



The Front Pew

Volume 6, Issue 7

July/August 2017

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The Stone Column



I started my first campfire of the summer. The ground was damp, the kindling didn't want to ignite, the paper matches not as reliable as wood. Although I had more than a spark on a number of attempts - I couldn't get a fire going. I've started campfires in much worse conditions so I knew it was just a matter of time, better tinder, and a continuous source of heat.

I've reflected in the past in this space that being at church camp is a modern version of monastic living. We form intentional community set-apart, tucked away, committed to living as though God truly reigns, and that the Kingdom of God - the beloved community is not just possible but is being lived even while the world around continues to smolder and threaten to catch fire.

It seems that much of our lives are lived in a powder-keg; that a spark is all it takes to not simply get a fire going, but to explode and engulf in localized and even larger conflagrations. We live in a time of political polarization, institutional racism coupled with white privilege, a disturbing acceptance of the myth of redemptive violence, a misplaced reliance on hand gun ownership. All of these and many more symptoms of our times are fed by fear, some of it even prompted by people in power lighting the fuse to further our downward spiral into a more fractured society.

Anxiety is high. The church - that is, the body of Christ - is uniquely positioned to be a non-anxious presence in this milieu. Perhaps the greatest gift we can offer when people are paralyzed by fear is hope. We can point to many times in our past where people experienced fear in desperate times and somehow God found a way to alleviate fears, offer healing and wholeness, and led the pioneers of our Judeo-Christian faith to a new way of living in community.

We gather around the campfire, cooking and eating, reading holy scripture, telling stories, singing songs, affirming one another and strengthening our connection to Christ. The spark that gets a fire going is fanned into flames of living out our faith. Our hope is renewed and that hope is then shared as we return to our homes and communities. Others may not have been at the campfire, but the spark that started our fire can still grow and change the world one heart at a time. That's how it is with God's love.

peace & blessings

Eric



July Birthdays

July Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Mikayla Bertelsen
Dan Morgan | 23 Melissa Rookus
Randy VanTol |
| 2 Sophia Jezierski | 28 Jill Roby-Snyder |
| 3 Peter McGrath | 30 Kelsie Ellerman
Perry Lyford-Stojic
Louis Wehrman |
| 7 Marletta Gross
Vicki Ahlberg-Ives | |
| 9 Roger Trerice | |
| 11 Jason Hatton | |
| 14 Victoria Hatton | |
| 17 Christopher Bruck | |
| 18 Andrew Kemp | |
| 19 Sherry Stone | |

- July 2
Brian & Renee DuRussel
- July 11
Michael & Nancy Tacey
- July 12
Louis & Linda Wehrman
- July 28
Kenneth & Cheri Jezierski
- July 31
Jason & Misty Hatton



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Contact Information

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Office Staff: Cora McKeon
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Organist: Vicki Ahlberg-Ives
organist@stlukesumcmi.org



August Birthdays

August Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Sally Grunder | 15 Lorane Peglow |
| 2 Justin Dominowski | Rebecca Pierce |
| Gloria Gonzales | 17 Judy Fleming |
| Jaime Shaw | Cynthia Janke |
| 3 Dawn Halk | Mystique King |
| 4 Chad VanTol | 18 Kevin Shooltz |
| 5 James Albertson | 20 Jenny Jackson |
| Missy Campanaro | 23 Charlotte McGrath |
| Allan Dowd | 25 Erik Shaw |
| 7 Spencer Halk | 26 Kelly Stojic |
| 8 Jordan Lancaster | Frank Davis |
| 10 Jeff Oswald | Cathy Francke |
| 11 Mike Luce | 28 Anne DeShaw |
| 13 Millie Willett | 29 Hope Bertelsen |
| 14 Zeb Dugan | 31 Gerald Pergande |



- August 2
Bill & Joy Sansburn
- August 10
Joe & Lin Todey
- August 20
Gerald & Millie Willett
- August 23
Ted & Sue Lind
- August 25
Bruce & Leslie Francke
- August 26
Dave & Dawn Halk

St. Luke's History

This is the third article about St. Luke's history, and the churches which came together to create St. Luke's congregation. This month we are highlighting VanBuren Methodist Church. (It didn't become VanBuren **United** Methodist Church until the Methodist/ Evangelical United Brethren Church merger in 1968).

