

St. Luke's MESSENGER

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

REFLECTIONS: From the Pastor

“Welcoming the Stranger”

I was a stranger and you welcomed me... Matthew 25:35

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

All of these [witnesses] died in faith without having received the promises [of God], but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. Hebrews 11:3-14.

Forty times the word “stranger” is used in the Old Testament (OT), twelve in the New Testament (NT). Forty-four times the word “foreigner” is used in the OT, six in the NT. One Hundred Fourteen times the word “alien” is used in the OT, seven in the NT. Time and time again the people of Israel and the early Christian church were reminded that since they, themselves, had once been “aliens” and “strangers” living in foreign lands, they were to look out for the needs of strangers who lived in their midst.

It’s not that they were naïve or didn’t know about “stranger danger.” The Bible certainly knew of the danger: early Christians were living as “sheep among wolves.” But far from being cynical or pessimistic about the fact that the world was a mixed bag of good and evil, Christians were told to act as “wise as serpents and as innocent as doves.” The *Good Samaritan* story reminded Christians that the one who reached out to a foreigner, despite the personal costs of safety, time and treasure, was the one who showed God’s love.

Our Outreach and Community Service Cabinet will be having a Dialogue in March to look at ways in which we can welcome visitors who come to St. Luke's Lutheran Church at worship and other events. At the Dialogue, we will look for ways to enhance the experience of visitors so that they feel welcomed and seen as a vital part of our ministry. If you are asked to be part of this Dialogue, please say yes. If you want more information about the Dialogue, please talk to (or email) me.

In the mean time, there is **something all of us can do**. St. Luke’s is large enough that not everyone knows everyone else, especially if you frequent only one of the two Sunday services. Don’t be afraid to go up to someone you don’t know between services and say, “Hi, I don’t think I know you yet. I’m glad to meet you.” If they are a visitor they will be happy for the friendly greeting. If they are a member, you’ve begun a deeper relationship.

Growing churches know how to welcome those who come through the doors. It’s part of their DNA. It should be part of ours as well. Welcome others, as Christ has welcomed you!

Take Up – the Wholeness Wheel!

In last month’s Messenger article, I suggested that we “take up” things that are “life affirming” for the Season of Lent. Our Adult Education will be offering a five-part Lenten series (directly after the Lenten Vesper Services) on seeking *Wholeness* (i.e., well being) in five specific areas: socially, vocationally, financially, physically and spiritually. Please read the article elsewhere in this newsletter and join in the endeavor. Take up the Wholeness Wheel!

God’s Blessings, and mine,
George Koch
Interim Lead Pastor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	Page 2
In The Family.....	Page 3
Many Thanks.....	Page 3
Member Care News.....	Page 3
Council Notes	Page 4
Mark Your Calendar	Page 5
Outreach and Community News.....	Page 6
Education for All.....	Page 8
Music and Worship.....	Page 12
Sermon Previews	Page 13

March Birthdays

- 1 Susan Feth, Kim Hendee, Ed Westrich, David Ruth, Matthew Ruth
- 2 Hayley Miller
- 3 Susan Anderson, Lindsey Hendrickson, James Knapp, Jill Perry, Sarah Powell, Elaine Olson
Will Rasmussen, Hanna Weinke, Michael Rodbro, Ryan Simpson
- 4 Janice Bennett, Kyle O'Brien
- 5 John Rhoton
- 6 Jill Crooker, Paul Yee
- 7 Andrea Johnsen, Michael Lichner, Delany Thomas, Eric Wessel
- 8 Erik Baker, Terry Hendrickson, Tessa Schiffers, James Trecker
- 9 Robert Diana, Josh Goll, Kristina Johnsen, Andy Weber
- 10 Chris Richter
- 11 Kathy Keller
- 12 James Stack, Edith Stokie
- 13 Frank Johnsen III, Joe Megyeri, Soren Ramsey
- 14 Lisa Heim, Patrick O'Hern III, Paula Zawojski
- 15 Kathie Bender Schwich, Brad Bugai, Wayne Goble III, Kevin Goll
- 16 Lindsey Barnes, Loren Dardi, Bonnie Gudukas, Jennifer Knapp, Jen Fester, Steven Richter, Sydney Richter
- 17 Kelly Kohndorfer, Keri Travis, Cynthia Spiegel, Patrick Paolone
- 18 Claire Lewis, Heather Wind
- 19 Lavonne Boch
- 20 Heather Santella, Judy Smith
- 21 Devyn Dalton
- 22 Jenna Dolson, Paul Sheehan
- 23 Kathleen Raeder, Irene Rasmussen, Harold Scholin
- 24 Steven Monz
- 25 Jennifer DeLisle, Claire Melidosian
- 27 C. James Downs, Dennis Figler
- 28 John English, Stacy Benefield, Catherine Marquis, Mia Parkos Pomilia, Robert Peterson, Kristin Ross,
Jill Smith, Aurora Walker, Gail Schook, Olivia Cattau
- 29 Steven Callahan, Kathleen Christell, Susan Corsello, Nikole Dolson, Aaron Hughes, Daniel Torre,
Andrew Nashan, Todd Quitno, George Spiegel
- 30 Heather Feldner, Nancy Lodding, Kim Schaeffer
- 31 Sophie Clark

