SAUKERKRAUT SUPPER NOVEMBER 4

KRAUT & PORK SUPPER Friday, Nov. 4. We need folks to help Angie in the kitchen. Please sign up on your “I Worship Today” to help. Take out at 5pm and in house at 6pm. Tickets now on sale. Be careful of buying tickets from Yvonne Reed. Authentic tickets guaranteed from Pastor Billmeier.

JOIN US at worship the weekend of November 5-6. We will remember all those from St. Lucas and under our pastoral care who passed since the last All Saints Sunday. Agnone may bring a picture of a loved one to place on the candle stand that day. Pictures of those passed in the last year will be placed around the baptismal font.

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS NOVEMBER 6

Rev. Matt Musteric will conduct a Healthy Congregations Workshop: Healthy Congregations Respond to Anxiety and Change. The church is paying for the cost of this program; it is free to you. The workshop helps us prepare for the process of calling a new pastor. We’ll look at the role anxiety plays in a congregation in transition, and how a focus on process and mission helps calm the emotional system. St. Lucas is committed to our Vision Statement. We see it in your answers to questions about what element is the most important to you here. We can take a few late reservations. Lunch at noon; workshop starts at 1pm. Please call the church office 419-243-8189.

POINSETTIA SALE ENDS NOVEMBER 13

HELP US DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS Find the order form in this newsletter, fill it out, attach payment and return to the office by Nov. 13. You will notice the 7 1/2” plants are at a reduced price from previous years. Thanks for your support of this project. Proceeds to the boiler fund. See page 7.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20

Our Fall Stewardship Campaign comes to a close the weekend of Sunday, November 20. At all three services that weekend we will fill out and present our 2023 Giving Commitment Cards. Please pray over our need to fund our mission at St. Lucas. Consider that you are part of God’s plan to fund the mission through your committed giving to St. Lucas Church. If you can’t be there November 19 or 20, we will mail your commitment card to you and ask you to return it to the offering plate or by mail. God’s love calls us to respond with our tithes, gifts and offerings.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS NOVEMBER 27

AFTER 10:30 CHURCH. We’ll have Original Gino’s pizza for lunch and put up all the holiday decs. Plan on staying. “Many hands make light work” or “Viele Haende machen schnelle ende.”
FEAR BASED THOUGHTS, PEOPLE, CONGREGATIONS AND THE WORLD

The Only Little Prayer You Need by Debra Landwehr Engle is a helpful little book that a parishioner gave me back in 2021. I’m reading through it again as I found it helpful the first time. The spiritual premise of the book is summed up by the author:

“We live in a world that feeds our egos with fear. We’re bombarded by fear-based messages every day. Terrorism will get us, or earthquakes or global warming [or we might add Covid-19 nowadays] or the economy. And we’re constantly judged or judging ourselves for what we’re wearing, our hair, our car, our home, our productivity, our performance on the job, our kids’ accomplishments, and on and on. Once you start to break it down, you see that fear is pervasive, like a cancer that’s gotten into our bones.

The answer to our reactions to these fear-based messages, she contends, is, “We need to have our thoughts about the problem healed. When we do that, there’s no longer a need for the lesson. Whatever needed to be fixed or healed will no longer be an issue. So, the prayer she advocates we pray is, “Please heal my fear-based thoughts.”

I love that she identifies fear as that which disrupts our lives and the life of the world. In our foundational myth in the Garden of Eden, was it not fear that they were missing something that motivated Adam and Eve to partake of the the forbidden fruit? Did not that act usher in fear as a defining feature of the world? Think of how fear governs your life: the decisions based on it, the paths not taken because of it, the hatreds and resentments spawned by it, the paralysis set in by it, the selfishness and clutching on to money, people and things driven by it.

Jesus invites us to fear no more. His death and resurrection mean nothing can separate us from God. By the power of his Holy Spirit we may be released from fear to face the future bravely. I challenge our congregation to pray the prayer with me, “Please heal my fear-based thoughts.” When the Spirit changes our thinking about those things we fear they lose their power to dominate us. We experience the freedom of going forward with God, believing that God walks with us even in the “valley of the shadow of death.” Examine your life. How is fear driving your decisions? Would you like to be free? Come here and join us as we follow Jesus, worship Jesus, serve Jesus, and pray, “Dear Lord Jesus, heal our fear-based thoughts.”
What is Extra?

In your worship space, there are probably some very important things used in each worship service: a cross, an altar, and chairs or pews for people to sit. These are probably some things that are less necessary: things that decorate the space, but aren’t as essential for worship, like decorative banners, flowers, and artwork. Draw some of the “extras” that you can see in your worship space. Do you think these are still important for worship?

Remember: this temple won’t last forever...

Bells and Whistles

Have you heard the term “bells and whistles” before? It doesn’t literally mean bells and whistles. Rather, it means things that are fancy and decorative, but extra and unnecessary. In today’s lesson, Jesus tells people of the temple that all the precious stones and sparkling gems in the temple don’t matter because God’s love is really what will last forever. Decorate the temple below with lots of shining and sparking “bells and whistles.”