A German missionary bishop by the name of Jacob Krebiel came up the Saginaw River to Lower Saginaw (now Bay City) in August, 1857 to see if he could start a mission church. He started by visiting German people and inviting them to a service which was held in the English school house. Property to build a church on Adams Street was purchased in January, 1867. New property was purchased at Thirteenth and VanBuren Streets in 1883. A new church building and parsonage was built for \$7300.00. VanBuren celebrated their 100th anniversary in 1957. In November, 1967 the congregation voted to merge with St. Luke's Methodist Church.

Lost and Found Basket

Are you missing something, such as jewelry, keys, etc.? There is a lost and found basket just inside the door of the church office. Perhaps your lost item is there.



Stop by the Memorial Garden

Summer has burst forth so suddenly! The heat and blazing sun and rain are cooperating, and the memorial garden has exploded with twenty shades of green and gorgeous flowers. Our automatic watering system keeps the plants happy even in the hottest weather! We even have a new bench surrounding the tree this year thanks to the generous efforts of Dan and Karla Morgan.

One Sunday after church, I watched as three little girls in bright sundresses wandered the paths, stopping to sniff a rose, and sat for a while, looking with sheer wonderment at the glory God has given us. What joy they spread!

We are thankful for these gifts from God’s nature that inspire us and renew our spirit of determination to help others. We remember those who have come before us; those who have helped us along life’s way to become who we are – and we humbly offer them our homage.

The Memorial Garden committee hopes everyone can stop and reflect a moment; laugh, cry, sing, or pray. This is your place.



Groundbreaking Picnic

Mark your calendars for a Groundbreaking Picnic following fellowship time on Sunday, July 30, 2017. This is to commemorate the breaking of ground for our church building 50 years ago, and is one of the activities to celebrate our 50th anniversary. We ask you to bring a dish of food to share. Meat and drinks will be provided . We hope everyone will want to help us celebrate this occasion. If you are unable to bring a dish to pass, please come anyway! We always have enough to share.



Food Share Table

With summer here and gardens flourishing, you may find you have an overabundance of produce. If you would like to share it with the congregation, there is a food share table in the foyer across from the welcome center. Your donations are appreciated.



St. Luke’s Community Classes

St. Luke’s is in the process of planning and hosting classes in various subjects. These classes will be open to our members, and to the community. It is a way to reach out to the community, and help our budget needs. Do you have a skill you would like to share as a teacher for one of these classes? Please let Barb Bovee know. (989) 980-9372



Mailboxes

Church leaders are reminded to check and clean out their church mailboxes on a regular basis. Thank you!


Trustee's Corner

- Trustees this year are Perry Stojic, chair, Jeff Jump, Ken Jezierski, vice chair, Judy Fleming, Missy Campanaro , secretary, Jimmy Albertson, Dan Morgan, and Karla Morgan.
- Trustees have addressed smaller issues at the Hart St. parsonage but numerous others need attention. A shower enclosure is needed in the master bath, several windows need to be replaced and all others refinished, drapes replaced, and the north basement wall leaks water. The yard and landscape needs work when we can get to it. Then complete interior walls repainted and carpet replaced when Pastors are changed.
- The Thompson St. parsonage has been rented for the next two years. Issues are handled by a rental company and payed for from the rent. We will begin paying property taxes in 2018 as rented property does not qualify for religious exemptions.
- Bay Landscaping graciously discounted the trees purchased for Mother and Father's Day. A Weeping Cherry was planted in honor of Mother's Day and a Siberian Pea Tree for Father's Day. Both trees are planted in the front of the church. The Pastor dedicated the trees and the children helped put soil around the trees.
- The trustees are getting bids for marking the parking lot and handicapped spaces. The parking lot needs to be repaved when there are funds to do so. The leaks in Esther's Parlor have been temporarily repaired by trustees, but a company has been contacted to inspect the roof for needed repairs. The drain from the church to the street has been cleared once this spring and will need attention on a regular basis to avoid water ponding north of the church.

