



AUGUST 2022

The Acts of St. Lucas



The seal of St. Luke

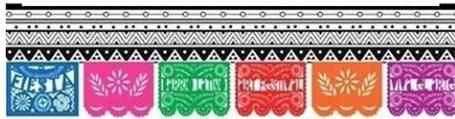
For nothing will be impossible with God. Luke 1: 37

LOTS GOING ON AT ST. LUCAS IN AUGUST

ICE CREAM SOCIAL August 6 & 7 after each worship service we will host an ice cream social in the space between the buildings. A host of ice cream treats will be served. Music by Emmitt and Shandonna after the 10:30 service.



Brought to you by NUESTRA GENTE COMMUNITY PROJECTS, INC



COME CELEBRATE THE 11th ANNUAL BARRIO LATINO ART FESTIVAL!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13
2:00 pm to 11:00 pm
1411 Broadway Street
Toledo, OH 43609.

ENTERTAINMENT
ART
FOOD
MUSIC

www.facebook.com/BarrioLatinoArtFestival
FOR MORE INFO, SPONSORSHIP OR VENDOR SPACE CONTACT:
Nuestra Gente: 567-7020040

BARRIO LATINO ARTS FESTIVAL Saturday August 13 2-5pm St. Lucas will staff a table again this year at this arts festival that is held at the old First English building at Walbridge and Broadway. More details to follow.

EQUALITY TOLEDO MULTIFAITH PRIDE EVENT at the Buddhist Temple of Toledo 7pm Thursday, August 18. 3902 Emmajeon Rd. Toledo OH. Join people of many faith traditions for a Pride event that celebrates the LGBT community from a faith perspective. Pastor Billmeier chairs the committee that plans this event.

MULTIFAITH PRIDE EVENT
SPONSORED BY EQUALITY TOLEDO

peaceful presence, active hope.

August 18, 2022 @ 7pm
Buddhist Temple of Toledo
3902 Emmajeon Rd.
Toledo, OH 43607

EQUALITY TOLEDO

TOLEDO PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL Saturday August 20 members of St. Lucas will walk in the Toledo Pride Parade and then host a table at the festival that follows. Those who walk in the parade will receive (if they don't already have one) a free St. Lucas t-shirt, so let us know you are coming ahead of time, so we can get you the t-shirt we'll all be wearing. Please let us know by email or on the back of your "I Worship Today" card that you will be in the parade.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE MARCH Join the St. Lucas delegation that walks in the International Peace Day March September 21 at the Lucas County Courthouse. Details will follow.

FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK DINNER FOR TRANSITION WORK after 10:30 worship September 25. We need the whole congregation to turn out for this event as we will be filling out forms that help describe who we are at St. Lucas, so that the future Call Committee may have a profile to give pastoral candidates. This will help the committee make sure the candidate is a "good fit."





PASTORAL ACTS

Pastor Martin E. Billmeier



Greetings,

I am always amused when I see this sign at what Toledoans call “Five Points.” I don’t recall if I’ve ever seen a more confusing sign in another municipality. Which way? Huh? As confusing as that intersection can be, I think that this might be a good sign for our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. What should we do? Which way should we head? What road do we take?

I read an article this morning whose headline blared, “COVID Hospitalization Rate in NYC Soars 70% in Month, ICU Patient Tally Nearly Doubles.” Under its summary bullets one of them said, “Omicron subvariant BA.5 now accounts for an estimated 82% of COVID cases in the CDC’s New York region. It is more than four times as vaccine-resistant as its predecessor and has been linked to a heightened risk of infection and breakthrough cases and hospitalizations, state

and national data show.” Yikes! Should we lock down again? It’s vaccine resistant! Hospitalizations are up! Well, those headlines are a little misleading. If you read the article the hospitalizations are primarily among the unvaccinated. Among vaccinated folks who end up hospitalized, they consist of those who have not followed up with booster shots, and have not been vaccinated since 2021.

