

January 2020

The Visitor



Important Dates

Wednesday, January 1

New Year's Day
Office Closed

Sunday, January 5

Purchase with a Purpose;
Epiphany Boxes Due Back

Sunday, January 19

Epiphany Boxes Due

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Office Closed

Sunday, January 26

Community Meal
from 4—5:30 PM
in the Social Hall

St. Lucas UCC Promise Statement:

St. Lucas UCC members,
united in Christ and led by
the Holy Spirit, strive to live
faithfully, grow spiritually
and serve lovingly all of
God's creations.



St. Lucas UCC Mission Statement:

St. Lucas UCC unites
Christians in the worship of God and
affirms life-long Christian
education, faithful discipleship and
caring service in God's name.

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January Adult Ed

Your Path, God's Purpose

Facilitator and Guide: Dan Coughlin

Room 18/20 Sundays starting January 12—February 16

This is a 6-session course on your interior life, your spiritual life, where your mind, heart, and soul come together. This course will require real work. The work is in the form of reflection, discussion, discernment, and decision. The guidelines will be respectfulness, open-mindedness, and caring. This is NOT a lecture series. This IS a discussion series. Each session will consist of brief explanations of a few ideas followed by personal reflection and interpersonal discussion. There will be an Action Guide provided to the attendees at each session.

We will begin in Session 1 with an exercise on clarifying what you think God's purpose is for your life right now. We will discuss all the benefits to other people and to yourself when you are successful in fulfilling God's purpose for you. Throughout the course, we will focus on you working to understand yourself better, and applying your understanding of yourself to fulfilling God's purpose for you. We will focus on how you can apply your character strengths, values, morals, passions, talents, and sources of self-confidence toward the fulfillment of what you believe to be God's purpose for your life.

In addition, we will focus on communicating with empathy, which means to work to understand what another person is thinking and feeling, and then responding in an appropriate way. We will also discuss how to provide effective leadership and build effective teamwork and apply it toward the fulfillment of God's purpose for small groups of people. Teamwork means to support one another toward the fulfillment of a meaningful purpose and the achievement of important objectives.

Holiday Lights

As you're putting away your Christmas lights, if you find a strand that only partially shines, or not at all, please DON'T trash them. Recycle them at St. Lucas UCC! Your environmental committee is again collecting holiday lights for recycling. Look for the special bin in our recycling corner in the Social Hall. The collection will continue through Jan 31, 2020.

Boomers' Annual Activities Meeting

Sunday, February 23, at 5 PM

Please join the Boomer group to offer ideas for fun and service activities during 2020. We would love, and need, to see more Boomer participation in hosting and planning these events. Gary and Debbie Morris will host our get-together at their Villa. There is a sign-up sheet on the Boomer Board in the Social Hall. Please indicate you will bring an appetizer or dessert to share and your drink of choice. Coffee, tea and soda will be available.

More information will follow as we get closer to event.

Doughnuts & Coffee by Margie Kohl

Have you ever wondered if that money that you throw in the basket on Sunday actually covers the cost of the doughnuts and coffee that you enjoy? The answer is no, it does not. Every week our intake of money is less than our costs for providing the delicious doughnuts and Fair Trade Coffee that we serve. Our reminder sign has said \$1.00 donation suggested for years, but prices rise. So, those signs will say \$2.00 in 2020. Nobody is watching what you put in, but just know that the price of a doughnut is slightly over \$1 a piece, and that doesn't include the coffee that is served. There is no Doughnut/Coffee Hour fund, so when we are short, it gets taken out of the General Fund. But if you eat and drink it, shouldn't you feel some responsibility to pay for it? How much do you pay at Starbucks or Krispy Kreme? Can you afford \$2.00? When your group uses the coffee we provide in the kitchen, think about passing around a collection plate to offset the cost. When you use the supplies in the kitchen, think about those costs--we don't have a line item for napkins or plates, either.

Please come to coffee hour and socialize, and give what you can!

Weekends at St. Lucas UCC

Saturday

5 PM

Traditional Worship

Sanctuary

Sunday

9 and 11 AM

Child Care, Birth—age 2

Room 232

9 AM

Traditional Worship

Sanctuary

Church School

Ages 3—5th Grade

Social Hall/Classrooms

Middle School Discussion

Sanctuary/Youth Room

10 AM

Coffee Hour

Coffee, juice, milk and donuts!

