

St. Luke's MESSENGER

The newsletter of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge, Illinois

REFLECTIONS:

Throughout the Community

As Jesus passed along the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him....They went to Capernaum and when the Sabbath came he entered the synagogue and taught....[Jesus cast out an unclean spirit from a man.] They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority." ... At once Jesus' fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Mark 1:16-18, 21, 27, 28

In early December, many members of St. Luke's who live in the neighborhood around the church building were asked to distribute door hangers to their neighbors. Each household had a block or two to cover. In all, about five hundred door hangers were distributed to our neighbors inviting them to special events and services at St. Luke's in December – Candlelight, the reading of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, the Longest Night Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship. At the bottom of the door hanger was an invitation to attend our regular services throughout the year – a reminder that Jesus was born to live among us at all times and not just at the height of celebration.

As we move into January, we join with Simon and Andrew, those first followers of Jesus, and leave our nets to follow and see all that Jesus is doing in our lives and throughout the community around us. In expected and unexpected places, Jesus is changing lives in amazing ways. When we read our Bibles at home or when we hear the Gospel of Mark read in worship, we are drawn into a story of Jesus encountering people again and again with the life changing power of God. People hear Jesus' teaching and are amazed. Broken people who had been dismissed by others are made whole and brought back into the community. People who were sick are made well. People wonder what this all means. Mark's Gospel says, "At once Jesus' fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee."

Where are the expected and unexpected places that you encounter Jesus changing lives in amazing ways? In your neighborhood? On the train? In a classroom? In a conference room? Wherever you are, Jesus is with you – ready to call you to see all that God is doing in our lives and throughout the community around us. Whether you have a door hanger to give to a neighbor or just a simple word of invitation, let these weeks after Christmas be a time when you join Simon and Andrew and all who follow Jesus in helping to spread Jesus' fame throughout the community.

In Peace,
Pastor Kristi Weber

THE MESSENGER IS NOW ON LINE

One of the goals at St. Luke's is to go green and in the process, save a little money. With this in mind, we continue to work towards getting the Messenger to as many households as possible **on line**. To make this happen, we need to do a couple of things.

First, ***please make sure that the church office has your current email address.***

Second, all ***households that have as current email address will receive the Messenger online via an email alert*** issued through the St. Luke's email account. Those who are already receiving the Messenger online will continue to receive it in the future and do not have to do anything. Those who have not yet signed up to receive this electronic copy rather than a paper copy may ***sign up by using the link at the bottom of any email*** from St. Luke's Lutheran Church ***that includes the option "update subscription preferences" then click "Electronic Messenger instead of paper copy"***.

If you do not have an email address you will continue to receive the Messenger via USPS. We will also keep additional paper copies of the Messenger at the church on the rack across from the first floor washrooms. Make sure the church office has your current email address. Thanks!

Birthdays in JANUARY

- 1 Ben Raeder, Michael Clark
- 2 Catherine Bretag, Nancy Kwasigroch, Anita Lichtenvoort
- 3 Harold Ahlbeck, Kristin Barnette, Dave Hope, Kurt Prinz, Ruth Stone, Del Stutzman
- 4 Jo Nelson, Bradley Sheehan
- 5 Paige Timmons
- 6 Tom Lundsberg, Grace Clark, Whitney Wolters
- 7 Jacqueline O'Reilly
- 8 Paul Haack, Joshua Ichen
- 9 Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl
- 10 Todd Raeder
- 11 John Beck, Claire Griebler, Paul Henderson
- 13 Luke Calahan, Carol O'Hern, Monica Schittino
- 14 Kiersten Hoiland, Karen Mears, Phyllis Rindone, Lara Trenkenschu, Ann Warych
- 15 Michael Ruth, Chuck Walker, Henrik Weber
- 16 Ron Schiffers
- 17 Andrienne Engleson, Sam Cattau
- 18 Ed Walter
- 19 Bill Killean, Karen Walter, Aaron Schroeder
- 20 Tom Lynch, Colleen McCurry, Chris Nelson
- 21 John O'Reilly, Jessie Weber, Laura Heinrich, Halina Trygar, Cara Nastali
- 22 Donna Sapp, Wayne Weinke, Jr.
- 23 Roland Werfel, Joseph Paxhia, Robert Schacke
- 24 Glenna Pearson, Casey Petterson, Kyle Stinnet, Samantha Boch, Ryder Knieling
- 25 Leopold Defort, Kristin Girdaukas, Stephen Stavrides
- 26 Ray Kramer III, Bob Lichtenvoort
- 27 Nancy Golbeck, Bobbie Stavrides, Avery Dolson, Terence Fretheim, Nicole Zhang
- 28 Joel Kwasigroch, Don Scheunemann, Stephanie Ruth
- 29 David Duffy
- 30 Julie Russell, Matt Tarpey, Dean Cannon
- 31 Gary Cartwright, Harold Hjelm, Gerry Mears, Mary Zaug, Jeffrey Bork

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ...