I was given the two shot vaccination regimen in April of 2021. I got my first booster in early October. In November John got Covid at just the point where he needed a booster shot, but I tested negative the entire time he was sick with mild symptoms of a sinus infection. I got my second booster (fourth shot) in early May. I got Covid (or as the those news headlines above say COVID) in early June. For me it was a summer cold. Now, I know there are underlying conditions that do call for more caution, but the article I read this morning pretty well affirms that if you stay up on your booster shots your chances of serious illness or hospitalization drop dramatically.

I go into all of this, so that I may speak pastorally. Please stay up on your Covid booster shots. By now most people should have had two initial shots and two booster shots six months apart. They are working on another booster specifically aimed at the B4 and B5 strains for the fall. Thank God for modern medicine! I believe it is one of the ways that God provides for our health and welfare. That is the point of view I was brought up with in the Lutheran church. That’s where I got that particular theological perspective. “Sometimes God heals outright, sometimes God uses doctors and medicines to cure,” is what I heard growing up from my pastors.

So the road that I have chosen is to stay up on my booster shots and pretty much live life the way I did before the pandemic. When I got Covid it wasn’t because I was in a crowd. It was because one person came to my house one afternoon and then came down with it when she got home that night. You never know. Now, I know many people are still being extremely cautious. Each must make up his or her own mind on how to proceed, which arrow to follow, so to speak. No matter what we do, though, let us place ourselves in God’s hands. The media operate from a perspective that the worst thing that could happen to you is to get sick and die. We as believers in Jesus know better. Remember, Jesus said, “Do not fear those who can kill the body. Rather fear the One who can cast body and soul into hell.” We are saved by grace through faith. We follow Jesus down the road.



*by volunteer
Joy Huener*

ST LUCAS LUTHERAN CHURCH CINDY'S CORNER NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

Summer is halfway done! How quickly the seasons come and go. When we were children, it seemed like forever for summer vacation to come. I pray you all have a fun and safe summer.

Cindy Kirk fell and broke her right hip on July 3. She had her hip pinned to her pelvis instead of a hip replacement. After she was discharge from the hospital, she went to Kingston Nursing Home in Perrysburg. She is finally home on July 12. Her roommate Dottie and her daughter, who lives 2 doors down, have been taking excellent care of her. She has a nurse and physical therapy coming to treat her. Please pray for her for complete healing and that she can return to Cindy's Corner soon!!!! WE LOVE YOU, CINDY!!

A wonderful friend of our church and of Cindy's Corner bought a steamtable for St. Lucas! Thank you so much!

We are involved in finding housing for our people and obtaining food stamps, government phones, and anything else they may need. We deal with anyone dealing with domestic violence. We recently were awarded a grant for NWO Synod. We will start a fund at St. John's Lutheran Church, because that is where we are seeing most of the domestic violence cases. Please keep these people in your prayers.

Zion Lutheran Church in Waterville is interested in the children's program that we have at Redeemer Lutheran.

The cost of living has increased in our area, resulting in the increase in our paper products and the food. It has put a huge dent in our budget.

Cindy has been talking with the families in the neighborhood to enroll them in Sunday School at Saint Lucas.

The steamtables are working out so wonderfully. The food stays hot, and it looks very nice.

Our program is working out well. The staff is great. They are loyal and productive. We so appreciate them for everything that they do. We wouldn't be where we are if it wasn't for them! THANK YOU to all of our staff!

