

Glory in Christ Jesus

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Luke United Methodist Church • August 2016

Growing in Christ

Become Charter Members of the Next 40 Years of St. Luke United Methodist Church

All this year we have been celebrating the first 40 years of the wonderful story of St. Luke United Methodist history. It is the story of humble beginnings in a store front in the Woodhill Shopping Center.

The growth of the church began immediately. After just a few years the church moved to our current location and built the first

building (the current Fellowship Hall) which was a multi-purpose facility. The growth of the church continued when the current Sanctuary was added followed by an education wing and then the Life Center.

From a handful of pioneers to now over 1300 members, the growth of St. Luke has always

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"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19

This Month

- Celebrating 40 Years
- Tailgate & Talent - August 20
- Former Pastors Return
- Homecoming Sunday (Sept 18)
- Giving Matters
- Stewardship Update
- VBS - Thank You!
- Jonathan and Kaitlyn Greene in Kenya
- Wednesday.comm Opening Event and Classes
- UMW Opportunities
- Announcements
- Upcoming Events
- Welcome John Duff!
- KyUMH Golf Tournament

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been fueled by a love of God, a desire to serve, and caring for one another in all circumstances.

St. Luke has built a reputation of a friendly church searching for more and more ways to be in service in our community and around the world. It is truly an amazing story.

Our 40th Anniversary Celebration will reach an apex on September 18 when all of our worshipping communities will join together for one time of worship. We will celebrate our past, rejoice in our present, and anticipate the future. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration.

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At the service we will recognize those pioneers who are still with us who started the church in that storefront and have led the way for the continuing growth of the church.

We will also commission those pioneers who will lead the church
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into the next 40 years. Would you like to be a “charter” member of the next 40 years of ministry in this place?

We would like to cap off the service on September 18 by receiving the next generation of pioneers into

membership. Come and be a part of launching the church into its next 40 years of ministry. Talk with Pastor Mark about being a part of that celebration.

During the four weeks leading up to the celebration on September 18,

Pastor Mark will be offering a one-hour study on Wednesday nights as part of Wednesday.com called “St. Luke: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.”

Come and join us as we launch into the next 40 years of ministry at St. Luke United Methodist Church.



Celebrating Our 40th Anniversary

Tailgate & Talent - Saturday, August 20

With three memorable celebrations now a part of our history, we look forward to our next event, Tailgate and Talent, on Saturday, August 20. "Tailgating" will be in the Life Center gym due to the heat and humidity in August.

You are invited to reserve a table for 8 for \$40, assemble a group of friends/new members, create a theme for your table, and plan your meal and drinks. (Think "Picnic with the Pops.") Awards for 3 best tables will be presented during the Talent Show.

You do NOT have to be in a group that decorates tables. We will provide seating for those who just want to bring their meal and eat together. The cost for the evening is \$5 dollars per person.

Doors open at 5:30 pm; table judging at 6. You don't have to wait for judging to begin eating. At 6:45 pm we'll move to the sanctuary for a rousing one-hour talent show hosted by John Crissman. Put your food in your coolers, come to the sanctuary for the show, then load your cars after the program.

You can sign up to reserve your table beginning Sunday, July 31, through Sunday, August 14, in the Connection Center.

Former Pastors Coming Back!

As part of our year-long celebration, Bishop Debbie Wallace-Padgett will be here to bring the message on Sunday, August 14, and our founding pastor, Dr. Woodrow Church, will be preaching on Sunday, September 11.

40th Anniversary T-Shirts and Tumblers

It's not too late to get your 40th anniversary t-shirts, coffee tumblers, and water tumblers! You can purchase them between services on Sundays. They are great mementos of this major year in the life of our church. Shirts are \$15 dollars; tumblers are \$12.



Combined Worship Service and Catered Meal

Please note our Homecoming Sunday and combined service will be on Sunday, September 18, followed by a complimentary catered meal. You'll be hearing more about this event in days to come. There will be postcards of invitation to this event which you can address and mail to former members with whom you are in contact. Everyone is welcome! There is no cost for the meal, but reservations are required. Deadline for reservations is September 10.

