

JANUARY 2015

#SAVEAMILLION  
Spring Wednesday.com

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# Welcome

2015

## St. Luke's Line

St. Luke United Methodist Church

*"Just imagine what God can do ..."*

# #saveamillion



If you could save a million dollars just by paying a little ahead, you would do it in a heartbeat, wouldn't you? There is great value in paying ahead on loans. When a little extra is paid on the principal, the life of the loan is cut significantly and also saves on the interest charges. Well, our church is actually in the position of being able to save **\$1,000,000** in interest on the mortgage on our Life Center!

In October, we shared the idea of having big goals for 2015 that would inspire our congregation and our ministries to stretch, to catch God's vision for what St. Luke and each one of us can do to join in where God is working in our midst and in our community. Ministry teams have been thinking and praying about those goals and will soon begin planning ways these goals relate to their areas.

One of the goals was to pay an additional 10% on our loan in 2015 and to pay an additional 10% every year for 10 years. This would allow us to pay the loan off sooner than expected and also to save on interest, knowing that any money saved would be money for ministry. At first, this idea seemed like it might be a real stretch, but after looking closely at the numbers, we have learned that this is actually quite manageable if everyone joins in. Here's how it would work:

We realized that if we can pay an additional \$78,000 per year toward the principal for 10 years, we will actually save **\$1,000,000** in interest. **\$1,000,000!** And sure, \$78,000 additional each year is a lot of money, but it can be broken down into chunks that are actually quite manageable. If 130 giving units (individuals, families, groups of families, classes, etc.) gave just an additional \$50 per month (\$600 per year), we can do it!

We will establish a Balloon Fund for this cause, and release one balloon every time \$600 towards the principal on our loan is paid. We will have balloon releases throughout the year to celebrate our progress! Expect to see a display in our lobby soon that shares information and shows how we are doing.

Will you join us? Please pray about how you, your family, you and a group of friends or families, or your class might be able to commit to \$50 per month for our Balloon Fund. Just imagine what God can do with **\$1,000,000!** Will you help St. Luke Save A Million?

St. Luke Leadership Team,  
Finance Team &  
Directors Team

2/January 2015



## WEDNESDAY.COMM SPRING SEMESTER KICK-OFF EVENT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21 5:30-7:00 P.M.

There will be a chili cook-off as well as a table displaying all of the class options for Wednesdays this spring. The class facilitators will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. More information to come!

### WEDNESDAY.COMM CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES START JANUARY 28!

Wednesday evenings are a great way to get connected at St. Luke. Each Wednesday evening starts with a time of fellowship over dinner. Following the meal there are classes and activities for children, youth and adults.

Once again this year, the meals will be hosted by different groups and classes to raise awareness and support for various ministries in our community. Meals are \$5 per plate (\$15 max per family, sharing allowed if you wish) and will be served from 5:15-6:30 p.m.

There is a very exciting line-up of classes this spring! Check out the descriptions below and on the next page to find one that best suits your discipleship growth needs.

### WEDNESDAY.COMM SCHEDULE EACH WEEK:

5:15-6:30 p.m.	Come-and-go Community Meal in the Gym
6:00-7:00 p.m.	Childcare for Infants and Toddlers
6:00-7:00 p.m.	Activities for Preschoolers
6:00-7:00 p.m.	Kindergarten-5th Grade Bible-based Activities & Games
6:00-7:30 p.m.	Youth Bible Study in the Youth Room
6:00-8:30 p.m.	Adult Classes (see below)
7:00-8:30 p.m.	Adult Choir
7:00-8:30 p.m.	Childcare available for children of parents in choir or class.

*Save the Date!*

### ADULT CLASSES AND GROUPS:

#### **St. Luke 101—Membership Class**

Facilitated by Pastor Mark Girard

(see page 7 for more information)

**6:00–7:00 p.m.**

#### **Missions Dilemma**

Facilitated by Reid Buchanan

**6:00–7:00 p.m.**

During this time, the class will explore the ever changing world of missions. Discussion will focus on the inclusion of indigenous believers in the work of the Great Commission, and how the local church, St. Luke UMC, can be a part of the current strategies to fulfill this powerful call from God. For more information contact Reid Buchanan at [rbuchanan@stlukeumc.org](mailto:rbuchanan@stlukeumc.org).

***Beautiful Outlaw: Experiencing the Playful, Disruptive, Extravagant Personality of Jesus* by John Eldredge**

**6:00–7:00 p.m.**

Facilitated by Keith Reinke

Reading the Gospels without knowing the personality of Jesus is like watching television with the sound turned off. When one discovers his true character, this man who made the wind, music and flying squirrels—suddenly all of the remarkable qualities of Jesus burst forth with color and brilliance like fireworks. Those who knew him best loved him passionately. He had a sense of humor. His generosity was scandalous. His anger made enemies tremble. He would say the most outrageous things. And this Jesus has not changed one bit; he is still himself, available to all who would know him. This book by John Eldredge is a great fit between Christmas and Easter. It makes you feel like you are there. It helps us really understand who Jesus is, and once we know him, we begin to understand God and who He wants to grow us to be.

***The Faces of Grief***

**6:00–7:00 p.m.**

Facilitated by Don Cutter

Join Don as he journeys through productive ways to deal with personal grief or the grief of a friend. In addition to dealing with dying and death, the class will study other types of losses that create a grief experience including loss of a job, loss of a relationship, loss of a home, loss of the ability to care for oneself, loss of a spouse and children through divorce, loss of faith and church, loss of friendships when someone moves away, loss of innocence, and loss of trust. All of these life experiences can be grief experiences. The class will focus on healthy ways to deal with such losses in order to move toward to the goal of acceptance and reframing one's future.

***Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis**

**6:00–7:00 p.m.**

Facilitated by John Crissman

This class met during the fall Wednesday.comm and will continue their study of C.S. Lewis' seminal defense of Christianity. They will begin this spring with Book 3, Chapter 4: Morality and Psychoanalysis. Please come ready to engage in thoughtful dialogue. This twentieth century masterpiece provides an unequaled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith. Newcomers welcome!

***A Lenten Study – details to be announced***

**6:00–7:00 p.m.**

Facilitated by Wendell Barnett

**\*\*Class will run March 4–April 8\*\***

***Another Bead, Another Prayer* by Kristen Vincent**

**6:00–7:00 p.m.**

Facilitated by Karen Girard

Prayer beads provide a way to be still, focus on God, and become more comfortable with praying. Last fall, the class discovered the benefits of prayer beads through Kristen Vincent's best-selling book *A Bead and a Prayer*. This semester the group will begin with a brief explanation of Protestant prayer beads for anyone who was not in the fall class. After making a set of prayer beads, we will study the four types of prayers, Praise, Confession, Intercession, and Thanksgiving, through the 28 scripture-based devotions explored in the new book by Kristen Vincent. This class is open to anyone interested in deepening their prayer life and exploring new ways to pray. No previous beading or praying experience required!

***Knitting and Crocheting***

**6:00–7:00 p.m.**

Facilitated by Karla Lhade

This group meets weekly to knit and crochet scarves for various missions and causes. The group has now started loom knitting, too. All are welcome from beginner to expert. Stop by anytime for fellowship and some crocheting and knitting tips!

# Notes from the Pastor



## A Personal Note from The Pastor

Since it was my message at the end of October that seemingly got the ball rolling, I wanted to take just a moment to thank all of you for the response to the financial situation in the church. What God has done through all of us have been nothing short of miraculous. But quite frankly it was not that surprising. In my first two years in ministry with you, I have experienced the people of St. Luke as incredibly generous, outwardly focused disciples who are always ready to step up and meet all of the challenges of ministry and church. Thank you for how you open your hearts and lives to the work of God's Spirit in and through you. You are truly an amazing and spirit filled church and people. It is such a privilege and a joy to be in ministry with you.

And on an even more personal note, let me say that Karen, Anna and I were overwhelmed by your generosity during the Christmas Season. We treasure each card and gift that we received and we thank God for all of you. Thank you.

Thanks for a great year. I know that 2015 is going to be a special year for St. Luke because of all of you and your willingness to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God bless each and every one,



Mark

## Imagine A Church That.... A New Message Series For Sunday Morning January 11- February 15

Our next series of messages for Sunday morning worship will be **Imagine A Church That ...** It will focus on the goals that have been set for 2015. We will look at how those goals incorporate the Value Statements of the Church and how they will impact our ministry together in the coming year, as well as how they relate to God's purposes for the church. Join us as together we **Imagine A Church That ...** beginning January 11 at the 8:30, 9:45 and 11:10 services.

# Updates & Activities

## **Mini U—A Mission Study** **Saturday, January 17** **9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.** **Sponsored by United Methodist Women**

Mini U is a mission study consisting of classes, two choices, which meet for five hours with lunch provided. All are welcome to attend—men, women, small groups, ministry leaders, clergy and lay leaders. Continuing Education Units (.75) for each class are available for pastors and lay leaders.

This year, the choice in classes will be:

The Church and People with Disabilities (Social Issue) – facilitated by Dee Reynolds  
How Is It with Your Soul? (Spiritual Growth)—facilitated by Bill Taylor

Classes will take place in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 17 from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Childcare available by registration only. Come and learn with us!