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

- 5 Mark and Heidi Miller
- 7 Chris and Ellen Nelson
- 11 Chad and Brenna Huovie
- 14 Roger and Pat Higgins
- 20 Matthew and Courtney Nashan
- 22 Albert and June Ehorn
- 24 Antonio and Jennifer Messina
- 28 James and Gail Pearson

MESSENGER NOW ON LINE....

Please make sure that the church office has your current email address to receive the Messenger on line!

*All households that have a current email address and opt-in will receive the Messenger online via an email alert issued through our 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. Please make sure the church office has your current email address. Thanks!*



ST. LUKE'S MEMBER CARE

IN THE FAMILY...

We welcome through the waters of baptism, Colin Peter Neill (2-19), son of Simon Neill and Melanie Johnsen.

MANY THANKS FROM.....

Rene and Will Rasmussen for the beautiful altar flowers they received.... Concordia Place for the donation of \$100 to Concordia Place's Early Childhood Education Scholarship program....ELCA World Hunger Director, Rev. Daniel Rift for the \$1,000.00 gift to World Hunger.... Pastor Twila Schock, Director, Missionary Sponsorship and Global Appeals for the gifts of \$3,500.00 to ELCA Missionary Sponsorship and \$450.00 to the Mount of Olives Housing project.

TUSEN TACK. TUSEN TAKK. VIELEN DANKE. MUCHAS GRACIAS. MANY THANKS.

No matter how you say it, we thank God for the ministry of Pastor Patricia (Patty) Hewitt among us these last eight weeks while Pastor Weber was on sabbatical. Pastor Hewitt's openness to all who met her, her mastery of Confirmation, her ministry with the hospitalized and nursing home residents all showed us of the gifts she brings to the ministry, even in a part-time situation like we had here during the sabbatical. As she leaves us, she has been contracted to work with University Lutheran Church in Evanston as they work through their vacancy. Thank you, Pastor Patty, and best wishes!

WINTER FARMERS' MARKET

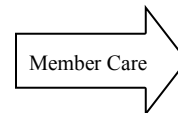
The Global Links team would like to thank all of those St. Luke's members who helped pull together the Winter Farmers' Market that occurred January 28. We were overjoyed to have over 325 attendees for the four-hour event. More importantly, the farmers/vendors were very pleased with the level of support for their livelihoods. A special thanks to Craig Moen, Tom Lynch, Norm Maske, Adam Cartwright, Steve Jaracz, Kevin and Naomi Goll, Ben Nelson, Justin and Jarrett Gustafson, Henrik Weber, and all those other helpful gremlins who presented St. Luke's to our neighboring communities as a welcoming and hospitable congregation!

ST. LUKE'S STAFF 847-825-6659

Rev. Dr. George J. Koch, Interim Lead Pastor - ext. 11
Rev. Kristina C. Weber, 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

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.



