



The Front Pew

Volume 7, Issue 2

February 2017

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The Stone Column



Last month I challenged you to take the Matthew 25 pledge. Accepting that challenge is open ended and needed more every passing day. Let me refresh your memory, the Gospel tells us, 'how we treat the stranger is how we treat Jesus.'

Who is the “stranger”? Sometimes the word in Hebrew translated into English as "stranger" can be translated as "angel." It can also mean people living and traveling among us from other nations - immigrants and refugees.

Donald Trump's executive order on “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” is in conflict with our Christian faith. Many of our denomination's leaders share this view and have called on us to respond.

"As I listen to the Scriptures that encourage us to do justice, that enjoin us to welcome the stranger and alien, that call us to do all in love, I cannot help but think that the recent actions are not in keeping with the best of our faith and the deepest soul of our country." -- Bishop David A. Bard, Michigan Area

"The biblical witness is clear and unambiguous. Walls are unbiblical. Hospitality is biblical. Denying one's neighbor is unbiblical. Welcoming the stranger is biblical....I call upon the people of The United Methodist Church to see the face of Christ in the refugee. Say 'no' to the walling off of our country and our hearts and say 'yes' to their hope – our hope – for new life. Let us unite and work together to bring the soul of this country to a living birth!" -- Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President of the United Methodist Council of Bishops

"As followers of Jesus, we reject in the strongest terms efforts to expand the U.S.-Mexico border wall, penalize communities providing sanctuary, halt refugee resettlement or impose a religious test for those facing forced migration." -- Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

"United Methodist Women takes to heart Jesus' commandment to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. Throughout our 150-year history, we have carried this out by extending God's love to women, men, youth and children around the world, including immigrants and refugees." -- Harriett J. Olson, top executive of United Methodist Women.

"By effectively preventing the entrance of refugees into this country, President Trump is establishing a policy that would have kept Joseph, Mary, and Jesus from entering our nation. We ask President Trump to repent and show kindness to the stranger and the refugee that is central to Christian and American values." -- Jim Winkler, President and General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

"We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God...We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions, and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all." --United Methodist Book of Discipline, the Social Principles, par. 162H

"Called by God to reach out and welcome all. " St. Luke's United Methodist Church exists as a family of believers called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to share new life in Jesus Christ, welcoming all who enter and reaching out to all people

These words from scripture are echoed throughout the Bible and were at the heart of Christ's teaching and example;

"Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God." -- Leviticus 19:34, CEB

peace & blessings

Eric



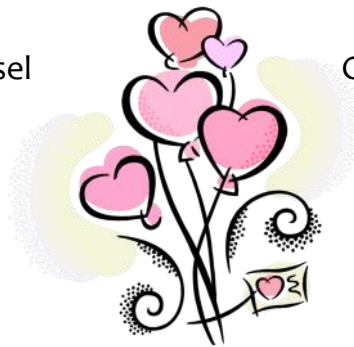


February Birthdays

- 1 Katrina White
- 2 Jill Dugan
- 3 Matthew Jezierski
- 4 Florence Decker
- 7 Tyler Greshow
Jane Russell
- 11 Bill Bertelsen
Judy Maillette
- 13 Shelley King
Trinity McKeon
- 14 Brenda Scramlin
- 16 Nicholas VanTol
- 19 Michelle Green
- 23 Cora McKeon
Janice Wagner
- 26 Gertrude Arnold
- 27 Gloria Barriger
Remy Holmes
Janelle Lind
- 29 Renee DuRussel
Erin Heckard

February Anniversaries

- February 6
Frank & Jenny Jackson
- February 13
Mike & Betty Luce
- February 20
Bill and Manila Sanders
- February 29
Gerry & Florence Decker



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

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Scrip Tip

Treat your Valentine to something special with a gift card from Scrip! There are hundreds to choose from, sure to put a smile on your sweetheart's face! We still have cards for Meijer's, Grampa Tony's (Columbus only), and Bath & Body Works available on a cash (or check) and carry basis. Bay Animal Hospital also offers a 5% donation to St. Luke's for your four-legged loves! See Julie Nelson or Joye Kramer for details.