- 4 Brian and Lavonne Boch
- 5 Ed and Beatrice Westrich
- 14 Nicolas and Vicki Loise
- 22 Stan and Lenore Johnson

ST. LUKE'S STAFF 847-825-6659

- Rev. Dr. George Koch*, Interim Lead Pastor - ext. 11
Rev. Kristina C. Weber, Associate Pastor - on Sabbatical
Rev. Patricia Hewitt, Interim Associate Pastor - ext. 12
Rev. Dr. Malcolm L. Minnick, Pastor Emeritus
Anne Krentz Organ, Director of Music Ministries - ext. 14
Melinda Hoiland, Director of Children's Choirs - ext. 15
Jeannine Oakes, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries - ext. 16
Jeanne Rice, Parish Coordinator - ext. 10
Annette Kern, Office Administrator - ext. 17

ANNUAL REPORTS

**DUE TO THE HIGH COST OF
POSTAGE,
WE WILL *NOT* BE MAILING OUT THE
ANNUAL REPORTS THIS YEAR**

**BEGINNING ON JANUARY 22, THE
2011 ANNUAL REPORTS WILL BE
AVAILABLE IN THE ATRIUM**

***PLEASE TAKE ONLY ONE COPY
AND BRING THAT COPY TO THE
ANNUAL MEETING ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012
AT 12:15 p.m.***

ST. LUKE'S MEMBER CARE

IN THE FAMILY...

We welcomed through the waters of baptism on December 18th Emma Marie Stetler, daughter of Sarah and Ryan Stetler; Levi James Arias and Jacob Rafael Arias, twin sons of Kristine and Rafael Arias... Our sympathies to the family and friends of Lucille Stover who died on December 9 in South Bend, IN at age 89. Lucille was a lifelong member of St. Luke's.... Our sympathy to John and Mary Rhoton and family on the death of John's father Donald.

MANY THANKS FROM.....

Esther Kupjack for the lovely flowers from St. Luke's.... Howard and Judy Sersen for the beautiful flowers received during Howard's bout with pneumonia.... Rene and Will Rasmussen for the beautiful flowers that Leila delivered....

TURKEY DRIVE

Elijah's Pantry and the Social Ministry Committee of St. Luke's would like to thank the congregation for its great support in this tough economic time with regards to the Turkey Drive this past November 20. With turkeys given and purchased, we totaled 114 turkeys plus some extra money. This was all given to Elijah's Pantry in Logan Square. A special thanks to Jason Burrows, Diane and Bruce Erickson, Chris Figler, Kevin Goll, Jean Igoe, John Nommensen, Cheryl Ryback, Ken Schoy and Lois Shaw for helping collect and deliver the food. Also, the tailgating idea was a great success and we'll repeat that next time. See you next year. Thanks everyone!

CROP WALK RESULTS

The 2011 Niles/Park Ridge Crop Walk earned \$33,000 with 287 walkers. Both are records. The St. Luke's results are \$2,300 and 19 walkers. Thank you again. The proceeds will alleviate hunger throughout the world with 25% to remain at the Maine Township Pantry in Park Ridge.

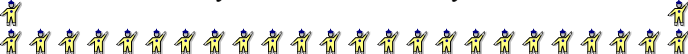
ELIJAH PANTRY VAN

The Elijah Pantry van has broken down and cannot be fixed. They are renting a van to get food from the Greater Chicago Food Depository. We would like to get a new van or a used van. If anyone has any leads, please give Ken Schoy a call at



WELCOME REV. HEWITT

We welcome the Rev. Patricia Ann ("Patty") Hewitt as our half-time Interim Associate Pastor for the eight weeks that Pastor Kristi Weber is on sabbatical (from December 26th through February 21st). Pastor Hewitt's main days with us will be Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00AM until the end of the program hours and Friday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM (and on call as necessary on the week-ends). Her major areas of concentration will be Confirmation, Member Care, and Congregational Life. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Patty !



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- **HELP WANTED**
- Would you be willing to help deliver flowers from our
- Sunday services to sick or shut-in members of St. Luke's?
- To add your name to the list of those who deliver these
- cheering bouquets, please call Iris Henderson at 847-823-
- 1828. Thanks
- • • • •

Meal for Members

Would you benefit from receiving a meal? Are you just out of the hospital or are you in need of help? Please go to the St. Luke's website at www.stlukespr.org, find the member care page to access the menu form or send a message to stlukesmembercare@gmail.com or call the church office to leave a message for Member Care. We'd be happy to help.