SUNDAY SUPPER

On Sunday, January 22, St. Luke's provided dinner for 72 guests at the Sunday Supper held at St. Paul of the Cross. Five way chili, corn muffins, tossed salad, banana cake and fresh fruit were served to each guest. Once again Nancy and Keith Lodding opened their home as the prep kitchen. Nancy and Kim Hendee cooked chili and macaroni for hours - 60 pounds of ground beef, plus cases of beans, tomatoes and macaroni. Volunteers included Becky and Julia Bork, Gary Clark, George Durr, Gail Freund, Kris and Gerry Girdaukas, Dee Dee Kohlndorfer and Sue Weber. Every guest received seconds and "thirds" to take with. The guests included families with young children, men and women, and many senior citizens. All of the guest left full, thankful and wished everyone God's blessings as they left.

EASTER BREAKFAST PLANNING

Easter Breakfast planning has started. We are looking for volunteers to help in several ways including set up/clean up, serving, and donations of food to be served. If you can donate pastries, muffins, bagels, or fruit for this event, please add your name to the sign up sheets that will be in the Atrium on Sunday mornings or contact LaDonna Taylor. Information about this event will also be on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you have any questions, please contact LaDonna at ltaylor0425@gmail.com.



FEBRUARY COUNCIL SUMMARY

- Welcomed newly elected members to their first regular meeting and welcomed Meg Boyce as the second youth representative to council.
- Reviewed Annual Congregational Meeting and the actions taken.
- Approved, subject to audit, the reports of the financial officers.
- Approved 2013 Planning Document for distribution as a guide to 2013 ministry planning and 2012 Spending Plan development.
- Approved a contract with VANCO Credit Card Services to make it possible for donors to contribute by credit or debit card and to pay fees online for event registrations. Responsibility for credit card security is assumed by the company.
- Ratified the electronic vote permitting the inclusion of alcohol (wine) in raffle baskets for the youth's Pasta Dinner fund raiser on February 12, with the proviso that only adults would be allowed to bid on such baskets.
- Assigned council members to serve as liaisons to cabinets and committees.
- Approved the appointment of the following financial officers for 2012: Betty Weber, Assistant Treasurer; Don Nelson, Financial Secretary; Art Johnson, Recording Financial Secretary; Barbara Swartling and Kurt Wessel, Co-treasurers, Let Your Light Shine Fund.
- Approved grants recommended by the Endowment Fund Committee as follows: St. Luke's Discretionary Fund, \$170 as reimbursement for money sent to Sarah Griebler for school supplies in Poland; St. Peter's School in South Africa (AIDS orphans), \$428; Missionary Support to supplement our benevolence, \$1285; Concordia Place scholarships, \$1713; LSSI for St. Matthew's Center for Health, \$856. Endowment Fund disbursements total \$4452.
- Set Sunday, March 11, 2012 as the date for a Council Retreat to be held following the second service, for approximately three hours.
- Expressed thanks and appreciation to Pr. Patricia Ann Hewitt for her service to St. Luke's during Pr. Kristi Weber's sabbatical.

SUMMARY OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 2011

The meeting was called, following the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, for the purpose of welcoming newly elected council members and electing council officers for the year.

The following slate of officers was recommended by the Executive Committee:

President: Irene Jinks
Vice-president: Kyle Cartwright
Secretary: David Duffy
Recording Secretary: Janet Wasilewski

There were no further nominations, and it was moved, seconded and carried that the nominated slate become the elected officers. The Congregational Treasurer, Jerry Gudukas, had been elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting for a one-year term.

Council members indicated their preferences for council assignments for the year. These assignments will be confirmed at the regular council meeting in February.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION ~ JANUARY 2011

Seventy-eight voting members of the congregation were present. Reports were presented by all of the members of the staff, as well as by the cabinets and committees that serve the congregation. Those present were given the opportunity to ask questions.

The 2012 Spending Plan (budget) which had been prepared by the Financial Management Team and reviewed and recommended by the Congregational Council was presented for adoption. Concern was expressed by those attending, as well as by those making the presentation, about the fact that diminished revenue accompanied by increasing expenses made it necessary to decrease mission support. Several amendments suggesting transfer of funds from budgeted accounts to mission support were presented; they were defeated. The Spending Plan, totaling \$669,520 as originally presented, was approved. An amendment that all monies received for seasonal offerings in excess of the \$20,000 included in the Spending Plan be designated for mission support passed.

