

# St. Luke's Newsletter

St. Luke Evangelical Free Church  
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## Spiritual Council Update

This month, Spiritual Council (SC) began exploring the new vision of establishing a Gospel Culture within our church. This process will take time while challenging every individual in the church to reflect if he/she not only understands and believes the gospel but is also living the gospel in everyday life.

To help lead this new vision, SC is beginning to read and study the book "Gospel Fluency: Speaking the Truths of Jesus into the Everyday Stuff of Life". In this, the goal of SC is to have gospel clarity (understand exactly what the gospel is), gospel boldness (be able to explain and proclaim the gospel), gospel compassion (love others because Jesus first loved us), and gospel humility (poor in spirit, meekness, etc.).

SC also has been supporting an effort to come up with an updated church logo. We were able to gain help from someone who specializes in graphic design and also has a deep understanding of church architectural history and meanings behind church artwork including stained glass windows. We hope to be able to soon share a logo that is both meaningful to the heritage of this church body and clearly shows our church's focus on the importance of the gospel.

SC is looking into updating the pew Bibles. Part of living the gospel includes spending time daily in God's Word. As a church, we would like to emphasize this by practicing reading out of a physical Bible on Sundays and encouraging everyone to spend

time daily in God's Word throughout the week. Our current pew Bibles are an outdated translation that has been revised over the years. We are looking into purchasing new Bibles in the English Standard Version (ESV), which will allow Pastor Tim to have the congregation turn to a specific page number during his preaching.

Finally, as most have heard, Joel Larson has made the decision to attend seminary. Joel took some time in our most recent meeting to explain what led to his decision. Please join us in offering your words of support and encouragement as Joel puts in his applications and gets ready for his first classes.

## Pastor Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee reviewed several applicants this month. We reached out to them and for various reasons they were not the right fit.

We continue to monitor the portal and engage the contacts and resources we have access to.

As summer draws to a close we feel opportunities will increase again. As always, we are so thankful for your prayers and the opportunity to serve our church in this way.

Margaret Kohlstaedt, Linda Niendick,  
Blaine Beissenherz, Don Borgman,  
Cailey Pingel, & Rachel Gray

## **Church Council News**

The Council met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, July 15th.

The devotion for the evening was presented by Valerie Kemp. The meeting was called to order by Don Borgman and the Agenda for the evening was approved with the addition of two discussion items. Minutes of the June 18<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting were reviewed and approved.

The council then reviewed and discussed the financial reports for June which were approved as presented. Financials for the first six months of the year are in line with budget and giving levels are slightly above the same point in 2023.

There were no reports this month from the Endowment Committee or the Pre-School Committee. The Cemetery report focused on the sidewalk and road project which is in process. Pastor Tim gave a very positive report on his activities for the past month. He discussed establishment of a Gospel Culture in the church, focused on clarity, compassion, boldness and humility. He also discussed how impressed he is with the excellent ministry of Camp Agape.

Under Old Business the council discussed the need to update the Child Safety policy and that background check updates are needed to meet insurance requirements. Amanda Travis and Pastor Tim are to bring these items up to date. Blaine gave a report on the Pastor Search efforts, stating that the committee is working not only with the Central District EFCA office but has also reached out to several seminaries to publicize the opening.

Christi Johnson reported that she and Linda Dorsch have decided on QuickBooks Plus for the office financial software. The Council authorized going ahead with installation, and next month we should have the first automated monthly financial reports. She reported that the Website is now updated every Monday and the sermon is linked. Christi applied for a grant to get Microsoft 365 at no cost and office files are now being stored on OneDrive which is important to have backup storage of church records going forward.

Randy Dowell gave an update on Tiger Day Camp. Planning for the Monday program during the school year progresses, and with the receipt of grant funding from the Children's Services' fund things are falling into place for transportation, food, supplies, etc. There are items that will need to be supported with other contributions.

Under New Business, the council discussed the possibility of using attendance books again like we did pre-Covid. It is difficult to get all the information on attendance and especially Sunday Worship visitors without asking those in attendance to fill out the attendance books.

