

DiscipleShip

Winter Issue, 2016

St. Luke Lutheran Church & School

Resolve to Revitalize

Church revitalization is a hot topic, and ideas for congregations can bring fresh energy and meaning to personal and family life, too. Consider the following tips:

- **Have a clear vision.** It's easy to go along day to day without considering what you're moving toward. Beyond the everyday routine, what bigger vision does God have for you? This year, take specific steps toward living that out.
- **Ask questions.** What gets you excited—even passionate? What issues or situations break your heart? What are you good at? Resolve to use a talent or something you enjoy to help heal hurts.
- **Balance history with innovation.** Honor your past as God's gift that makes you who you are, but be open to change. Dare to step out in faith for the sake of your life's mission. Try something new in the spirit of the God who's always doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19; Revelation 21:5).



Dr. Paul Maier Seminar: The Genuine Jesus

Fresh Information from Ancient Sources Beyond the Gospels

We have the special privilege of having Dr. Paul Maier speak here at St. Luke Lutheran on February 26-28, 2016. 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. Seating is limited so watch for more details in the next few weeks.

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. His novels include two historical documentaries: *Pontius Pilate* and *The Flames of Rome*, as well as a theological thriller that became a #1 national bestseller in religious fiction: *A Skeleton in God's Closet*. A sequel, *More Than A Skeleton*, appeared in 2003, and the third in the trilogy, *The Constantine Codex*, in 2011.

Dr. Maier lectures widely, appears frequently in national radio, television, and newspaper interviews, and has received numerous awards. He has also penned several children's books, and hosted six video series dealing with Jesus, St. Paul the early church, and current Christianity.

Connect with us:



Official Acts September – December 2015

Baptisms:

Anna Katherine Barry, born 9/6/15--
baptized 10/4/15, parents: Katie and Matt

Brooklyn Averie Ross, born 8/13/15--
baptized 10/25/15, parents: Amanda and Justin

Brooks William Harbison, born 9/10/15--
baptized 11/8/15, parents: Ashley and Josh

Klayton Gage Bell, born 2/27/15--
baptized 11/18/15, parents: Renee Rankin and Adam Bell

Claire Helene Young, born 9/7/15--
baptized 11/8/15, parents: Shanon and Brad

Easton Joshua Rosensteel, born 9/15/15--
baptized 11/21/15, parents: Elizabeth and Josh

Tate Kenneth Keck, born 7/2/15--
baptized 11/22/15, parents: Christa and David

Clara Diana Miller, born 4/4/15--
baptized 11/28/15, parents: Tracey and Geoff Miller, Jr.

Lydia Esther Ambrose, born 9/3/15--
baptized 12/6/15, parents Anne and Lee

Eli Dietrich Ambrose, born 9/3/15--
baptized 12/6/15, parents: Anne and Lee

Funerals:

Joseph Charles Weber
(2/24/27 – 9/8/2015); service on 9/11/15

Regina Harriet Weleski
(5/16/24 – 7/15/2015); service on 7/18/15

Brian Scott Kunkle
(10/18/62 – 9/28/2015); service on 10/3/15

George R. Burd, Sr.
(3/19/52 – 10/27/2015); service on 10/31/15

Juanita Shoup
(4/25/1930 – 11/19/2015); service on 11/23/15

Weddings:

Tiffany M. Allen and Dan S. Schwartzmier on October 3, 2015

Laci D. Grame and Shayne D. Hoehn on October 10, 2015

New Members



Ray and Peg DeCecco recently moved to Butler after some 15 years in the Myrtle Beach, SC area. They have two married daughters—Denise and her husband, Malik, have two children: Chase and Jade. Debi and her husband, Don, have no children, just Grandpets for Ray and Peg. Say hello to Ray and Peg in the 10:30 a.m. service!



Jack and Jodi Fleishner live in Butler. Jack is a machinist at Jem Seal in West Deer who enjoys golfing and hunting. Jodie is a breast cancer survivor who works for St. John's Specialty Care Center in Mars. Jack and Jodie usually attend worship on Saturday nights. Be sure to seek them out and say hello!



Joe Logsdon lives in Sarver with his wife Kathleen and two sons Luke (6) and Nick (3). Joe is an Applied Engineering and Technology teacher in the Seneca Valley School District. Kathleen is an Ultrasound Technologist at Armstrong County Memorial Hospital. They enjoy spending time with family and look forward to making new friends here at St. Luke.

St. Luke Lutheran School News

--Doors to the Future-- St. Luke Celebrates 150 years

Come into our Activity Center...Join church goers, students, parents, staff, and many visitors to worship, play, learn, gather, serve, and celebrate. Before entering, take a moment to consider our doors: two sets that for many years have carried Biblical truths in art form to inspire all who pass by.



First painted in the 1990s under the guidance of former art teacher, Mrs. Dale Kathleen Albert and her students, the themes chosen reflected who we are—"Children of God", and what we do—"Fishers of Men". After 25 years of daily wear and tear, we thought it fitting to rejuvenate our beloved mural for our 150th celebration year.

Since our mission at St. Luke School has remained the same, we decided to keep the original theme; the new design focuses on central crosses surrounded by students' drawings. Using permanent markers on paper, they were asked to draw children facing in different directions. The drawings were configured to fit each door, then, the images were projected onto the doors, traced in pencil, and finally painted by our current art teacher, Mrs. Sue Burtner. The finishing touch was placed by Mr. Bruce Burtner by way of the wood-grain painting effect on the crosses.



Working on this project while school was in session allowed the children to see the process as the artwork evolved. The students were excited to see each new layer of paint and color, calling out words of encouragement as they passed!

Thank you to the following students for sharing their talents to glorify their Savior and continue this tradition of faith at St. Luke School: 2nd graders—Jacob Feidt, Katie Fish, Ryan Giesler, Sophia Kingsley, Samone McNeish, Rowan McClain, Ethan Pickard, Amelia Turner, Lucas Vacanti; 3rd grader—Cailyn Milbert; 4th graders—Micah Bish, Katie McCoy, Bailey Milbert; 5th grader—Annabelle Turner; 7th grader—Juli Bish; 8th grader—Jack McCoy; last year's 8th grader—Joshua McCoy.



K-5 Christmas Service



Kindergarten Nativity



6-8 Christmas Service

St. Luke Lutheran
CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Return Service Requested

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

Grab a cup of coffee and join one of our Sunday Morning Adult Bible Studies:

Devotion to the Word—Pastor Barry and Mark Wilt/Location: Transept

The pace of life is draining. The world presses against us. How does one stand strong against it all? If you are looking for a solid footing in the face of these pressures, 1 Peter is a great book for you right now.

Sunday Morning Men's Bible Study—Pastor Matthew Barry and Various/Location: Discipleship Room

What does it mean to be a Christian man? What does God have to say to Fathers, Singles, to those men just starting out their journey of life and for those who have been at it for a while? Join your brothers in the faith for this 10-week Bible study on Christianity and how men can not only be learners, but doers of the faith. You don't have to be a Biblical scholar to come, just a man who wants to live in the ways of God.

Who Is Jesus?: Building a Comprehensive Case—Scott Eckstein/Location: School Library

Who is God? Has He spoken? And perhaps most important of all... Who is Jesus? *TrueU: Who Is Jesus?* is designed to help students and adults discover the truth about Jesus—for themselves. Dr. Del Tackett, host of Focus on the Family's The Truth Project, is assisted by guest experts Lee Strobel, Gary Habermas, and others. Together they intelligently explore Jesus's ancestry and prophetic mission; His words, works, and character; His death and resurrection; whether Jesus is the only way to God; and more.

Celebrate Recovery—Eric Rettig/Location: Art Room

By working through lessons and exercises based on the Christ-centered 12 steps and 8 recovery principles of Celebrate Recovery, you will begin to experience true peace and serenity you have been seeking. You will restore and develop stronger relationships with others and with God, and most importantly find freedom from the shame, guilt, and pain of your issues by learning to let go and let God take over—one day at a time.

March 20 (Palm Sunday)—Special full congregational presentation with Rev. Nathan Esala, LBT/Location: Sanctuary
Rev. Nathan and Sarah Esala served the Likoonl (or Komba) Bible Project in Ghana, West Africa beginning 2003. Currently, Nathan is serving as the Translation Coordinator of LBT. He desires to discover and facilitate excellent practices in Bible translation and missiology for Lutheran Bible Translators in partnership with African colleagues. To help accomplish that goal, Nathan is enrolled as a Ph.D. student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.