

Crafters 4 Missions
April 26
At 5:30 pm

Crafters every Thursday
morning at 10 am

All day craft event April 7th from 9:00 to 6:00. Rent a half/whole table & work on your craft.

Contact Debbie Laffitte at 990-0145 for information.

Koinonia meets every Wednesday morning at 7am for breakfast and Bible study.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
Tuesdays
5:45 to 6:45pm

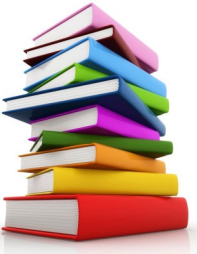
Upper Third
Thurs, April 12 at 11:30am.
Program: Jennifer Crow of the Samaritan Counseling Center Please bring a covered dish to share.

If you have something to submit for the May newsletter or calendar, please have it in the office by April 22nd. Our monthly newsletter can be viewed on our website at stlukesumc.community. To have a newsletter mailed, please contact Hannah Rachal.

United Methodist Women
Ladies mark you calendars for Thursday, April 19th. The UMW are going on a field trip to the LSU Pioneer Heritage Center. Be at St Luke's by 10:45, we be back by 12 for lunch.

 Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.

 April 8th and 22nd
at 2:00

 **Book Club**
St. Luke's Book Club will meet on April 15th at 3:00 pm. We will be discussing books on the UMW reading list. All are welcome.

Please remember to wear your name tag. Contact the church office if you do not have one.

April 2018
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Staff

Rev. Betsy Eaves
Pastor

Hannah Rachal
Director of Music Ministry
Office Administrator

David Bingham
Lay Pastor
St. Luke's Recovery Ministry

Laura Hirsch
Music Accompanist

Momma T (Tania Lang)
Spiritual Director of Youth

Christy Terrill
Children's Ministry Director

Brittany Richardson
Nursery Coordinator

Worship Hours

8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
Traditional Service
9:30 a.m.
Sunday School

Message from Pastor Betsy,

During March church council meeting chairman John Rankin handed out a copy of St. Luke's Mission, Value, Strategy and Vision that was developed several years ago. John asked all of us to read and share them with others. They are printed inside this newsletter.

I am touched by the wisdom of you who developed these and inspired by your commitment as a church to "make God's healing love and hope real to others." While I prayed and pondered, I began to think how important it is to many in church congregations to find a sense of "home," of belonging with our church family in our church home.

We often believe that such a sense of home will best be found by battening down the hatches and gathering together a group of people whose lives, value systems, and way of being in the world appears to be aligned with our own. We hold these values and want to invite others who hold these same values to join us. At first, that seems like a really good idea ... until I read the part of the mission statement that says, "the reason St. Luke's exists is to make God's healing love and hope real to all we encounter."

There are a couple of problems with focusing primarily on inviting and gathering with people who seem like us.

First of all, our desire to be gathered with "like us" folks can cause us to be resistant to and suspicious of anyone we don't know or doesn't outwardly appear as "one of us." Appearances can be deceiving and the outward look is often a masterful mask or circumstantial accident. We can all "play the part" of a certain role by putting on a look or using certain language to fit in. We may all have been caught unexpectedly in attire unsuitable for our setting, been judged inaccurately, felt out of place or unwelcome. So deciding who is or isn't like us based on appearances is problematic.

The second problem with building or growing a church with people "like" us is the expectation that people will or should come to church already knowing what it means to live as faithful, mature disciples, to already be healed of immaturity, selfishness, brokenness, or addictions. It belies the core understanding of the church that we are all broken and in need of God's transforming grace and love. If we welcome only those who we know, who we believe to have no brokenness (or at least nothing too unseemly), we deny our own sinful arrogance about ourselves and the purpose of the church.

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The third problem with growing a church for “us” and those like us is the failure to recognize Jesus’ call to us to offer hospitality to the stranger. Jesus teaching is clear to us that his followers will welcome the stranger, visit the sick and imprisoned, feed the hungry and offer hospitality without judgment.

We are St. Luke’s UMC, a church who years ago established as our mission to make God’s healing love and hope real to others. I am immensely grateful and inspired by what you and your leadership set in place years ago. May God grant us grace to recommit to the mission, values, strategy and vision.