- EMBROIDERERS NEEDED!**
- We wish to stitch the book and verse number (ie: John 3:16) of all the verses written on the Atrium floor. Using an outline stitch, each piece will be stitched on a rectangle of fabric, then quilted into a wall hanging with a cross in the center.
- What we need are people to help stitch the verse (ie John 3:16). Each stitcher will be given fabric, floss and 8-10 verses to stitch. A nice project for those winter evenings!
- If you'd like to prepare the fabric, we can use your help! We need folks to help trace the verses on the fabric. If you'd like to help with either or both of these projects, please call Elaine Dick at 847-825-0491 .

TO ALL COMMITTEES, CABINETS, AND ANNUAL REPORT WRITERS

Please have your *camera ready report* into Jeanne Rice by **Dec. 30 at 9:00 am** for inclusion in the Book of Annual Reports.

You may email your report to office@stlukespr.org or leave a hard copy of your *camera ready report* in the church office.

Thank you.

COUNCIL NOTES

December 2011 Council Summary

- Approved, subject to audit, the reports of the financial officers.
- Received from the Financial Review Team the third quarter review of records of the financial officers.
- Received a status report on the 2012 Spending Plan. The plan will be presented for approval in January.
- Approved requests from Pr. Koch and Pr. Weber on the amounts of their salaries to be designated for housing allowance.
- Approved gifts totaling \$707 from the Memorials and Special Gifts Fund: up to \$500 for the purchase of a wood file cabinet for the church library, with the remainder to be placed in Memorials and Special Gifts unspecified account to be used at a later time.
- Received information that the Congregational Life Cabinet is forming a committee to oversee kitchen management.
- Received an informational report on upper level buildout and costs; this will not be considered until more funds are available.
- Approved a motion to use the Eternal Light as a memorial/honor opportunity, allowing people to contribute to costs involved and designating a week for the memorial/honor.
- Approved the employment of the Rev. Patricia Ann Hewitt to serve as Interim Associate Pastor during Pr. Weber's sabbatical.
- Directed Pr. Koch to establish a task force to plan a method for analysis of the information from the TCI survey completed this fall, with a report to be presented at the February council meeting.
- Directed the Executive Committee to begin planning for the 100th anniversary of the congregation in 2014.
- Approved a request from the Congregational Life Cabinet to serve beer and wine at the potluck on January 7th for the Dinner for Eight group; only adults will be attending.
- Approved a Master Planning Team consisting of Rick Libner, Anne Organ, Jim Henderson, Gary Cartwright, Debbie Roman and the Lead Pastor.
- Received a status report from the Nominating Committee.
- Set January 29, 2012 as the date for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation; the meeting will begin following the 11:00 a.m. service.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE LUTHERAN

It is important to know what is happening in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America locally and globally. It is good to have thoughtful reading material that helps us grow in our world view and in our understanding of the faith.

The congregation provides a subscription for member households to THE LUTHERAN, the magazine of the ELCA. It does this so that we might have a greater knowledge of the work of our church and so that we might grow in our thinking and faith understanding.

Members are encouraged to make a contribution toward the cost of the subscription. You may do this by using the designated envelope in the offering envelope box. It is the January section because that is when we renew the subscription. A \$10.00 plus contribution will assist in providing this resource to all our member households.

ST. LUKE'S ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Committee is looking for recommendations from the congregation for grants from the Endowment Fund for 2011. If you have a suggestion please contact one of the pastors or a member of the Committee.

Members include: Terry Hendrickson, Chair; Gail Pearson, Michael Callahan, Irene Jinks and Rev. George Koch.

FINANCIAL PEACE

Are you feeling like your finances bring stress not peace? St. Luke's Stewardship Team is joining with First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge to promote Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University to show you one practical, forthright way of handling money.

Join us for The Great Recovery. It starts with faith. It starts with action. It starts with you.

Go to www.thegreatrecovery.com to learn more.

Monday evenings

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

13 weeks beginning January 23

at **First United Methodist Church**

Participants will need to purchase their own materials.
Cost: purchase materials online - order the Lifetime Membership

Please register online at <http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/org/37365/class/199586>

First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge
418 West Touhy, Park Ridge
(parking lot off Grant Place, east of Prospect)
847-825-3144 www.parkridgeumc.org

Contact Scott Grau at St. Luke's for more information
scott@equivoice.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2012 offering envelopes are currently located in the atrium.

Please stop by and pick up your box of envelopes to help us avoid costly postage.

Do not use the 2012 envelopes until January 1, 2012.

Thank you!

ADULT CHILDREN OF AGING PARENTS

Adult Children with Aging Parents are challenged with so many different financial and emotional issues on a daily basis. St Luke's Member Care Committee has organized another outstanding opportunity to listen to qualified speakers on this subject and network with other families at St. Luke's that have the same questions and issues.

