

DiscipleShip

Fall Issue, 2015

St. Luke Lutheran Church & School

Backpack Pals School Supply Drive



6

Over 100 backpacks were filled with school supplies for kids who otherwise couldn't afford them.

School News



4

It's an incredible evening of dinner and fun! Don't miss out! Save the date: Friday, November 13th.

Get ready to make a difference!



2

Saturday, October 24th is planned for numerous opportunities to help serve out in our community. Check where you can lend a hand that day.

Connect with us:



Our School Celebrates 150 Years!

September 2nd was the first day of school marking a milestone for St. Luke Lutheran as it celebrated its 150th anniversary. A special weekend on September 12 and 13, 2015, kicked off a year of activities observing this special event.

"St. Luke has been truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to offer a Christ-centered education for 150 years to families in our community," affirms Mark Wilt, principal of St. Luke Lutheran School. "We pray that the Lord would continue to shower His grace upon St. Luke School as we persevere in His service to shape young hearts and minds for Jesus."

Rev. Willis McCall, a 1995 graduate from St. Luke Lutheran School, spoke at services on Saturday, September 12, at 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday morning September 13, at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. An alumni picnic at noon followed featuring pony rides, a bouncy house, balloon release, and plenty of games.

A schedule of events for the 2015-2016 school year include:

- September 21 - Dennis Barger "Starfish Program"
- October 8 - Living History Program "French & Indian War/American Revolution"
- October 28 - Mike Harvey - WTAE Weatherman
- November 9 - Jim Urban of Operation Christmas Child
- January 8 - About a Mile concert; Christian rock band, Adam, Levi, and Luke Klutinoty—St. Luke alumni

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Community Missions and Agencies



- Assisted Living at Rosebrook—Sarver
- Biblical Life Institute—Freeport
- Elmcroft—Saxonburg Senior Care
- Fishbone Ministries—Butler
- Grace's Closet—Butler
- Habitat for Humanity—New Kensington
- HAVIN—Kittaning
- Lighthouse Foundation—Butler
- Light of Life Mission—Pittsburgh
- Lutherlyn Camp—Prospect
- Pittsburgh Project—Pittsburgh
- St. John Lutheran Church
- Ronald McDonald House—Pittsburgh
- VOICe (Victim Outreach Center) Evans City
- World Vision—Sewickley
- Assist with Food—St. Luke to St. John

For more information, contact Brenda Fett at 724-352-2777 or bfett@stlukecabot.org.

Make a Difference Day Saturday, October 24, 2015

This year's Make a Difference Day takes on a bit of a different focus than in past years. The goal for Make a Difference Day 2015 is to focus on missions and agencies that reach out into the community providing support to those in need and help to educate and equip people for their mission in the world. St. Luke Make a Difference Day has the potential to involve 185 plus volunteers from our congregation. It is our hope that you will consider yourself one of those volunteers. What a difference a day can make when you get involved!

Another difference this year: an evening dinner will not be served at St. Luke. Instead, all volunteers and their families are invited to St. John Lutheran church in Brackenridge to participate in the Fall Festival. Dinner will be served at St. John—Brackenridge. The Fall Festival will be from 3:30-5:30 p.m. featuring games, pumpkin painting and carving, crafts, music, and many more surprises. Dinner includes a choice of sloppy joes, hot dogs, salads, nachos, and much more—all FREE! At 5:30 p.m. there will be a worship service led by Pastor Barry J. Keurulainen at St. John's.

150th Anniversary cont'd.

- February 11 – Becky Toth, entertainer and St. Luke alumna
- February 26 & 27- Dr. Paul Maier (see below)
- April 20 – Artist John Manders
- June 3, 4, & 5, 2016 will be the final celebration weekend of the 150th year

More information is available on the school website at school.stlukecabot.org.



Balloon release at the 150th Anniversary picnic,
Sunday September 13th.