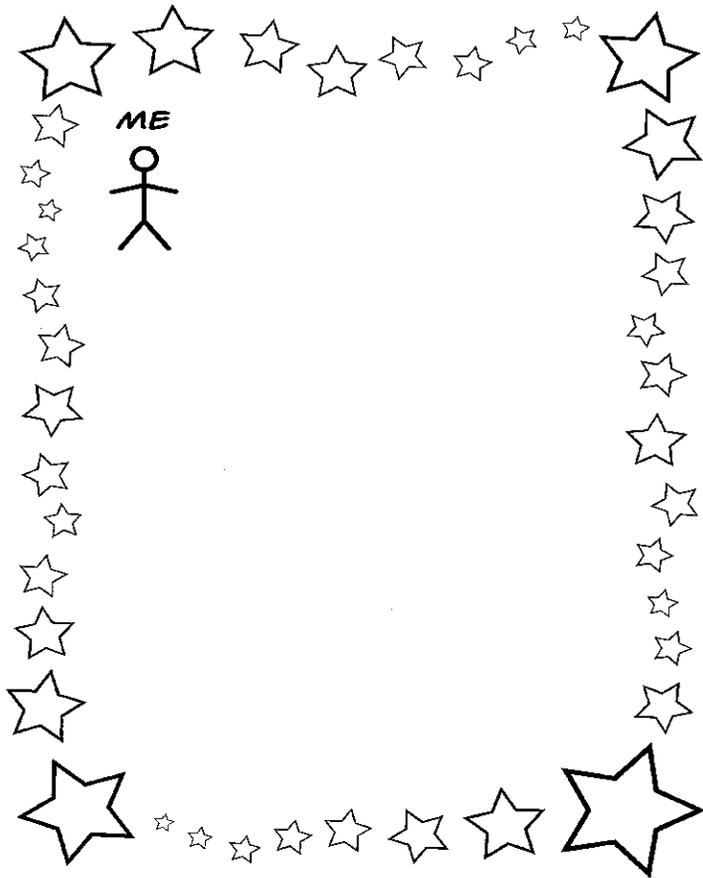
Our employee of the month is Eddie. He has been here for many years. He does so much for us and helps out without being asked. If you see Eddie, tell him Thank You for all you do at Cindy's Corner.



Pork chop, mashes potatoes, green beans, slaw and bread for lunch on July 21. We also distributed toiletry bags with toothpaste and soap and toothbrush.

Count the Descendants

In today's Old Testament story, God tells Abram that he'll have soooooo many descendants. Look around your worship space and count the number of descendants of Abram there are in the room. Draw a stick figure in the space below for each descendant you can count.



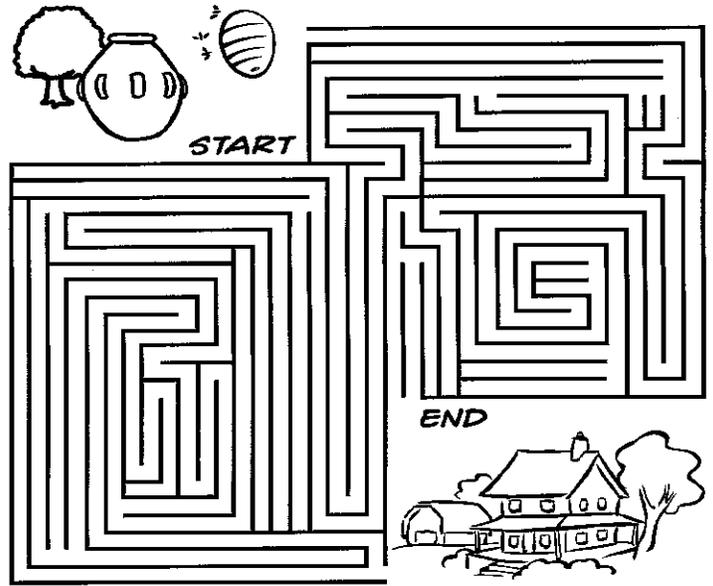
READER

Pentecost 9

- Today is the **ninth** Sunday after Pentecost.
- During Pentecost, we remember that God makes and keeps **amazing promises**.
- We also remember to **let our faith shine bright like a star**.

Honey, Please!

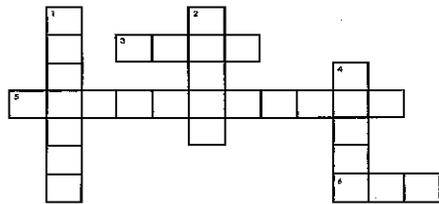
These farmers invited guests over for dinner. They are serving biscuits, but are out of honey. Can you make sure they get the jar of honey they need by finding your way back to the farmer's house?



Complete the crossword puzzle to fill in the blanks of today's memory verse.

