

St. Luke's Children Celebrate Christmas

During the December 18 children's program, "Christmas Letter: The Musical", St. Luke's Sunday school children sang, told and showed those in attendance how to talk to Jesus.



Early Education students sang to family and staff at their December 22 Christmas party.



What's Going On?



HAPPY NEW YEAR

2012 begins another 365 days filled with opportunities to love God and serve others in the name of Jesus Christ. I sincerely hope the year brings you joy.

GOD BLESS YOU!

Three Sundays in February will feature a sermon series based on "The Power of Blessing" by Kerry Kirkwood (Destiny Image Pub, 2010). The following topics will be discussed: What do faith, prayer and communication have to do with blessing? Does blessing only refer to material possessions and happiness? Is God in the blessing business, the cursing business, or both? What is spiritual warfare? I hope you will let me schedule your testimony during one of our February worship services.

PEOPLE NEED HOPE

Our Lenten season study will include a sermon series titled "Journey to Hope." Beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 22 leading up to Easter on April 8, we will travel with Jesus to the cross and find hope in the midst of life's difficult circumstances. Journey to Hope is published by United Methodist Communications' Rethink Church, a seven-week curriculum based on Bible references for all ages.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT SIN?

We will find out together in worship this spring. On April 15 we will begin a sermon series based on The Gospel of Matthew and "Holier Than Thou: When Faith Becomes Toxic" by Ergun Mehmet Caner (Abingdon, 2009). If desired, the book can be purchased on-line at cokesbury.com for \$4. But beware, you may find yourself laughing out loud in worship.

VIETNAM TRIP

I'm still feasting on the trip a group of us (church members, Vietnam veterans and friends) took to Vietnam and Laos last month. I felt the presence and joy of the Lord among excited young orphans and the many adults we met along the way. The Vietnamese, Laos and Hmong people are generous, gracious and hospitable. At the George N. Wright Memorial Library in Da Nang we were greeted by singing children bearing flowers. You will soon hear about the need for used books. This will be a mission project in which I hope most of us are able to participate.

TWO STAFF CHANGES

(1) Barbara Bruns has resigned as our Community Health Coordinator to teach classes at Longview Community College and to work on a health clinic planning committee for our area. (2) We welcome Linda Gunter as our new Worship Coordinator. She will be working with a team of other volunteers to do behind-the-scenes work that allows worship to happen for all of us. Many thanks to both of these devoted servants of the Lord.

See you in Church,
Pastor Londia

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day Communion Sunday 9:30-10am Blood Pressure Check	2 7pm Rejoice Circle	3	4	5 6:30pm UMW Epiphany Celebration	6	7 7-10am Country Breakfast
8 12:30pm Joanna Circle	9	10	11	12 1pm WOW Circle 7pm Susanna Circle	13	14 9am-4pm Staff & Council Leader Training
15 12:15 Singles Lunch	16 M.L. King Jr. Day Office Closed 7pm LIFE Circle 7pm Book Group	17	18	19 9:30am Hannah & Rebekah Circles	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday	8am Prayer Group; 8:30 & 11am Worship; 9:50am Sunday School; 5pm Youth
Monday	7pm Boy Scouts
Tuesday	10:45am Contemplative Prayer; 7pm Girl Scouts
Wednesday	9am Quilters; 6pm Wed. Jam; 6:30pm Prayer Group, Gospel Choir; 7:30pm Chancel Choir
Thursday	7pm Devoted Stitchers, Cub Scouts
Friday	7pm Celebrate Recovery

MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

A message from Jason Dattilo, youth director

Thank you for your involvement and support of the youth in 2011. Because of St. Luke's support, we participated in:

Thank You

- the Springfield *Weekend of Worship (WOW)* event where they enjoyed great music and speakers while meeting other young people from throughout the state.
- a week-long work and mission trip to Sikeston that was a great experience for those who went and for those who were helped.
- the annual *September Rock The Light* festival, featuring an evening of music and spirituality. This was another opportunity for The Youth to interact with others.
- confirmation for six members of the youth group. Through this process these young people learned more about the church and their own beliefs and faith.
- many other events throughout the year as well as weekly programs where The Youth got to share their experiences, thoughts, and ideas.

For 2012 we will continue to do many of these annual events as well as look for new activities to help us fulfill the mission and vision of the church. All young people in grades 7 through 12 are invited to attend each week. Feel free to come be a part of the group anytime.

Again, we thank all who have supported us in 2011.



A message from Sue Love, 2011 missions director

January communion offering will support efforts to end hunger and poverty through Heifer International and Harvester's food bank.

Heifer uses donations to provide struggling families the world over with live-saving gifts of livestock and training in their care. Today, millions of people who were once hungry will be nourished by milk, eggs and fresh vegetables. Families, who for generations knew only poverty, will be building new homes and starting businesses with Heifer's proven approach to helping people obtain a sustainable source of food and income, become self-sufficient and participate in *"passing on the gift"*.

"Passing on the gift" is fundamental to Heifer's entire approach. As people share the offspring of their animals - along with their knowledge, resources, and skills - an expanding network of hope, dignity and self-reliance is created that reaches around the globe. "Passing on the Gift" creates a living cycle of sustainability that develops community and enhances self-esteem by allowing project partners to become donors.

