

October 2015

St. Luke's Line



October

...Fall is in the air

Great October Opportunities to Reach out and Give Back

It's Pumpkin Time! Pumpkin Patch, Pumpkinfest, Health Expo

The Latest Stewardship Update

2/October 2015

GIVING TO THE CHURCH

IS IT FINANCIAL OR SPIRITUAL? From Pastor Mark Girard

We talk too much in the church about finances. We have a Finance Team that oversees the finances of the church. We put out budgets and then weekly financial reports comparing how much came in on Sunday morning with how much was budgeted as well as how much was actually spent. We send out quarterly and annual reports documenting how much we have given and in what categories. Every week we put a financial snapshot in the bulletin, showing how much we received the week before in comparison to the amount needed to make the budget. And in the newsletter every month there is a more detailed financial accounting. And when we get to October and November and December we start talking about financial deficits and what needs to be done to make it up by the end of the year.

We talk a lot in the church about finances – some say too much. And it's no different this year. We are heading into the last quarter of the year with a deficit that is once again in excess of \$100,000. Once again we are hoping – praying – for an amazing fourth quarter of the year, that everyone will step up their contributions, so that the church can finish strong and meet all of our obligations.

But that's all financial talk. And we do too much of that in the church. What we don't talk enough about in the church, though, is giving – generous giving. But wait – isn't that all a part of the financial picture of the church? You see, budgets, and spreadsheets and periodic reports and deficits and surpluses and quarterly reports are all from the secular, business side of the ledger. Christians don't give to the church to support a budget. Christians give to the church to honor and obey Almighty God, and celebrate His work in our life. What we give to His church is simply returning a portion of what He has already given us. And so if God is not working in our life, if He has not blessed you, then there would be no reason why you should give at all.

But on the other hand, if you have been blessed, well...And the thing is that in a typical church only about 20-30% of the members are generous givers. Does that mean that only 20-30% of Christians feel as though they've been blessed by God? No, what it means is that the vast majority of us view our giving as a financial decision rather than a spiritual one. Because the truth is that if all of us in the church gave according to the blessings that God showers on us every day, we would never have to talk about finances and budgets and deficits in the church at all.

When giving becomes a spiritual discipline for everyone in the church, then we would be serving and ministering out of a culture of abundance. God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. And He is exceedingly abundant in His blessings on us, so that we will be exceedingly abundant in our efforts to bless others. And so we do not give to the church out of obligation, or to make sure that we do our part to help the church make its budget by the end of the year. We give out of joy and gratitude that God has blessed us so that we can be a blessing to others.

Let's all covenant to pray about how we can be the kind of blessing that God intends of us to be in and through His church, to our neighbor, and our community and our world. Are you a **Spiritually Generous Giver**?



OUTREACH

Upcoming Opportunities to Reach Out

New Ministry

To welcome people into the life of the church, St. Luke will begin a "shepherding" ministry this fall. Folks new to St. Luke will have the opportunity to be introduced to a person or family of St. Luke who will serve as their guide and a resource in learning about small groups, areas of service, and other opportunities to get involved at St. Luke. The fundamental beliefs of St. Luke United Methodist Church will also be shared.

Any and all persons interested in learning more about this new ministry please be in touch with Casey McKenzie at camcks3641@twc.com or Reid Buchanan at rbuchanan@stlukeumc.org.

Opportunity In Missions- Hurry be one of the twelve!

The Going Forth team of St. Luke UMC is sponsoring a mission trip to Honduras in partnership with GO International. The trip is scheduled for January 22 through January 30. The team will be involved in the following projects: a Vacation Bible School, light construction, sewing classes, eyeglass distribution, and medical outreach. If you would like additional information, please contact Earl Brady at 859-619-0160 or earlbrady13@gmail.com or Reid Buchanan at rbuchanan@stlukeumc.org.

Coat Ministry

Fall is upon us! With these cool mornings and moving into winter, Kentucky Refugee Ministry (KRM) is in need of winter coats for newly-arrived/ arriving refugee families. We can accept new and gently used coats. We are also in need of warm blankets, hats, gloves, and scarves. Items can be dropped off at the St. Luke UMC and marked KRM or at Kentucky Refugee Ministries , 1206 North Limestone, Lexington, KY 40505. Telephone 859-226-5661. For more information contact Reid Buchanan 859-269-4687 or e-mail rbuchanan@stlukeumc.org.