As you can see, there are many issues that need both attention and funds to be addressed. Buildings and houses take constant care and money. The trustees do their best to keep all the property in repair and looking good. If you see any issues that should be taken care of, let us know.

Karla Morgan

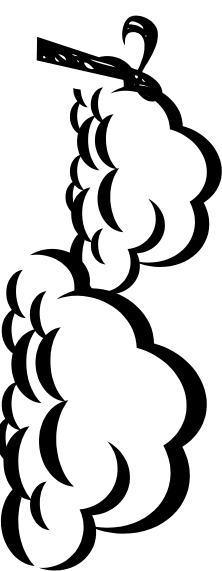
JULY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>3 Do-All Cleaning Day 12:00 p.m. Golden Friends - Washington St. Pub & Grill</p>	<p>4 Independence Day 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 5:00 p.m. Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. F.A.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 7:00 p.m. N.A.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 7:00 p.m. N.A.</p>
<p>9 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Rummage Sale Set-up</p>	<p>10 Do-All Cleaning Day 4:00 p.m. Rummage Sale Set-up 6:00 p.m. Trustee Meeting</p>	<p>11 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale Set-up 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. F.A.</p>	<p>12 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale Set-up</p>	<p>13 Church Rummage Sale 7:00 p.m. N.A.</p>	<p>14 Church Rummage Sale</p>	<p>15 Church Rummage Sale 9:00 a.m. U.M.M. breakfast @Krzysiak's 7:00 p.m. N.A.</p>
<p>16 9:30 a.m. Worship-Invitation Sunday 10:30 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>17 Do-All Cleaning</p>	<p>18 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 4:00 p.m. Valley Scribes 5:00 p.m. Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. F.A.</p>	<p>19 7:00 p.m. N.A.</p>	<p>20 7:00 p.m. N.A.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 7:00 p.m. N.A.</p>
<p>23 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>24 Do-All Cleaning Day</p>	<p>25 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. F.A.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 7:00 p.m. N.A.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 7:00 p.m. N.A.</p>
<p>30 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>31 Do-All Cleaning Day</p>	 <p>B.B.C. = Breakfast Book Club F.A. = Families Anonymous F.H., K. = Fellowship Hall, Kitchen N.A. = Narcotics Anonymous U.M.M. = United Methodist Men</p>				



August

2017



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 5:00 p.m. Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. Taizé	2	3 7:00 p.m. N.A.	4	5 9:00 a.m. U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's 7:00 p.m. N.A.
6 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship	7 Do-All Cleaning Day 12:00 p.m. Golden Friends—Chen's	8 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting F.A.	9	10 7:00 p.m. N.A.	11	12 7:00 p.m. N.A.
13 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship	14 Do-All Cleaning Day	15 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 4:00 p.m. Valley Scribes 5:00 Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. F.A.	16	17 7:00 p.m. N.A.	18 Newsletter Deadline	19 9:00 a.m. U.M.M. Breakfast @ Krzysiak's 7:00 p.m. N.A.
20 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Coffee with the Pastor	21 Do-All Cleaning Day	22 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Open Prayers 7:00 p.m. F.A.	23	24 7:00 p.m. N.A.	25	26 9:00 a.m. Summer VBS 7:00 p.m. N.A.
27 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship	28 Do-All Cleaning Day	29 10:00 a.m. Stampers & Scrappers 5:00 p.m. Open Prayer 7:00 p.m. F.A.	30	31 7:00 p.m. N.A.	B.C. = Breakfast Book Club F.A. = Families Anonymous F.H., K. = Fellowship Hall, Kitchen N.A. = Narcotics Anonymous U.M.M. = United Methodist Men	



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