Social Hall

11 AM

Blended Worship

Sanctuary

Epiphany Boxes

Epiphany boxes are available in the north Narthex for this year's donations. The Christmas and New Year holidays are a busy time for all especially, food pantries. Please help us fill their pantry in light of Epiphany. All donations are due by January 19, 2020 and will be delivered to a local (Isaiah 58 and/or Feed My People) pantry by the confirmation class on Sunday, January 26, 2020. Each box has an attached list of suggested items. Thank you for your support! Please contact Amy Bush (abush@stlucasucc.org) with any additional questions.

Below is a list of suggested items. Please NO GLASS.

**items MOST needed

Protein Foods

canned meat**

canned soups & chili

canned beans

peanut butter

Grains

rice

canned pastas

boxed pasta side dishes

macaroni & cheese

boxed potato side dishes

cereal & oatmeal

pancake mix

granola bars

baking mixes

Fruits & Vegetables

canned vegetables (low sodium)

canned tomatoes

canned fruits (natural syrup)

apple sauce

dried fruits

baby food vegetables & fruits

Oils & Condiments

vegetable oil

salad dressing

syrup

jelly and jam

honey

sugar

mayonnaise

ketchup

Home, Baby & Personal Care

sponges

cleaning supplies**

diapers**

wipes

toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss

soap (hand and body)

shampoo

toilet paper **

paper towels**

tissues

January Benevolence: Unleashing Potential

Recently, Neighborhood Houses changed its name to Unleashing Potential (UP). Although the name has changed, the mission is the same as it was when UP started as part of the Settlement House Movement in 1913: *To provide children and families the support they need to grow UP, keep UP, reach UP leading to a more just community for all.*

Unleashing Potential's programs include Early Childhood Education, After School Programs, and Youth Enrichment Camps. Through these programs Unleashing Potential partners with parents and engage children to close the opportunity gap faced by children in lower income communities.

UP at Caroline Mission uses an evidence-based curriculum taught by dedicated and nurturing teachers. The staff at Caroline Mission works hard to provide high quality programming to ensure that children are equipped to enter kindergarten emotionally, socially and cognitively ready for learning.

UP After School is a safe and educational option for busy parents and is an extension to a child's classroom learning. UP After Schools provides an evidence-based curriculum approach to math, literature, character education, fitness and nutrition. High quality enrichment activities expose children to cultural arts and encourage creative expression in a supportive environment.

Up Enrichment Camps are located at various partner sites in St. Louis City and County to ensure that parents have affordable and safe options for their children during the summer months.

For more information about Unleashing Potential visit www.upstl.org.

The Strength of Diversity shared by The Diversity Team

As a rule, human beings do not like diversity. We like for things to be the same, to be homogenous. There are several reasons for this, but perhaps the main reason for this is that diversity is hard.

Diversity is hard because it forces us to love the different. White people don't understand black people. Black people don't understand whites. The poor think differently than the rich, and the rich see things differently than the poor. The same is true of educated and uneducated, old and young, male and female...

But diversity is something God has built into the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12 speaks of the diversity of miraculous spiritual gifts God placed into the body, but there are certain natural gifts that are mentioned in other parallel texts about the body (Rom 12; Eph 4). These natural gifts are spread throughout the diversity (age, race, education, etc.) we have in the body of Christ.

It is for this reason that we must resist the temptation to gravitate to people just like us. It's easier to relate with people just like ourselves, but if we only go to churches that are homogeneous or if we only visit with people in church that are the same age, education, race, economic level as we are, then we are robbing ourselves of one of the great strengths God has blessed us within the body.

(*David Maxson, Preacher, Daily Devotions, 6.11.15)

Celebrating the History & Missions of St. Lucas UCC

by Joy Dressel

St. Lucas will turn 140 years old in 2020! St. Lucas was born into the extended family of the **German Evangelical Synod of North America**, which had been organized forty years earlier at our very own mother church, **St. Johns in Mehlville**. The first pastor at St. Johns was the Rev. Louis Nollau, who had come to the U.S. from Prussia, intending to do mission work with Native Americans in the Northwest. When his original plans fell through, Nollau put his energies into pastoring German immigrants in St. Louis County. In 1840 Nollau organized the church society that became the German Evangelical Synod and, in 1850, was involved in the establishment of what is now **Eden Theological Seminary**. Nollau spearheaded the establishment of the **Good Samaritan Hospital** in 1856 and, in 1858, the orphanage that we now know as **Every Child's Hope**.

