



THE ACTS OF ST. LUCAS

SEPTEMBER, 2013

FOR WITH GOD, NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE. (LUKE 1:37)

Early Sunday Worship starts at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School for Everyone starts on September 8, 2013



Visitors from Germany.

They were guests of Susan and Ron Lange while they were in town. Jonathan Tressi, trumpet and Natalie Kubler, saxophone. They are on tour with the Ermstalmusikanten from Dettingen, Germany.

Countdown to Rummage Sale October 3, 4, & 5

It's that time of year, again. We ask that you bring your donations in by Sept. 15. The Thrift shop and sorting room will be closed Sept. 30 – Oct 2.

Volunteers are needed to help during the sale as well as set up and tear down on Sat. Please contact Joyce Mason @ 419-382-4551.

Just a Note..... This will be an abbreviated version of the newsletter. While Dave is off taking care of his family, Sharon Jordan & Georgia Steele have put together some articles & schedules for you. Dave will be back soon with his usual colorful & extended version.

Pastor's Retreat: Healthy Congregations Workshop

October 13, 2013 2:00 – 6:00 pm

Jeannie & Bill Dennler in Maumee will be hosts for the 3rd retreat in an enlightening series called *Healthy Congregations*. This series is designed to help us understand just what makes healthy congregations and what part we all play in it. Pastor Billmeier teaches this series, in his capacity of Congregational Resource Team Chair for the Synod, to other congregations as well as our own. Please come and enjoy the friendship. Registration is limited to 25. Sign up on the back of your *I'm Here Today* paper.

Catechism Resumes Wed. Sept. 11

Choir Resumes First rehearsal is Thurs. Sept. 5, 7:30 -9 pm. First Sunday is Sept 8th.

Sunday School Pre-K to Adults starts Sept. 8th.

Adult class at 9:30 am. All others start at 9:15 am.

Adult Sunday School The Apostle Paul was one of the most significant figures in the early church. Over half of the New Testament has been attributed to Paul, including 14 of the 27 books. In addition, roughly half of the *The Acts of Apostles* focuses on Paul's ministries. It would be hard to find any individual whose writings have had a greater influence than St. Paul. His letter to the Romans was a turning point in the lives of both St. Augustine and Martin Luther. The adult class will be studying the writings and life of St. Paul. Come and join us for what promises to be an interesting study. The class meets in the community room on the second floor of the Sunday School.

PASTORAL ACTS

BY PASTOR MARTIN BILLMEIER



More Than Rhetoric.

Greetings in Jesus' Name,

I just wrote my "pastor's summer appeal" letter and that process got me thinking about the good stuff God is doing at St. Lucas. Our affirmation of welcome and our mission statement are not mere rhetoric. We did not put together high sounding words and then not have the heart to carry them out. The heart of the people of St. Lucas did follow our words. (Heart singular, yes, of the community.)

What strikes me most as I think on these things today is that the laypeople of this church have done a wonderful job of not just serving, but also befriending, that is of treating affectionately as equals the people who come to our various ministries or worship services. This to me is the heart of Jesus and the welcome of Jesus. It did not matter rich or poor, Gentile or Jew, man or woman, Jesus welcomed all by his loving engagement with them. Sometimes he had to call them to account, but he did stay connected to them. Sometimes he had to set a boundary, but he stayed connected. He did not allow anxiety to drive his relationships; he let the love of God do so. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit bless our hearts to be like the heart of Jesus, always. Pastor Billmeier

NEW WINDOWS ARE COMING!!! WOOHOO!!!

We are happy to announce St. Lucas has accepted a bid from Thermo Twin to replace the Sunday School windows with energy efficient models. The Scrip Program proceeds will go toward paying the money we borrow for this project. Buying St. Lucas scrip gift cards will help us pay down the debt just as for the elevator. Pastor buys two \$25 Speedway gas cards each week and from that practice has earned the church hundreds of dollars. If every member bought gas cards weekly it would add up to thousands to pay down the debt.