The Endowment Committee stated that approximately \$4500 would be available to fund the grant requests that had been received this year.

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates to fill various elected positions:

Church Council:

Class of 2014

Jeff Bork
Laure Mullaney
Debbie Roman
Paul Schroeder

Class of 2012

Dennis Diana (to fill one-year unexpired term)

Congregation Treasurer

Jerry Gudukas (one-year term)

Financial Review Team

Tom Anderson (three-year term)

Endowment Fund Trustee

Janet Hoiberg (three-year term)

Nominating Committee

Vicki Loise (two-year term)

Jason Burrows (two-year term)

There were no further nominations and all candidates were elected to their respective positions.

Nikole Dolson, David Duffy and Janet Wasilewski were approved as delegates to the Metro Chicago Synodical Assembly In June, 2012.

John Timmer gave an update on the work of the Call Committee. Interviews with candidates are beginning

Special resolutions recognized our pastors and staff, those who have served the congregation this year and those who have come into or left the congregation. Our Mission and Vision statements, our Statement of Welcome and our strategic goals were reaffirmed.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FIRST TUESDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST

On Tuesday, March 6 at 8:00 am, come and enjoy pancakes and coffee followed by a presentation by our Director of Music Ministries, Anne Krentz Organ. Anne will take the guys on a tour of the unfinished rehearsal room and give a description of the plan for the build-out of the music office and instrumental rehearsal room. After that, the men will have the opportunity to do some "change-ringing" with the handbells. No music reading skills are necessary! If you can count to 8, you can be a successful change-ringer. All are welcome!

DON'T FORGET OUR NEW PROGRAMS

Don't forget our new programs:

- 1.) Support Group. On the first and third Mondays of the month (at 7 PM) we are offering a support group for parents of adult special needs children. Here you will find others with similar stories and shared insight into the special needs of our families. For more details see Pastor Koch.
- 2.) Spiritual Practices. On the second and fourth Saturdays from 3:00 till 4:30, there is the opportunity to explore the practices of Meditation, Massage, Message (journaling) and Group Spiritual Direction, lead by Judy Koch, Barbara Reynolds and Diane Barounis. For more information, call Diane at 847-823-8902.

EXPLORE EMERGING MINISTRY, SUSTAINABILITY AT MARCH LEADERSHIP SERIES

Come spend a day and half at LSTC with experts in emerging ministries and sustainability. Register by March 12 for one or both workshops. Learn more or register at www.lstc.edu/events/conferences/leadership-series/

On March 19, you'll learn about emerging ministry and what type of ministry will work in your context as Nadia Bolz-Weber and Linda Thomas present the Leadership Lectures, "Identity and Context." Cost is \$75 for the day.

On March 20, a faculty member from Valparaiso University's Graduate School of Business will lead the half-day workshop, "The Role of Business in a Faith-Based Organization." This free workshop is designed for clergy and other church professionals. You'll learn management skills to help your organization be sustainable so it can achieve its mission.

GLOCAL MISSION GATHERING

Glocal Mission Gathering in Irving, Texas, April 27-29

Equip yourself for God's work in today's global and local realities. Find more information and registration at www.elca.org/glocal.

EASTER GARDEN 2012

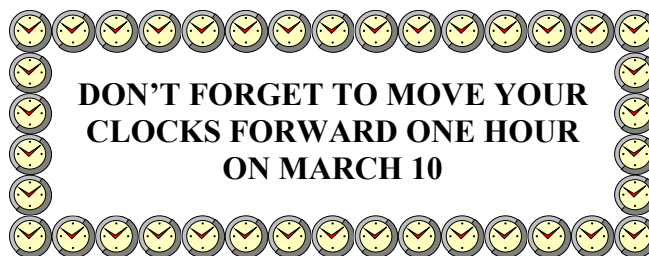
In celebration of the Resurrection, a variety of spring flowers will, once again, adorn the chancel and other areas of the church on Easter Sunday, April 8.

An order form for plants appears in Sunday bulletins every Sunday in Lent. Additional order forms are available on the table in the atrium, and in this addition of the Messenger on page 11.