Holiday Bazaar

St. Luke United Methodist Women are sponsoring a Holiday Bazaar on November 21. Are you a crafter or have a home based business? This is a great chance to showcase your business. You will meet new customers and increase your sales! To reserve your sales table, contact Karen Girard at karen.girard@gmail.com or 806-2704

4/October 2015

OUTREACH

Upcoming Opportunities to Reach Out

St. Luke Ministry with God's Pantry Moves Off Campus

The community wide Thanksgiving food distribution for Fayette County of which St. Luke has been a partner with God's Pantry for a number of years is undergoing some changes this year. The major food distribution will be at one location rather than the 2 sites (St. Luke and Broadway Christian) in past years. This year's location is the Imani Baptist Church on Georgetown Road. Broadway Christian volunteers will man the distribution on Monday, Nov. 23 and St. Luke volunteers will man the distribution on Tuesday, November 24. The change in location will greatly simplify the process for the pantry in delivering the food and setting up the distribution and help with the access by clients. The Imani facility has a large central lobby area, a very large parking lot and a huge unfinished space easily accessible for moving the food crates and boxes in and out. While the Imani facility is the new site, their congregation is not being asked to help with this distribution because they are all ready deeply committed to a major home delivery project with the Pantry in which food is delivered to the homes of over 600 clients on Saturday before Thanksgiving. St. Luke and Broadway Christian are continuing as partners in the community wide ministry effort. The significant changes in addition to working off-site are that St. Luke will be responsible for only one day instead of two days. However, we will man 3 service shifts instead of two. Those will be 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This change means that there will be six pick up times over the two days rather than the eight times at the two sites in previous years. Due to the number of shifts and the expected number of clients to be served each day we will need at least as many volunteers as in the past if not more. Last year St. Luke had over 130 volunteers and many of them worked multiple days and multiple shifts. We will begin sign-ups for volunteers in October but if you know that you can and will volunteer in some way or have friends and neighbors who might be interested, please contact Karen Hinkle at kphinkle@twc.com or call 859-421-1232.

Kids' Cafe

Bringing Christ's love to children: Helpers needed for Tuesday afternoon Kids Cafe outreach. Flexible hours for homework help, meal prep or serving, recreation, simple crafts, board games. Additional male presence especially needed. contact: Pam Harned, 494-8677, harnedpa@yahoo.com

Children's games needed: Do you have any two-person children's games in almost-like-new condition? Several of the games used at Kids Cafe are worn out! Games such as Guess Who?, Connect Four or Monopoly provide a lot of fun. Contact: Pam Harned, 494-8677, harnedpa@yahoo.com.



UPWARD SPORTS

Volunteers Needed for Cheerleading and Basketball

Upward Children Need YOU!

Believe it or not the opportunity to serve in our 6th Upward season is right around the corner. We have a BIG need for volunteers, particularly coaches and ministry leaders as we strive to fulfill our mission of "Jesus Christ in Every Life." At this time our numbers are low and the window for continuing to offer this ministry is closing. So please, keep in mind that it does not matter if you may have lived your entire life loving sports or you know nothing about sports, we have a place for you to share your gifts and talents. Upward is designed to be a team effort of people coming together to share the love of Christ with children and their families.

Available Volunteer Opportunities:

October: Promote our Upward league; deliver registration forms to local schools.

November: Assist with basketball skill evaluations, registration and data entry.

December-March 5th: Coach basketball/cheerleading, become a prayer partner, coordinate direct end of season award celebration.

Game Day (Saturdays between 8:30am-12:30pm): Greet players and families, referee, run game clock, keep score, Announcer/DJ for games, deliver 5 minute half-time devotional or share faith testimony to spectators, work in concession stand, assist league director or help with game day set-up/clean-up. If interested in signing up or if you have a question please contact Ed at etowle@stlukeumc.org. Sign-up sheets are also posted at Connection Center.