Join us on January 31, 2012, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in Henderson Hall. All are welcome, whether you are interested for yourself, or on behalf of others, such as your parents or other senior that you may help care for.

Our program will be about personal and financial independence for seniors (at least 62 years old), especially those wishing to remain in their own homes while confronting rising expenses on fixed incomes. We will consider ways to supplement social security income, meet unexpected medical expenses, make home improvements or repairs, or pay for in-home assistance like cleaning or care-giving. Explore various options, including Reverse Mortgages. All these subjects will be explored from both a Financial and Personal perspective. Our speakers have personal and professional experience on the subject. St. Luke's members Diane Forsythe, Mortgage Loan Consultant at ABI Mortgage, and Julie Russell, Regional Manager at LSSI Home Healthcare. Light refreshments will be served. If you have questions, contact the church or email stlukesmembercare@gmail.com.

2011 FLOWER CHART

We'll be closing out our books for the 2011 arrangements on January 2, 2012. Please take a moment to check to be sure all your payments are up-to-date. It is always appreciated if payments can be submitted prior to, or on the date, the arrangement has been requested. In order to facilitate crediting of your payment, PLEASE INDICATE THE DATE YOU HAVE REQUESTED AN ARRANGEMENT ON YOUR CHECK. Thank you.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS OF OLDER SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

Enough interest has been shown that a support group is being formed for parents with special needs children (who are late teen through adulthood). A preliminary meeting will take place on January 18th at 6:00 pm when we will lay out a pattern of meeting and facilitating support among those who attend. The 6:00 pm hour was chosen for our initial meeting so that people who have not eaten can grab a bite at COW and bring it to our meeting. The meeting will last for about 50 minutes. If you can not be at this meeting or wish to get further information, please call or email Pastor George Koch. gkoch@stlukespr.org

FIRST TUESDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST

Please join us at 8:00 am on January 3 for a pancake breakfast. Questions, call Howie Thorsson at 698-0152 or Don Rusch at 847-825-3673.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2012 beginning at 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary. The Annual Report Booklet will contain all reports and the agenda for the meeting. *Please bring this booklet with you to the meeting.* This is the congregational meeting at which members may bring any item up for discussion.

This serves as the NOTICE OF THE MEETING

PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINES:

The deadline for the Messenger is the second Friday of every month except in July and August when there is only one edition of the Messenger. The July/August edition deadline will be announced as we get into the summer months.

The deadline for the parish notes to be included in the bulletin is every Monday at 9:00 am sharp for the following Sunday bulletin. **Announcements are only to be run for two weeks due to all the submissions received.**

Please make sure that announcements for either the Messenger or the Sunday bulletin parish notes is camera ready.

Thank for your understanding and cooperation.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

INDOOR FARMERS' MARKET SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012 10AM-2PM HENDERSON HALL

On Saturday, January 28, St. Luke's will host an indoor Winter Farmers' Market, sponsored by Faith in Place, an interfaith environmental organization. In addition to the opportunity to shop, lunch will be available for purchase (soups, breads, beverages, and desserts). **Bring a friend and enjoy the market!**

Each year, Faith in Place helps congregations in the Chicago area bring locally and sustainably-produced food to their communities during the winter months through a series of one-time winter farmers markets. These farmers markets:

- Provide an additional source of income for vendors during the off-season
- Promote sustainable farming methods and economic justice for regional farm families
- Encourage healthy, wholesome eating
- Support the building of relationships between producers and consumers
- Help farming families during times of crisis through the Farmer Crisis Fund

The Farmer Crisis Fund -- Rather than requiring farmers to pay a fee to participate in these markets, Faith in Place asks them to donate 10% of what they take in at the market (after a threshold amount) to an Illinois Farmer Crisis Fund modeled after Wisconsin's Harvest of Hope Fund which, for almost 20 years, has been giving monetary gifts up to \$1,000 to farmers in crisis due to illness or unexpected expenses.

About the Vendors -- Many vendors sell meats, cheeses, eggs and honey from locally-raised animals or produce grown on local farms (within 250 miles of Chicago). Others sell value-added products like salsa, baked goods, and soap. At least 25% of the ingredients in each value-added product are locally grown.

At the time of publication, we are expecting the following vendors to attend, with more to be added.

- **BREAD FROM THE HEART, Western Springs, IL** -- Jacqueline Vasan provides cinnamon rolls, specialty breads, and cookies made with local honey, eggs, and organic whole wheat flour.
- **C&D FAMILY FARM, Knox, IN** -- Crystal and Dan Nells focus on humanely-raised products on their farm, including pastured pork, grass-fed beef, poultry, and eggs.
- **DENNANNE FARMS, Elgin, IL** -- Anne and Denny Bukala sell pure natural raw honey, soaps, candles, and other bee products.
- **FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME/SAINT ROGER ABBEY PATISSERIE, Chicago, IL** -- The Sisters of Fraternité Notre Dame bake beautiful tarts, cakes, breads, and croissants.
- **HERBALLY YOURS, Willow Springs, IL** -- Jim and Kathy Vitalo use their home-grown herbs and aged vinegar to create colorful, flavored vinegars, dried herb blends, and grilling rubs.
- **KATHERINE ANNE CONFECTIONS, Chicago, IL** -- Katherine Duncan focuses on local and organic ingredients to create intensely flavored truffles, caramels and marshmallows.
- **RIVER VALLEY RANCH AND KITCHENS, Burlington, WI** -- The Rose Family grows a variety of mushrooms, onions, tomatoes, and veggies, using them in dips, spreads, salsas, and more!
- **SCOTCH HILL FARM, Brodhead, WI** -- Tony & Dela Ends provide traditional farm items and homemade soaps from their family farm.
- **TOMATO MOUNTAIN FARM, Brooklyn, WI** -- This farm raises certified organic tomatoes, peppers, and herbs and bottles them in a variety of salsas, sauces, and soups.
- **WHIMSICAL ACRES, Salem, WI** -- Gabriella Szmola and Donna Koranek team up to bring you the finest wool and farm-raised, hand-spun alpaca yarns.

Be sure to tell your friends, family, and neighbors to come out and take advantage of this opportunity to purchase farm-fresh items and cultivate relationships with local farmers beyond the summer farmers' market season.

EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES

You are invited to Adult Education at St. Luke's!

Sunday Morning Adult Forum Sunday Mornings, 9:45-10:45 am

1/1- No Forum- Happy New Year's!

1/8- Pastor Koch Explains Our Church's Social Statement on Genetics- Genetic science includes a range of disciplines that are creating a different relationship between human power and life on this planet. Human beings are increasingly bearing the moral burden for the shape of nature and the very existence of future generations which promises great benefits and new levels of danger. The 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adopted a social statement on genetics. It is a comprehensive approach to address recent advancements in medical and agricultural research.

1/15- Kimberly Kohndorfer's Visit to Ghana- Kim will tell about her recent trip with a group of 16 St. Louis University students to the village of Ekumfi-Ekotsi, Ghana. This village has no access to health care within 20 miles and 70% of the people do not have proper sanitation. The students assisted with providing health and dental care, building latrines and setting up a water sanitation system for the people of Ekumfi-Ekotsi.

1/22- A preview of the Annual Congregational Meeting will be presented by the Church Council. Questions are welcomed!

1/29- Fire Safety 101- A representative of the Park Ridge Fire Department will discuss fire safety and answer questions. This will be a good review for everyone!

All are welcome!

Wednesday Evening Adult Education Classes Wednesday Evenings, 7:00-8:00 pm

1/4- No Bible Study

1/11- Pastor Paul Stone begins a 6-part Bible Study of Daniel- This Old Testament book focuses on Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and was originally written in two languages: Hebrew and Aramaic. The first six chapters are stories, some of which include visions. The last six chapters are primarily visions. Daniel is a book of consolations. The message is clear: evil will not have the final word! Daniel also gives us a model for prayer.

All are welcome!

LIBRARY NEWS

Make a resolution in this new year to visit the Dokmo Library, browse the shelves and see what there is for you. Remember to use the book card in the back of the book, and place it in the circulation tray. Return items to the Return Basket, rather than shelving a book yourself. Return any long overdue items you may have at home.

The library has just acquired a set of 8 children's books, written and published in Nigeria, based on the 8 Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs were developed by the leaders of 189 countries in the year 2000 to improve the quality of life for human beings by 2015. Each story highlights children who learn through their experiences how to make the world a better place. Good conversation starters!

Adults may want to check out the following fiction series for good winter reading: The Zion Chronicles, and the Zion Covenant, both by Bodie Thoene and based on World War II, or the Joshua series, biblical fiction written by Joseph Girzone. Other series are the YadaYada Prayer group, by Neta Jackson, the Mitford series by Jan Karon, and Abram's daughters, an Amish series by Beverly Lewis.

EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES

A TASTE OF ST. LUKE'S

The youth are selling the fabulous *"A Taste of St. Luke's"* cookbook to raise funds for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans (July 2012). Please help them out by purchasing a copy of *"A Taste of St. Luke's."* This book is loaded with recipes for breakfast, appetizers, desserts (including favorites for the cookie walk), make-ahead and crock pot meals, Jul-Fest favorites and much more. Each book is \$15.00 and all proceeds go directly to pay expenses related to St. Luke's participation in the Youth Gathering. Contact Lisa Ramsey at lhramsey@comcast.net or at 847-384-0934 to order a copy. Thanks to all who have already purchased cookbooks. We appreciate your support!



