

News from the Hill...

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 2015 Edition

Welcome to Lent: 2015



As many of you know, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of daily prayer, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is the day we claim new life in Christ which He offers to all who would embrace the power of the resurrection.

This past Ash Wednesday we were blessed to have two of our sister churches, St. John UMC, Pontiac, and St. Paul UMC of Bloomfield Hills join us at St. Luke's. It was an experience we shall never forget. It was an historical event because this was the first time these three congregations have come together to share in fellowship and worship. We started the evening with people from all three congregations bringing delicious food to break bread together. The worship experience followed the meal. Special music was provided by the three congregations. A special offering was taken and given to the Baldwin Center in Pontiac. The guest ministers gave moving meditations which will prepare us for the Lenten journey.

I thank all of you who eagerly and lovingly organized all of the events as we met new friends within our denomination. The people of St. Luke's opened their hearts and arms to welcome our guests. The spirit of hospitality was in the air! People from our Fellowship Ministry and WWW pulled it all together with grace and love in a very short period of time. God blessed us to bless others.

Why we receive the ashes

It is commonly known that ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church. The ashes remind us how important it is to approach this season in the spirit of humility. Our foreheads were marked with ashes to humble us and to remind us that life as we know it passes away. The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony ages ago.

The Ashes

The ashes that we used were made from palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration in 2014. While the ashes symbolize penance, they also remind us that God is gracious, loving and merciful to those who come to Him with repentant hearts. God's mercy is of paramount importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on each of us to seek mercy during this Lenten season as we reflect, offer simple prayers and fast.

I invite each of you to join me on this Lenten journey as we first experience Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and then the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday morning. Please join me on this journey of redemption.

To God be the glory,
Julius E. Del Pino

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Message from Miss Karen

Director of Educational Ministries

Acts 1:14 - ¹⁴ *They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.*

I know this is a church that prays.....***And let me tell you why!***

I know this because I have heard many do so. I have seen many do so. I could not attest to the frequency or the consistency....but I feel the prayers keenly.

In Sunday school, not only are our children memorizing scripture, and bringing their Bibles, but I hear that they are asking their parents pretty hard questions! These little minds want to know! We are now making sure that we have Joys and Concerns for the kids before Sunday school starts each week. These small people are full of so many genuine joys, and concerns! They mean what they say, and truly want us all to pray together for them. My heart melts every week at just how precious these kids are!!

Jesus taught us how to pray when he prayed, "The Lord's prayer." However, I'm not convinced he wanted us to repeat it word for word forever and ever, amen. Don't worry, I dearly love repeating it just as it is in the Bible, (Especially with the kids in Sunday school,) but remember; Jesus was a teacher. He also wanted to give us a **guide**...to show us what bases are important to cover when we pray. Let me show you how I do it: **The Lords Prayer: (Matthew 6: 9-13)**

Our Father.

**Who art in heaven,
Hallowed by thy name.
Thy kingdom come,**

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in Heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,**

As we forgive those who trespass against us,

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil,

**For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power,
and the Glory forever!!!**

Amen...

My Father and the Father of all,

*Who is all around us..in us, thru us,
HOLY is your name!*

*The day is coming when we will **see** you rule
over all the earth, sky, and heavens,*

*You have all power and glory and I honor your
will for my life,*

*Over EVERYTHING!...right down to the smallest
atom.*

*Thank you, Dear Lord for providing so much!
Please forgive my sins, even those I did not in-
tend.*

*Please help me to forgive my brothers and sis-
ters (ie: husband, wife, kids, neighbor, boss, in-
laws, and road rage guy....)*

*God doesn't lead into temptation, (that always
troubled me.) However, I take it to mean; Keep
me strong in my faith, and knowledgeable to
keep away from sin.*

*Put all sickness, hurt, meanness, envy; anything
evil behind me in Jesus' name!*

It's all yours God, I am all yours!!

*(Amen means: Cut. Check. Print. Shut the
gate, moving on. Signed. Sealed. Delivered! ...
I think.) ;)*

So the guide is simple:

Acknowledge that he is Personally your God and Holy Father
Creator and master of all things

Honor him with praise

Thank him for all he provides

Ask for that which you may need or want

Ask for His love and protection to guide, protect, and comfort you

Close with praise and adoration for all he has done, and in his name to seal the prayer.



I think God loves to hear how our minds work. He created us in his image with minds of our own. We are not his puppets. We are his creatures designed with free will. He loves to watch us create! He wants us to know that we can **choose** right from wrong. That's the whole point of it! We have the choice to believe or not believe; to hear and not hear, to think it all through scientifically...then spiritually, to pray or not to pray, to learn or not to learn, to grow in Him....or not to. He wants us to come to him of *our own free will*, and then to sweeten the deal, He came in the form of man, to guide us to his loving arms.