Put the dates of February 26-28, 2016 on your calendar for an incredible weekend with Dr. Paul L. Maier. Dr. Maier is the Russell H. Seibert Professor of Ancient History emeritus at Western Michigan University, a four-term Vice-President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and a much-published author of both scholarly and popular works. He will be addressing the topic **“The Genuine Jesus: Fresh Information from Ancient Sources Beyond the Gospels”**. At a time when so many false images of Christ clutter our media, this seminar explores new evidence on Jesus from totally secular sources, which not only confirm the biblical record, but add fresh dimensions to it. Geography, archaeology, newly-discovered manuscripts, and ancient history provide an authentic portrait of Christ, not a caricature.

Dr. Maier will lead three different educational opportunities. Friday features a short, special presentation for our older school students; Saturday will be a full seminar; and Sunday he will lead a Q & A session during the Sunday School hour. For more information visit paulmaier.com.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study Classes ~ Sept. 20 – Nov. 22, 2015

Psalms—The Prayer Book of the Bible

Leader: Pastor Barry
Location: Transept

The Lord’s Prayer is the primary prayer that teaches us how to pray. The book of Psalms is the prayer book of the Bible. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “The richness of the Word of God ought to determine our prayer, not the poverty of our hearts.” The book of Psalms offers us that richness. Come and learn—come and pray the Psalms in the 10-week study.

Key Moments in Mark

Leader: Pastor Matt
Location: School Library #104

Join Pastor Matt for a ten class survey of the book of Mark. Mark is believed by most to be the first Gospel written. It is the briefest and most active of the four biographies of Jesus. This class will cover the key teachings and events of this fast paced Gospel. Throughout the class there will be pauses for discussion and application of these ancient lessons to our lives today.

Discovering Spiritual Maturity—Discipleship 201

Leader: Mark Wilt
Location: Discipleship Room #110

Welcome to Part Two in the “Growing in Discipleship” series.

These lessons are the continuation of a journey—a journey we hope will last a lifetime. In Discipleship 201, we focus on the goal of spiritual maturity... learning to put our faith into action in our daily living. (NOTE: this class will only run for 8 weeks. After that you are invited to attend FAITH Café—a week-by-week topical study or pop into one of the other ongoing studies.)

Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters

Leader: Don Olmstead
Location: Church Library/Resource Room

Harsh economic realities are casting new light on the pursuits of sex, money, and success for happiness: careers, fortunes, marriages, and retirement security have collapsed. Many feel lost, disenchanted, and resentful. In this inspiring book, Timothy Keller reveals the unvarnished truth about faith, our hearts’ desires, and the pursuit of happiness.

Your Emotions: Learning to Manage Them With God’s Help and Not Have Them Manage You!

Leader: Tracey Belak
Location: Wilhelm House

It’s easy to get caught up in our emotions and let them manage us

rather than us managing them. God created our emotions to bring attention to certain aspects of our lives and guide us towards better things. They are meant to inform our life, not dictate it! Over the next 10 weeks, we will learn to: establish a support system, look at what holds us back, begin to identify our feelings and trace where they come from, set goals to manage them, explore forgiveness, grieve our past, and practice communication skills.

Celebrate Recovery

Leader: Eric Rettig
Location: Art Room #111

By working through the lessons and exercises based on the Christ-centered 12 steps and 8 recovery principles of CR, you will begin to experience the true peace and serenity you have been seeking. You will restore and develop stronger relationships with others and God, and find freedom from life’s hurts, hang-ups, and habits.