If you can't volunteer but would like to help in some way you may sponsor a child or support this ministry with a financial contribution or donate snacks or drinks for our concession sales please bring and leave to the attention of Ed Towle/Upward.

Scheduled Dates

Registration Begins: October 12, 2015

Early registration fee \$70, after November 1, \$80

Evaluations: November 12, 6-7:30 pm and November 14, 9:30-11:30 am.

Basketball practice begins the week of December 28

First Game: Saturday, January 16, 2016

Picture Day: January 30
(additional volunteers needed)

Award Celebration: Friday, March 4

Last Game: March 5



6/October 2015

WEDNESDAY.COMMUNITY

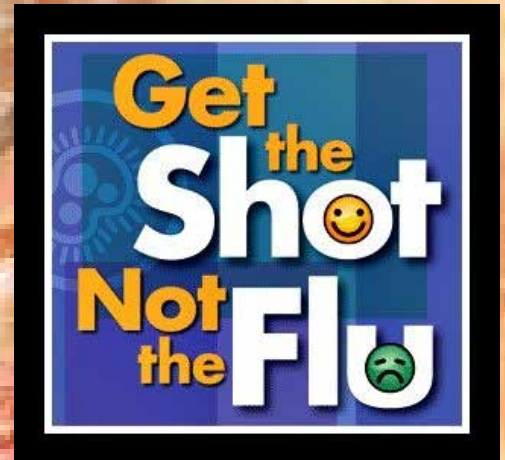
+ HEALTH EXPO

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 | 5:00-7:30 P.M. AT ST. LUKE UNITED METHODIST

St. Luke Health Expo, Flu Vaccines, and Blood Drive

Sponsored by the St. Luke Faith Community Nurses

You are invited and encouraged to attend the St. Luke UMC Health Expo on Wednesday, October 14, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. The expo will be held in the gym and surrounding classrooms. Fayette County Health Department nurses will administer the flu vaccine to persons ages 3 and older. For folks, 65 years and older receiving the higher dose vaccine, please sign up either at the Connection Center or through your Sunday School Class so we can have an adequate supply. No reservations for the vaccine are necessary for younger adults; the Health Department will bring an abundant amount of the serum this year. No vaccines will be administered to children younger than 3 years of age. It would be very helpful to know the number of children, so please sign up at the Connection Center and state the child's age. There will not be any administration by the Health Department for flu mist. If you have Medicare or health insurance, they will be billed for the cost. If not, the vaccine will be \$30 dollars.



There will be information on nutrition, diabetes, allergies, women's fitness, dental health, mental wellness, our usual "Germ Box" to teach kids how to effectively wash their hands (adults enjoy this, too), Sanders Brown Center on Aging will bring us information on Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, and other health and safety information. A representative from the Fire Dept. will provide information on safety in the home. There will be a table at which you can have your blood pressure checked. New this year: childcare will be provided for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. You can register for drawings of prizes. We will have our usual Wednesday.comm dinner from 5:15 until 6:30 pm. Most of the classes will be postponed this evening, so everyone can visit the Health Expo. Classes will resume the following Wednesday. If you have questions, contact Carol Komara at 269-4736 (email: cakoma@windstream.net), or B.J. Carpenter at 309-1465 (email: makusnooze@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you there!

GIVE BLOOD



American Red Cross

You can make a difference.

FELLOWSHIP

Opportunities & Events

Retirement/Appreciation Reception for Don Cutter

On Sunday, October 4th there will be a reception for Don Cutter to thank him for his years of service and dedication to the counseling ministry. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 – 11:30. Please stop and join us for some light refreshments. There will be a basket available in Fellowship Hall if you would like to drop off a card to thank him and wish him well in his next adventures.

Retirement/Appreciation Dinner for Lowell Langefeld

We would like to invite the St. Luke family to attend an Appreciation Dinner for Rev. Dr. Lowell Langefeld on Friday, October 23 to thank him for his years of service and dedication to St. Luke. This will be the second time Lowell retires and he will be completing 57 years of ministry in a variety of settings. It is truly a joy to honor him. It will be held in the St. Luke Gymnasium starting at 6:00. We will provide his favorite fried chicken and ask all those who attend to bring a side dish, salad, dessert etc. Hope to see you there!