Generous People in Action

Giving MATTERS

Dear St. Luke Family,

We are just over half way through 2016, and I wanted to share some reflections with you. St. Luke is an exciting, vital congregation, and that is reflected in so many ways. Here are some examples:

- Giving for the month of June exceeded our expenses by over \$7,000, and our giving to date this year is over \$9,000 higher than this time last year.
- Our participation in the Balloon Fund remains strong. As many of you know, the Balloon Fund is our plan to pay down the debt on our mortgage by paying an additional \$78,000 per year for ten years toward the principal on our loan, saving \$1,000,000 in interest. What an incredible way to be good stewards of the facility and other resources God has entrusted us with!

- Giving to our Alms Fund, which supports persons in need both within and outside our congregation, is very strong and is a wonderful example of the care and concern our people have for those who are most vulnerable.
- Our Alms Team, the group that processes requests for financial assistance from outside the congregation, started seeing clients this summer as they began operation under our revised model which allows for more substantial help in various ways to people who are within our immediate vicinity and who have connections with you, the people in our congregation.
- Our Kids' Café ministry, which reaches dozens of children in our surrounding neighborhoods, has, with a lot of prayer and discernment, revamped the ministry to provide even more effective ministry. Jesus said to not stop the little ones from coming to him, and with the help of your generosity, support, and time, this ministry will continue to nurture these beautiful children.
- Through our Swahili Missional Community and other St. Luke support, we are reaching and connecting with refugees who are being settled in Lexington. Most of these refugees are from the Congo, and so the connection with our Swahili community is natural. We praise God for the

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opportunity to minister to people during such a vulnerable time as we connect them with our family of faith. You will hear more soon about ways you can make a difference in this work!

Of course, there are many other things happening in our fellowship as well: Vital discipleship groups, ministries with children and youth, serving the hungry through our God's Pantry and the monthly God's Pantry Senior Commodities Distribution, and our fall Wednesday.comm programming will soon be under way. It is your generosity that makes all these things possible. Thank you for your love and support of the many ministries that happen through our church.

What is your part in all this? None of this would be

possible without your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness, and we count on you for all of these. You can give financially in many ways, including online through our website, cash or check, and stock donations. If you would like to learn more about our ministries or ways you can take your next step in financial support of St. Luke's ministries, please come talk to me. I would love to visit with you!

In Christ,



Nora Conner
Associate Pastor
Director of Ministry and Stewardship

2016 Stewardship Update Through June

June 2016	
Budget needs	\$ 101,184.92
Expenses	\$ 74,478.13
Total income*	\$ 81,479.59
Expenses-to-Income surplus	\$ 7,001.46
2016 Year-to-Date	
Budget needs (as of 6-30-16)	\$ 657,701.98
Expenses (as of 6-30-16).	\$ 597,459.56
Total income (as of 6-30-16)*	\$ 571,456.27
Expenses-to-Income deficit (as of 6-30-16)	\$ (26,003.29)
Alms donations for June 2016.	\$ 3,064.00
Balloon Fund contributions for June 2016.	\$ 6,819.85
Balloon Fund contributions year-to-date (as of 6-30-16)	\$ 33,444.85

*Total income includes contributions, building use fees, and Kroger card receipts.

Questions? Please contact Nora Conner, Associate Pastor/Director of Ministry and Stewardship

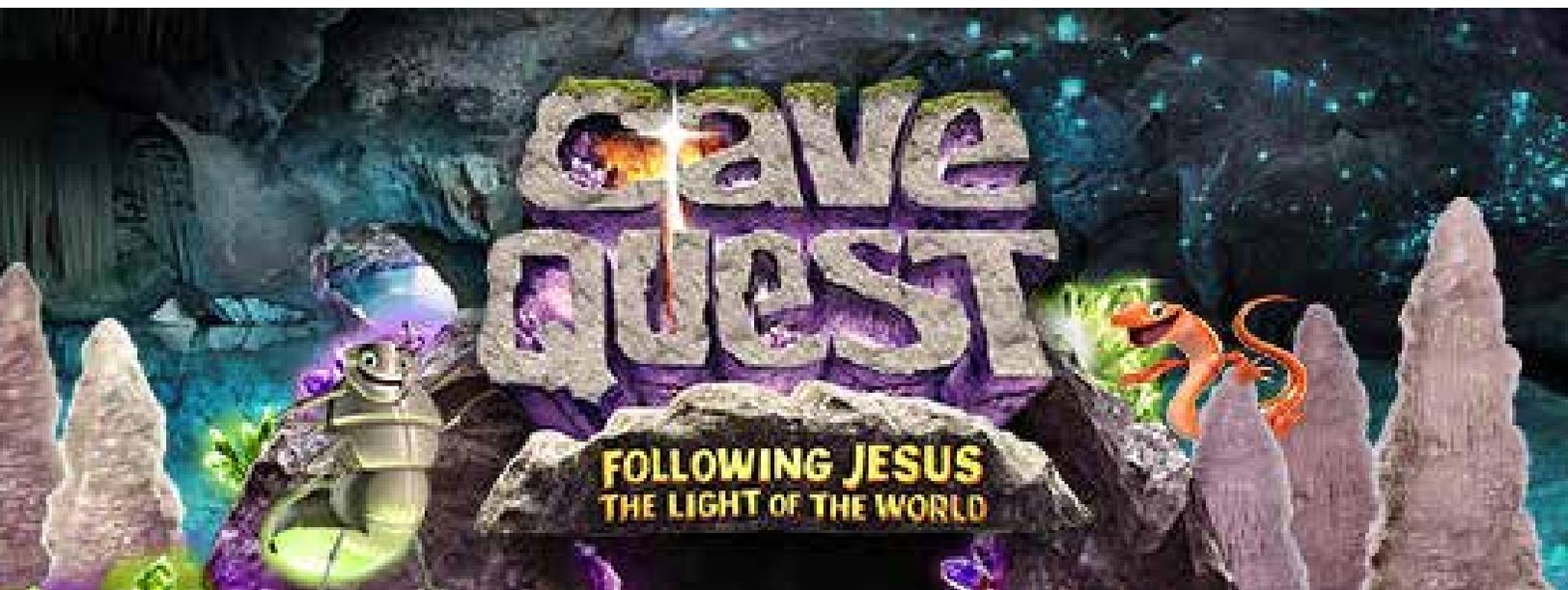
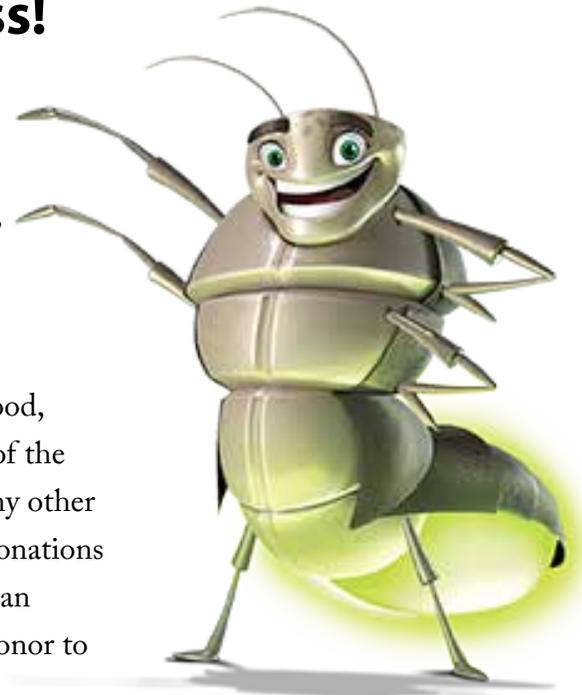
THANK YOU!

Cave Quest VBS was a huge success!

We had 109 children registered and 53% of those do not attend St. Luke. On our last night, we invited those without church homes to attend St. Luke and it's my prayer that many of them decide to attend St. Luke with their families. For our mission project this year, we asked children to bring food items for God's Food Pantry. I'm thrilled to say we donated 232 pounds of food to the pantry on our last night of VBS. It takes many hands to have a successful VBS. Thank you to the nearly 60 volunteers onsite nightly who prepared food, registered kids, taught awesome Bible truths about Jesus: the Light of the World, shepherded children from station to station, and fulfilled many other important roles. I also thank those who prayed for VBS, provided donations and support, and did an incredible job of transforming St. Luke into an amazing cave adventure land for all our little spelunkers. It was an honor to work with all these incredible volunteers and children.