MANY THANKS....

Thanks to everyone who supported the 2012 National Youth Gathering by ordering Kringles and participating in the Cookie Walk!

Many thanks to Susan Melidosian, Candy Gustafson, Debbie Roman, Dana Wessel, Karen Sargeant, and Brenda Penny for all your work in organizing and to our youth for working the events. And thanks to the many people who baked and or bought cookies!



THANKS TO ALL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Thanks to all who helped with and supported the Christmas Program! Our children and youth drama troupes presented a play they created themselves with the help of Jeannine Oakes. Thanks for all the children and youth for your time, talent, and energy!



YOUTH DRAMA TROUPE PERFORMANCE AT ELIJAH'S PANTRY

Our Youth Drama Troupe had the opportunity to perform their Christmas play "Christmas in the Land of Oz" at a children's Christmas Party at Elijah's Pantry in Logan Square. The play was well received by a room full of about 100 people! Our youth had a great time and enjoyed meeting several kids after the performance. The youth look forward to being able to perform again next year. Look for pictures of the performance on bulletin boards around church – what a great form of outreach!



PASTA DINNER TICKETS GO ON SALE MID JANUARY!

The National Youth Gathering participants, parents, and chaperones will host our annual Pasta Dinner on Sunday February 12. Check your e-mail and parish notes for more details about when and where to buy tickets!

PARENTS NIGHT OUT BABYSITTING AVAILABLE

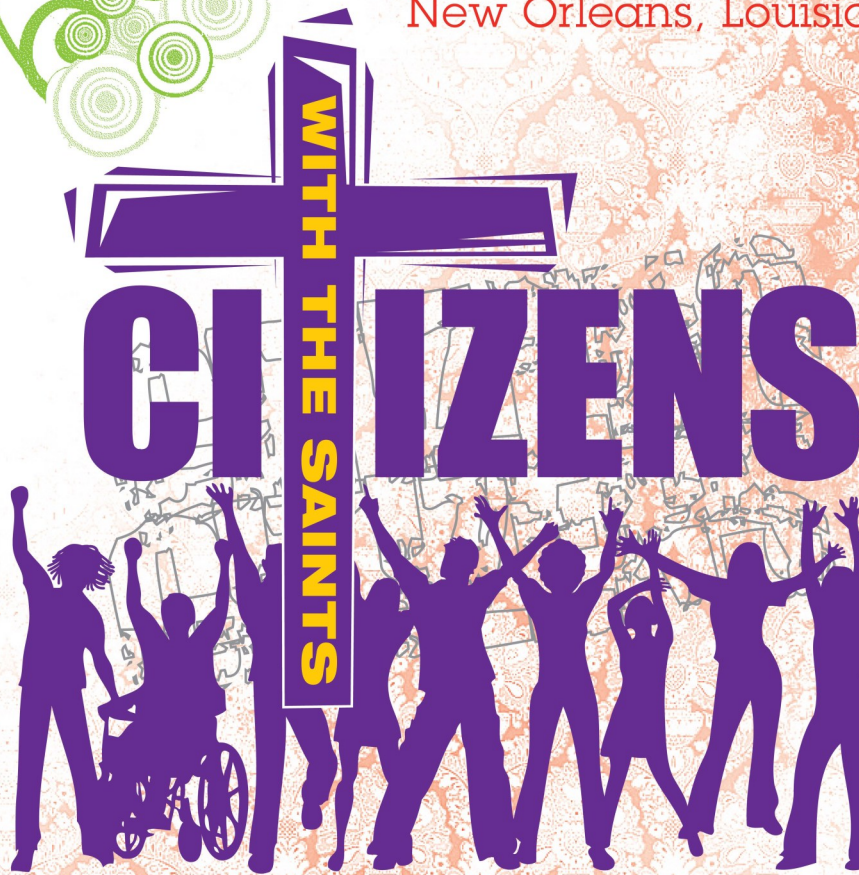
Our next Parents Night Out will take place on Friday and Saturday January 27 and 28. Our high schoolers are eager to offer their babysitting expertise in exchange for donations that will directly benefit the National Youth Gathering. Please contact Jeannine Oakes by January 20 to line up a babysitter!



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering

July 18-22, 2012
New Orleans, Louisiana

Ephesians 2:14-20



www.elca.org/gathering



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

LOOKING AHEAD TO BASKETS TO RAFFLE



Hey Youth Gathering parents and supporters! Back by popular demand in February is the Pasta Dinner and Basket Raffle. As the February 12 date approaches, please begin thinking about putting items together for a theme basket to help raise funds for the next National Youth Gathering.