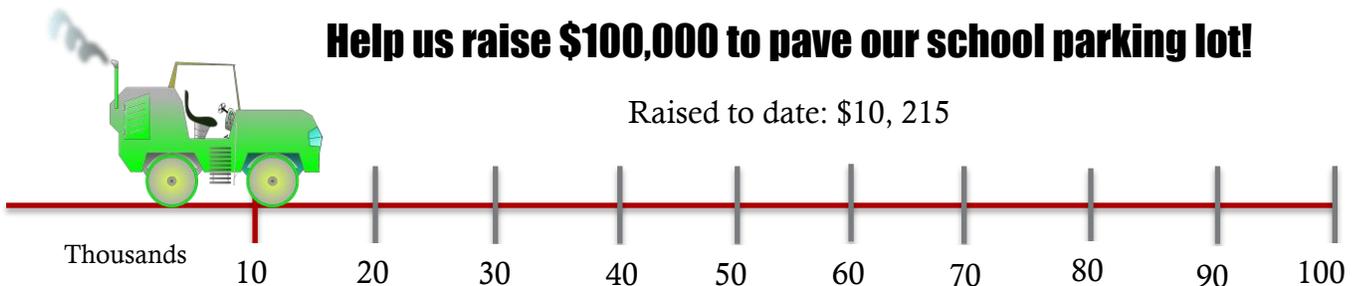
FAITH Café/The Wired WORD

Leader: Various
Location: Bridal Room #207

It’s a time for fellowship and growth in His Word! If you can’t make it to a 12-week study then maybe this is the class for you. Each week will be a new topic and different leader. During this Bible class hour enjoy Christian fellowship with others and join with one another in a time of prayer and growth in the Word.

Help us raise \$100,000 to pave our school parking lot!

Raised to date: \$10, 215



St. Luke Lutheran School

Second Annual Auction Scheduled Friday, November 13, 2015

Preparations for our second annual school auction have begun! On the heels of the successful event last year, this year's event will take place Friday, November 13th. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. and the live auction starts at 7:30 p.m.



Donations are now being accepted from businesses and individuals as well as sponsorship levels for advertisements in the auction booklet. If you or someone you know has an item they would like to donate, please contact Jackie Black at stlukeschoolauction@gmail.com. No item or monetary donation is too small. All donations should be handed in by October 17 however, some exceptions can be made. Several exciting items have already been gathered including a Coach purse, a condo vacation in Ocean City, MD, a teeth whitening certificate, Steelers tickets, a hand-crafted wooden blanket chest by Len Bloom, themed baskets, and so much more!

The elegant evening features a dinner choice of roast beef, stuffed chicken breast and, new this year, a vegetarian option. Tickets are now on sale for \$15 per ticket or reserve a table of eight for \$120. Tickets can be purchased through the office.

This year a goal of raising \$20,000 has been set. All proceeds will be used for capital improvements in the school, and provide educational opportunities for our students. A 10% portion of the funds raised will be donated to Compassion International.

A Word From Our Pastor

As a boy I took piano lessons. Ahh, Mrs. Slade. She was a saint. Patient, never raising her voice, I remember her saying, "Barry, you need to practice more!" She said it so kindly. But she did not know that sitting on the piano bench with me was my baseball glove. The baseball glove won out.

I regret that in some ways. I so wish I could play the piano. But I lacked the discipline.

Discipline is not a bad word. Disciplines are practices that train us to do what we could not do otherwise, like playing the piano. Spiritual disciplines are simply practices that train us in faithfulness. Such practices have been a part of the fabric of the church for centuries. Spiritual disciplines such as prayer, solitude, fasting, worship, silence, service, frugality, etc. are just a few of the disciplines that help shape our hearts and minds for Jesus.

"Shaping young hearts and minds for Jesus" is the theme for our school as we begin to celebrate our 150th year. That is a great theme for young minds and hearts and old ones as well. In the coming year, we will as a congregation, focus on some of the core disciplines that will help shape our hearts and minds for Jesus as well.

I may not be able to play the piano, but I look forward to the song of praise that will be heard as we join together in being trained in these disciplines.

~ Pastor Barry J. Kuerulainen

Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. St. Luke Lutheran School is being challenged to share our love with other children throughout the world. Our challenge is to pack 200 shoe boxes with the items listed below within the next six weeks.

Mission Project Details: **Our project begins October 1 and will run through November 13, 2015.** The following week students will pack shoe boxes that will be sent to Operation Christmas Child headquarters in North Carolina. The boxes will then be forwarded to children worldwide.

Any of the following items (preferably 1-2 items from each category) are needed to fill one box. Remember everything must fit in an adult-size shoe box. Large plastic tubs are located in the school lobby and church narthex for items to be placed in. All boxes will be provided by Operation Christmas Child.

Gift Suggestions:

School Supplies—hand-held sharpeners, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, erasers, pencils, pens

Toys—small cars (Matchbox), playing cards or card games, yo-yos

Hygiene items—toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap, washcloth

DO NOT INCLUDE: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

Financial contributions will also be accepted to help defray shipping expenses and supplies. Make checks payable to St. Luke Lutheran Church, memo: Operation Christmas Child.