Come Sing With the Choir!

The St. Luke Chancel Choir has returned to the choir loft again and we would like you to join us! If you are High School age on up, (Brent claims to still be in school...in the 43rd grade) please consider joining us on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary for rehearsal and fellowship. If you have questions, feel free to contact director, Brent Merritt, or any choir member for more info. Child care is available.

October is Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month

October is designated by the Methodist Church as Pastor Appreciation month. However, at St. Luke, we know that it takes all of the wonderful pastors and the other amazing staff members to make this happen. We are asking the congregation to help show their gratitude to our staff by sending cards, notes of appreciation, gift cards, maybe chocolates, cookies or any other items you feel would show your gratitude for all their hard work and dedication to St. Luke. During the month of October, baskets will be placed at the Connection Center and the Welcome Center for you to place your cards or tokens of appreciation. Please remember those who work more behind the scenes, but contribute in a very significant way, and take time to show them your appreciation. Although we are thankful for our staff all through the year, we want to be more intentional during this month to let them know how much we appreciate all that they do.

8/October 2015

IT'S PUMPKIN TIME!

St. Luke

pumpkinfest

Saturday, October 24 | 5-7 p.m. at St. Luke

We are anticipating our 2nd annual Pumpkinfest on Saturday, October 24 from 5:00-7:00 pm in our front parking lot. New addition this year! We will show "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" in the gym starting at 7:00 pm. We will also have a couple of local food trucks out (Mr. Gyros and Ellos Tacos!)

We were blessed by many classes/groups who provided a booth last year that helped our community feel welcome to our church! We would love to see even more booths this year! You can come up with your own idea or we have some booth equipment you can use that Liberty Elementary PTA has graciously allowed us to borrow!! Duck pond, Toilet Paper Toss, Putt-Putt, Lolly Pop Stand, Plinko, Tic-Tac-Toe, Ring Toss, Milk Bottle knock down and Football toss.

We ask that your group provide all necessary items for your booth (unless using Liberty's Equipment.) Please email Molly Barber at rubarb520@yahoo.com or call her at 740-438-6148, and indicate what kind of booth your group wishes to sponsor, as this will help us be sure there are no duplicates.

It was such a joy to see the church body come together last year and provide this outreach event for the families of our church and our community!

Annual Youth Fundraiser!

The pumpkins are coming on October 17! Each year SLUMY does one fundraiser that helps make everything we do throughout the year more affordable for the youth of our church and community. There are several ways you can help to make this year's pumpkin sales a successful fundraiser. First, you can help us unload the pumpkins! They will be arriving on Saturday October 17 at 4:00 p.m. We will unload the pumpkins and then eat some pizza! We need as many people as possible to help unload and set up the patch. Second, you can buy your pumpkins at our patch, and tell all your friends to buy their pumpkins at St. Luke. Third, you can volunteer to work at the pumpkin patch. We ask parents of youth to work at least one shift per child they have in the youth group, but you do not have to have a youth to work a shift. There will be a shift sign up board in the connection center soon! Thanks in advance for making this year's pumpkin fundraiser a success!

UPDATE

on August Stewardship

Stewardship Emphasis

Budget Needs for August, 2015	\$ 128,125.50
*Total Income for August, 2015	\$ 103,219.21
Deficit for the month	(\$ 24,906.29)
Budget Needs Year-To-Date (as of 8/31/2015)	\$ 896,878.50
Total Income Year-To-Date (as of 8/31/2015)	\$ 759,612.39
Deficit for the year	(\$ 137,266.11)
Alms Donations – August	\$ 4,734.00
Methodist Home 5th Sunday Offering	\$ 889.00
Balloon Fund Contributions – August	\$ 11,445.00
Balloon Fund Contributions – Year-To-Date	\$ 91,079.13
Mortgage Fund Balance as of 8/31/2015	\$ 2,778,916.61

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

“Things themselves do not remain, but their effects do. Therefore we should not be mean and calculating with what we have but give with a generous hand. Look at how much people give to players and dancers—why not give just as much to Christ?” — John Chrysostom (347-407), early Church father