Breakfast Book Club

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 8th @ 10:00 a.m. What's better than books and cats? How about a book about cats? Join us for "The Cat that God Sent" by Jim Kraus. Pastor Jake Wilkerson takes on a new assignment at a small rural church. His first day on the job, he is adopted by Petey-a cat of unknown origins and breed, who believes that he is on a mission from God. "I need to save these people from themselves." says Petey, your not-so-average cat. This is a fun read with some serious overtones. All are welcome to join the conversation. Books are available to borrow from the library located in the north/south hallway. Once you complete the book, please return it to the library or pass it on to another book club reader.



Blanket Sunday!

Do you know what a warm, soft blanket can bring with the human touch for someone who has just lost everything by a natural cataclysm?? The word "thanks" is hardly enough to express your gratitude. Sunday, Feb. 12th is blanket Sunday, sponsored by church world service. A special envelope will be supplied to help you give to this, because it's a real need.....God Bless!

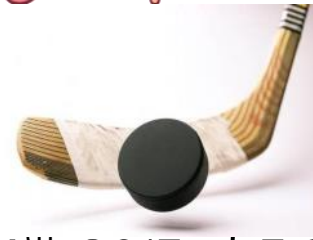
Marty Gross, United Methodist Women, Education & Mission.

Please Note

The Front Pew is a monthly newsletter for St. Luke's United Methodist Church, created by the combined efforts of many members of the congregation. Although we strive for a consistent level of accuracy, there is always a possibility of error. If you ever know that any information is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office at (989) 893-8031 so actions may be



It's Game Time!



Hockey for the Homeless! Join us March 4th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. for a fun filled night including: Broomball Hockey Tournament, kids activities, and an Exciting Saginaw Spirit Hockey game with all proceeds benefiting the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission! Tickets are \$13/person, and there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Carpooling to the DOW can be coordinated if needed. Questions? Contact Kelli Stojic.



Valentine's VBS



Valentine's VBS will be February 11 from 4-8pm. We will be serving a pizza dinner, playing games, watching a movie, and doing a craft. All of this for a suggested \$5 donation per child! Registration form will be online this week. We are in need of volunteers to help with the festivities. Volunteer sign-up sheet and hard copy registration forms at the Welcome Center.





Check Out the New Arrivals in the Church Library!!



Children:

“Children’s Bible Stories and Fascinating Facts” by Upper Room Books

“Clive and Ian’s Wonderblimp of Knowledge” by the makers of VeggieTales

“Galaxy Buck Mission to Sector 9” by the makers of VeggieTales

Christian Living

“Anger” by Amy Lyles Wilson

& Values:

“Compassion” by Amy Lyles Wilson

“Do Not Live Afraid” by John Indemark

“Forgiveness” by Amy Lyles Wilson

“From the Library of C.S. Lewis” by James Stuart Bell

“Hope” by Amy Lyles Wilson

“Unmaking of a Part-Time Christian” by Derek Maul

“Wild Things” by Roberta C. Bondi



Devotionals:

“3 Minute Devotions for a Cat Lover’s Heart” by Barbour Boc

“Praying in the Wesleyan Spirit” By Paul Chilcote

Lenten Studies:

“40 Days with Wesley” by Rueben Job

“The Awkward Season” by Pamela C. Hawkins

“Miracles of Jesus” by Wessel Bentley

“Reaching Toward Easter” by Derek Maul

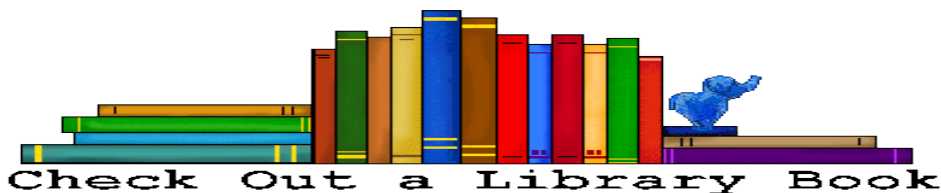
“Shadows Darkness and Dawn” by Thomas R. Steagald