Once you start to understand what you are reading out loud together, then it's important to make God's word personal. To allow God in, and let him "write His word on your heart." Once you feel the Lord in your reading, and writing, you will understand and appreciate the guided praying we sometimes do in church. We read together to be of one mind. To honor God in one accord!

Luke 24: 8 "Then they remembered His words."

These little people in Sunday school are getting it! They understand the power of prayer and the absolute pure love that the Lord has for them. I hope you do too.

With Love,

Miss Karen

NEW Bible 101 Class

Sunday 11 A.M. Class: Bible 101 (6 class series) begins March 1st. Bring your questions and we will explore how the Bible gives us the foundation for living and sharing our faith! The book, Bible 101, is available for Kindle on amazon.com. Hardcopies of each chapter will be provided until the books come off backorder.

March 1: Chapter 1 - Understanding the Bible

March 15: Chapter 2 - How to Read your Bible

March 29: Chapter 3 - Bible Culture

April 12: Chapter 4 - Bibles and Translations

April 19: Chapter 5 - Where to Find it

April 26: Chapter 6 - Book Overviews



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

Sunday School Classes for children continue at **9:30 am on Sunday** during Worship Service, for Pre-K/Kindergarten with Miss Barb, and for Grades 1-6 with rotating teachers utilizing our current curriculum "Grow, Proclaim, Serve". Please see **Children's Choir** article by David Middler for an exciting new opportunity for children after Sunday Worship!

Children's Choir

Submitted by David Middler

Children or grandchildren, or even maybe neighbors and relatives with children, that would like to sing in a children's choir, please join us beginning Sunday March 1st. Practice will be right after church. Or, if there is a bible study or class at 11am, then during that class. Practice for the kids will only be about 1/2 hour to 45 minutes. Palm Sunday will be their debut. Thank you and God Bless you and your kids!



Christian Education Council Family Fun Event for March

Submitted by Susan Bachmann

Our next Family Fun Event is a Chili Cook-Off, and will be held MARCH 22nd after Sunday Worship. So get your recipes ready - we'll be collecting entries soon to compile our list of contestants for the chili cook off. We'll need the name of your chili and a brief description. The day will also include games, music and an introduction to Care Groups. Please stay after and join us for some family fun!

Guatemalan Mission Opportunity Meeting

Submitted by John McGill



For anyone wanting to learn more about an upcoming mission trip to Camanchaj, Guatemala in October of 2015, please plan to attend an informational meeting in St. Luke's Youth Room on **Tuesday evening, March 24th from 7:00 to 8:15pm.**

Salud y Paz is a special "Advance" program of The United Methodist Church's Board of Global Ministries. The Mission proves health care and educational services to some of Guatemala's most marginalized citizens. Team members from the 2014 trip will lead the discussion, having travelled to Camanchaj last fall.

If it's part of God's plan for you, please come and find out the blessings of Salud y Paz. I personally guarantee that it will be one of the most profound experiences you can have in your spiritual growth. Limited spots are available. For more information, contact John McGill.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

A service of music, including the Children's Choir

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday

8:30 am Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

Presented by the St. Luke's Youth Group. Please Join Us!

Friday, April 3 – Good Friday

12:00 pm (Noon) Worship Service in the Sanctuary

9:45 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary

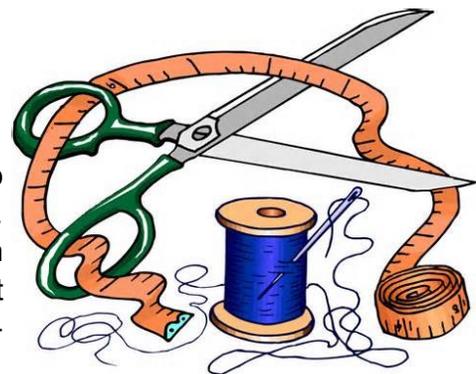


I wish to thank all of you in St. Luke's for your prayers, cards and concern during my hospital stays and subsequent recovery period. You are such a wonderful support group and that's what makes St. Luke's so special. Nancy and I can't express how much our St. Luke's family means to us. Paul Carey