St. Lucas "Oxen" Dartball Schedule for 2013/2014

Monday, Sept. 30, 2013

St. Lucas at Trinity (A)

Monday Oct. 7, 2013

St. John #2 at St. Lucas (H)

Monday Oct. 21, 2013

1st St. Marks at St. Lucas (H)

Monday Nov. 4, 2013

Good Shepherd at St. Lucas (H)

Every 1st, 3rd & 5th Mon. from Sept. 30 – April 7, 2014. Tournament date is Feb. 3, 2014 (7pm.) All other start times are 7:30 p.m. \$6.00 initial fee & \$1.00 per week (\$20.00 full season) Majority of fees go to (4) church programs. We also sponsor the Emma Hishka memorial garden, just outside the Sunday school building*****Come one come all****

Donated cake & coffee or milk each night

St. Lucas Dartball now beginning our 32nd season. We welcome all new players to join our current players Paul Babcock, Brad Ball, Charlie Bowes, Micah Grant, Craig Lammers, Butch Ottney, Susan Purviance, Tim Steele, Craig Werner, Dean Weygandt, Joe Carriel, John Sattler, Shawn Robbins.



ACTS OF EDUCATION

SHARON SCHAEFER, SUNDAY SCHOOL CORRESPONDENT

Love,
Learn
and
Serve
God!

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NEIGHBORS

Do any of you read Click and Clack Talk Cars in the newspaper or listen to Tom and Ray Magliozzi on public radio? Cars -- not a funny topic. The Magliozzi brothers -- very funny on any topic. I've learned

a lot from them. I asked recently for permission to use their article from June 6, 2013, for the Acts. It is in question and answer format.

"Dear Tom and Ray: My question regards parking etiquette. Recently, a neighbor has been parking his car in front of our house on a daily/nightly basis. From what I can gather, this neighbor lives in a "group house" of about four individuals. Their driveway fits only two cars and there's room for only one at the curb in front of the house. So this neighbor has adopted my curb as his car's new home. While I am aware that it's technically a "public" street, this is, in my opinion, very rude -- but more importantly it's inconvenient. I have a single lane driveway for both my car and my wife's car. I often travel to the airport and come home late at night or have a need to travel to an early morning meeting. So I have need to use my curb to park my car, on occasion. My car is a manual transmission and my wife cannot drive a stick so any movement of my car requires me to do it. As it stands, I often am forced to park down the street or around the corner from my own house. And I recently held a dinner party where my guests could not park in front of my house. We live in suburbia, not the city -- everyone here has a driveway and plenty of room to park. At a minimum, it's unsightly and annoying and very un-neighborly. I've left polite notes to this neighbor letting him know these facts, and in a recent note I mentioned " I don't park my car in front of your house, so why do you park your car in front of mine?" Do you have any advice? ---- Duane

RAY: Yeah: Start by apologizing. It's not "technically" a public street, Duane. It IS a public street. So you have no right to claim it as private property.

TOM: Can you ask your neighbor, as a favor, to leave that spot open for you when possible? Sure. And if you have a neighborly relationship, and he has other reasonable options, he'll probably accommodate you. But you've started off the negotiations on the wrong foot by accusing him of behaving badly.

RAY: When someone starts a conversation with you by saying, "Hey, jerk!" how open are you to helping the guy?

TOM: Now, we know, you say you started off politely. But you may think you're being more polite than you are. Saying "I don't do this rude thing to you, yet you do it to me" puts the other guy on the defensive. And since he has the law on his side, you've given up your most potent weapon: an appeal to his good nature and benevolence.

RAY: So here's what I'd do: Start over. Start by getting to know your neighbors. Nothing helps resolve a situation like seeing each other as actual human beings rather than "some jerk in a group house" or "some grouchy old guy who thinks he owns the street." Learn your neighbor's names and find out what they do. Be neighborly first. You even might invite them over for a meal.

TOM: And poison them.

RAY: Don't listen to my brother. He's been hated in every neighborhood he's ever lived in. Once you have some kind of basic relationship established, then you'll be in a position to ask for a favor. That is, in fact, what you're asking for.