Memory Verse

"_____ up
 3 across
 at the _____ and
 6 across
 _____ the _____ if indeed you
 2 down 4 down
 can _____ them. So shall your _____ be."
 2 down 5 across
 _____ 15:5
 1 across



- ACROSS**
- To view or see
 - Those who come after you
 - The space that is filled with stars, moons, and planets

- DOWN**
- The first book of the Bible
 - What we do when we are adding up numbers
 - Burning balls of fire in the sky. Teachers draw them on your test when you get an answer right

God told Abram that he would have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. Do you know what *descendants* means? It means "those who come after." So the word descendant could include children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc. Try to figure out who are descendants in your family:

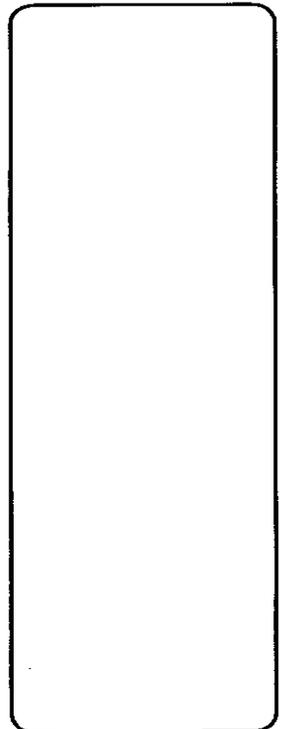
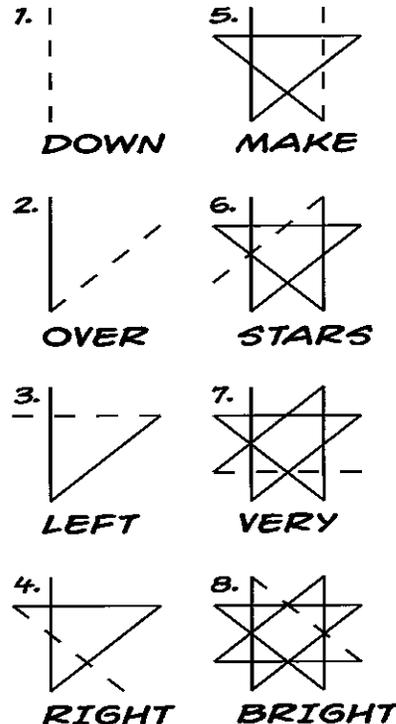
Did You Know?

Your grandma's or grandpa's name: _____
 Their son or daughter's name: _____
 Your name: _____

See? You're a descendant!

Draw a Star Oh So Bright

In today's Old Testament story, God tells Abram that he will have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. Learn how to draw an eight-pointed star by following the steps below, one at a time. Practice drawing them in the space below.





ACTS OF EDUCATION

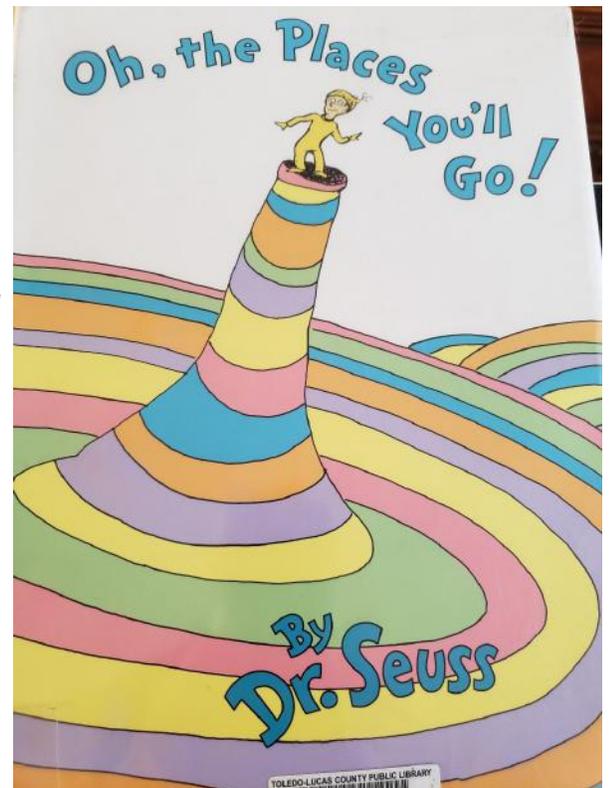
by Sharon Schaefer, Sunday School Correspondent
SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION: LOVE, LEARN, AND SERVE GOD