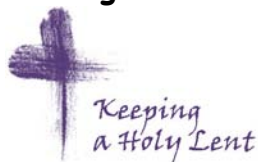
Locally, 103,000 children in a six county area live in homes that too often don't have enough food. Harvesters is helping to provide food to those children via the **BackSnack program**. Currently, 413,370 backpacks of food go to 13,525 students a week in 301 schools. St. Luke's participates in the BackSnack program with the Hickman Mills school district, packing food for 100 Truman Elementary students each week. The fallout when children don't get the nutrition they need can create a lifetime of troubles: delayed development of speech or motor skills, social ills in elementary school and severe academic woes in high school. Some drop out of school. Food-insecure children are deprived of the proper nutrients at a time when their brains and bodies are going through the most essential growth.

The **January communion offering** will help purchase animals via Heifer and go to Harvesters in support of the BackSnack program.

Kansas City residents will receive **two free admission tickets to the National WWI Museum** at Liberty Memorial during the first two months of 2012. Simply show a photo ID and a utility or other bill with a KCMO address at the museum store for admittance.

MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

Messages about the season of Lent



(1) Save the date for **Ash Wednesday** worship February 22 at 6:30pm. Begin thinking and praying about what you will be giving up for Lent (February 22 through April 7, minus Sundays).

(2) Eunice Stober has coordinated the publishing of a Lenten devotional booklet, written by members of this church, for about four decades. She recently resigned this ministry in order to devote time, work and attention to transitioning with husband Bill and settling into their new home. Be sure to thank Eunice for her years of service on this labor of love. Inspirational Lenten literature recommended by Cokesbury includes "Journey to Hope". "Devotions for Lent" by Tyndale, can be purchased for \$2.99 at *cokesbury.com*.

A message from Sue Kemp, adult ministries director

The spring session of TNT (**Tuesday Nights Together**) will begin Tuesday, February 7 with fellowship and snacks from 5:30-5:55pm and classes at 6pm. Watch for registration information in The Scoop, February Transformation Times, weekly bulletins and at the Information Center soon.

A message from Donna Gregory, early education director

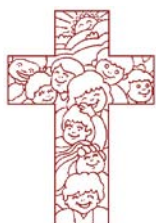
During the month of December we spent three weeks on **favorite stories of the Bible**. Our crafts, story time, snacks, songs, etc. were all based on stories such as creation, Moses, Jonah, Zacchaeus, the birth of Jesus, feeding the 5,000, and many more. We purchased several Fisher Price nativity playsets, and it was wonderful watching the children have fun while learning the story of the birth of Christ.

I was so proud of the children who showed their love and concern for others by bringing toys for the **Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (REAP)** and **Community Assistance Council (CAC)** and also hats, socks and mittens for Della Lamb. We have very loving, sharing, and caring families here in our center!



Our *Fruit of the Spirit* for January is self-control. "For the grace of God...teaches us...to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives" Titus 2:1-12.

LOGOS Ministry ~ Where everyone is a child of God



February 1 - April 18

WEDNESDAYS from 5- 7:30pm for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The evening will include these activities each week:

- Recreation
- Supper and Group Fun
- Worship Time
- Bible Study

Weekly themes include Disney, Polar Express, Fireworks in February, Mardi Gras, Crazy Hat, Fun @ the Fair, Kings & Queens, Careers, Happy Easter, Rainforest and Hawaiian Luau.

Fees: 11-week session ~ \$45.00; additional children in same family ~ \$35.00. Please don't let the cost keep you from enrolling your children. Contact Darci Willis (816-737-5951) or Andrea McMurry (816-763-8444) about scholarships.

We can provide transportation from the after school program at Santa Fe, Truman or Dobbs and may be able to arrange rides from other locations if necessary. Call the church office at 816-763-8444 to enroll or for more information.

Staff

Lead Pastor: Londia Granger Wright
 Pastoral Assistant: Bobbie Stone
 Children: Shari Simmermon
 Youth: Jason Dattilo
 Adult: Sue Kemp
 Missions: Gayle Ledgerwood and Mandy McConico
 Worship: Linda Gunter
 Communications: Angela Fleming
 Office: Andrea McMurry
 Facilities: Herman Richter
 Early Education: Donna Gregory
 Music: Keith Curington

Our Mission:

To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision:

Invite, Grow, Serve.

What's Inside?

Page 1: Children's Christmas Celebration

Page 2: A Word from Pastor Lonia

Page 3: January calendar of events

Page 4: Ministry updates from our staff

Page 5: Ministry updates continued

Page 6: New member and new Children's Director

Welcome New Member!

Welcome to Carol Goodall who joined December 25.



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit 6165

9420 James A. Reed Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64138
Phone ~ (816) 763-8444

Website: www.stlukeskc.org
E-mail: stlukeskc@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Welcome Shari Simmermon — New Children's Director

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce the hiring of Shari Simmermon as our new Children's Director, effective Sunday, January 8.

Shari is co-teacher in a Head Start room for two year olds at Operation Breakthrough, a not-for-profit pre-school in downtown Kansas City. Previously she taught at a Head Start pre-school for three and four year olds in St. Joseph.

Shari is a lifelong United Methodist, serving as nursery coordinator and teacher at Avondale United Methodist Church (UMC). In 2009 she began helping a new church start named Northland UMC, where she is nursery coordinator and welcomes new members.

Shari is a board member of Youthology, a Missouri UM Conference program that helps youth develop their faith journeys through community service, travel and studying church history. She is project coordinator for the BackSnack program, Vacation Bible School coordinator and sponsor for the Conference Council for Youth Ministries (CCYM) for high school student mission trips and Confirmation retreats. She has a passion for helping those in need.

Shari earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Avila University. She has two daughters (19 and 16), two sons (14 and 11) and two grandchildren.