## **Come And Be A Part of the Upward Team**

A big thanks to all who have stepped forward to assist with our St. Luke Upward basketball and Cheerleading Ministry! However, this kindergarten through sixth grade ministry requires a lot of help. More volunteers are still needed particularly assistant coaches for basketball and cheerleading, half-time devotions and more. It would be great if our bleachers were filled with cheering spectators too! Come out any Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon, January 17-March 7 and offer support to the teams! If you can help or think you may have an interest, please sign-up in the Connection Center or email [etowle@stlukeumc.org](mailto:etowle@stlukeumc.org) or call the church and ask to speak with Ed. Please continue to support this with your prayers, service and your gifts!

## **Reading Through the Bible in 2015**

At St. Luke, we feel it is important to encourage everyone to read their Bibles on a regular basis, and so we are encouraging everyone to read through the Bible in 2015. This year, we suggest a “beginning-to-end” approach. Copies of the reading schedule are available in the Life Center and Welcome Center lobbies, and you can access the plan electronically on our St. Luke website, [www.stlukeumc.org](http://www.stlukeumc.org). If you have questions, or if you would prefer a different Bible-reading plan, please contact Nora Conner at [nconner@stlukeumc.org](mailto:nconner@stlukeumc.org) or 269-4687 (ext. 242). Let us pray for and encourage each other on this journey.



## New Website Launched

Last week, our church launched a new website that has been completely redesigned and reprogrammed from the ground up. On this website, you can find new high-quality ministry and church information pages, weekly sermons in audio and written form, a calendar of events, social media integration, contact forms, staff contact information, monthly newsletters, weekly announcements, Infoline email sign up, the pictorial directory (with password), worship service information, pictures, videos and much more. The sermons page has some pretty neat features to check out. When you click on a sermon, or look to the left of the title of each sermon, you will find anywhere from one to three different circular icons representing what content is available with the sermon text.

If you see a circle with a YouTube play button inside, then click it to watch a video of the service or sermon.



If you see the icon of the headphones, click it to listen to an audio recording of the sermon.



If you see a paper icon, you can click this to download a copy of the sermon text to your computer.



Check it out at [www.stlukeumc.org](http://www.stlukeumc.org). If you have any questions, contact Mark Walz at the church office at 269-4687.

## A New Approach To Church Membership & Orientation Classes

As 2015 arrives, a new approach to the church membership and orientation class is being rolled out. In place of the Sunday Lunch and Orientation Class, at least for the first part of the year, we are going to offer St. Luke 101, as a class in conjunction with Wednesday.Comm. In addition to exploring the ministries of St. Luke, the group will be looking at some of the history and beliefs that are unique to the United Methodist Church. The class will be led by Pastor Mark and will utilize material such as Bishop Will Willimon's *Why I Am A United Methodist*, as well as other video resources. We'll also take a behind-the-scenes look at some of the ministries of St. Luke. Though the class will primarily be geared towards those who are new to St. Luke, anyone who wants to join in on the discussion is welcome. Beginning on January 28 from 6-7 p.m., the class will run for seven weeks, with an additional week for any who are interested in joining the church at the conclusion of the class.

7/January 2015



# Thank You Notes

Dear St. Luke,

At the end of October, the word went out that we needed to step up our giving or the church was going to finish the year with a large deficit between what had been given and our spending commitments. As has always been the case, once you were made aware of the concern, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you responded with prayers, increased presence, community outreach and great generosity. In the number of people served through various ministries and in the amount given to the church through our tithes and offerings, November was St. Luke's best month ever. To say thank you is so inadequate. The better response is: "Praise God for the work He is doing in and through each one of us." If we have a typically strong December finish to our fiscal year, a completely balanced budget is not out of the question. What a boost that would be as we move into 2015, which looks to be the most challenging year St. Luke has faced, not only in our financial resources but also in our expanding outreach and ministry. What an exciting time this is for St. Luke United Methodist Church.

Thank you for your faithfulness,

The Servant Leadership Team

This is a bit belated, but I wanted to thank everyone for all of the care and concern shown to me and my family at the passing of wife, Scarlett, this past May. Thank you for the cards and notes. Thank you to the families that brought a meal over. Thank you for the prayers and asking how we're doing. Thank you to the youth counselors who took special care of James and Joseph.

Jesus might not be physically, bodily present in this world now like He was 2000 years ago, but He is still with us, through His body, the Church!

Randy Southworth

Thanks to everyone involved in publicizing and actively participating in the new Kroger's program. The response has been overwhelming! Previously, we had averaged around \$300 for the church cards and about \$250 for the SLUMY portion. I was informed that our first quarter benefit from the newly organized program will be more than \$1,500.