The deadline to submit the form is **MONDAY, MARCH 19**.

Please note that orders are not considered to be accepted until payment is received. All plants are reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis and some plants are limited in quantity. Plants include pink azaleas and purple hydrangeas at \$20 per plant, and large tulips and traditional white lilies at \$15 per plant. If your choice is over-subscribed, you will be contacted for an alternate choice.

Plants may be either designated for shut-in delivery (no pick-up) and may be picked up only **AFTER the postlude at late service**. Altar Guild Members will distribute plants to recipients to ensure all orders are filled as requested.



BLOOD DRIVE—MARCH 29

The Social Ministry Team of St. Luke's is sponsoring a blood drive through *LifeSource* that will take place Thursday, March 29, 2012 from 4:00PM-8:30PM.

Professionally trained people will conduct the process and there will be coffee and refreshments provided to each individual after blood has been drawn. **The Social Ministry Committee will not be calling the congregation asking for donors this year.** Donors please use the website www.Lifesource.org. Donors can also call 312/279-2958 to schedule or if you have any questions regarding donating.

Donors must be 17 years of age and no upper age limit. Please bring some type of identification such as a driver's license, a social security number or/state id. **WALK-INS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.**

If you have any questions, please call Jean Igoe 8:30 am—5:00 pm at 847-298-0310 or after 5:00 pm at 847-224-7253.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



2nd Annual Global COW Dinner

Wednesday, March 21

5:15 to 6:45 p.m.

Henderson Hall

Come join us for a meal while fighting hunger at the same time. Global Come-On-Wednesday (COW) Dinner will feature home-cooked foods from around the world provided by the Global Links team. Come and sample a different taste of the world, with peanut butter and jelly available for those who may be a little less adventurous. Your purchase price for your dinner ticket will be donated to ELCA World Hunger.

Bring along a friend...and your appetite!

NEW 2012 ELCA WORLD HUNGER GOAL!

Through the first week in February, we have already received nearly \$2,000 in gifts toward our 2012 ELCA World Hunger Campaign. While it may be disappointing to see our previously overflowing bread basket return to only a few loaves as we work toward our new 2012 goal of **\$28,000 = 28 LOAVES OF BREAD**, we encourage you to keep up the good work in 2012. As you may remember, last year we surpassed our \$27,000 goal with a final number of \$28,391. In 2010, our donations reached over \$30,000. Don't forget to identify your contributions for ELCA World Hunger when placing them in the St. Luke's offering plate. And...thanks for helping us start out the new year right!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



The World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday, March 2 at 10:00 am. The Park Ridge Presbyterian Church at Delphia and Crescent will host the service. A light lunch will be served following the service. Each World Day of Prayer worship service has a special theme and is prepared by a specific country. This year's theme is "Let Justice Prevail" and the women of Malaysia have written the service text. Through these ecumenical services we are enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries. We are also given the opportunity to become aware of these women's concerns and needs. All are invited to join the this March 2 World Day of Prayer.



FINANCIAL UPDATE - January 31

The 2012 Spending Plan approved at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 29 totals \$669,520. In 2012 there are 53 Sundays rather than the normal 52. The revenue needed each week (53) is \$12,632.45. The revenue projected from member offerings is \$659,535. Weekly contributions need to total \$12,444.06 OR monthly contributions of \$54,961.25.

January Income and Expenses – Spending Plan:

Revenue for January	\$60,418.95	Offering from Donors	\$51,184.00
Expenses for January	\$52,017.99		
Balance	\$ 8,400.96*		

*This positive balance was possible because of advance contributions by 2 household. (\$8,600)

January Building Fund:

Contributions \$10,091

Other Contributions:

World Hunger	\$1,485.00
Mount of Olives	20.00
Scholarships – Concordia	25.00
Refugee One	1,510.00

LENTEN AND EASTER OFFERINGS

The Lenten season begins Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. During the Lenten season, Christians are encouraged to pray, study the scriptures, worship, assist others and give alms. Opportunities to assist in doing each of these things will be available to members of St. Luke's again this year.

To assist in the ALMS GIVING, the following resource is suggested: Beginning with Ash Wednesday there are special weekly offering envelopes available for the six weeks of the season plus offering envelopes for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and a SPECIAL envelope for Easter Sunday. There is a total of 8 offering envelopes plus Easter Sunday. Members are encouraged to use these envelopes for the giving of alms that can minister to ministries that assist people in need.

At the Annual Meeting of the congregation, a motion was approved that all funds exceeding the \$20,000 projected for SEASONAL OFFERING would be contributed to MISSION SUPPORT for our ministries through the Metro Chicago Synod the Churchwide expression, ELCA. This action was approved after the Annual Meeting had approved the 2012 Spending Plan that reduced St. Luke's contribution to Mission Support from 15% of offerings to 10% (reduction of \$37,000.) There was a desire on the part of many members to provide a way to increase St. Luke's contribution to Mission Support.

An INGATHERING OF ALMS during Lent along with the Special Offering for Easter could make it possible to restore a portion of the contribution to Mission Support that was removed from the 2012 Spending Plan because of the lack of funds.

As you consider your Lenten Journey, please set a goal for yourself in ALMS GIVING that will make it possible to support our ministries to others through the synod and ELCA.

BLARNEY, BEETHOVEN AND BRAHMS

The Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players will present a concert
Blarney, Beethoven and Brahms
to celebrate St. Patrick's Day weekend on Sunday, March 18 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 in advance (\$10 seniors 65 and older). Students are free.
Please see Melinda Hoiland before the concert for tickets
or purchase online at www.chicagophilharmonic.org
or by phone at 847.866.6888

EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

**Adult Forum- Sunday mornings
9:45-10:45 am**

Bring your coffee and join the conversation in the Adult Forum on Sunday morning.

MARCH 4TH, Ken Schoy, Chairman of our Social Ministry Committee, will give us an introduction to the various local Social Ministry Organizations and Agencies that we support with our food, gifts, energy and money. Ken will help acquaint us with the people these various agencies help and what their most urgent needs are.

MARCH 11TH, Dr. Pamela Boyce OD, from Boyce Family Eye Care in Park Ridge and a member of St. Luke's, will help us learn how we can continue to live a full life in spite of declining vision. She will talk to us about eye disorders and the treatments that can help people continue to live productive lives.

MARCH 18TH, PASTOR KRISTI WEBER has returned from her sabbatical. We welcome her back and look forward to her report about her activities during this time away.

MARCH 25TH, SPRING BREAK

All are welcome!

Wednesdays Adult Bible Study

Come on Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. following the Lenten Vesper Service

The Wholeness Wheel



The Wholeness Wheel reflects our call to care for our whole self. By balancing the interconnected dimensions of wellbeing, we are able to live well in Christ and pass on our faith. The Wholeness Wheel illustrates that wellness is multidimensional — made up of spiritual, vocational, intellectual, emotional, physical, social and financial elements of well-being. Spiritual wellbeing is intertwined with each aspect of wellness.



February 29 Social well-being — Dr. Erika Bokor

We were created by God to be social beings, living in community and instructed to help and love each other. Make time to build and maintain social well-being through interaction, play and forgiveness. Take time to nurture your relationships with family, friends, congregation and coworkers.



March 7 Vocational well-being — Pastor Mac Minnick

We all have a calling – a vocation – to follow Christ’s example, living a life of meaning, purpose and service to our neighbor. Our vocations are our life’s work and passions – our everyday roles through which God calls us to help make this world a better place. Those who are well vocationally are faithful stewards of their talents and abilities, and find opportunities to build and use them.



March 14 Financial well-being— Paul Milner

In all aspects of well-being we are called to be stewards. Good financial stewards make decisions based on their values, which is evident in the way they save, spend and share. This understanding of stewardship embraces resilience, sustainability and generosity.



March 21 Physical well-being —

While we are not all born perfectly healthy or able to live life without injury or illness, we can live well with tending and nurturing. Honor your body as a gift from God. Feed it healthy foods, keep it hydrated, build your physical endurance through regular exercise and respect your body’s need for rest.



March 28 Spiritual well-being — Pastor Kristi Weber

Living a centered life focused on God affects each aspect of our wellbeing. Turn to God for strength as you seek to live well in Christ. Nurture your relationship with God through prayer, devotions, worship, nature, art and music. Explore who you are and know whose you are.

EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Thank you to the congregation for another successful Souper Bowl Sunday!

The youth collected over 90 cans of food and \$200 to this great cause for relieving hunger locally!



LASAGNA DINNER THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to ALL the youth and parents who helped with the Lasagna Dinner, Basket Raffle and Silent Auction fundraiser on February 12!

We were SO thrilled by the amount of members and friends who attended the event and to all who donated baskets to the event!

Many thanks to JoEllen Krantz, Sarah Post, Laurel Hensel, Deb Gaffney, and Brenda Penny for organizing this fantastic event and all who helped out and attended!

VOLLEYBALL AND SMALL GROUPS FOR YOUTH GATHERING PARTICIPANTS

We gather once again on March 18 from 4 pm - 5:30pm for volleyball and getting ready the the Gathering.

We meet the third Sunday of each month.

Don't forget we also meet the first Sunday for an evening of just volleyball.



JR HI VS. SR HI VOLLEYBALL

Join us March 4 from 4pm - 5:30pm for volleyball in Henderson Hall.

LENTEN COW SCHEDULE

~HOLY COW~

4:30 Cherub Choir
5:00 Junior Choir
5:15 Dinner
5:45 Orff Ensemble
6:00 Youth Choir
7:00 Worship - Holden Evening Prayer
7:30 Confirmation
7:30 Adult Education
8:00 Celebration Ringers

SPECIAL LENTEN COW

MARCH 28

No Cherub, Junior, Orffs
or Youth choirs

7:30 Adult Education
8:00 Celebration Ringers

EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES ARE SCHEDULED

First Communion classes are scheduled for Thursday, March 1 at 4:00 pm and Saturday, March 3 at 8:30 am; and again on Thursday, March 15 at 4:00 pm and Saturday, March 17 at 8:30 am. Children in 4th and 5th grade and their parents are invited to attend one of these two sessions. Children younger than 3rd grade and their parents are invited to join Pastor Weber on Tuesday, March 20 at 5:00 pm for a special one session class. Please contact Pastor Weber at kweber@stlukespr.org if you are interested in participating with your child in either the 4th/5th grade or early communion class.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 1 - Sunday of the Passion

8:30 am and 11:00 am Worship Service with Blessing of Palms and The Passion According to St. Mark

Wednesday, April 4 - Seder Meal

Seder Meal at 5:30 pm in Henderson Hall

Thursday, April 5 - Maundy Thursday

11:00 am informal Worship Service in Henderson Hall followed by luncheon

7:00 pm Worship Service with First Communion in the Sanctuary

Friday, April 6 - Good Friday

12:00 pm Child-friendly Worship Service. All ages welcome, children and adults.

7:30 Worship Service with The Passion According to St. John

Saturday, April 7 - Easter Vigil

7:30 pm Worship Service with blessing of new fire, readings, affirmation of baptism and Eucharist

Sunday, April 8 - Easter Sunday

8:30 am worship service and 11:00 am Festival Eucharist celebrates the Resurrection

Easter Brunch between services in Henderson Hall

LIBRARY NEWS

We have several new books to read this month, and among them are two new biographies. [A Journey of Grace: The Formation of a Leader and a Church](#) is the autobiography of the Rev. Dr. Herbert W. Chilstrom, the first presiding bishop of the ELCA. It is a reflective account of his life as it intertwines with the church from baptism to the present day. A completely different life story is told in [Truman](#), the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Harry S. Truman, written by David McCullough, and one of the greatest of American stories, filled with vivid characters and dramatic events.

We have added another Ann Weems poetry collection to our shelves. [Kneeling in Jerusalem](#) contains “gems of spirituality and faith”, some powerful, some pensive, all creative, that impart a rich understanding of the Lenten and Eastertide seasons.

Check out our latest DVDs. They include [The Gates of Jerusalem: A History of the Holy City](#), [Troubled Waters](#), (exploring the blessing and the accessibility of fresh water around the globe), and [A Time for Burning](#) (an all-white congregation confronts racism in the 60’s).