Blessings, Pastor Betsy

Mission, Values, Strategy, and Vision of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church

Our Mission

The Mission of St. Luke’s UMC is making God’s healing love and hope real. St. Luke’s is a community of people committed to Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, united in the love of God, and called to make that love and hope real to others.

The reason St. Luke’s exists is to make God’s healing love and hope real to all we encounter.

Core Values

Christ-centered: Focused on the life, words, way, and Spirit of Jesus proclaimed in the New Testament.

Biblically rooted: Encourages spiritually-alive, faithful study of the Bible using tools of devotion and scholarship that are appropriate to a diverse body of people.

Warm-hearted: A joyful, loving, laughing congregation that experiences the grace of God in Jesus Christ in personal and positive ways.

Open-minded: A place where people search, think, question and honestly express their growing experience of the faith in an accepting and affirming atmosphere.

Mission-directed: Continuing the strong sense of mission which has been part of our identity, both in terms of mission to the city and mission in the world.

Connection-committed: As part of The United Methodist Church, we see ourselves as a leader/supporter of the global ministries in which we share.

These values define who we are and how we participate in community together.

Our Strategy

The St. Luke’s faith community is becoming a congregation of people who:

Invite people to experience the love of God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Equip disciples to be agents of God’s reconciling love in the world.

Send disciples as servants of Christ to participate in God’s transformation of the world. These strategies are the ways that we move toward our vision and accomplish our vision.

Our Vision

As we make God’s love real, the Holy Spirit will be:

(1) Transforming lives, (2) Creating Christion community, (3) Healing the city and the world.

As St. Luke’s UMC makes God’s love real, lives from its core values, and becomes people who Invite, Equip, Care, and Send, the Holy Spirit will fulfill our vision of transforming lives, creating Christian community, and healing the city and the world.

MUSIC MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: Aaliyah Thomas

Have you met Aaliyah Thomas? Aaliyah sings Alto with the St. Luke’s Choir and plays in our Hand bell ensemble. She is a senior music major at Centenary College. After graduation she would like to find a teaching job, preferably here in town but she is willing to follow where she is called to be. Aaliyah’s favorite hymn is Blessed Assurance, though she loves Dan’s Forest’s arrangement of How Great Thou Art.

Some things you may not know about her are that she is a football fanatic, loves dogs, used to play soccer, and she doesn’t know how to ride a bike. If you get a chance, let Aaliyah know how grateful you are that she shares her talents with us!



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Big shout of thanks to everyone who pitched in March 17 to paint and organize both youth rooms! If you haven’t seen the new coat of paint, check it out. Look for more additions in the coming weeks.

March 18th was “youth take over” Sunday . Pastor Betsy got a little break. Grace delivered a great and meaningful sermon about owning up to wrong doings. Jennifer was a hit leading the children’s sermon. Balen shared the announcements and Layton read the scripture. We can not forget the voice of God. Colin was God’s voice at the 8:30 service, Jonathan was His voice at 10:45. Thanks to all who helped.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming youth events. April 15th lunch & bowling after 10:45 service and April 22nd viewing the movie “Screenagers” at Grace 4:00 p.m.

Children's News

The children have started the Spring Curriculum with the Deep Blue Kids. They are visiting Alaska as they learn stories about Paul in the Bible. They will create neat crafts, interesting drawings and learn about new snacks as they follow the Deep Blue Kids on their journey

Movie night will be in the theatre room on Friday, April 13th. The movie will begin at 6:30 with popcorn and a drink. All are invited to attend.

Mark your calendars for VBS July 9-12th. We are joining with Broadmoor United Methodist this year. We will meet at 5:30 to enjoy a meal at Broadmoor and then attend VBS 5:30-8:30. We will need volunteers to help with the Broadmoor staff.



MEMORIALS

- Gerrie Grant in Memory of Austin Templeton
- Maureen Clearkin Gamble and Nancy Clearkin Eberhardt in Memory of Austin Templeton
- Carolyn Durrett in Memory of Austin Templeton
- Lexine Adams in Memory of Austin Templeton
- Audrey Wibker in Memory of Austin Templeton
- Alice Sistrunk in Memory of Austin Templeton
- Alice Sistrunk in Memory of Sammy Thomas
- Lexine Adams in Memory of Sammy Thomas