Finally, the council determined we need to create and begin using a Requisition Form to simplify requests to the church office for purchases of Church materials and supplies, or to request reimbursement for same. The form has since been created and is in use by the church office.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

### **Upcoming Church Newsletter Change:**

Thank you for your responses to last month's call to let us know your preference of changing to an email format for the newsletter in the future. For those who don't mind the switch, one benefit to email will be timely receipt of the newsletter for everyone on the same day whereas before it varied a lot depending on your location or any other delivery hindrances.

With that said, this is the last month for a church-wide postal mailing. Next month's September edition will be in your inbox instead, unless you let us know otherwise. Therefore, if you don't know if the church office already has your email, please let us know so you don't miss out.

Thank You,  
Cheryl Dickey 816-591-9745  
cheryldr@gmail.com

## Mission's Committee Update

### THE LIGHT HOUSE

The LIGHT House is one of our missions and this is an opportunity to help them and yourself if you have Missouri tax liability. It also allows you to direct how your Missouri tax dollars are spent. It's called Missouri Tax Credits and the LIGHT House has some available.

#### How it Works:

If you pay taxes to the state of MO and have MO tax liability, your gift to The LIGHT House of \$100 or more may be eligible for a 70% MO tax credit. For example, if you made a qualified \$300 donation to The LIGHT House this year and designate it to "MO tax credits", when you file your taxes next year you will get \$210 back in MO tax credits to use dollar-for-dollar towards your tax liability (assuming your tax liability is over \$210).

MO tax credits are easy to get and to use. You make your gift and make sure the check memo line or online designation is for "tax credits". Your gift can be made in monthly payments throughout the year or all at once. The LIGHT House will then send you an application for the state with your gift receipt. You will need to complete your portion of the simple application and mail it back to them. They will send it to the state and the state will send you a voucher that you in turn submit with your tax return next year.

For additional information and questions, please reach out to Ben King at 816.472.9072 or [ben.king@mbch.org](mailto:ben.king@mbch.org)

### Humor Corner

What do you call Batman when he skips church?  
Christian Bale

What is Forrest Gump's email password?  
1forrest1

Why did the taxi driver get in trouble?  
Passengers complained that he was going the extra mile.



08/02	Keatyn Paige
08/04	Elizabeth Yeldell
08/06	Jim Ahmann
08/07	Joshua Shroyer
08/11	Matthew Travis
08/14	Oliver Gray
08/15	Brandy Hough
08/15	Stephanie Nagel
08/17	Wanda Smith
08/18	Candice Whelen
08/19	Larry Tilly
08/20	Brilynn Zykan
08/23	Brandon Block
08/24	Grayson Walter
08/25	Elizabeth Rhoad
08/25	Rebecca Spalding
08/25	LouiseBlock
08/26	Randall Nadler
08/27	Sharon Rogge
08/30	Mark Rukavina
08/30	Linda Riesmeyer

### Special Birthday Mentions

08/25/36 LouiseBlock Happy 88<sup>th</sup>!

### Special Anniversaries

Shelly & Herschel Todd 08/03/1979  
Happy 45<sup>th</sup>

Brandie & Danny Walters 08/14/1999  
Happy 25<sup>th</sup>

Myrna & Jerry Soendker 08/22/1964  
Happy 60<sup>th</sup>



## Revised Website:

The church website, [www.stlukeefc.org](http://www.stlukeefc.org), has been recently updated with the following features:

- Visit the "EVENTS" page to view the live calendar for both the church and the community Christian Center, along with other promoted events.
- The "DONATE" page provides a link to contribute to the church via the church's PayPal account.
- Access last Sunday's sermon by clicking on the link provided on the "SERVICES" page.
- The "MEMBERS" page is password-protected and includes the church directory, list of church leadership and a reimbursement request form for purchases made for church-related activities. To obtain the password for this page, please contact the office via email - [office@stlukeefc.org](mailto:office@stlukeefc.org). By requesting the password, you agree not to share it with anyone and to use the information solely for personal purposes. It is not to be used for business solicitation or shared/sold to others. Your cooperation is appreciated in maintaining the privacy of church member information.
- On the "PRAYER" page, you have the option to submit your email for inclusion in the prayer chain or to send a prayer request.
- At the bottom of each page, you can enter your email to subscribe to church emails.

## Giving/Tithes:

### Make Your Giving Easy

In addition to the Sunday church offering plate, St. Luke has many ways you may choose to provide your tithes and offerings:

- Use PayPal on the church [website--stlukeefc.org](http://website--stlukeefc.org)
- Use internet banking to send deposits from your checking account on a regular basis to the St. Luke Operating Account. Be sure the deposit identifies you! Contact the office for details.
- Request a one-time tax-free distribution or a regularly scheduled distribution gift from your IRA if you are over 72.
- Request regular gifts to St. Luke through your investment account or annuity account.

In addition to the above options for regular giving, be in contact with the St Luke Endowment Committee or your own advisor for other planned bequests to St. Luke Church.

**Malachi 3:10** – “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

## All Things Youth

### **AWANA 2024-2025**

We will have a planning meeting on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm on the middle floor of the CCC. Please consider giving of your time and talents on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 pm We will begin on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. There are three groups of children Cubbies 3,4-, and 5-year-olds, Sparkes Kindergarten - Second Grade, and T&T which is 3<sup>rd</sup> grade- 6<sup>th</sup> grade. So, as you can see any help that you can give would be greatly appreciated. If we have plenty of help it makes it easier to meet the needs of the children. We are very flexible in scheduling so if you can give of any time to help, we would greatly appreciate it. If you want to be a part of this program but can't come to the planning meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup>, please contact Pennie Ahmann. We know that you will enjoy being a part of Awana.

### **Sunday School and Toddler Time**

Both seem to be doing well. Summer is usually a slow time but we have appreciated those who have filled in for others so individuals could be gone on family vacations etc. As always, we welcome anyone who would like to be a part of the rotation to help make sure that we have all of the areas covered each Sunday.

### **Scuba VBS 2024**

The week of June 24<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> was an action-packed week. We had a week of singing, crafts, learning that God is our forever friend who loves us and stories of Jesus and how he calms the rough seas in our lives, how Jesus died on the cross and came back to life. The kids had a time where they were able to see how the scriptures applied to and would make their daily lives easier by following the examples that God gives us. We of course had a time to play games and have fun with their friends. Each day our snacks and crafts were connected to the Bible story and scriptures of the day. Each area reinforced the scriptures and the theme that God is our friend who loves us and shows compassion to all people.

This year we collected items for the food pantry, school supplies, and we gave a Walmart card to a family in our community who needed some extra help. Our daily offering collected for the week was \$1,093.78. Along with the items collected we will be making donations to the food

pantry and the school to help with others who are in need in the community.

Our attendance for the week was wonderful and we greatly appreciate those families who brought their children to VBS. We started the week with 116 kids and each day we kept adding more and more. Praise God for he is good! Wednesday and Thursday we had 132 kids and Friday 122 kids. Our average daily attendance was 125 kids. None of this happens without the dedicated individuals who step up and come each day to make this a fantastic week for our children. We averaged 45 helpers each day. Thanks so much for giving of your love and talents to the children of our community.

On Wednesday evening we had our traditional swim party at the Lexington pool. The meal was again provided for the families by Nadler's and volunteers who donated over 20 dozen cookies for the evening. This was a huge success, and everyone had a great time.

Thursday evening was our program, and the kids did a fantastic job under the leadership of Amy and Molly Osborn. After the program our families enjoyed a fellowship time with ice cream floats served by Patti Breckenridge and her faithful crew.

Friday, we had a special quest which was John Breckenridge who shared his experiences of being a scuba diver. He showed his equipment and pictures from some of the dives he and his family have experienced.

As you can see, we had an action-packed week and it would not have happened without the dedicated people, donations that were given, the many prayers, the talented individuals who gave of themselves to share the love of God with the children in our community. God bless each and every one of you.

Mark your calendars for June 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2025 for a week that will energize you in so many ways.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for a VBS that has and continues to touch so many lives in our community.