Basket ideas are endless. Consider baskets such as children's books, movie night, Italian dinner, car wash, spa day, cake decorating, new baby, Valentine romance, Easter goodies, and sports fan. If you're interested, contact Laurel Hensel at 847-685-0994 or laurelhensel@yahoo.com. Thank you!

WORSHIP and MUSIC

Choir schedule for January 2012

Sun. Jan. 1	The Name of Jesus	One service at 10:00 a.m.	
Sun. Jan. 8	Baptism of Our Lord	8:30 a.m. Sanctuary	11:00 a.m. Chancel
Sun. Jan. 15	Second Sunday after Epiphany	8:30 a.m. Youth	11:00 a.m. Chancel
Sun. Jan. 22	Third Sunday after Epiphany	8:30 a.m. Sanctuary	11:00 a.m. Chancel
Sun. Jan. 29	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	8:30 a.m. Cherub, Junior, Orff Ensemble	11:00 a.m. Youth Orff Ensemble

Thank you to all the choirs and instrumentalists who provided music for our Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, Longest Night Service, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Your gifts of time and talent are truly appreciated by the congregation.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule There will be no choir rehearsals on Wednesday, January 4. Chancel Choir resumes on Thursday, January 5. Sanctuary Choir resumes on Sunday, January 8. Cherub, Junior, Orff, Youth, and Celebration Ringers rehearsals resume on Wednesday, January 11.

Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players, Sunday, Jan. 15 at 3:00 PM

Music for this wonderful chamber concert entitled **Freedom and Folk Songs** will include: *Five Negro Songs* by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, *Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, op. 87* by Dvorak, and *Serenade for String Trio, Opus 10* by Erno von Dohnanyi. The program will feature John Goodwin, piano; Ann Palen, violin; Karl Davies, viola; and Margaret Daly, cello. Tickets are \$10-\$20. Students are free. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 847-866-6888, visit www.chicagophilharmonic.org, or contact Melinda Hoiland at melinda.hoiland@comcast.net.

All are welcome! The choirs are always ready to welcome new musicians. If your schedule has changed in the new year, and you find yourself able to attend rehearsals – please join us!

<u>Group</u>	<u>Rehearsal time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Cherub Choir	4:30-5:10 p.m. Wed.	Melinda Hoiland
Junior Choir	5:15-6:15 p.m. Wed.	Melinda Hoiland
Orff Ensemble	6:45-7:30 p.m. Wed.	Melinda Hoiland
Youth Choir	7:00-8:00 p.m. Wed.	Anne Krentz Organ
Celebration Ringers	8:00-9:00 p.m. Wed.	Anne Krentz Organ
Chancel Choir	7:45-9:00 p.m. Thurs.	Anne Krentz Organ
Sanctuary Choir	9:45-10:30 a.m. Sun.	Anne Krentz Organ (twice per month)



WORSHIP IN JANUARY

During Pastor Kristi's sabbatical absence, we are fortunate to have ordained members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church who will preach and preside in her stead. We had hoped to have four preaching slots filled during the months of January and February, however all six pastors said yes! What this means is that we will have guest preachers six out of the eight weeks that Pastor Kristi will be away and that Pastor Koch will preach twice in those eight weeks. Shown below are the Sundays in January, their themes and lessons, and the preaching and presiding schedule as we begin 2012.

January 1st

Name of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21

Preacher, Mac Minnick Presider, George Koch

January 8th

Baptism of our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

Preacher, George Koch Presider, Paul Stone

January 15th

Epiphany 2

(The calling of Nathaniel) 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-52

Preacher, Dan Schwick Presider, George Koch

January 22nd

Epiphany 3

(Andrew, Peter, James and John are called) Jonah 3:1-5,10,

1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

Preacher, Steve Nelson Presider, George Koch

January 29th

Epiphany 4

(Jesus teaches with authority!) Deuteronomy 18:15-20,

1 Corinthians 8:1-3, Mark 1:21-28

Preacher, Don McCoid Presider, George Koch

BUILDING PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

At this point the building project is nearly completed. The remaining items are mostly warranty repairs and this work will carry over into 2012. While the current project is about to be concluded, several items from the original plan remain unfinished. Examples range from a \$2,500 project to complete the Cedar Street landscape lighting to a \$150,000 project to complete the unfinished classrooms and restrooms on the lower level of the new addition. Some of these may be completed fairly quickly, as new funds become available, and others may not be completed for many years.

The one project that has generated substantial recent interest involves the completion of the unfinished space on the upper level of the new addition. This project would create four new rooms, an additional rehearsal/multipurpose room, a secure instrument storage room, a music staff office and a pantry for the new main kitchen. The project would include air conditioning for those new rooms. This project is estimated to cost approximately \$60,000 and a number of recent memorial contributions have been directed toward this project. At this time no timetable has been set for completing this project.

