressive science projects.

St. Luke School is truly a special place to be. May God continue to shower His blessings on St. Luke as we serve Him.

In His Service,
Kelly Carney



Stacy Fanton

- Kindergarten Teacher
- 18 years at St. Luke

Education:

- B.S. in Elementary Education at Penn State University
- Masters in Early Childhood Education at California University of PA

Family:

- Married to Mark
- Daughter - Heidi (22 years old)
- Daughter - Lindsey (18 years old)
- Son - Andrew (16 years old)

Hobbies:

- Penn State Football
- Reading
- Traveling
- Spending time with family

Thoughts on St. Luke:

Teaching at St. Luke is such a special opportunity. Not only do I get to teach my "kids" how to read, write, and do math, but I also get to teach them about God's love, forgiveness and everything He does and has done for us. I also get to work with brothers and sisters in Christ that are very special friends. I am very thankful to be a part of such a wonderful school!



Jessie Hitchcock

- 7th Grade Teacher
- 1+ years at St. Luke

Education:

- BA in History at Westminster
- Minor in Secondary Education at Westminster College

Teaching Experience:

- Prince George, MD - 4 years
- Mars School District - 2 years
- South Butler - 2 years
- The Learning Village - 1 year
- Curriculum Developer - 1 year

Family:

- Married to Mark
- Son - Jack (7 months old)
- Dog - Molly

Hobbies:

- Reading
- Crafting
- Baking
- Walking

Thoughts on St. Luke:

I have very much enjoyed my experience at St. Luke over the past year (+). Our staff feels like a family, as we support each other in our academic and spiritual endeavors. It has been a pleasure to be able to teach students not only academic content, but also take part in their spiritual lives. Getting to provide students more individualized attention has also been an aspect of St. Luke for which I am very thankful.

ST. LUKE SCHOOL WINTER EVENTS

JOYFUL ALWAYS!

1 THESS. 5:16-18



K-5th grade Christmas Program
"I wasn't expecting that..."



6th - 8th grade
Christmas Program

Open House



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Lutheran Schools Week	Jan. 26 - Feb. 1
Open House & Registration	Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25
Ash Wednesday Chapel	Feb. 26
Time for Two begins	March 4
Art & Science Fair	March 20
Special Friend Day	March 27
Father/Daughter Dance	April 24
National Day of Prayer	May 7
7th & 8th Grade Trip	May 7-9
Servant Week	May 11 - 15
Theater Club Show	May 15
Band & Chorus Concert	May 20
Last Day of School	June 5
Family Picnic Night	June 5
8th Grade Graduation	June 6

St. Luke Open House events are designed for any interested individuals of the community to tour our facility and obtain information about our school and its mission. Each event will also provide the opportunity for those seeking enrollment to apply for the 2020-21 school year. Open House is scheduled for 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and 7:00 - 8:00 pm every Tuesday in February. Special Kindergarten and Preschool evenings are also scheduled.

- Tuesday, February 4 Special Kindergarten Information & Registration - 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, February 11 Special Preschool Information & Registration - 7:00 pm

Please join us or invite someone you know who may be interested in enrollment at St. Luke and would like more details.

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."



As we all know, churches need money to function. Since the church is a family, it is important that everyone know the financial status of St. Luke. Each year the finance committee makes a concerted effort to prayerfully consider the congregational tithes and commitments. There are many different missions that we support as well as the general funding and building upkeep that require attention. The committee develops a budget based upon what projected spending or "Expenditures" and projected donations or "Revenue" will be for the next year. The difference between the two numbers is classified as "Net Income" or "Net Loss." A positive Net Income means that donations are more than spending, while a negative Net Loss means that spending is more than donations. In order to accurately understand how 2019 looks in comparison to 2018 and 2017, we are showing the data for the first quarter (July — August —September) finances of each of the last three years.

Year	Revenue	Expenditures	Net Income / Loss
	Actual	Actual	
2017 - 2018	\$327,313	\$353,074	(-\$24,760)
2018 - 2019	\$334,657	\$395,191	(-\$53,490)
2019 - 2020	\$340,271	\$383, 233	(-\$34,838)



Please keep the finance committee and St. Luke as a whole in your prayers as we strive to continue the work of "Making and Maturing Disciples for Ministry and Mission"



St. Luke bids farewell to organist Vince Ritzert and the Gandy family. We thank them for their service and ask that God bless them in their new endeavors.



World War II veteran Jim Stark, 96, of Sarver recounts D-Day to veterans at Luke Lutheran Church's Thanksgiving meal for veterans on Saturday evening. PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEB FO

St. Luke hosted its 2nd Annual Free *Thanks for the Brave* Thanksgiving Dinner for Veterans and their families from 4:00 - 6:00 pm on November 16th at St. Luke Butler. This was a great opportunity to serve those who have served our country fighting for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans and Christians. Many people volunteered to serve at the dinner or donated food. Thank you to all those who served and those who were able to attend. God bless our veterans!



St. Luke Lutheran Church & School

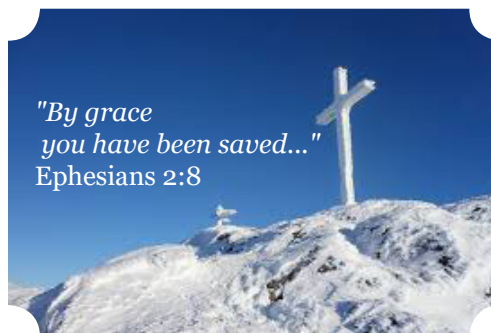
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Cabot, PA 16023
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www.stlukecabot.org

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Butler, PA 16002
724-285-5893

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



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