Enjoy these lighthearted words on this August day from one of our culture's favorite authors, Dr. Seuss, aka Theodor Seuss Geisel. He wrote more than 60 books. His books were fascinating not only for his rhyming words, but for his unforgettable illustrations.

We were expecting a visit from a young one, Dario, who loves to read at age 10. After a Library visit, I ended up with one Dr. Seuss book I was not familiar with, **Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You Are?** and my favorite of all times **Oh, the Places You'll Go!** We have given the book **Oh, the Places You'll Go!** as a graduation gift to many. You can see why with a book that begins "Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!"

In these times where we are reminded daily of the possible and various viruses and poxes(!) encouraging words that inspire us are not only enjoyable but another way to give balance to our lives. One thing we do know, as the song says, *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, including us.

The story continues: "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And you are the one who'll decide where to go." Dr. Seuss uses lots of "guy" references and his stories usually revolve around one young boy. His books are not gender neutral but we can forgive him for that, since he was, after all, born in 1904. "You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care. About some you will say, 'I don't choose to go there.' With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet, you're too smart to go down any not-so-good street."



"Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So . . . get on your way!" is the way the book ends.

Thanks, Dr. Seuss, for your rhyming words and styled drawings!

ST. LUCAS SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHRISTIAN EDUCATION We hope to offer some sort of classes for children this fall. Christian Education is so very important. If you are interested in helping with Christian education at St. Lucas, please let Sharon Schaefer or Cindy Kirk know. Remember to pray for the children of our congregation and neighborhood.

ST. LUCAS PRAYER LIST

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Cindy Kirk, Christy Lazaris, Mary Good, Gwen Steele

UNDER HOSPICE CARE: Jody Steuer, Carrie

SHUT IN Bill Granger, Cheryl Ivy Jones, Roger Druckemiller, Frank

SYMPATHY & PRAYERS



We offer our sympathy and prayers for the family of Lauren Marshall, age 16, who passed away on July 16. Services for Lauren were conducted by Pastor Billmeier at Bersticker-Scott Funeral Home on July 22.

We also offer sympathy and prayers for the family of Hui Chun Lee who passed on July 19. Pastor Billmeier conducted services at Bersticker-Scott on July 25.

We also offer our sympathy and prayers for the family of past St. Lucas member Norman "Scott" Hamilton, who died on July 27 and whose service Pastor Billmeier will conduct on August 2 at Newcomer on Heatherdowns.

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVANTS

4:00 Elder Kate Gladieux

9:00 Elder Pat Wilson

10:30

Lector Sarah Sigurdson

Elders Lee Jagodzinski
John Kern

Head Ushers Kelly Kane
Melinda Musteric

Offering Ushers Georgia Steele
Annette Mason

Acolyte Jill Hojnacki

Camera Sarah Sigurdson/Ana Dubois



Happy August Birthday

Say a prayer for each of these on their special day.

Lotte Hall	1
Heidi Dorgiewicz	9
Jim Bischoff	12
David Kroll	15
Lori Ritter	18
Kathleen Kane	21
Ed Bloedow	21
Debbie Babcock	22
Kathy Carver	23
Sarah Sigurdson	24
Emmitt Williams	25
Janice Lydic	26
Larry Flowers	29



HAPPY AUGUST ANNIVERSARY!

Say a prayer for each of these couples on their special day:

Tim & Deby Teague	11
Gerald & Lorriane Willoughby	19
Bill & Jeannie Dennler	26

General Fund Report

JUNE 1 BALANCE	9,624.13
RECEIPTS	18,101.00
DISBURSEMENTS	(18,544.39)
JUNE30 BALANCE	(10,067.62)
BALANCE LAST YEAR	3,838.04

St. Lucas Cindy's Corner Gifts/Expenses

June 1 Balance	\$ 13,375.15
Receipts	2,120.00
Disbursements	(162.57)
June 30 Balance	\$ 15,332.58
Bal. Last Year	16,393.22

WELCA BIBLE STUDY in July went well. Three women gathered with Pastor Billmeier for a Bible study from the *Gather* magazine, the periodical of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA). In the future the WELCA Bible study, followed by business meeting, will be the 3rd Wednesday at 9:30am. Next meeting: August 17 beginning with Bible study. All are welcome to the Bible study from 9:30-10:30 in the Sunday School community room 2nd floor.

BEA'S VIEW

ST LUCAS WELCOMES ALL AGES,
SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS, EDUCATION-
MENTAL HEALTH- ALL ARE WELCOME
- EVERYONE



HEALING TEAM REPORT

On July 26 six people received prayer for healing at our monthly fourth Tuesday healing hour in the sanctuary. What a blessed evening it was! We invite you to come Tuesday, August 23 from 6-7pm to receive the gift of healing in the St. Lucas sanctuary.

ST LUCAS T-SHIRTS



They're back after a two-year hiatus. The custom designed St Lucas t-shirts were a hit in 2019, and they are bound to sell out again. Make sure to drop by the St Lucas office to purchase yours for only \$10. In addition to purchasing a t-shirt, there is one other way to obtain one. Evangelism Committee is giving t-shirts to anyone who walks in the Pride parade, serves at the Barrio Latino festival or walks in the Peace March (see page 1). The St Lucas t-shirts provide visibility to our outreach activities. Join the fun and show your St Lucas spirit. Call the church office or write on your "I Worship Today" card to order yours.

ST. LUCAS ARCHIVES needs your help. We will be putting the confirmation group pictures from 1936 to current into frames. We have the supplies but we need helping hands. We would like to start in August. We are also asking for help in redesigning the archive area in the Lower Chapel. Do you have any ideas? Can you help with either of these project? Please call Georgia Steele in the office (419-243-8189) or on her cell (419-215-4150).'



Sometimes it's instructive to see how other congregations word there welcome to others. Here is the welcome statement for the Coventry Cathedral in England.



A CATHEDRAL WELCOME



We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor.

We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion.'
(We're not that keen on it either!)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the Cathedral.

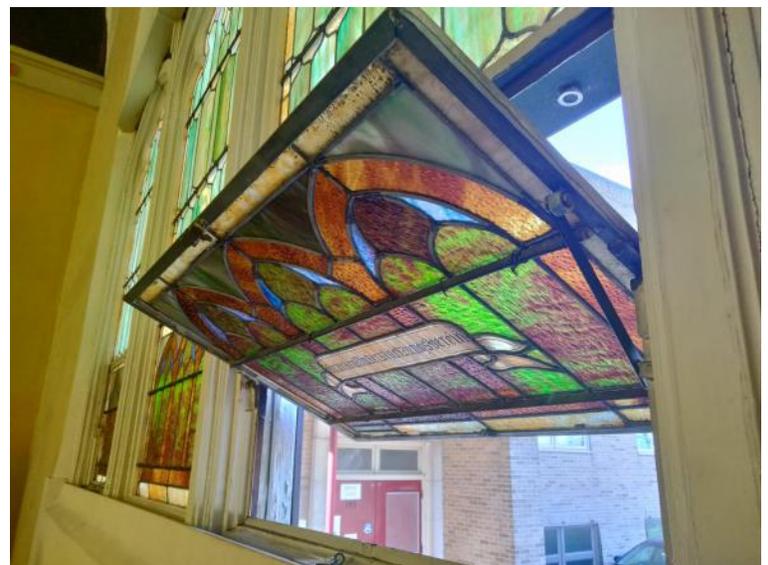
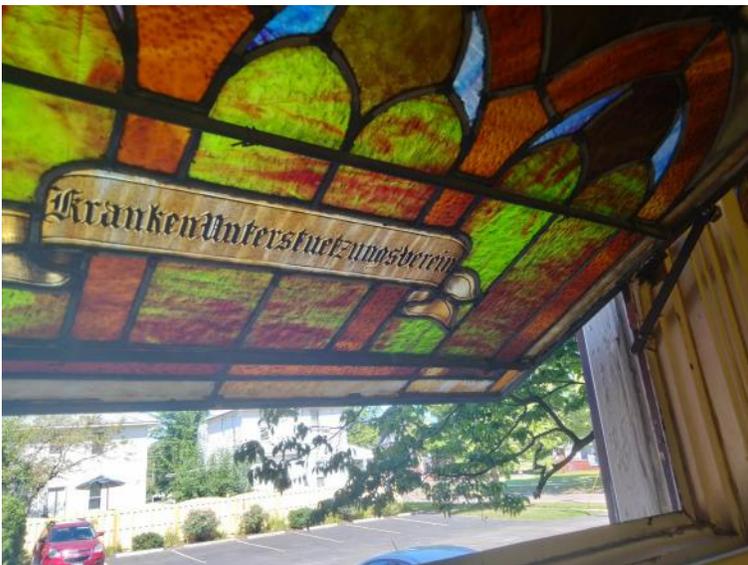
We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost in the city centre and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters...and YOU!