Ministry:

“The God-Hungry Imagination ” by Sarah Arthur

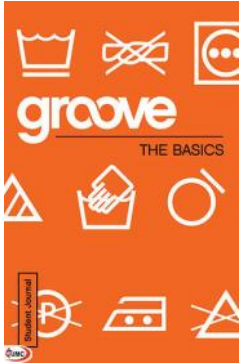
Missions:

“Mission Trips that Matter” by Don C. Richter



Check Out a Library Book

Christian Education Feb '17



Groove: The Basics

X-perience

Today's faith and biblical illiteracy in general and among those who attend church and claim to be Christian is staggering. Some alarmists are claiming that the Christian faith is in danger of becoming extinct. We can no longer rely on culture to support the passing on of faith in Jesus Christ to the coming generations.

The Basics study is not a quick fix to this situation. It is a handcrafted tool that when used by compassionate, caring, and committed adults, will ignite their imagination for God, the Scripture, the faith community, and living a transformed life. *The Basics* will likely raise more questions than it answers, and that's intentional. Don't feel the need to make sure all the loose ends are tied up at the conclusion of your youth gathering. Allow your teens the opportunity to leave with ideas and truths on which to reflect and wrestle as they use the daily devotionals provided in the *Groove: The Basics Student Journal*.



X-perience Events for February and March

February

- 12- Kramer's Get Together
- 25- Volunteering with Rescue Mission
- 26- Lunch and Study



March

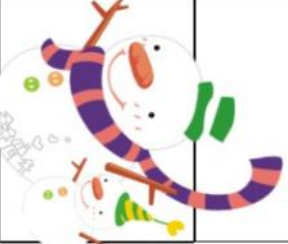
- 5- Volunteering with Food of Faith
- 12- Lunch and Study
- 26- Lunch and Study



I forgot to add this in last month, but everyone did such a great job at the Christmas Program in December! The kids memorized their lines and their songs like professionals and it was a blast working with them! Thank you to the parents and volunteers for making it happen.



February 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|---|---------------------------|--|
| 5) 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. church School | 6) Do-All Cleaning Day 1:00 p.m. Golden Friends | 7) 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 7:00 p.m. F.A. | 8)  | 9) 6:45 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting N.A. | 10) Mission Trip Option 1 | 11) 4:00 p.m. Valentines VBS 7:00 p.m. N.A. |
| 12) 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. church School | 13) Do-All Cleaning Day | 14) 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. F.A. | 15) | 16) 6:45 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00p.m. N.A. | 17) | 18) Newsletter Deadline 9:00 a.m. UMM breakfast @ Krzysiak's 7:00 p.m. N.A. |
| 19) 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. church School Coffee with the Pastor | 20) Do-All Cleaning Day | 21) 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 4:00 p.m. Valley Scribes 7:00 p.m. F.A. | 22) | 23) 6:45 p.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. N.A. | 24) | 25) 7:00 p.m. N.A. |
| 26) 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. church School | 27) Do-All Cleaning Day | 28) 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. F.A. | F.A. = Families Anonymous F.H. = Fellowship Hall & Kitchen NA = Narcotics Anonymous UMM = United Methodist UMW = United Methodist Women | | | |

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STLUKESUMCMI.ORG

*Our Vision – Nurturing the world with God's love.
Our Mission – Called by God to reach out and welcome all.*



Valentine's VBS

We are hosting a Valentine's VBS on February 11 from 4-8pm.

This event is for all kids nursery-5th grade. We will have a pizza dinner, watch a Veggie Tales movie, make valentines, and even a story and Bible lesson! It will be a great night for all involved. To register, fill out the online form at <https://form.jotform.com/70105599706157> by February 10.

If you are interested in volunteering, we'd love to have you! Please sign up at the Welcome Center or see Kelli Stojic.

