

St. Luke's Line

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Summer Sermon Series Begins June 14

Many of the stories of the Bible were first told by story tellers around the village campfire. They were passed down from generation to generation by tribal story tellers until they were eventually written down and preserved in the form that we have them in scripture. Jesus, Himself, was a story teller. He taught in stories and parables. Usually, he told his stories to large groups of people. However, he saved his hardest stories, his most difficult teachings, for the times around the campfire with just His disciples. This summer, our Sunday morning Summer Worship services will focus on those "Stories Around The Campfire." As we have the last two summers, we will be making our worship as interactive (and informal) as possible. We will have a Web component on which each week's message will be posted and persons will be able to post their own comments and reflections, so that even as you travel this summer, you'll be able to keep up with worship at St. Luke. Each week there will be a PostScript inserted in the bulletin which will include an outline of the message and suggested follow-up prayer and study for each day of the week. On Sunday evenings, Nora Conner will lead a sermon reflection group that will focus on that morning's message. During worship, we will carry through with the campfire and camp meeting theme. At the 8:30 service, we will sing some of the Gospel Hymns that were sung at camp meetings in Wilmore and all around Kentucky, and at the 9:45 and 11:10 services we'll sing some of the songs that are sung around the campfire at Aldersgate Camp every summer. We'll also have special music each Sunday. So plan to join us for "Stories Around The Campfire" beginning on Sunday, June 14.



VBS Is Coming!

Join the Expedition
June 14-18 from 6-8 p.m.

We need you! Help kids learn to "Conquer Challenges with God's Mighty Power." We especially need volunteers on site the week of VBS to shepherd groups of children (crew leaders and assistant crew leaders) from station to station. We also need a decorating crew leader and helpers to turn St. Luke into Mount Everest before VBS starts. Don't worry—we have lots of ideas. We also need "behind the scenes" help the week of VBS.

Sign up online at www.stlukeumc.org/vbs or watch for sign-up sheets at the Connection Center and outside Susan Cutshall's office. Do you have questions or need more info? Contact Renee Edington at renee.edington@gmail.com.

Save A Million Update

As you can see by the number of balloons on the display table in the Lobby, we are exceeding expectations with our balloon releases. Your wonderful response to the #SaveAMillion Balloon Fund enabled us to make a \$50,000 first quarter payment directly to the principal of the loan on the construction of the Life Center. What a blessing! Our annual goal of \$78,000 is well within reach. If we can reach that level of additional giving on an annual basis, we will be able to retire the debt in half the time originally projected and save one million dollars in interest payments over the life of the loan. Of course, if we surpass the \$78,000 annual goal, it will put us that much closer to our ultimate aim of debt-free ministry. Help us dream about the kind of things we can do in the Kingdom of God if we have that million dollars to spend in ministry rather than loan payments. If you would like to participate in the balloon fund, you can simply place your gift in the offering plate marked for 'Balloon Fund' or make an annual pledge using the red envelopes on the display table. Each balloon released represents \$600 given to the Balloon Fund. Come soar with us.

CHECK OUT THE DISPLAY IN THE SANCTUARY LOBBY FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ONGOING UPDATES.

WATCH FOR FUTURE BALLOON RELEASES.

PRAY FOR ST. LUKE IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

**WHAT CAN
GOD DO WITH
\$1,000,000?**



WEDNESDAY.COMMUNITY



Wednesday.comm Spring Semester was a success!
A big thank you to everyone who attended and/or served.

Our spring semester began in January with our chili cook-off and concluded in April with an evening to “Make A Difference” in our church, community, and nation.

We praise God for these results:

- Over \$6,500 raised through meals for ministries
- Average of 111 people served each week
- Average of 23 guests were served from God's Pantry each week
- 8 adult classes offered
- Average of 61 adults attended classes each week
- Average of 23 youth attended Bible study each week
- Average of 17 children attended Bible-based activities and music each week
- Much-needed donations for missions were donated at the closing event

As we celebrate the past, fall semester 2015
is just around the corner!

**Fall Wednesday.comm begins on
Wednesday, August 19, 2015**

Save the date!

If you are interested in providing a meal, serving or facilitating a class,
please contact Nora Conner at nconner@stlukeumc.org,
or Kathy Fitzgerald at kfitz_2000@yahoo.com.

We welcome your help!