Eleven years after Nollau's death, one of his sons assisted with the birth of our St. Lucas congregation as he became a charter member. The people of St. Lucas and the rest of the German Evangelical Synod continued to be inspired by Matthew 25:31-46 ("...I was hungry and you gave me food, ...truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me..."). They continued to create organizations to care for people in need. In 1889, in St. Lucas' early years, the Evangelical Deaconess Society of St. Louis was established and the first Deaconess Sisters started caring for the sick. This led to the creation of **Deaconess Hospital** and **School of Nursing** and **Parish Nurse Ministries**. Today the **Deaconess Foundation** focuses on the well-being of children in the Greater St. Louis Area. In 1893, in St. Lucas's second decade, people of the Evangelical Synod repurposed the Synod's vacated seminary campus in Marthasville, MO, and established the **Emmaus Home**, where they could respectfully serve individuals with epilepsy and developmental disabilities. Two years later, the German Evangelical Synod established an orphanage in Illinois, now known as **Hoyleton Youth and Family Services**. In 1913 a group of Eden Seminary students was essential in creating an organization to serve people living in poverty in a deteriorating area in the near south side of St. Louis. After many changes over the years, that center grew to become **Caroline Mission** of the **Neighborhood Houses** organization, which has rebranded itself as **Unleashing Potential**. It now focuses on caring for and educating low-income children and teen mothers.

What a foundation of family partnerships we have from the first three decades of the life of the St. Lucas congregation! During our years as part of the United Church of Christ family we have supported these organizations and have established more partner organizations, including **Lydia's House**, **Cape Albeon** and the **Institute of Family Medicine**. Our denominational partners provide a wide variety of ways for the people of the church to act as the hands and feet of Christ in the St. Louis area.

Expect to hear later about an opportunity to help children in foster care by donating used luggage and duffel bags as we celebrate the history and missions of our church.

COUNCIL CORNER

Catch up on all the Church Council News from the past month...

Council Corner Update for November 28, 2019

The Council met and approved a plan to restructure the Youth Coordinator position to accommodate the needs of Kit Norton and Amy Bush. The details of the restructure will be published by Kit and Amy shortly.

The Council is working to restructure the office staffing and tasking. Debbie and Megan will be taking on new duties, many of which were previously tasked to the Business Manager. Some tasks previously assigned to the Business Manager will be reassigned to the appropriate staff member or church committee. The exact details will be published when the restructuring is approved by Council.

Council is moving ahead with development of a final Call Agreement and compensation plan for our Intentional Interim candidate. The candidate will be asked to meet once more with the council before final approval of the Call Agreement.

Council members will be available to meet with the congregation in the Fireside Room Sunday morning at 10:15 AM. Please drop in if you have questions or issues you wish to discuss with Council members.

-Randy Jurgensen, Council President

Council Corner Update for December 5, 2019

We are still in negotiations with our selected candidate for Interim Minister and expect to conclude these negotiations next week. The office reorganization is going well and should be finalized next week.

The current and new Council members are planning to meet between services Sunday morning in the Kruse Center from 10:15 - 11 AM.

Given that the regular Council meeting occurs on Christmas Eve, I am asking the current and new Council members to meet on Tuesday, December 17th at 7 PM for the final meeting of 2019. Plan on a shorter than usual meeting in the Fireside Room.

-Randy Jurgensen, Council President

Council Corner Update for December 12, 2019

This week, we are finalizing negotiations with our selected candidate for Interim Minister. On Tuesday, December 17th, all current and new Council members will meet in the Fireside Room at 7 PM for the final Council meeting of 2019.

-Randy Jurgensen, *Council President*

Council Corner Update for December 19, 2019

To the St. Lucas Congregation!

Negotiations with Reverend Doctor William Smutz (pronounced Smootz) have been successfully completed. Reverend Dr. Smutz will begin serving St. Lucas as an Intentional Interim Senior Minister on February 1, 2020. He is currently serving as Intentional Interim Senior Minister at First Congregational Church.

Our St Lucas search committee, formed earlier this summer, conducted a diligent search for an exceptional candidate Intentional Interim Minister to serve St. Lucas. Reverend Doctor Smutz was selected as the obvious best candidate after months of planning, searching, and interviewing.