During the construction of the new addition, the contractor uncovered several problems within the masonry exterior wall of the sanctuary that now separates the sanctuary from the atrium. Since it seemed logical to assume that these problems would be replicated in other exterior walls of the 1929 building, the Operations and Management Cabinet recommended that a consultant be retained to perform a very painstaking review of the entire exterior of the original building. The consultant uncovered several problems, which we should begin to address within the next two to three years, if we are to avoid serious damage to the building's exterior. The consultant estimated that these repairs will cost several hundred thousand dollars, spread out over two or three years.

Also during the past winter one of our two boilers sprung a leak and was taken out of service. Fortunately, we were able to function quite well last winter on only one boiler, but we no longer have a backup boiler. These boilers were installed in the early 1980's and since then boiler technology has improved significantly. Thus the Operations and Management Cabinet is now grappling with the question of whether to recommend that the defective boiler be repaired or replaced with a new energy-efficient model. Given the age of the defective boiler, the cost of repairs is uncertain. A new boiler would cost several tens of thousands of dollars, but would have significantly lower operating costs.

Although neither the 1929 masonry wall repairs nor the boiler repair/replacement fell within the scope of the construction project approved in 2009, both are linked to the construction project through the need for funds. Funding of these major repairs will reduce the congregation's ability to fund the uncompleted portions of the construction project in the near term. If you would like to learn more about any of these projects, please contact members of the Operations and Management Cabinet or the building team.

YOU SUPPORT REFUGEES

Thank you to the members of St. Luke's for your "Beyond Our Walls" commitment to RefugeeOne. Last month we sent a check for \$2,204 to RefugeeOne, the first of our pledges which total \$13,330 (through June 30, 2014).

Greg Wangerin, Executive Director of RefugeeOne, wrote, "We are so grateful to the good people of St. Luke's Lutheran Church for your faithful support of refugees. These funds have already been put to good use towards our all-important data base project."

He referred to this as a "game-changing project" and is eager to keep us informed of the impact of our "Beyond Our Walls" outreach within the "Let Your Light Shine 2011-2014" capital campaign. "We are honored to be partners in faith with all of you," he said.

Last fall St. Luke's sent two groups of visitors to RefugeeOne in Uptown. Both the youth and adults commented on the numerous activities they witnessed, including English classes and job training. This agency depends on us to continue our support through "Beyond Our Walls" gifts so that they can continue resettling refugee families in the Chicago area.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Now that our Mission Site Profile has been completed and sent into the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, the Call Committee has met with Bishop Miller and is starting to receive information on potential candidates.

REFOCUS – RENEW SABBATICAL PLANS

DECEMBER 26, 2011 – FEBRUARY 21, 2012

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT ST. LUKE'S DURING PASTOR KRISTI WEBER'S SABBATICAL?

Refocus

(the work part)

I will focus my attention on:

- Demographics of our community as reported in the PERCEPT analysis
- Transforming Church Index survey members took in September
- St. Luke's Ministry Site Profile and how it describes an emerging vision for our congregation
- How my gifts and skills will complement the new staff team
- How my past experience will strengthen the team for the future

Renew

(the personal part)

I will have time for:

- Physical exercise (walking, stationary bike, yoga class, cross country skiing if it snows)
- Singing (Chicago Master Singers, Bach for the Sem, Music service at St. Timothy's – where my husband serves as pastor)
- Travel planning for a family trip to Paris, London, and Wittenberg, Germany next August
- Attending events at my sons' schools
- Worship at other congregations in our community

Thank you for your support of my ministry and our family throughout the past six years and in the years to come.

In Peace,
Pastors Kristi and Erik Weber
Henrik and Oscar

At St. Luke's, the council has contracted with Rev. Patricia Hewitt who will serve as the Interim Associate Pastor.

Cell # 847-778-1631
phewitt@stlukespr.org
Office # 847-825-6659 x 12

Regularly scheduled hours:
Tues/Wed 9:00 am to end of program day
Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Sat/Sun on call as necessary

Pastor Patty's primary responsibilities will be:

Member Care Ministries – visits with hospitalized members and members with specific care needs, preaching or presiding at funerals, work with Member Care Cabinet and programming

Education and Learning Ministries – teaching Confirmation classes

Congregational Life Ministries – liaison with Congregational Life Cabinet

Many Volunteers will also serve during the sabbatical.

Six guest preachers/presiders during worship
Mary Rhoton – Home Visitor coordinator
Joanna Anderson – Member Care support
Scott Grau – Stewardship Team
BethAnn Lynch – Prayer Chain/Shawls

For any other questions about who is coordinating different ministries during the sabbatical, please contact Pastor George Koch

gkoch@stlukespr.org
Cell # 847-778-1997
Office 847-825-6659 x11