Sewing Group

Submitted by Diantha Rhodes

Anyone who is interested in a sewing (social) group come join us in the newly formed Sewing Ministry Group. The new group meets in the downstairs rooms on Wednesday mornings, 9:30—11:30 am. Please contact Diantha Rhodes or the church office for more information.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1	Michael Morgante		
3/2	Florence Dorman		
3/3	Katie Camaiani		
3/5	Quique Labourdeth	3/14	Tom Thompson
3/5	Alexis Gorman	3/15	Paul Carey
3/6	Julie Postek	3/20	Jared Thompson
3/8	Isabella Petry	3/21	Carla Lindeen
3/9	Nicole Moore	3/22	Kuressa Reghi
3/9	Kiley Weidman	3/22	Alex Shultz
3/10	Whitney West	3/23	Jay Zajdel
3/12	Brian Thornberry	3/24	Billie Martin
3/13	Judy Doughty	3/25	Ashley Gwinn
3/14	Janice Heline	3/27	David Middler
		3/28	Karen Williams
		3/29	Nancy Carey
		3/29	Tara Stewart
		3/30	Jared Zajdel

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/13	Ron & Karen Pascaretti
3/31	Neil & Karen Reinhout



VITAL CHURCH INITIATIVE SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Sunday, March 8, 2015, immediately following worship

After over a year and a half of study and research, a consultation weekend and much discussion at two Town Hall meetings, we have finally come to the time to conduct the vote on the five prescriptions provided by the VCI consultants, their intent being to help St. Luke's to see where God may be leading us to be the church in the world today.

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Melanie Carey, will be attending our worship service and the conference that Sunday to support us in this crucial moment in the history of our church.

If the church votes "Yes" then we will continue to have a coach from the conference to help us make it happen. If the vote is "No" then we will no longer have this support.

It is an important time in the history of St. Luke's. The world is moving faster and faster today and we need to greet the future with excitement and not fear. We can make a difference in the lives of people in our community and in the world with the help of God.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service; Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am Bible 101; Children's Choir 6:00-7:30 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30-8:30 pm "Living Sober" Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:45-9:00 am BNI Group Renting Fellowship Hall 9:30-10:15 am Prayer Group in Cantor Area 7 pm Trustees Meeting in Room 201</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30 am WWW (Wednesday Willing Workers) 7:30-8:30 pm AA Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Church Conference / VCI Vote 6:00-7:30 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7 pm Finance Meeting in Room 201 7:30-8:30 pm "Living Sober" Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:45-9:00 am BNI Group Renting Fellowship Hall 9:30-10:15 am Prayer Group in Cantor Area 11:30 am UMW in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 am WWW (Wednesday Willing Workers) 7 pm CEC Meeting in CEC office 7:30-8:30 pm AA Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:30 pm Member Care Meeting in Fellowship Hall 7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00-7:30 pm "Living Clean" Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service; One Great Hour of Sharing 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am Bible 101; Children's Choir 5-8 pm OYO (outside group) 6 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30-8:30 pm "Living Sober" Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:45-9:00 am BNI Group Renting Fellowship Hall 9:30-10:15 am Prayer Group in Cantor Area</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30 am WWW (Wednesday Willing Workers) 7:30-8:30 pm AA Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8 am UMM Meeting in Fellowship Hall 6:00-7:30 pm "Living Clean" Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>
<p>22 Flower Orders Due</p> <p>9:30 am Worship; Noisy Offering 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am Chili Cook Off: Fellowship Hall 12 pm Program Staff Meeting 6:00-7:30 pm Youth</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30-8:30 pm "Living Sober" Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:45-9:00 am BNI Group Renting Fellowship Hall 9:30-10:15 am Prayer Group in Cantor Area 7-8:15 pm Guatemala Trip Meeting: Youth Room</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30 am WWW (Wednesday Willing Workers) 7:30-8:30 pm AA Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12:30-9:00 pm ROBA Group Meets in Fellowship Hall <i>(Outside Group)</i> 6:00-7:30 pm "Living Clean" Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am Worship; Palm Sunday 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am Bible 101 6:00-7:30 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30-8:30 pm "Living Sober" Group Meets in Room 102 <i>(Outside Group)</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:45-9:00 am BNI Group Renting Fellowship Hall 9:30-10:15 am Prayer Group in Cantor Area</p>				



New Membership Orientations are scheduled throughout the year. If you are interested in attending the next orientation, please call the church office to sign up at 248-373-6960.



Mark these Dates on your Calendar Now

April 5th: Easter Breakfast before Worship Service

April 9th: Senior Luncheon

April 25th: Rebuilding Together Oakland County



St. Luke's United Methodist Church
3980 Walton Boulevard
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Website: www.stlukesrochester.org

Phone: 248-373-6960

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
9:30 AM - WORSHIP SERVICE
10:30-11:00 AM - FELLOWSHIP TIME
11:00 AM - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES