This Month

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“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”
Matthew 18:19-20
Unity Service Coming
September 24

Last year, as the beginning of and the culmination of the 40th Anniversary celebration, we had two Unity Services. The first service in January took place on the snowiest day of the winter. But we still filled the Sanctuary for one service utilizing the gifts of all our worshipping communities. Bishop Davis was the preacher for the day. And then last September we had our final 40th Anniversary celebration which began with the Unity Service and finished with a wonderful meal in the Life Center. Both Sanctuary and Life Center were filled to overflowing. Our intention is to have a Unity Service at least once a year so that all of St. Luke can worship together.

On September 24, the one worship service will begin at 10:00 A.M. There will be persons from all five adult services that take place on Sunday at St. Luke as well as the children and youth participating. Our new Kentucky Conference Bishop, Rev. Leonard Fairley will be the preacher. This will be his first visit to St. Luke, so let’s show him why St. Luke is one of the top churches in Kentucky. Watch for more details, be in prayer for the day, and let’s have a great day of worship with the whole St. Luke family together.
Beginning October 1, all current 6th grade students and above (if you have never completed confirmation before) are invited to join the Confirmation experience. During this six-week experience, members of the St. Luke staff will lead you on an exploration of the topics below, all leading to your Sunday, November 19, Confirmation Sunday. We will meet one hour before the beginning of SLUMY on Sunday evenings in Room 110 of the Life Center. If you have any questions talk with Jeremy or Pastor Mark. There is a sign up sheet in the Connection Center for all those who plan to join us.

**Week 1 (October 1)**  
Who is God?  
We will focus on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Week 2 (October 15)**  
Who are we?  
This week will focus on what it means to be human, specifically looking at creation and sin.

**Week 3 (October 22)**  
What are Methodists?  
In this lesson, the confirmands will learn about John Wesley and the Methodist movement as well as what makes us Methodists today.

**Week 4 (October 29)**  
What is the Bible?  
This lesson will teach what the Bible is as a whole, how we got it, and how we read it.

**Week 5 (November 5)**  
What is worship?  
This lesson will discuss worship in general as well as focus in on the purpose of corporate worship.

**Week 6 (November 12)**  
What is Communion, Baptism, and Confirmation?  
Prepares the confirmands (and their families) for confirmation Sunday

**Confirmation Sunday is November 19**
4:30-5:15 p.m.  Open gym/youth room
The organized game time will be eliminated from our schedule. For those who would like to play in the gym, an open gym time will be scheduled weekly to be supervised by parents or other church members. Email jarnold@stlukeumc.org if you are willing to supervise!

5:15-5:30 p.m.  Welcome Party!
We want every youth that walks through our doors to feel like they just got to a party and everyone is excited they are there. We will have a team of youth as a welcome team each week to greet arriving youth.

5:30-6:00 p.m.  Snack
Snack time will now include some more intentional fellowship activities to get the youth interacting with each other.

6:00-6:45 p.m.  Worship and Story
Our worship time will now focus around a different story each week. Some weeks we will have a person from the church telling a story of a time they experienced God, some weeks someone will be telling a Biblical Story and some weeks we may share a story about someone in church History through whom God did something amazing. If you have a story you would be willing to share with the youth group please contact Lauren Edgell at lauren.edgell@asbury.edu.

6:45-7:30 p.m.  Life Groups
We previously went through weekly accountability questions. We will continue to do this as well as adding a “Monthly Means of Grace.” We hope to better equip the youth with tools to experience God on their own throughout the week.
The Six Purposes of Youth Events or Programs

1. Outreach – A successful outreach event brings in youth who are not already connected to another youth community. These events or programs would be highly invitational. (Examples: Summer fun events, Game nights, etc.) Usually event based Participant either knows nothing about God, or knows something and doesn’t like what they know.

2. Community – A successful Community event builds relationships within the group between people who would not already be hanging out. Any activity that forces youth to interact with people other than their close friends. (Examples: Dinner time at youth, Christmas Party, Life Group Hangouts, etc.) Usually an ongoing program, Building relationships grounded in trust.

3. Experience – A successful Experience event connects youth to God and makes them realize that there is something more to faith than they previously knew. (Example: Fall Retreat, Winter Blitz) Usually event based, Giving folks a new vision of reality. Introduces worship

4. Worship – A successful Worship event leads youth to express their love for God. (Example: Sunday evening worship, Sunday morning worship) Regular offering, helps youth to know God with their heart.

5. Discipleship – A successful Discipleship event brings youth to a deeper understanding of themselves in relationship to who God is. (Example: Sunday Morning Sunday School, Life Groups) Helps youth to know God with their minds.

6. Leadership – A successful Leadership pushes youth to step outside of their comfort zones and lead. (Example: Youth Sunday, youth serving on Sunday morning in various ways) Ready (prepared) and willing (desire)
I had an interesting experience yesterday. Over the period of 10-15 minutes, several groups of children came to the church. They came in clusters of three and four and five, and one little boy came in all by himself. There were probably fifteen children altogether during that time, and they were all eagerly anticipating the first day of Kids’ Café, our after-school program that provides snacks, homework help, and activities for elementary-aged children on Tuesday afternoons. They were so eager, in fact, that they and their parents had not realized that Kids’ Café actually doesn’t begin until September 19th! It was bittersweet to have to give them that news—wonderful to see how eager they were to be here, and hard to send them away disappointed. These were primarily children from our surrounding neighborhood, and our Kids’ Café Ministry is just one example of the ways that St. Luke’s ministries have a real impact on real lives and how our neighborhood knows that St. Luke is a place that cares about them.

Thanks to your faithful service and gifts, ministries like Kids’ Café can happen. Your contributions make a difference, and it takes all of us participating to have the impact that God desires.

St. Luke offers several ways to give, and some of them are pretty traditional. Of course, you can give through cash or checks, either placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, dropped by the church office during the week, or your check mailed to the church.

You can also make your contributions online. That may seem “untraditional” to some, but many people no longer carry checks, and more and more people prefer to make their financial transactions
electronically. To give online, just visit our website, www.stlukeumc.org, and click “Give Online.” There you will find our enhanced giving site where you can make a one-time contribution or even set up recurring contributions.

There are two additional ways St. Luke can accept contributions that you may not know about:

- You can give through stock donations. This is an easy way to make contributions, and like all contributions to the church, they are 100% tax deductible.
- You can give through foundations. This can be a good way to contribute for some people who have received sizeable funds through sale of a property, an inheritance, etc. Funds are placed with a charitable foundation, and then they are dispersed at your timing and direction. Contributions of this sort are also 100% tax deductible.

If you have questions, thoughts, want more information, or need help getting started, please contact me at (859)269-4687 or nconner@stlukeumc.org. I’d love to talk with you!

Stewardship Update Through July 2017

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

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

In Christ,

[Signature]

Associate Pastor
Director of Ministry and Stewardship
Whether you have ever sung in a choir or not, there is a place for you to serve our Lord by singing in the St. Luke Chancel Choir!

The choir is a great place to get to know some new friends or enjoy spending time with old pals! In addition, our rehearsals on Wednesday evenings offer a mid-week spiritual lift appreciated by many!

On Wednesday evenings, we meet from 7-8:30 pm in the Sanctuary for rehearsal. During this special time each week, we prepare our anthems to offer Him in worship, and we also lift each other up and finish each rehearsal by sharing our joys and prayer requests.

On Sunday mornings, we meet at 9:15 in the Fellowship Hall to warm-up and hold a brief rehearsal of the musical offering to be shared during the 9:45 and the 11:00 am worship services.

The members of the choir possess a wide range of musical gifts and backgrounds, but all possess a heart to serve Jesus and worship Him by lifting our voices together!

Please know that you are welcome to join us in the choir! We are seeking additional choir members from High School age on up!
For the last few years, the Veritas Christian School has met at St. Luke three days a week, and we have enjoyed our association with them. However, last year it was obvious that they were outgrowing the space that we had to offer them, and a couple of weeks ago they let us know that they would begin meeting at a different church that has enough space to accommodate their growing needs. We will miss the energy and enthusiasm the kids brought into the Life Center every week, but by freeing up this space, we have a great opportunity to expand our outreach and ministry into many areas of the church and the community.

Our hope is to transform the Life Center into the Abundant Life Center, and we need your help in dreaming of the possibilities. How can we transform the Life Center into an Abundant Life Center? Have you felt God calling you to lead a daytime Bible Study? Or what about a small group that could meet around a cup of coffee and share common concerns with one another? Are you in a community group that is looking for a place to meet? Or perhaps you’d like to help start an exercise class? Or walking group? Or some other type of recreational activity? The gym is a wonderful facility for those type of activities.

Whatever your dream might be, God has given us a wonderful ministry tool with the (Abundant) Life Center. Let’s not miss this opportunity! Our ministry teams are dreaming and planning and would love to hear your ideas concerning ongoing ministry possibilities. Please share them with the appropriate staff member or with Pastor Mark. Share your ideas concerning community groups and recreation/exercise classes with Ed Towle. We are sad to see Veritas leave, but we can’t wait to see all of the opportunities and possibilities that God will open before us in this new season.
Many of you have heard of Dave Ramsey, the famous author and speaker who offers sound financial advice from a Christian perspective. He is also the author of Financial Peace University, a highly respected study that covers topics such as relating with money, cash flow planning, eliminating debt, the role of insurance, retirement planning, real estate and mortgages, and more.

You are invited and encouraged to join us for this life-changing course! This fall, there will be two opportunities:

- Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:00 beginning Sept. 10, facilitated by Chris Bacon
- Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 beginning Sept. 13, facilitated by Nora Conner

This class is for everyone, from those just starting out to those who have been around for a while, from those with debt to those with no debt at all, from those who know nothing about personal finances to those who know some but want to gain a sound Christian perspective on their whole financial picture and decisions. There is a cost for materials, but assistance is available if needed. Please sign up in the Connection Center or contact Nora Conner, at 859-269-4687 (ext. 242) or nconner@stlukeumc.org, or Chris Bacon at chris_cbacon@hotmail.com to sign up or for more information.

More Information at www.stlukeumc.org/FPU
Dear Alms Committee and St. Luke UMC,

As I sat here and thought about life, I know that people are always going through something and not everyone can always receive the help that they need. I knew that I just had to write this letter, that there was no way that I could not. I want you to know how much I appreciate your generous gift. Because of your help, I was able to get my car repaired and back on the road. Words cannot express how grateful I am for your kindness and generosity. You were there for me when I needed it the most. You are a blessing to me, and I will always remember this moment.

Please accept this thank you letter from me as a small token of appreciation for the support you have given me. You cannot imagine how much strength your support has given me during this difficult time. Life has a way of kicking us when we’re down. And just when we think we can’t fall any lower, we get kicked again. But, it’s important to remember that setbacks, failures, and tragedy are a part of life. Whether we manage to find joy and success in the daily struggle of life is largely dependent on our ability to persevere through even the toughest adversity without ever giving up.

God gave us a gift of 86,000 seconds today, and I just wanted to take this time to say thank you again.

Thank you.

With warm regards,
An Anonymous Alms Client
In conjunction with a sub team from Finance, the Trustees have been working hard to be good stewards of the church's resources while at the same time leading the church to be good stewards of the earth's resources.

In recent months, several major projects have been undertaken. The first was installing insulation in the ceiling of all the halls and classrooms of the Life Center. This was done to save on utility costs as well as provide a measure of sound proofing for the class rooms. 10,900 Square feet of R-19 insulation was installed and all of it done by volunteers. Thanks to Alan Porter, John Berry, Todd Conner, Terry Powers, Gil Rouse, Craig Potts, Ron Michaux, Richard Rousseau, Stan Durbin, Rod Hill, Lynn Hill, Trish Henson, Gordon Henson, Randy Greene, and Lowell Langefeld for their hard work.

While that project was ongoing, a second major initiative involved replacing the thermostats in the Life Center with digital ones that are computer controlled. The hope was to eliminate the problem of thermostats manually set too high or low and left that way for extended periods of time. This was wasting a lot of energy as well as money. We thank Craig Potts and Greg Porter for spearheading this project and being willing to continue to oversee the thermostats on a regular basis. Both of these projects were completed early in the summer.