Thank you, St. Luke!

Renee Edington, CaveQuest VBS Director



CHANGE THE WORLD

Jonathan and Kaitlyn Greene in Kenya

This past June we (Jonathan and Kaitlyn Greene) travelled to Kenya. After 16 hours in an airplane we arrived at our destination: Nairobi. After spending the day visiting “touristy” spots, we loaded up the safari vans and headed to Kasigau—the rural village we would be working at for the next week. We set up camp outside of a family’s small house, cramming all our luggage and supplies into two-person tents. At the medical clinics we would triage the patient (take vital signs and ask about their medical and social history), follow them to see the doctors, and retrieve prescriptions for them. The patients would arrive well before 8 am and wait until one of the three doctors was available to see them—sometimes waiting until 6 pm. For many of the patients our visit acted as their annual health care appointment and only contact with a doctor for the entire year.

One of the most challenging aspects of this experience was communicating with the patients. Most of the patients spoke Swahili, and a few spoke only their tribal

languages. Because of this, we had to rely on translators with no medical background to correctly interpret medical care. It was also difficult when we were unable to provide needed and necessary services or medications. Most of the people in the village could not afford medications; therefore, if we did not bring that medication with us the patient was unable to pay for it at the pharmacy. It was heartbreaking having to tell patients that we were unable to help them, especially because it was something so simple to obtain at home. This is why the church’s support is so helpful—more support from the congregation (such as the scholarship the Going Forth team graciously awarded us), the more medications and supplies

we can bring. I urge you all to look past helping people pay for trips, and to help them raise money for basic needs. Our impact after we leave comes from resources and educational advancement, not our presence.

In total we worked in three different clinics: Rakanga, Buguta, and Makwisinyi, and were able to help around 300 patients. It is our prayer that Western Kentucky University will continue to grow and develop this program in order to affect many more lives of the villagers and the students. Thank you all so much for your support and prayers during this process, and we urge you to continue praying for the amazing people of Kasigau.



Join us for the WEDNESDAY.COMM OPENING EVENT!

The Wednesday.comm Fall Semester Opening Event is August 17!

Dinner will be served on August 17 from 5:15-6:30 pm, plates are \$5 per plate (\$15 max per family). The event will run until 7:30. Come and join us for dinner, check out some information on the classes, and sign up for one!



Kids and Youth Classes

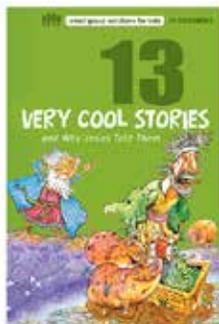
We have classes for kids and youth, too! For kids from Kindergarten through 5th grade, we will be

teaching them "13 Very Cool Stories and Why Jesus Told Them" from 6:00 -7:00 pm.

The youth group (6th-12th) will be having a Bible

study in the youth room.

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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.

Classes and Activities start August 24!

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. Weekly 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. We plan to have a very exciting line-up of classes this fall, see the following page for all of the opportunities!

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.	K-5th Graders (see left)
6:00-7:30 p.m.	Youth Bible Study in the Youth Room
6:00-7:30 p.m.	Adult Classes (see next page)
7:00-8:30 p.m.	Adult Choir practice
7:00-8:30 p.m.	Childcare available for children of parents in choir practice or in class.

Adult Classes and Groups

St. Luke: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Four Classes! 6:00-7:00 pm

Facilitated by Pastor Mark Girard

On August 24th, 31st, September 7th and 14th, our pastor will present information leading up to our "St. Luke Anniversary Celebration." This will be an opportunity to learn or recall our history and foundation, find out interesting facts about our present, and discuss plans for our future!

Discovering Our Jewish Roots 6:00- 7:30 pm

Facilitated by Jim Eastburn

This is a audio CD supported study by Anne Snell and Carla Hunter. The group will listen to a CD each week, stopping for discussion at several points, as the group discovers our Jewish faith heritage and its impact on our Christian faith.