WORSHIP and MUSIC

Choir service schedule for March 2012:

Date	Occasion	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Sun. March 4	Second Sunday in Lent	Sanctuary Celebration Ringers	Chancel Celebration Ringers
Sun. March 11	Third Sunday in Lent	Youth	Cherub, Junior Orff Ensemble
Sun. March 18	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Sanctuary	Chancel
Sun. March 25	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Flute Choir	Chancel Flute Choir
Sun. April 1	Palm/Passion Sunday	Sanctuary Celebration Ringers	Chancel Celebration Ringers

Lenten Mid-week worship will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, beginning on February 29. This year we will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer* service, written by Marty Haugen. Consider adding this spiritual, prayerful worship experience to your routine during the Lenten season.



Revised Lenten COW schedule beginning Wednesday, February 29

4:30-5:00 p.m.	Cherub Choir	6:00-6:45 p.m.	Youth Choir
5:00-5:45 p.m.	Junior Choir	7:00-7:30 p.m.	Worship – <i>Holden Evening Prayer</i>
5:15-6:45 p.m.	Dinner	8:00-9:00 p.m.	Celebration Ringers
5:45-6:30 p.m.	Orff Ensemble		



Camp Allegro Music Camp will be held July 9-13, from 9:00 a.m.-noon at St. Luke's, for children entering Kgtn.-6th grade. This summer we will present a musical called "Elijah! God's Faithful Prophet" during worship on Thursday, July 12, at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Melinda Hoiland, melinda.hoiland@comcast.net or (847-384-9375) with questions or if you'd like to help in any way. **Register now!**

No Choir Rehearsals on Wednesday, March 28

Cherub, Junior, Youth Choirs, and Orff Ensemble: Happy Spring Break! Enjoy your week off.

Celebration Ringers handbell choir will rehearse at 8:00 p.m.

The **Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players** will present a concert entitled *Blarney, Beethoven and Brahms* to celebrate St. Patrick's Day weekend on Sunday, March 18 at 3 p.m. The program will include a work by Frank Martin, *Trio on Popular Irish Melodies*, Irish songs by Beethoven, *Irische Lieder for Violin, Cello, Flute and Piano*, *Garyone, Oh, Who, My Dear Dermot*, and *St. Patrick's Day*, Brahms' *Piano Quartet in A Major, Opus 26* by and Hummel's *Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano in A Major, Opus 78*. Performers are Jennifer Cappelli, violin; Karl Davies, viola; Margaret Daly, cello; Donna Milanovich, flute; and John Goodwin, piano. Tickets are \$15 in advance (\$10 seniors 65 and older). Students are free. Please see Melinda Hoiland before the concert if you would like to purchase them or purchase online at www.chicagophilharmonic.org or by phone at 847.866.6888

WORSHIP IN MARCH

March 4 ~ Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle prays for churches in *Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam*

Believing an Unbelievable Promise

Abraham and Sarah believe that God's unbelievable promise of many descendants will be fulfilled. Paul writes to the Roman Christians about Abraham's faith in God's promise and states that the promise rests on grace. Abraham believed in the God who calls into existence the things that do not exist. How do we join our ancestors of faith in believing in an unbelievable promise that rests on grace and points to Jesus who brings life and hope to all who believe?

March 11 ~ Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; I Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle prays for churches in *China, Hong Kong, Macao*

"Is there Gospel in Law?"

The gift of the Law (Ten Commandments) to those God freed from slavery is a key part of Luther's catechism. The Law reminds us that God, who has freed us from oppression, claims us.. We understand God's grace when we acknowledge God's centrality in our lives.

March 18 ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle prays for churches in *Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore*

By Grace You Have Been Saved Through Faith

The Bible continually reveals God as one who understands human tendencies to become impatient, to complain, and to get ourselves into trouble. Yet God continues to love us and to show the immeasurable riches of God's grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. By grace we have been saved and Jesus is at the center of God's plan.

March 25 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle prays for churches in *East Timor, Indonesia, Philippines*

"The hidden life of seeds"

"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." With these words Jesus foretells a "New Covenant" that will be established through his death on a cross. The cross will turn out to be a beginning, not an ending!