Scuba 2024 VBS Crew

Please continue to pray for the Sunday school, Awana, VBS and the children of our church and community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pennie Ahmann

## Devotional

### Who Is Worthy?

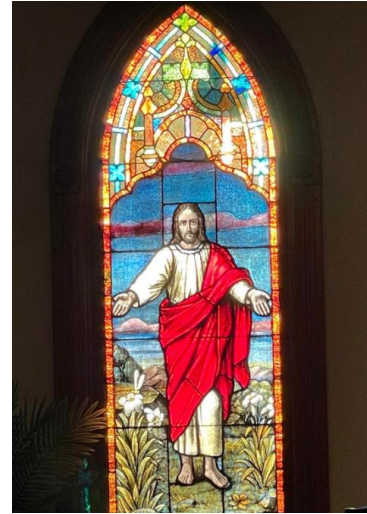
We keep on praying for you, that our God will make you worthy of the life to which he called you. And we pray that God, by his power, will fulfill all your good intentions and faithful deeds. Then everyone will give honor to the name of our Lord Jesus because of you.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

All of us have experienced feelings of inadequacy and unworthiness in areas of our lives. As Christians, our insecurities often keep us from coming boldly into God's presence to receive his power for service. Paul knew the Thessalonians were feeling unworthy in their present calling to suffering and persecution. He wanted to encourage them by clarifying that God himself would make them worthy (1:5). To what life has God called you? Preaching or teaching God's Word? Caring for young children? Serving God in the business world or taking the gospel to a foreign land? Whatever our calling, our best intentions and good deeds will accomplish nothing of eternal value apart from the power of the Holy Spirit. It's when we die to our own abilities and surrender our work to God that he infuses our feeble efforts with his power. When we seek the Lord humbly in prayer, admit our inadequacy, and ask for his grace and sufficiency, he will divinely enable us to fulfill our calling. He and he alone can make us worthy of the life to which he has called us.

PRAY: THANK YOU, LORD, that my effectiveness in your calling doesn't depend on my abilities. In your grace, impart your power to me so that I may live the life to which you have called me. Make me a vessel of your glory so that those who see my works will look past me and be drawn to you. Have you, O God, seen yourself in what I said, thought, and did today? Did I care for others the way you would have?

This an excerpt from: Praying Through the Bible, by Cheri Fuller



### Military Address

#### **Kenneth Manning**

USS Ronald Regan CVN76  
Unit 100197 Box RM  
FPO AP 96616

### Current Shut-Ins

#### **Louise Block**

Parkway Assisted Living, Rm 426  
550 NE Napoleon Drive  
Blue Springs, MO 64014

#### **Charlene Beissenherz**

Parkway Assisted Living, Rm 405  
550 NE Napoleon Drive  
Blue Springs, MO 64014

#### **Judi Block**

Parkway Memory Care, Apt. 1  
550 NE Napoleon Drive  
Blue Springs, MO 64014

#### **Phyllis Soendker**

Oak Grove Nursing 7 Rehab.  
2108 SW Mitchell St.  
Oak Grove, MO 64075

#### **Mary Lou Lieneke**

Meyer Care Center  
1201 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Higginsville, MO 64037

#### **Ann Maschmeier**

Meyer Care Center  
1201 W. 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Higginsville, MO 64037

# AUGUST 2024

ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH, WELLINGTON, MO

Adult Sunday School 9 am, Worship Service: 10 am  
Children's Church: 10:15 during the worship hour

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b>  10 am - 2 pm, Women's Fellowship  6:30 pm--Men's Bible Study— CCC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Youth Group 5:30 to 8 pm at the CCC  7pm—Women's Bible Study--When You Pray Main Level CCC	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7pm--General Adult Bible Study and Fellowship- CCC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	<b>8</b>  10 am - 2 pm, Women's Fellowship  6:30 pm--Men's Bible Study— CCC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	<b>9</b> Last Day of Camp Agape	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Youth Group 5:30 to 8 pm at the CCC  7pm—Women's Bible Study--When You Pray Main Level CCC	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7pm--General Adult Bible Study and Fellowship- CCC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	<b>15</b>  10 am - 2 pm, Women's Fellowship  6:30 pm--Men's Bible Study— CCC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Youth Group 5:30 to 8 pm at the CCC  7pm—Women's Bible Study--When You Pray Main Level CCC	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> First Day of School at WN!	<b>21</b> 7pm--General Adult Bible Study and Fellowship- CCC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	<b>22</b>  10 am - 2 pm, Women's Fellowship  6:30 pm--Men's Bible Study— CCC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Youth Group 5:30 to 8 pm at the CCC  7pm—Women's Bible Study--When You Pray Main Level CCC	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:30 pm-8:30 pm Young Couples Gathering CCC Bottom Level	<b>28</b> 7pm--General Adult Bible Study and Fellowship--- 2 <sup>nd</sup> Level	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>