"What on Earth am I Here For?" 6:00-7:00 pm

by Rick Warren

Starting September 21

Facilitated by: TBD

This is our church-wide study. The most basic question everyone faces in life is "Why am I here? What is my purpose?" Self-help books suggest that people should look within, at their own desires and dreams, but Rick Warren says the starting place must be with God and His eternal purposes for each life. Real meaning and significance come from understanding and fulfilling God's purposes for putting us on earth. The Purpose-Driven Life takes the groundbreaking message of the award-winning Purpose-Driven Church and goes deeper, applying it to the lifestyle of individual Christians. This book helps readers understand God's incredible plan for their lives. Rick Warren enables them to see the big picture of what life is all about and begin to live the life God created them to live.

God Talks

6:00-7:00 pm

Facilitated by Jennifer Baker

This group is all about hearing the God stories in each other's lives. Participants will seek to encourage one another and grow in wisdom and understanding of who God is and how God is working in our lives. Each week will start with a relevant topic centered on a biblical theme followed by discussion, sharing, and prayer. Join us on this journey of community and discipleship.

Real Followers

6:00-7:00 pm

Facilitated by Keith Reinke

Since God created you for a unique mission, do you understand how to think God's thoughts as a way to discern God's will? Are you seeking God's will for your life but can't quite figure out why it is not always clear? Do you understand how your personal desires and ambitions align with God's dreams for your life? Have you struggled or even suffered as you try to live God's dream for your life? This study will use United Methodist pastor Mike Slaughter's book "Real Followers." Whether Jesus is a not-yet, old, or new friend, this book will motivate, inspire and challenge.

The Holy Spirit and You

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Six weeks starting Aug 24th

Facilitated by Jim Beidleman

In their book *The Holy Spirit and You*, Dennis and Rita Bennett tell simply and readably how you can experience the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life that has been experienced in the lives of countless others and how, no matter the trials life brings, you can have the same peace, joy, and love that was such a part of the early Church. Join facilitator Jim Beidleman as he shares his passion and understanding of the Holy Spirit and leads a discussion of this fascinating book.

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Chrismon Ornament Class

6:00-7:00 pm

Starting August 31

Facilitated by Karen Girard

Ornaments made from Christian symbols (or Chrismons, a contraction for 'Christ monograms') were first developed by Frances Spencer and the women of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA. St. Luke, like many churches, display Chrismon trees during the Advent and Christmas season decorated with handmade ornaments. We would like to add to our trees and replace any worn ornaments on our sanctuary trees. Participants will study various Chrismons and will make new ones. The Chrismons will be made with a variety of materials, including beads, wire, felt and styrofoam. Participants will also be able to make a set for their own trees. No crafting experience is needed. Anyone who is interested in this project but can't attend Wednesday. comm should contact Karen Girard (Karen.girard@gmail.com or 859-806-2704) for the instructions to work at home.

Knitting and Crocheting

6:00 – 7:00 pm

This group will return to Wednesday nights! Knit and crochet scarves for various charities. All knitters welcome from beginner to expert.

Questions about the classes? Need more information? Contact John Duff, your new Director of Adult Discipleship at jduff@stlukeumc.org or at 859-259-4687, ext. 240. Check out the story on John on the back page!

Communication Tips, Guidelines, and Deadlines

Do you have a church ministry or upcoming church event that you need to communicate to the congregation? Do you have an exciting ministry story to share with the congregation? We have lots of effective tools for communication at St. Luke! Generally, Sunday morning bulletin announcements are intended for church ministry and church events only. However, you are invited to contact Mark Walz (mwalz@stlukeumc.org) to help figure out the best way to communicate your needs to the congregation. Some of our current means of communication include the website, social media, email, the Sunday morning bulletin, a table display in the Connection Center lobby, the monthly newsletter, the announcement slides in the Sanctuary on Sunday 10 | **August 2016**

mornings, an event page on our website or on Facebook, a postcard, a flyer, or a spot on the bulletin board.