For more information contact Brenda Fett at bfett@stlukecabot.org or 724-352-2777.

Operation Christmas Child Shopping List

(1-2 items from each category make a great gift)

School Supplies

- ___ Pencils
- ___ Pens
- ___ Pencil Sharpeners
- ___ Crayons (pkg. of 24)
- ___ Colored Pencils (pkg. of 12)
- ___ Children's Scissors
- ___ Erasers

Toys

- ___ Matchbox cars
- ___ Yo-yos
- ___ Playing cards or card games

Hygiene Items

- ___ Toothbrush
- ___ Toothpaste
- ___ Mild bar soap
- ___ Washcloth

All items listed above are suggested items. Feel free to add others. Remember all items must be able to fit in a shoebox.



John and Harriet Wiebe Grant Summary—Backpack Pals

St. Luke Lutheran Church and School, Cabot, PA

by Brenda Fett

Blessings abounded through the Backpack Pals project at St. Luke Lutheran Church and School during July and August 2015. All backpacks with a list of needed supplies were taken by congregation members the first weekend the project started. Throughout the four weeks of the project backpacks were filled and returned. Some people bought another backpack, filled it, and returned it also. With the grant money and matching funds by St. Luke Lutheran Church and School 120 backpacks were purchased. Additional items added to the backpacks with grant money and matching funds by St. Luke included a children’s Bible, an Arch book, a family prayer book, a small Bible verse flipbook, a Gospel bracelet and coloring book. Backpacks were evenly distributed (40 backpacks each) to Unity Community Lutheran Church—Homewood, PA; Light of Life Mission—Pittsburgh, PA; and Fishbone Ministries—Butler, PA. All recipients were more than grateful to receive the backpacks and thankful to be able to continue their outreach of the Gospel to the communities.



120 backpacks lined up ready for distribution.

Delivering backpacks to Unity Community Lutheran Church.

Light of Life Mission receiving their backpacks.

Official Acts ~ June, July, August 2015

Baptisms:

Ava May Hack
7/17/15
Parents: Matt and Cassidy

Emily Maureen DeSabato
7/26/15
Parents: William and Christina

Funerals:

Alma (Betty) Elizabeth Battistella
9/14/1924 – 7/23/15
Service on 7/29/15

Regina H. “Honey” Weleski
5/16/1924 – 7/15/15
Service on 7/19/15

Dorothy Mae Kupec
11/20/1927 – 7/26/15
Service on 7/31/15

Memorial service for miscarried and stillborn babies
8/26/15

Weddings:

Christie Geary & Bradlee Lauer
6/20/15

Tammie Schreiber & Aaron Brown
8/22/15

New Members:

Adult Confirmands/New Members

Allen Crispin
Cassie Crispin
Jeremy Gugino
Travis Mathers
Stacy Mathers
Donald Mertz
Mary Mertz
Krystal Myers
Michele Myers
Ann Oesterling
Justin Ross
Amanda Ross
Megan Stepp
Lurena Stewart
Randy Wise
Phyllis Wise



Strike Out Cancer & Help Hair Peace!

Hair Peace Charities raises money to help women and girls buy wigs while undergoing chemotherapy treatment for any type of cancer. Hair Peace Charities also fights cancer with educational support groups and faith. A Strike Out Cancer & Help Hair Peace Bowl-a-Thon will be held in honor of Stacey Enck and her courageous battle against cancer!

Friday, October 23, 2015
6:00-9:00 PM
Family Bowlaway Fun Center
540 Fairground Hill Rd., Butler
\$20.00/adults
\$12.00/children ages 6-12 (under 6 Free!)
Pre-register by October 19
(724) 272-0588

Spiritual Disciplines

What are they? Why are they important?

Our theme this year at school is “Shaping young hearts and minds for Jesus”. Under that theme we are emphasizing Spiritual Disciplines. The following article lays out our plan for the year. You will be receiving more information throughout the year. We hope you will join us this year as we grow together in God’s grace.

What are Spiritual Disciplines?

Spiritual disciplines—What are they? How do you practice them? What is their purpose?