Your Council has taken time to become familiar with Reverend Doctor Smutz. At a special meeting of the Council, we voted unanimously to approve the Call Agreement and offer the position to him. The Call Agreement defines an initial one year of service to St. Lucas, with two additional six month extension options. Reverend Dr. Smutz has accepted this offer from St. Lucas and this week has taken the appropriate steps to inform First Congregational of his decision to leave their service shortly.

Prior to February 1, 2020, Pastor Anna has agreed to continue to assist Pastor Kelly to serve St. Lucas in the exemplary manner to which we have all become accustomed. Thank you, Pastor Anna.

I ask that you all welcome Reverend Dr. Smutz to our St. Lucas family with open arms. He is an exceptional person with a deep desire to restore stability and hope to the St. Lucas family. I believe he is the right person to lead us in the tasks facing our congregation in 2020, and beyond.

-Randy Jurgensen, *Council President*

Welcome Rev. Dr. Bill Smutz

The Rev. Dr. Bill Smutz, has been an ordained Presbyterian pastor for over thirty years. A native of Webster Groves, his academic background includes a B.A. in Economics & Business from Westminster College (Fulton, MO), a Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Eden Theological Seminary. Bill has served churches in Ohio, Missouri, Wisconsin, Kansas, and Indiana. He served as the interim/transitional pastor at St. John's UCC, Chesterfield from September 2015 – November, 2017, and since December 2017 has been the interim/transitional pastor at First Congregational Church of St. Louis in Clayton. Bill and his wife, Gina, have three adult sons, and are over-the-moon grandparents of Taylor, George and Maggie! Bill is an anglophile, music lover, apple grower, architecture junkie, stamp collector, frustrated model railroader.....who thinks the Green Bay Packers hold a special place in the divine pantheon.....who knows that disciples of Jesus always live in hope.....who trusts that there will always be a Church of Jesus Christ, but believes the Holy Spirit is presently reshaping the church in new and different ways for God's unfolding future!



Reverend Dr. Smutz will begin serving St. Lucas as an Intentional Interim Senior Minister on February 1, 2020.

Church Council for 2020

Our Church Council for 2020 will be:

- Gregg Heutel
- Joy Dressel
- Dave Johnston
- Al Lichtenstein
- Joanne Scheidt
- Lisa Slyman
- Harry (Skip) Solomon
- Carol Stelmach
- Ken Hamilton
- Jill Meyer
- Debbie Ball
- Mike Bohn
- Don Lang
- Bill Lowry
- Randy Jurgensen



Thank You from Karen Litzsinger

Thank you St. Lucas!! You all are the best in your generosity! It was exciting seeing all those gifts in the RED and GREEN boxes on the stage....the boxes "OVERFLOWETH"! All those Giving Tree donations will benefit the many children of either **Isaiah 58 Ministry** or **Every Child's Hope**. What a blessing it is for us, at St. Lucas, to be part of another overwhelming success in our annual mission!

St. Lucas thanks you, as well as **Isaiah 58** and **Every Child's Hope**!

Karen Litzsinger, *Giving Tree Coordinator*
Mission and Outreach Committee

Thank You from Michele Ottinger

What a great night in Bethlehem!!!! Thanks to everyone who gave time and talent to create the living message of Jesus' birth for those in our community. From the carpenters to the cocoa makers, from the costume crew to the citizens of Bethlehem, from the photos to the firepits, from the set up group to the take down people, a huge thank you is offered. It was a wonderful night of celebrating 10 years of the Living Nativity at St. Lucas UCC.

Thank You from Jean & Paul Greenlaw

Recently you visited our home with church carolers. They sang and gave us Communion. Turn out was wonderful, singing was good. Please thank all who participated.

Bell Ringing Thank You

Thank you all for 20 years of contributing to the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing Drive! It is the Salvation Army's biggest source of funds, from which many people in the St. Louis area benefit. We had a wonderful volunteer turn out and we know that we made a difference in our community! Thank you all for your time and generosity!

Articles Due for the February Visitor

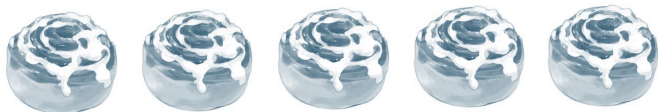
Articles for the February edition of The Visitor are due in the Church Office by 8 AM on January 10th. Weekend bulletin announcements are due by 12 PM (noon) on Mondays and email blast submissions are due by 12 PM (noon) on Wednesdays. Please email Megan at mligeti@stlucasucc.org AND Debbie at dheagle@stlucasucc.org when submitting articles.

Church Family Updates

Please contact Debbie in the Church Office at 314-884-6120 with your news to share, including the joys and concerns of our extended family. If you prefer, you may share your information via email to Debbie at dheagle@stlucasucc.org AND Megan at mligeti@stlucasucc.org.

Recently Hospitalized: Ginny Altrup (Laclede Groves Room #330 – Visitors welcomed!), Erna Kleine, Marvin Smith

Purchase with a Purpose



Don't forget that purchase with a purpose is on Sunday, December 1st! We will have items available for sale in the Social Hall between services, including pot pies & berry pies from Lydia's House, bakery goods from Bridge Bread, and our UCC Fair Trade Coffee. We accept cash and checks. Please join us in supporting our ministry partners!

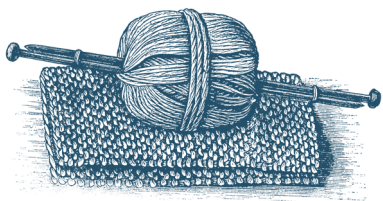
Women's Fellowship

Let's start the New Year right!
All Ladies of the Church are very welcome!
January 8, 2020 at 11 AM

We are celebrating our 130th year!
We have a another wonderful new program: "Avoiding Scams and Swindles" This program given by Mike Nickel, St. Louis County CORP (County Older Residents Program) Representative, will offer great information for all of us. It's a sandwich luncheon so bring you favorite and enjoy our great St. Lucas desserts. We look forward to being together. We are collecting feminine products this month.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Considering the many activities we all have during the Christmas season, and the unpredictable, cold weather in January, we will not be having our monthly meetings again until February of 2020.



See you on Monday, February 3rd!

Meal of the Month

- ◇ Boxed, whole grain pasta
- ◇ Canned green vegetable—*Low sodium or no salt*
- ◇ Canned Fruit in light syrup or own juices
- ◇ Powdered Milk or shelf stable boxed milk or soy milk

Optional, but always useful:

- Cold Cereal, low sugar
- Oatmeal
- Fruit juices, low/no sugar in plastic bottles

NOTE: These items are merely suggestions.
Any food or personal hygiene items you wish to donate are appreciated.

Community Meal

Sunday, January 26th from 4-5:30 PM

Community Meals are our way of serving the food insecure, the lonely and first responders in our community! We could use your help!

Email Pam Smith at smith.lpkk@gmail.com for more info!

Friday Lunch Bunch

Join the Friday Lunch Bunch! The Friday Lunch Bunch is a group of people who gather to eat lunch and share fellowship. We meet at a local restaurant, there is no planned program and the checks are prepared to be paid individually. If you would like to be part of this group, please add your name to the list on the Welcome Center bulletin board.

St. Lucas United Church of Christ
11735 Denny Road
St. Louis, MO 63126

Phone: 314-843-2100 - Fax: 314-843-4410
Website: www.stlucasucc.org

Rev. Anastassia Sharpe, Supply Senior Minister
asharpe@stlucasucc.org—314-884-6118
For After Office Hour Emergencies - 919-491-4601

Rev. Kelly Archer, Minister of Congregational Life
karcher@stlucasucc.org - 314-793-7434
For After Office Hour Emergencies – 314-793-7434

Preschool Phone: 314-884-6126

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The Staff at St. Lucas United Church of Christ

Rev. Anastassia Sharpe, Supply Senior Minister
Rev. Kelly Archer, Minister of Congregational Life
Michele Ottinger, Director of Children's Ministries and All-Church Programming
Seth Carruthers, Director of Music
Kit Norton, Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Amy Bush, Assistant Coordinator of Youth Ministries
John Gross, Organist
David Kuhns, Saturday Evening Organist
Debbie Heagle, Administrative Assistant
Megan Ligeti, Communications Coordinator
Lynda Klosterman, Preschool Director
Charlie Singler, Dennis Scherr & Gurgett Torres—Maintenance

The Visitor