We would love to have you write something for the newsletter! Please email your piece to mwalz@stlukeumc.org before the deadline of the 15th of the month for the next month's newsletter.

If you would like an announcement in the Sunday morning bulletin, on the website, or in the Friday Infoline emails, please email it to mwalz@stlukeumc.org before the end of day on Tuesday.

In all bulletin and slide show announcements, please include no more than three sentences, a date and time (if needed), a contact person, and contact person information.



United Methodist Women Mission Opportunities

Red Bird Missionary Conference

From August 24 through August 28 we will visit the Red Bird Mission Conference in Beverly, KY. Here we will learn more about how to serve, the Appalachian Culture, and participate in fellowship. Registration deadline is August 10. Contact Linda Gayheart to register.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Gayheart at 606-438-1100 or at gayheart1100@gmail.com. You may also contact Janet Garrison at 859-272-3226.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please RSVP for Homecoming Sunday Celebration Meal

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend our 40th Anniversary celebration meal on September 18 immediately following our 10:00 am combined worship service. It will be a catered barbecue dinner from City Barbecue. Because it is catered, we will need an accurate count of how many will be coming, so everyone planning to eat will need to sign up

and get a ticket to enjoy the meal. **The meal is free to everyone, but you will need a ticket to attend.**

You may sign up and receive your tickets in the Connection Center beginning Sunday, July 31.

You won't want to miss this delicious meal and this wonderful celebration of our 40 years as the St. Luke Church family!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bishop Debbie Wallace-Padgett Preaching

Sunday, August 14 • 8:30, 9:45, 11:00 am

Wednesday.com Opening Event & Dinner

Wednesday, August 17 • 5:15 pm -7:30 pm

Tailgate & Talent

Saturday, August 20 • 5:30pm

Homecoming Sunday - One Morning Service

Saturday, September 18 • 10:00 am

John Duff, Your New Director of Adult Discipleship

We are pleased to welcome John Duff home as our Director of Adult Discipleship. This is a position that was formed when Nora Conner assumed new responsibilities in the staffing reshuffle, precipitated by the retirement of Paul Bramel at the end of May, and the movement of Reid Buchanan from full time at St. Luke to part time at both St. Luke and the Mission Society.



as well as working on an additional master's degree in Church Leadership. For the last few years, John has been on staff at the Andover campus of First United Methodist Church. He has primarily been working with the youth at Andover. Recently, John has felt that God is broadening his calling beyond youth ministry into the areas of discipleship formation, which fits perfectly with the expectations of this position.

In this role, John will work with the Grow and Equip, Build and Introduce, and Lay Mobilization Teams. He will also be tasked with the responsibility of rejuvenating our ministry with Young Adults. John grew up at St. Luke and felt the call to ministry while here. He worked previously as a volunteer youth counselor with SLUMY. He is currently enrolled at Asbury Seminary in the Masters of Divinity program

John is an outstanding young man who will make an excellent addition to the St. Luke ministry team. Thanks to the Staff Parish Team for leading us through all of the changes and transitions of the last few months. They have done a great job in placing existing staff persons into areas of great fruitfulness and also bringing on a couple of new staff persons to lead the church in outstanding ways. Welcome home John!

KyUMH Charity Golf Tournament

The 34th annual Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children & Youth (KyUMH) golf tournament will be held on Friday, September 16. KyUMH is hopeful that a team from St. Luke will sign up to attend.

Starts are set for 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and the event will be held at The Brook Golf Club in Versailles. Outback Steakhouse will be catering lunch for each participant.

100% of the funds raised during this tournament will go to directly aid

children under our care at KyUMH. This is one of the major fundraisers at KyUMH. Your desire to aid us in this endeavor will be much appreciated by so many individuals.

For registration or more information: www.kyumh.org/Golf_Versailles.html



2351 Alumni Dr., Lexington, KY 40517 · 859-269-4687

Summer Worship Schedule:

Sanctuary: 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Youth Worship: 9:45 a.m.

God's Backyard (K - 5th grade): 11:00 a.m.

Swahili Worship: 12:30 p.m.

Multicultural Worship: 3:00 p.m.

Child care available at all services.