Summer Studies at St. Luke

We are very excited to offer two excellent opportunities for St. Lukers to meet together for fellowship and spiritual growth during the summer months. We hope you will check out one, or even both, of these short-term study options!

Digging Deeper Sermon Discussion Group

The purpose of this group will be to encourage deeper reflection on the sermon each week and to help participants apply the lessons to their daily walk. This summer, we will explore Pastor Mark's "Stories Around the Campfire" series, which will focus on some of Jesus' parables. Nora Conner will facilitate the discussions on Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. beginning June 14.

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Grace

An ordinary person or act can become a means of extraordinary grace. Join us as we watch selected episodes of the acclaimed PBS series, "Call the Midwife" and discuss how grace enters the lives of the residents and caregivers of a London East-End slum. We'll also explore ways that we can be means of extraordinary grace through our ordinary lives and actions. Wendell Barnett will facilitate this study on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 p.m., July 1-August 5.

Questions? Contact Nora Conner at nconner@stlukeumc.org, 269-4687.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This new ministry knits and crochets beautiful prayer shawls for people who are experiencing either times of celebration or times of need. Compassion and the love of knitting and crocheting are 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. The shawl-maker begins with prayers for the recipient, blessings are prayed into the shawls as they are made, and upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way to the person for whom it has been crafted.

Want to pray and knit or crochet for this ministry? The St. Luke Prayer Shawl Ministry meets weekly on Tuesdays from 9:00a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in room 126. If you knit or crochet or would like to learn, please join us in the making and giving of prayer shawls. Come join us for fellowship, prayer, and blessings!

Questions? Know someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl? Contact facilitator Sue Pixler at bspixler@gmail.com or 307-321-2934 for more information.

Youth Reflections on Aldersgate

Stories from the Bible can sometimes seem like something out of a history book; you know all about it, but you didn't actually experience it. This is how I felt about many biblical stories until last summer when I attended Leisure Ministries Camp at Aldersgate. At Leisure Ministries, the stories of the Bible are brought to life through drama productions. Throughout the week, we went from being persecuted like the early Christians to hearing our names called to enter heavens gates. There is no other place where I have truly experienced God's presence like I did that week at Aldersgate. Being surrounded by staff, deans, and other campers who shared the same love for Christ as myself helped me to grow in my faith tremendously. Aldersgate has been a special place for me throughout my childhood where I can truly experience God's love. I know that other youth that visit Aldersgate this summer will come to know Christ better just like I did because camp is a special place. God is doing great things at Aldersgate camp.

-Landon Porter



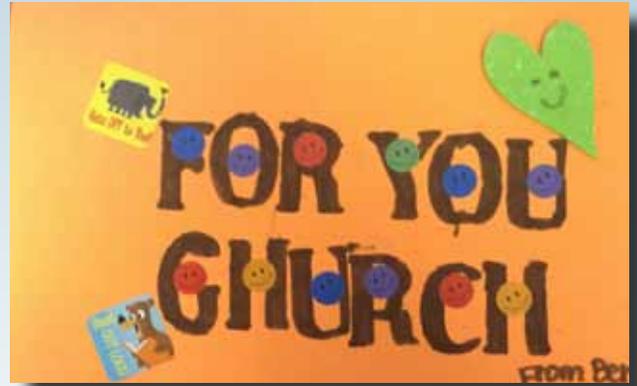
This past summer I went to Leisure Ministries at Aldersgate Camp, and it was a life-changing experience. I experienced Jesus in ways I never had before. My life has been changed through my experiences at Aldersgate Camp. I would tell any person to send their children to camp. Camp is a special piece of my childhood and I would do anything to support them.

-Corrie Hunter

A Big Thank You *from Veritas*

Thank you for letting Veritas use this church for our school. My favorite part of this building is the gym. I enjoy having recess there. Without you, we would not be here and have special memories of this school.

Kate
Third Grade



Thank you for opening the church for our school. It is very kind of you to allow us to use the gym. We enjoy taking a break from our studies and having recess. We are blessed by you because you keep this building safe. Without this space, we wouldn't have Veritas.