TOM: And here's the secret: Most people LIKE doing favors for other people. It feels good to help another person. They just don't like being forced to accommodate other people. So ask really nicely. Explain that you know he has every right to park anywhere on the street. But say that because of your work and family situation, it really helps you a lot if you can park in front of your house, and you're wondering if he might do you a favor and leave that space open whenever it's not inconvenient for him.

RAY: And ask him if there's anything you can do for HIM in return. It's possible that this relationship has already been poisoned, and you're just going to have to live with the life-shortening effects of having a bad neighbor. But maybe you still can turn it around.

TOM: Understanding your position (that you need a favor from him) is an important starting point in any negotiation. Good luck, Duane."

This month's WELCA Bible Study
will be held in the Community Room
Sept. 17, 2013 from 10:00 am to Noon.

In case you haven't heard, Sally Ortiz

RETIRED at the end of August. She worked at Johns Manville and Toledo Hospital as a nurse. Yay, Sally! Her email will no longer be sally.ortiz@jm.com but instead will be her home email of beabedloe@aol.com.

We would like to say **Farewell and Godspeed to Ruthann Couturier** who has moved to the Grand Rapids, MI area to be near her son & daughter and their families. Although we will miss her very much, she will still be in contact with us through Facebook and she will continue to receive The Acts. It will be nice for her to be near her family.

2013 St. Lucas Address Book Corrections

carriel_joe@yahoo.com and a cell # 419-932-5568

Ruthann Couturier **NEW**
6555 Clover Ct. S.E., Caledonia, MI 49316

Our Prayers and Sympathy go out to the friends and family of St. Lucas shut-in Dorothy Lindhorst who died August 12th

May the hope of the resurrection sustain them
and all who mourn.

St. Lucas Financial Report:

Balance Forward—7-01-13	\$ (17,811.32)
Receipts	8,467.29
Fund Transfers	(55.00)
Disbursements	(13,439.51)
Balance—7-31-13	(22,838.54)
Balance Last Year	(25,888.33)

Senior Luncheons

Sept. 12 noon at Maumee River Yacht Club
Oct. 10 noon Hong Kong Buffet (Short program on The Reformation) Reservations not necessary – just come and enjoy the food and fellowship

Healing Ministry

The St. Lucas Healing Ministry is available for those interested in experiencing God's peace, comfort, and healing presence on the third and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Everyone is welcome to attend

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the St. Lucas Sanctuary.

Please join the Healing Ministry for a peaceful time of God's encouragement, renewal, and spiritual healing. Come by yourself or invite someone to join you and come and go as you wish.

Members of the Healing Ministry are often available to make hospital or home visits and may be able to arrange transportation to one of the healing times. Please e-mail or call: Jeannie Dennler—drjeannie1@aol.com/419-343-4003 or contact the St. Lucas Office—419-243-8189/stlucasoffice@gmail.com for more information!

Matthew 8:1-17 & Mark 5:21-43

Happening Weekly at St. Lucas

Bread Distribution

Every Thursday—10:00-11:30 a.m. on the Second Floor of the Sunday School Building

St. Lucas Thrift Shop Open

Every Wednesday & Thursday—9:30-11:30 a.m. in the basement of the Sunday School Building

Alcoholics Anonymous

There are two different *Alcoholics Anonymous* groups meeting at St. Lucas with three group meetings each week: *Southside Survivors* meets on Mondays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and *New Life* meets on Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

St. Lucas/Cindy's Corner Café

The St. Lucas/Cindy's Corner Café is open and serving lunch Monday-Friday-Noon to 1:00 p.m. Additionally, Cindy Kirk, Theresa Johnson, and Talesha Richardson are available to help people in a wide variety of ways 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call 419-724-5280 for more information.

Have you "Friended" St. Lucas on Facebook yet?

Type *St. Lucas Lutheran* in the search box at the top of your page.

Sometimes there are pictures of your past. Sometimes it is late breaking news.

When the St. Lucas post shows on your feed all your friends will see how cool we are!

St. Lucas Bread Ministry

By Joyce Mease, aka/ The Bread Lady

Some six years ago St. Lucas members Deb and Tim Teague who reside in Sylvania learned that Panera Bread has a “Dough-Nation” program in which they donate to non-profits surplus specialty breads, bagels, and pastries. Deb and Tim contacted Panera’s corporate office in St. Louis on behalf of St. Lucas and arranged to pick up a donation each week at their Central Avenue location. Pastor contacted me (Joyce Mease) on Social Ministry Committee to line up volunteers to distribute the donated bread to the neighborhood. The surplus that Teagues picked up each week six years ago was huge--as many as 10 of those large plastic bags and lots of pastries. Gina Brasel was able at that time to help with the endeavor. Since then Panera has cut back on their production and the quantity St. Lucas receives is far less. Also, in order to be closer to church, we have arranged for the pick-up to be at Panera on Glendale Avenue.

Specialty breads, a variety of bagels, and wonderful pastries are distributed to the neighborhood each Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Sunday School room. St. Lucas buys clean plastic bags (Kroger got tired of my asking for them) and I donate food handler gloves. Pastries are divided up beforehand for the usual customers which number about 12. The quantity of pastry donations from Panera is quite unpredictable and dividing them ahead of time in plastic bags seems to make it more fair. The AA meeting people graciously carry in the large heavy bags and boxes to the Sunday School room for me. When I arrive in my station wagon, I can hear the AA people call out, “Bread is here!”. A bag of pastries goes to any helper.

Promptly at 10 a.m. on Thursdays neighbors arrive at the Sunday School room to get the best selection. We have a nice social gathering of chatty laughing neighbors who each have something to share: two of them have firemen in the family, one is remodeling bath and kitchen, one is preparing to move several blocks away, one looks after a blind man, the brother of one had a stroke and is recovering well. The Thrift Shop sends up their shoppers and various neighborhood people come in the door for free bread each week. Ours is such a transient neighborhood so we don’t know who we will see from week to week. Some come again on a regular basis, some we never see again. But all are graciously welcomed with hospitality. When the AA meeting concludes several of the meeting people come into the Sunday School room to select bread. At 11:30 a.m. if we have leftovers (we seldom do) I deliver to one of several places: downstairs to the gym for the St. Lucas/Cindy’s Corner Café customers, to the Senior Center or Believe Center, both at South and the Trail. Once I even gave leftovers to a lady and her little boy in the Wal-Mart parking lot.

I believe that the St. Lucas neighborhood people stand in awe of our huge beautiful church structure and that it takes the Thrift Shop, Rummage Sale, Bread Day, AA people in and out three times a week to make them realize there are “real people” in this huge church. For example, the man who lives adjacent to the vacant lot at the corner of Langdon and Walbridge has been cutting the lot just to keep the area looking nice. He has been invited to Bread Day but seemed rather shy when the invitation was made, so a bag of pastries was delivered to him with thanks for all he does to help keep the grass cut. People sitting on their porches or going down the street on a bike are surprised and pleased to have me stop, give them a bag of pastries, and explain they are from St. Lucas Church. On the Thursdays that St. Lucas is officially closed, I am there passing out bread as long as AA is in their meeting room (that includes Thanksgiving, this year on the 4th of July, Christmas Day). I enjoy the bread ministry immensely and feel God’s blessings every week as I sense what it means to the neighbors that St. Lucas cares and looks out for them. Each Thursday the offer of free bread invites new people to feel comfortable entering our church. That’s a huge personal outreach. Bread Day also gives the opportunity to keep neighbors in touch with what St. Lucas offers (Sunday School, free lunch each weekday, Rummage Sale, etc.).

Currently, because the donation from Panera has been reduced from 10 large bags to just 3 or 4 with fewer pastries donated as well, this is an outreach I can manage. My concern is that I need to have someone to back me up in case I am unable to make it for one reason or another. Two of the neighborhood ladies could do the passout, but I could use someone to back me up with picking up at 8 p.m. at Panera on Glendale, delivering to church the next day, and dividing up the pastries. I would also like to extend a hearty welcome to the congregation to stop by the Sunday School room from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays and enjoy the outreach and sociability.

The St. Lucas Bread Ministry is a merciful endeavor combined with making St. Lucas good stewards of God’s abundant blessings.

Prayers

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise

- ◆Praise to God for showing Pastor the Healthy Congregations Series.
- ◆Praise to God for the volunteers who work and help the various ministries at St. Lucas.
- ◆Praise to God for the people who come everyday for free lunch.
- ◆Praise to God for all of the willing volunteers who keep our gardens looking so beautiful.
- ◆Praise to God for all of the musicians, readers, soloists, instrumentalists, guests, leaders, youth, and other volunteers who lead us worship.

Prayers of Concern, Healing, Protection, Guidance, Leadership, and Encouragement

- ◆Lois Bening, Bill Cottle, Lee Forgette, Ruth Fox, Victor Garcia, Bryan & Pat Goeble, Mary Good, Bill Granger, Claudia Halliday, Carl & Judy Hischka, Harold & Ellamay Jerman, Cheryl Jones, Cindy Kirk, Cameron Kruse, Irene Meder, Melva Nelson, Helen Nostrant, Carol Petoskey, Marilyn Pockmire, Janet Ritson, Adolf Ruelke, Kathy Ruhm, Marie Schlapman, Betty Schmidt, Ruth Smeltzer, Katina Werner, Riley Woody, and John, Mary, Rich, and Stacey.
- ◆Please pray for God's divine guidance as St. Lucas follows up on the Long Range Team.
- ◆Please pray for the continued leadership of Pastor Billmeier and the St. Lucas Church Council.

Romans 8:26 NSRV

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very spirit intercedes and sighs too deep for words.

Congratulations to Paula Davis and Valrie Gilliam who affirmed their commitment to each other on August 17, 2013. Pastor Billmeier officiated the ceremony at Garden Lake Hall.

Two important charter qualities are loyalty and faithfulness. A loyal person not only feels love; he also acts responsibly. A faithful person not only believes the truth; he also works for justice for others Thought and words are not enough – our lives reveal whether we are truly loyal and faithful. Do your actions measure up to your attitudes? Proverbs 3:3-6 NSRV

Upcoming Thrift Shop Volunteers Schedule

Wed., Sept. 4 – Sue and Rose
Thurs., Sept. 5 – Carol and Marie

Wed., Sept. 11 – Betty and Jan
Thurs., Sept. 12 – Angie and Hildegard

Wed., Sept. 18 – Sue and Rose
Thurs., Sept. 19 – Carol and Marie

Wed., Sept. 25 – Betty and Jan
Thurs., Sept. 26 – Angie and Hildegard

**Set up for Oct. Rummage Sale -
Monday, Sept. 30 thru Wed., Oct. 2**

RUMMAGE SALE

Thurs., Oct. 3 – 10a.m.-4p.m.
Friday – Oct. 4 – 10a.m. – 7 p.m.
Saturday – Oct. 5 – 10a.m. – 1 p.m.

Deeper Member Class – New instructional class on “What Lutheran’s Believe”. If you are interested in taking this class, please contact Pastor Billmeier. After the 7 week class you make the decision on making a public affirmation of baptism for a deeper relationship with God and this community of faith.

Upcoming Worship Leaders

Elder(s)—Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.
Steve Seaton

Elders—Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
Yvonne & Larry Reed

Elders—Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
Jill Hojnacki
Carole Mack

Acolyte:
Morgan Adkins

Lector:
Phil Chambers

Ushers:
Head—Joyce Mease & Marc Smith
Offering—Ed Bloedow & Micah Grant

Thank you to EVERYONE for serving!

My View of the Church

By Guenther the St. Lucas Church Mouse

Guenthianna, my lovely wife, and I were really surprised at the amount of comments our "Bigfoot" article (June 2013, *The Acts of St. Lucas*) generated. Wow, the phones at The *Acts Publishing Company* (all one of "them") were ringing off the hook. In fact, the phone rang so much that we had to hire an answering service to field all of the calls! Most of the comments centered on sightings of "Bigfoot" in the Toledo area. However, one caller, a St. Lucas parishioner who didn't wish to be identified by name, claimed that he has seen "Bigfoot" in the storage area where the lawn mower and snow blower are stored. Hopefully, the next time he sees "Bigfoot," he will have (and use) his camera to get us some pictures so we can run a "creature feature" article in an upcoming edition of the *Acts*!

We haven't heard any statistics about visitors and usage of the new/improved St. Lucas website (www.stlucastoledo.org), but we are certain that more and more people will be checking it out to keep up with St. Lucas and to see the Pastor's homilies. Georgia Steele does a great job with the website and with the St. Lucas Facebook page. Be sure and stop in to both of them when you're out there surfing the net!

Speaking of Georgia Steele, we would like to thank her and Sharon Jordan, the St. Lucas Office Secretary, for doing the September 2013 edition of *The Acts of St. Lucas*. Georgia and Sharon took this task on in order to give Dave Jerman (*Acts Editor de la Supreme*) a little more time to help out with his parents in Hilliard, Ohio. One immediate benefit is that the September 2013 edition will be out on time! Be sure to let them know how much you appreciated them filling in for Dave this month (we know, for a fact, that Dave really appreciates it)!

Until next time, that's "My View of the Church."

Happy Birthday!

7

September

Danny Wolfram Sr. – 1
David Girardot – 5
Mackenzey Miller – 5
Carl Hischka – 6
Jennifer Adkins – 7
Mia Mitchell – 10
Tyler Woody – 12
Carter Mack – 13
Greyson Murphy – 14
Bob Alley – 15
Sharon Schaefer – 15
Bruce Taylor – 15
Amanda Murphy – 16
Sally Ortiz – 16
Angel Pringle – 16
Carmen Ball – 20
Joyce Mease – 20
Jill Hojnacki – 21
Cheryl Jones – 21
Phil Chambers – 25
Becca Girardot – 26
Georgia Steele – 29
Alex Kasee -- 30

Happy (late) Birthday to Larry Flowers His birthday was left out last month
—it is Aug 29.

Happy Anniversary!

Fred and Kathy Ruhm---Sept.11
Ralph and Rebecca Cairl---Sept 12
Rick and Annette Mason---Sept.13
Jeff and Jody Steuer---Sept.27
Rudy & Sharon Schaefer---Sept.27

Please let the Church Office know if your birthday and/or anniversary is/are being missed!



ST. LUCAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 WALBRIDGE AVENUE
TOLEDO, OHIO 43609
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SEPTEMBER, 2013
THE ACTS OF ST. LUCAS NEWSLETTER

Parish Staff

Martin E. Billmeier, Pastor
Sharon Jordan, Secretary
Jamie Dael, Organist
Ron Lang, Choir Director
Vernon Williams, Custodian

Church Council

Phil Chambers, President; Lee Jagodzinski, Vice-President; Paul Babcock, Mike Biscay, Bill Denner, Amy Herrick, Brian Hoch, David Jerman, Theresa Johnson, Cindy Kirk, Bill Reddington, Sharon Schaefer, Steve Seaton, Craig Werner, and Lorraine Willoughby

Parish Office Information

Tuesday-Friday—9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Phone: 419-243-8189 Fax: 419-243-8180
Secretary Email: stlucasooffice@gmail.com
Pastor Email: pastorstlucas@gmail.com
ACTS Newsletter: steamloco80@hotmail.com /419-351-4723
Website: www.stlucastoledo.org

Northwest Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
621 Bright Road, Findlay, Ohio 45840
1-419-423-3664
Rev. Marcus Lohrmann, Bishop
Website: www.nwos-elca.org

Worship Hours

Saturdays: 4:00 p.m. with Healing Rite.
Sundays: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Wednesdays: Noon Prayer Circle.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered at all services.

Mission and Vision

ST. LUCAS PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The people of St. Lucas Lutheran Church invite and welcome everyone to enter and feel God's presence.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. We believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior.
2. We embrace diversity and welcome all unconditionally.
3. We commit to live God's Word and share the Good News.
4. We strive for closer relationship with God and each other.
5. We demonstrate compassion and forgiveness through open hearts and open minds.



AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

All people are welcome within our membership and are encouraged to participate in the sacramental life and work of our congregation, including those of all sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, races, abilities, economic levels, and previous religious experiences.
Come dressed as you are...All are Welcome!