When I asked my 8th graders to define discipline, it wasn’t pretty. Most of them defined it as some kind of punishment. They used phrases such as “go to your room” or “give me your phone”. But spiritual disciplines are not supposed to be punishment—but rather encouragement.

There are many spiritual disciplines. This year at St. Luke we have decided to focus on four:

- Prayer
- God’s Word
- Worship
- Service

PRAYER (October & May)

The act of communicating with God. Prayer is a word that describes a relationship. Practices of prayer provide patterns for attending to God throughout the day.(1) Prayer is a time to seek communication with God to strengthen our faith. There is no right or wrong way to communicate as long as we are communicating as honestly as we can.(2) Intimacy—prayer is a means in which we draw close to God and He to us.

(1) Spiritual Disciplines Handbook by Adele AhlbergCalhoun.

GOD’S WORD (January & February)

Reading God’s Word, listening to Scripture, or singing biblical texts all put us in a place to listen to God as he speaks to us. God speaks and guides us personally and intimately through His Word.(1) Regularly being with God in His Word is a way we open ourselves to the voice and will of our Father.

WORSHIP (December and April)

In worship we fall into the arms of God and say “Have your way with me.” Worship is a response to God’s invitation to join the dance.



Practices of worship put us in a place to be receptive and responsive to the Holy Spirit’s movements and invitations. (1) Worship helps us develop a life dedicated to giving God honor and glory in all that we say and do. It reminds us that we are not the center of the universe—God is, and therefore He is worthy of our worship. (2) Worship is more than one hour a week. It is a way of life 24/7.

(2) Habits of a Child’s Heart by Valerie E. Hess and Marti Watson Carlett. PH.D

SERVICE (November & March)

The goal of service is an attitude of servanthood. Our motivation for serving others comes solely out of our love for God and others and our desire to be like Jesus. (2) God intends to bless the nations through us and our lives of service. Christians are the very presence of God to others. We become God’s vehicle of blessing on planet earth.

WHY?

Spiritual disciplines should bring us close to God and should help us to understand His will and then put it into practice through the power of the Spirit.

WHEN?

We will be working on these spiritual disciplines with the children this year. Periodically we will be sending home things for you to discuss and try at home. We look forward to partnering with you this year as we endeavor to shape young hearts and minds for Jesus.



St. Luke Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

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724-352-2777
www.stlukecabot.org

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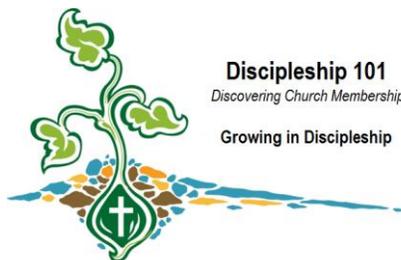
By the power of Christ, we carry the power of hope to the poor,
the broken and the outcast.

Join one of our Weekly Bible Studies!

For more information visit our website at stlukecabot.org.

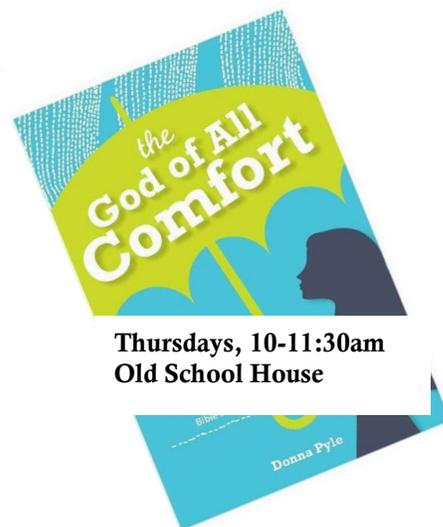


Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm
Abba's House, Saxonburg

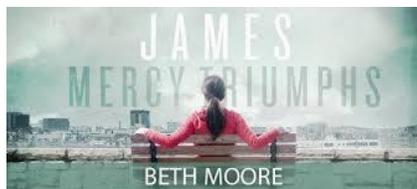


Discipleship 101
Discovering Church Membership
Growing in Discipleship

Mondays, 6:30-8pm
Discipleship Room #110



Thursdays, 10-11:30am
Old School House



Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm
Old School House



Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm
Sandy's Studio in Butler