Benjamin
Third grade



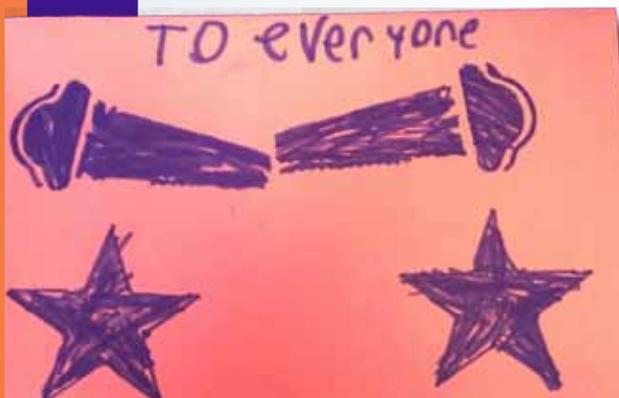
Thank you for letting us use the upstairs for school and the gym and having recess. And keeping it warm. It is very comfortable. If this school was not here, I would not have met my friends.

Christopher
Third grade



Dear Everyone,
Thank you for opening the church for our school. It is generous of you to allow us to use the gym. We enjoy taking a break from our studies and having recess. I appreciate that the school is safe and secure. Thanks for checking the temperature. I would not have met Asher if it wasn't for you. Bye!

Simeon
Third grade





Missionary Update *from the Nepal*

Dear Friends,

We just wanted to let you know that we are in Nepal. Don't worry, we are safe! We thought we were coming to visit our IGSL alumni. We never expected that we were coming to experience an earthquake! When the quake struck, we were in the home of friends and experienced very violent shaking, with everything falling off the shelves around us, but that's all. As you have seen in the news, thousands of people around us experienced much worse.

Since then, we have formed a team with our graduates to support the relief effort. Friends from the Philippines sent funds that we were able to access immediately to start buying food for the victims.

We began our efforts working in the city of Bhaktapur providing food for about 500 people, not just for one day but for several days. The people were deeply appreciative. Our guiding principle has been showing love to all with no strings attached. We offer the same aid to Christians as we would to our Hindi neighbors.

The days that followed the disaster were a mixture of inspiration and grief. One sad picture I am carrying in my memories is the buildings of Bhaktapur. All over Kathmandu there are buildings in different levels of destruction. Some are cracked but still standing, some with a roof or wall missing, and some toppled over. After three days I was already starting to get used to it. But I have no words to describe the center of Bhaktapur, the ancient city that we have visited so

many times with our alumni. It is well-known as a World Heritage Site. Now, it looks like someone put it into a blender and set it on "pulverize." And the mountains of rubble are filled with bodies. I felt like Jesus weeping over Jerusalem! Ohhhh, Bhaktapur, Bhaktapur! If only you had known your Creator!

Another sad picture memory is from the end of the day. We were standing next to a Hindu holy place—just a small brick shrine/post about 3 feet high. As we watched, a funeral started. The people were burning something at the shrine, about 50 people gathered, and they wailed.. and wailed... and wailed. Someone did some rituals with the fire. Then, still wailing, they carried the body along with the fire, to a nearby field to cremate it. The scene is being repeated again and again, all day long. Ohhhh, Bhaktapur! Ohhhh, Nepal!

The team is going out each day to do the same thing in different areas, and we are working with our other alumni doing other projects as well. Thank you so much for praying for us. We need your prayers. Pray for supernatural wisdom as we all coordinate our efforts. Pray especially for the young volunteers. All of them are Hindu. They are precious people and we look forward to spending more time with them.

For His Kingdom,

Theresa for the Huculaks

Stewardship Emphasis

Budget Needs for April, 2015	\$ 102,500.40
*Total Income for April, 2015	\$ 78,060.96
Deficit for the month	(\$ 24,439.44)
Budget Needs Year-To-Date (as of 4/30/2015)	\$ 435,626.70
Total Income Year-To-Date (as of 4/30/2015)	\$ 356,137.03
Deficit for the year	(\$ 79,489.67)
Alms Donations – April	\$ 3,290.00
Balloon Fund Contributions – April	\$ 4,463.75
Total Balloon Fund Contributions - 2015	\$ 51,759.13
Mortgage Balance (as of 4/30/2015)	\$2,855,015.91

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

“The Dead Sea is the dead sea because it continually receives and never gives.”

– Anonymous

It's Vacation Time

Summer time is vacation time. In the next couple of months, many of us will be on the road to lots of exciting places. As you travel, your church family will be praying for you to have a blessed, safe, and relaxing time. Make church a part of your plans wherever you go. We love to see bulletins and printed material from other churches, so bring some home with you. And please remember that even as you are gone, the ministries of St. Luke continue. Please keep current with your tithes and offerings through the summer travel months.