Remember: this temple won’t last forever...

But God’s love

"But not a hair of your head will perish.”
- Luke 21:18
November Thoughts

An explosion of public comment about mental health issues, anxiety and fear is permeating our culture. Our Pastor has been on the leading edge of bringing these issues out into the open at St Lucas for many years. I have had more conversations with more people about mental health issues, anxiety and fear in the last two weeks than I have had in years. Three prime ministers in only a couple months in the UK!! is causing mental health issues, anxiety and fear, not only in that country but in ours as well. The volatility of financial markets is causing global dread which adds more fuel to the anxiety fire.

I would like to suggest, in this month of Thanksgiving known as November, that gratitude and thanks become our antidote. We know that tough and difficult issues are here to stay. They’ve always been here and will always be here. We could choose to see all of the public commentary as refreshing since it involves a certain amount of self-acceptance, self-awareness and transparency.

Somehow a very old book published in 1919, and it looks it by the condition of its worn hard cover and its 3x5 size, authored by Dr. Frank Crane and called “Four Minute Essays,” appeared in our home. There is no name written in the book. We did not buy it and have no idea where it came from. One Four Minute Essay is named “The Road to Thankfulness.” Dr. Crane’s basic 1919 idea is that our road to thankfulness lies through our own soul. Any and all comparisons between us and all the other people in the world are not going to help us find our way. He thinks the attitude of deserving has to change. I share that opinion with him and work to avoid using that word “deserve” at all. It is a variation on the “Why ME?” theme which results in being stopped dead in your tracks, as my Mom would say. And here is something to work toward: 1 Thessalonians 5:18  Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN

Sunday School is at 10:00 Sunday morning. Please join us for breakfast, Young People’s Time in the Sanctuary, then time in the Gym for Bible Lessons, crafts and fun, until 11:45 a.m. See you there!
On St. Francis Day, October 4, St. Lucas offered blessing of pets from the church steps. Here are our humans and their companions for the day.

At left are Kay (seated) and daughter Susan with dog companion Daisy. Susan is a friend of Katina Werner and heard about our pet blessing from Facebook notices.

At right, Lorraine Willoughby brought companions Baby and Curly for a blessing.

ST. FRANCIS DAY BLESSING OF

At left Su Opansky brought companion Harlequin (who is 17 years old!) to receive a blessing.

At right Alicia brought Piper and Tiki for a blessing. Alicia had never been to St. Lucas before, but saw our pet blessing publicized on Face-
FALL PHOTOS FROM LELANAU PENINSULA

Bill and Jeannie Dennler sent us these photos of a northern Michigan Autumn on Leelanau Peninsula

IF YOU ARE ONE OF OUR FAR-FLUNG MEMBERS OR FRIENDS AND HAVE PHOTOS OF INTEREST, PLEASE SEND THEM AND WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SHARE THEM WITH THE ST. LUCAS
Christmas Poinsettia Sale
Deadline to order is November 13, 2022

Name__________________________________ Phone#__________________________ Amount on check________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 1/2” Table Top</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jingle bells</td>
<td>(red with pink spots)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 1/2” pot</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 blooms</td>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pink</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jingle bells</td>
<td>(red with pink spots)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 1/2” pot</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 blooms</td>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pink</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total # of plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please print
In loving memory of:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Given by:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Proceeds will go to Sunday School Boiler Fund

Please print
In loving honor of:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Given by:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Proceeds will go to Sunday School Boiler Fund
SCENES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

At left Brian Hoch, president of the congregation, chaired the meeting, while treasurer Jason Slough and Jamie Dauel joined us via Zoom. The wonders of technology allow folks to participate from all over the country. At right, Russ Wells looks like he’s ready for serious business.

Above, Pastor Billmeier and Jill Hojnacki troubleshoot any technical blips. At right, Su Opansky, Gary Shope, Patrick Codden, Annette Mason and Deb LaJeunesse shared a table with Annette contemplating mischief.

Above: Our thanks to Angie Basilius, Hildegard Ruelke, Gary & Sharon Stofan for preparing the delicious spaghetti and salad meal. At right: Pastor Abts, Jan Hoffman, Mary Good and Bea Heebsh sitting with their deep thoughts about the meeting.
ST. LUCAS PRAYER LIST

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: Mary Good, Cindy Kirk, LaVonda Rodgers, Keith Johnson, Christy Lazaris, Brad McGiffen, John Kern, Lori Strang, Sharon Schaefer, Joyce Mason

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

SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS We offer our sympathy and prayers for Jack Gorny, grandson of Georgia Steele, at the death of his grandfather Dave Gorny, Sr.

SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS We offer our sympathy and prayers for friends of St. Lucas, James P. and Nancy Hughes at the death of Jim’s father, Tom Hughes in Troy, Michigan.

SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS We offer our sympathy and prayers for Katina Werner at the death of her brother, Dominic Cole.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVANTS

4pm Elder Ted/Marge Rodnicki
9am Elder Pat Wilson
10:30 Lector Mike Biscay
Elders Dan Markley, Ken Sikorski, Jill Hojnacki, Annette Mason (Nov. 6—Patrick Codden)
Head Ushers: Russ Wells
Melinda Musteric
Offering Ushers
Pat Bair
John Kern
Acolyte Faith Wolfram
Camera Sarah Sigurdson/Ana DuBois

THANKS FOOD DONORS Thanks to all who donated to the Equality Toledo Food Pantry drive. Here is a picture of the donations received;

Happy November Birthday

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

Bob and Sue Alley 25

HAPPY NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY!

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

Jack Gorny 1
Patrick Codden 6
Ken Sikorski 6
Carla Steele-Fey 7
Deb Hurley 15
Aidan Gage 23
Keith Johnson 28

Summer Appeal

As of 10/26/2022
Total Received to Date $30,632.42

General Fund Report

SEP 1 BALANCE (14,576.37)
RECEIPTS 25,005.51
DISBURSEMENTS (23,511.74)
SEP 30 BALANCE (13,082.60)
BALANCE LAST YEAR (16,280.28)

St. Lucas Cindy’s Corner
Gifts/Expenses

Sep 1 Balance $ 15,255.07
Receipts 256.00
Disbursements (3,457.49)
Sep 30 Balance $ 12,053.58
Bal. Last Year 15,656.38

Commit they way unto the Lord:
Trust also in Him, and
He shall bring it to pass. Psalm 37:5
REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, October 16, members of St. Lucas gathered in the gymnasium for the Congregational Annual Meeting. It was a busy meeting with a full agenda. Here are the highlights:

- A call committee was appointed: Patrick Codden, Susan Lang, Annette Mason, Steve Seaton, Georgia Steele, Sharon Stofan, with one or two more to be named.
- Cindy Kirk, Diane Porter and LaVonda Rodgers were re-elected to 3 year terms; Jason Slough re-elected to a one year term.
- The congregation approved the expenditure for a new Sunday School boiler up to $75,000. The remainder of the roof fund will be placed in the boiler fund and the rest borrowed from the salary endowment fund.
- The bulk of the Robert Pockmire bequest was designated to be added to the endowment fund with half under the direction of our Thrivent account and half under our Edward Jones account. 10% of the bequest was designated to be set aside for a charitable fund, the interest from which will be distributed on a yearly basis to charities outside of St. Lucas. A remainder of about $7,000 was designated to the boiler fund.
- The 2023 budget was passed with provisions to add Pastor’s partner to health insurance coverage and provision to pay two pastoral salaries beginning December 1, if all goes according to plan and we have the new pastor called by then.

ST. LUCAS AT THE PEACE MARCH  On September 21 Sarah Abts, Howard Abts, Karen Wilson and Pat Wilson represented St. Lucas in the March for Peace at the County Courthouse, pictured here with an unknown Catholic priest and sneaky photo bomber behind Sarah.

ST. LUCAS CINDY’S CORNER CAFÉ served 519 lunches in October, a month in which the program was closed one week because of the rummage sale.
"You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. . . . But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth. . . ” Deut. 8:10, 18

The Bible repeatedly says that we are to “bless the Lord,” but what does that mean? Whatever else it might mean, it entails having a thankful heart for all that God has done for us. It’s easy, you know, to go to an extreme and to emphasize only God’s spiritual blessings to the exclusion of God’s temporal blessings. It’s also easy to emphasize only God’s material blessings and to forget God’s provisions for us spiritually. In reality, we are to emphasize both the material and spiritual blessings we receive from God, remembering that all that we have comes from bountiful Divine hand.

As we realize God’s provisions for us, day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, we literally “bless the Lord” by a lifestyle that is marked by thanksgiving for all that God has done for us. And that spirit of gratitude for past, present and future blessings causes us to want to give to the Lord from the bounty God has provided for us. As one unknown author wrote, “Thanksgiving, to be truly Thanksgiving, is first thanks, then giving.”

Think about it: As we receive God’s blessings, we offer praise and thanksgiving. And as we realize afresh that all that we have is a result of God’s goodness, our response to God’s faithfulness is to give back to God a portion of that which was already God’s. We do so, not because we have to, or out of any sense of obligation or guilt. We give to the Lord because we want to do so, in response to God’s great love for us and in response to God’s goodness in Christ Jesus.

Dwight L. Moody was once reading Psalm 103. When he came to the verse, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits,” he stopped short in his inimitable way and exclaimed, “You can’t remember them all, of course, but don’t forget them all. Remember some of them!” And as you “remember some of them,” remember the sequence: First thanks, then giving.
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.