Paul Bramel  
Business Administrator



Dear St. Luke,

Thank you for your recent gift to help fight hunger in Kentucky. God's Pantry Food Bank puts the funds we receive to use in a variety of carefully planned ways. Our primary function is serving as the food bank to 50 counties in Central and Eastern Kentucky. We reach low income residents of those counties through partnerships with nearly 400 agencies that operate pantries, soup kitchens, centers for youth or seniors and other similar facilities. In addition to food bank operations, God's Pantry sponsors six Kids Cafe sites, participates in Backpack program for children and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for low income seniors, plus other efforts to reach anyone in our area who is hungry.

Regardless of the method of distribution, God's Pantry Food Bank is reaching 75% of food insecure individuals in our service area.

Together we can solve hunger. Thank you for joining us.

Sincerely,

Marian F. Guinn  
Chief Executive officer  
God's Pantry Food Bank

In this time of Advent, a season of hopeful waiting, which refugees are all too familiar with, KRM would like to express our gratitude for your support during 2014.

Lexington is a most welcoming community. You help make that possible!

We look forward to our partnership in the New Year!

Dabney Parker  
Kentucky Refugee Ministries

Dear St. Luke,

During this season of giving, I'm filled with joy and thankfulness for all you do to help neighbors in need at the Lexington Rescue Mission. I am especially grateful for your gift of \$200 at Christmas, which can be a difficult time of year for individuals who are struggling to make ends meet.

*Lana knows the feeling. She was homeless when friends told her about the Mission. When she walked through our front door, she was greeted warmly and invited to join us for lunch. We helped Lana with whatever we could—hygiene items, bus passes, and for her young daughter, diapers, formula and even a stroller! Today, Lana participates in our discipleship group, Steady Hands, where she receives spiritual care and support.*

What a lifesaving gift when people like Lana find nutritious meals, warm clothing, a safe haven and God's love here—all because of supporters like you!

On behalf of Lana and all the others who have found healing here at the Mission—thank you! They're living proof that with your support, lives are transformed here each day.

Jim Connell  
Executive Director  
Lexington Rescue Mission

I would like to thank you for the Thanksgiving dinner groceries my daughter and I received from the pantry at your church, what a wonderful blessing. I can't thank you enough.

God bless you all!

Lana Kidd  
Thanksgiving Food basket recipient

# Ministry Reflection from Ghana



The Buchanan family (Reid, Lola Serwaa and Akua) traveled to Ghana, Africa in November. From sharing preventive lessons with Community Health Evangelism (CHE) trainers about Ebola to funding the purchase of bed nets and water filters, it was a special trip to Ghana. The Buchanans met with old friends, family and visited the Methodist Hospital in Ankaase. Along the way, they also made a lot of new friends too.

*"Thank you so much for your overwhelming support of our trip to Ghana. I greatly appreciated your prayers. The work of Community Health Evangelism ministry continues because of St. Luke UMC and other partners. The opportunity to share life giving clean water using the water filters is awesome. Thanks again."*

*Peace,*

*Reid Buchanan*



10/January 2015

# Winter Blitz

Each January, youth from all over Kentucky get together for a weekend retreat at the Kentucky Fair and Expo Center Broadbent Arena in Louisville. The weekend is full of incredible worship with speakers who are engaging and bands that are energetic, and loud.

SLUMY has been attending Winter Blitz for quite some time and each year youth come back talking about how awesome the weekend was. Some youth rave about the music; some can't stop talking about how great the speakers were, while some just loved the fact that they got to stay in a hotel! More importantly, every youth is challenged to grow in their faith. We have had youth commit their lives to God for the very first time and others who have experienced a call to ministry.

During January 16-18, please say a prayer for our youth that they will experience God a way that empowers them to live out their faith in the midst of the challenges of middle school and high school.

Jeremy Arnold  
Director of Youth Ministries



# STEWARDSHIP

## EMPHASIS

Budget Needs for November, 2014	\$ 121,138.10
*Total Income for November, 2014	\$ 192,502.18
Surplus for the month (Praise God!)	\$ 71,364.08
Budget Needs Year-To-Date (as of 11/30/2014)	\$ 1,162,925.76
Total Income Year-To-Date (as of 11/30/2014)	\$ 1,119,197.09
Deficit for the year	(\$ 43,728.67)
Mortgage Balance as of 11/30/2014	\$ 2,944,527.27
Alms Donations – November	\$ 5,139.00
Methodist Home (5th Sunday Offering)	\$ 913.12

\*(Total Income includes contributions, building use fees and Kroger card receipts.)

**“One of the greatest missing teachings in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us.”**

**— Gordon MacDonald, American pastor and teacher**