With kind permission of Coventry Cathedral

FENCE REPLACED Last spring the wind blew down a section of the parking lot fence along the western side of lot next to the church. In July the Marleau Hercules Fence Company came and replaced the entire fence, which had obviously fallen into bad repair. New fence looks great. Other capital improvements finished recently include installation of a backflow valve in the drain from the lower church to the sewer, which we hope will end the water back ups there. Bob Alley has also repaired the casement windows in the Gethsemane window in the western transept, so that the windows can now be fixed at an angle that will prevent rain from dripping in or the sun from glaring off them. Thanks Bob! John Kern has spent many hours working on wifi and internet issues as well.



NEW CAMERA FOR LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP INSTALLED, NOT QUITE READY TO GO Due to Wifi issues we are not quite ready to transition to the new camera that was installed. We had hoped to avoid paying two wifi bills, but turns out we will need a dedicated line for streaming. S'all-right! God will provide as God has in the past. This camera wil is wired directly into the sound system, so it should cut down on a lot of the "echo effect" we get in the main sanctuary.



The casement windows in the western transept now match the eastern ones. Bob Alley fashioned prop hooks, so that the wind wil no longer blow them shut or tip them in and allow rain to drip in. Thanks Bob, and assistant John Kern!

St. Lucas "Good Gossip" Page



We ran into Alan Langevin and Ron Bacon at a memorial service for a server at a local Adams Street establishment (Georgjz419) that Pastor Billmeier was asked to lead. Pictured behind them is John Mensing with Pastor Chris Hanley of Glenwood Lutheran (who was invited by Pastor to join the wake on this Sunday afternoon) and Pastor Billmeier

CONGRATULATIONS

to Kelly Kane & Andy Curtin, who have announced their engagement. Andy lives in Ireland, so was not available for this picture. Kelly is Sally Ortiz's daughter. The couple plan a wedding some time before Pentecost Sunday of 2024. Here is Kelly after 9am service showing off her "rock." Lookin' good Kelly!



AUNT SHARON IN THE FLESH! At the Saturday 4pm service on July 23 we were delighted to have Sharon Langendorf Szabo join us. Sharon is Annette Mason's aunt and grand aunt to Sarah Sigurdson (pictured at left). She lives in a senior community and is rarely able to attend because of a chronic condition. She has affectionately come to be known as "Aunt Sharon" to many of us, because she is a fixture on all the St. Lucas daily devotional live-casts. Devotional leaders and other watchers often give a special "hello Aunt Sharon" when we live cast. So, instead of just a virtual Aunt Sharon, we got to see her in the flesh.



Thanks to Gary Stofan and John Mensing who have both come in to trim wild yew and barberry bushes this summer. Thanks to Gary and Sharon Stofan & another couple who wish to remain anonymous for coming in to weed the fence row in front of the new fence. Thanks to Georgia Steele who has adopted the Emma Hischka garden and has a fine variety of perennials planted—always something blooming!

Applying Bible Principles Stewardship Message

**WE ARE TO GIVE TO THOSE WHO MINISTER TO US,
WITH OUR CHURCH BEING A PRIORITY.**



... the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:14

Many illustrations found in the Scriptures have to do with an agrarian economy. Farmers in particular find much in the Bible with which they identify directly.

For example, both Old and New Testaments indicate that the ox which is treading out the grain should be allowed to eat of the grain. The owner of that ox is not to place a muzzle on the animal to prevent it from enjoying that which is being produced. But that illustration is to provide insight into a greater truth, namely, that the person who is producing the harvest should share in the harvest. And just in case we're confused about what this means, the Scripture provides clarity by stating, "... those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

That is why we support our pastor and others who, in one way or another, are involved in preaching the gospel. That is why we support financially the work and outreach of our church. That is why we give to the work of the Lord here at St. Lucas Lutheran Church. Yes, we give out of our love and devotion to Christ. Yes, we give because of all that we have in Him. Yes, we give because God owns everything and we are just managers and stewards. But we also give so that those who preach the gospel might receive their living from the gospel, so that they might give their full attention to their divine calling without being side-tracked by the necessity of other work.

A lady named Mrs. Jones passed away without any survivors — that is, without any human survivors. She left three dogs to mourn her passing: Dolly, Skippy and Bozo. She specified that her estate (consisting of \$72,800) should go for the "care and maintenance of the dogs." When the dogs are dead, what is left is to be given to her church. A veterinarian examined the dogs and, finding them in "excellent health," made this statement: "The church may have to wait as long as twelve years to say 'dog-gone' and receive the money."

How much better to support the work and ministry of the church as a priority. How much better to place first things first. And while we may not have oxen that tread out the grain as part of the harvesting process, we can learn much from that apt illustration. Just as the owner of the ox allows it to eat of the grain it is producing, in the same way, "... the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel."

Or, as the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6:6, "Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher."



ST. LUCAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 WALBRIDGE AVENUE
TOLEDO, OHIO 43609
419-243-8189

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY

AUGUST 2022
THE ACTS OF ST. LUCAS NEWSLETTER

Parish Staff

Martin E. Billmeier, Pastor
 Georgia Steele, Office Manager
 Jamie Dael, Organist
 Ron Lang, Choirmaster
 Steve Seaton, Custodian

Church Council

Brian Hoch, President; Jill Hojnacki, Vice-president, Jason Slough, Treasurer; Sharon Stofan, Secretary; Mike Biscay, Fritz Bloedow, +Randy Hyter+ David Jerman, John Kern, Cindy Kirk, Christy Lazaris, Diane Porter, LaVonda Rodgers, Steve Seaton, Lorraine Willoughby, Pastor Billmeier

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
 Cindy's Corner: 419-724-1908 stlucascindyscorner@gmail.com
 Website: www.stlucastoledo.org
 Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StLucasLutheranChurch.

Northwest Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

621 Bright Road, Findlay, Ohio 45840
 1-419-423-3664
 Bishop: Rev. Daniel Beaudoin
 Website: www.nwos-elca.org



Worship & Sunday School Times

Saturdays: 4:00 p.m.
Sundays: 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Sept. to May
Wednesdays: 11:45 a.m.—Wednesday Chapel

The Sacrament of Holy Communion and healing rite are 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.

****Handicap Accessible Building****

***Elevator Next to Handicap Parking on Walbridge Ave.
 Please come dressed as you are...ALL ARE WELCOME***

AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME - adopted 1999

In accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ St. Lucas welcomes all. By this we mean that we extend the radical welcome of Jesus Christ to people of every age, race, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic level, mental health diagnosis, recovery status, education level, or previous religious experience to participate in the sacramental life and work of our congregation.