The first month that we were able to track the savings was July. A comparison of usage in July of 2017 to July 2016 (with the average temperatures nearly the same) indicated a 25% reduction in energy consumption this past July. That is certainly a significant savings, especially when figured over a 12 month period.
A third project is currently underway and that is replacing most of the lights in the building with LED lights. The energy savings when comparing LED to traditional bulbs averages nearly 50% and the life of an LED bulb is 30 to 50 times longer than that of a traditional incandescent bulb. LED bulbs also burn at a much cooler temperature. The bulbs in the Life Center have already been replaced. Next up will be the spotlights in the Sanctuary. There are eight of those which tend to burn out annually. Currently the bulbs for each one of those spots cost several hundred dollars and they require the rental of special equipment to replace. And they burn hot for the choir and praise band and worship leaders. The LED fixtures will be a little brighter but burn cooler and each one will last for 30-50 YEARS, saving on the annual replacement costs of the current fixtures. At the same time the lights in the gym and the fixtures in the older part of the building will be replaced. Because the LED lights are much brighter, some rooms will require half the number of new fixtures then are currently in use to achieve the same amount of light, multiplying the savings. We will keep you informed as to the energy savings once the project is complete. The Trustees are currently investigating the cost of replacing the lights in the parking lot and on the exterior of the building. Additionally, as an incentive to make these changes, most of the bulbs and lights come with rebates.

Funding for these Capital projects has come from the Aldersgate Fund (from the sale of the Aldersgate Church building) and all rebates will be returned to that fund. Thanks to the Trustees and the Finance team for leading the church in all of these initiatives. They will pay great dividends today and for generations to come! Let’s continue to Think Green!
Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 21st! That is the day that St. Luke will provide the majority of volunteers to distribute food to over a thousand families in three shifts. This is a great family event, so plan to bring those middle school students. Don’t forget the college student and other family who are visiting for the holiday. There are tasks for a variety of ages and for a range of physical abilities. Assignments range from holding doors and greeting families, monitoring the line of clients as they move through registration, bagging butter and eggs, and filling carts to assisting families to their car. Many tasks give you an opportunity to show St. Luke’s loving Christian spirit.

The central distribution site has changed this year. The event will be held at the Richmond Road Southland Christian Church location. We have been advised that the work area will be heated and will have good lighting! Also, for all the wonderful cart pushers looking to get in their steps for the week, there should be few curbs to navigate.

Thanks to Lynn Hill who has agreed to assist me with the on-site coordination of volunteers. We both get to be the “lady with the clipboard” who will make assignments and provide instruction and help to volunteers. Watch for sign-up sheets near the Life Center Desk in early October. Shifts will be 9-11 a.m., 1-3 p.m., and 5-7 p.m. We have a goal of 40 volunteers each shift. But with more volunteers, especially cart pushers, the more quickly we can serve and process the families served.
From the Pantry Shelf
by Karen Hinkle

Do you have an excess of summer produce?

Remember the St. Luke pantry when trying to decide what to do with the leftover zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, etc. These items can be left beside the blue barrels or dropped off at the pantry room before noon Monday through Friday.

Clean grocery bags or extra canvas bags are a constant need at the pantry. Please leave in the blue barrels or at the pantry door.

Are you recently retired and trying to figure out how to spend all that unoccupied time? The pantry has an ongoing need for volunteers. We have some regular slots to fill due to changing schedules and always have a need for individuals willing to work substituting on an "as needed" basis when regular volunteers must be away. By the time January rolls around we have ‘snowbird’ volunteers who will be absent for 2-3 months. Thus new volunteers will be needed to fill in. Contact Volunteer Scheduler Kathy Gendreau at katgen452@twc.com to discuss opportunities.

BLUE BARREL SUNDAY

In July and August we received 1500 lbs of food (each month) from our Blue Barrels including donations that came early and some later. While donations have been down this summer with so many off enjoying holidays, the food received has helped us fill empty shelves.

As we get back into the swing of fall activities, be sure to pick up your Blue Barrel Bags on September 10 and return them filled with needed food on September 17. This month we are again asking for canned meat and non-meat protein items. Look for the bargains on canned tuna or chicken, spam, beef stew and chili. Canned pintos, cannelli beans, chickpeas, kidney beans and black beans are always economical choices.
On the weekend of August 5 and 6, the Swahili and Multicultural Missional Communities of St. Luke UMC came together to hold a revival. This event featured speakers from Kentucky and from Canada and it was a very successful event with worship, prayer, teaching, and souls being saved with over 340 people in attendance over the course of the weekend.
Collecting Donations for Kids’ Cafe • Kids’ Cafe is collecting like-new Beanie Babies and other toys for Homework Prizes! Questions? Contact Sue Lord, 797-1586, suzannehlord@gmail.com

Women’s Bible Study Save the Date • The Women’s Bible study will resume on Wednesday, September 6. We will be meeting on Wednesday mornings from 10:00am - 12:00 p.m. in Room 126. Any and all women are invited. For more information, contact Francie Sewell at fsewellky@icloud.com or 859-309-2082.

St. Luke 101 Begins October 4
And at St. Luke, Confirmation is not just for kids. On October 4 Dr. Mike Powers and Pastor Mark will begin a five week experience during Wednesday.comm for those who want to know more about the church. This will be for those who are new to St. Luke and want to know more about the many ministries of the church. Come and join us during the month of October. Sign up in the Connection Center (or just come the night of the fourth).

Activities and Recreation • If you are interested in help to shape the future of our St. Luke activities and recreational programs, please join our team by contacting Ed at etowle@stlukeumc.org or 269-4687 ext 241.

Church-Wide Study Announced!
The Grow and Equip Team is happy to announce that St. Luke’s annual church-wide study will be over the new release by Jorge Acevedo and Wes Olds: A Grace-Full Life. The authors offer us an excellent Wesleyan understanding of the way God works in the world in simple words for all people. We will kick off on October 1st with an opening sermon and worship service. The following Sunday, October 8th, will start the chapter 1 Sunday School discussions that will run for 4 weeks. There is an optional closing ‘epilogue’ session included. We are excited about how this book will help us all recognize God’s grace working in our past and give us a picture of how God might work in our lives for the future. God’s all-reaching, soul saving, character shaping, never-ending love is constantly pursuing us! Let’s be open to receiving it and see where God might lead us!
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. Many blessings are prayed into the shawls. The Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. Luke Methodist Church meets every Tuesday morning in Room 124 from 10:00-12:00. If you knit/crochet, or would like to learn, please join us in the making and giving of the Prayer Shawls.

St. Luke Health Expo 2017
Get Your Annual Flu Shot!
Wednesday, October 11th,
5:00-7:30 p.m.
October is the best month to get your flu shot, so reserve the date! The cost is for a shot is $25 with payment due at the time of the injection. There is no charge if you have Medicare or Medicaid and some insurance providers! Nurses from the Health Department will administer the flu vaccine. We must know if you have any children you want to have the shot, so we can give the appropriate dose! Please begin to sign up at the Connection Center. Other assessments such as blood pressure and glucose checks will be available on the 11th as well.

Pumpkin Fest is Coming!
This fun, community outreach is scheduled for Oct. 21st from 5-7pm. Be thinking how can your class, group, or team help make this an awesome event! Contact Susan at scutshall@stlukeumc.org to sign up to sponsor an activity or booth!

Hurricane Harvey Relief • We are assembling cleaning buckets and hygiene kits to send to Texas through UMCOR. The lists of needed items can be found online or in the Connection Center. Please donate only those items requested. Drop-off items in the Connection Center by September 10. We will be putting together the cleaning buckets and hygiene kits during Wednesday.comm on September 6 and on Sunday, September 10. You can also give to UMCOR’s relief and recovery efforts: Make your checks out to St. Luke or give online and put “UMCOR #901670” in the memo line.
SHARE a Story in the October Newsletter!

We love to read your ministry stories, testimonies, updates, and ways in which St. Luke is a part of your lives. Would you like to write for the October newsletter? Do you have a testimony or ministry story to share? We would love to have your writing in here! Just submit your content to mwalz@stlukeumc.org before September 15.

This newsletter is also available online in full color at stlukeumc.org/newsletter.

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