

**God's Vision:  
To be a thriving ministry in the community.**



# The Spirit of St. Luke

## Merry



## Christmas



**December  
2010**



The newsletter of  
St. Luke Lutheran  
Church, an evangelical  
community in Christ.

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**Pastor**  
Margaret Herz-Lane

**Church Secretary**  
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### St. Luke Leaders 2010

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Steven Mentzer, Vice  
President  
Lisa Kleinwort, Treasurer  
John Welker, Controller  
Rosalie Most, Secretary  
James Ward, Education  
Jeff Vigilante, Fellowship  
Luke Andrzejewski, Property  
Eric Haupt, Youth  
Carol Conroy, Evangelism  
Shirley Schoenberger,  
Worship & Music

**Ministries Needing Leaders**  
Stewardship  
Community Ministries

**Our mission.  
in a nutshell:**

**SHARE!**

...the Good News

**EQUIP!**

...for ministry

**ACCOMPLISH!**

...God's purpose for our church,  
family and community

Left to right: The Rev. Wolfgang Herz-Lane, Rev. Margaret Herz-Lane, Ashley and Kyle Lane Family friend, Steven Jimenez and Josef Herz-Lane

***“And Mary said,  
‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.’ “ Luke 1:46***

Mary is excited and she certainly has a right to be. God is doing something new in the world; Mary, a young teenager, is a part of what God is bringing into being.

Mary's cousin Elizabeth is excited too and like Mary, God is using her in God's mission of salvation for the world.

Elizabeth is the exact opposite of Mary, old and far beyond her child bearing years. To quote a line from a musical comedy of the 1950's " They're either too young or too old." not the ones that you or I might select for such a mission. When we examine the scriptures, time and time again God's choices are not who or what we would choose: a stable as a birthplace for the Son of God or an execution on a cross as a means of proclaiming forgiveness and restoration between God and humankind. I do not think we would have planned things that way.

Mary and Elizabeth are reminders for us this Advent of the joy and excitement of knowing that God's mission: God's plan for reconciliation with the world includes all of us. For we know, by their example, that there is no one who is "either too young or too old" to be part of God's mission. We have all been blessed with the Good News of Jesus Christ; therefore, let us, like Mary, bear our Lord into the world.

Advent 2010

Pr. Margaret E. Herz-Lane



### Welcome: Reverend Margaret Herz-Lane

She was born and raised in Chicago, IL. She graduated from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa in 1969 she got a BA in Art and French. Following her graduation Margaret worked for Augustana Academy in Canton, South Dakota from 1969-1971; then Luther College, Decorah, Iowa from 1971-1973 as a Head Resident and Counselor for freshmen students.

In 1973, she moved to Teaneck, New Jersey where she attended the Art Student League in NYC from 1973-1977 and worked for Luther College of the Bible and Liberal Arts in Teaneck as Admissions Director.

In 1977, she entered the Master of Divinity degree program at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was ordained in June 1981 in the Minnesota Synod for the New Jersey Synod. Pastor Margaret began serving at Grace Lutheran Church in Camden, New Jersey where she celebrated her 29<sup>th</sup> year of ordination and service to the Camden Community.

Pastor Margaret is married to our recently installed bishop of the DE-MD Synod, the Rev. Wolfgang Herz-Lane. They met in Camden and were married in 1983. They have two sons, Kyle 25 and Josef (*pronounced Yo-sef*) 22 and one cat. Kyle was married in October 2009 and he and his wife, Ashley are expecting their first child in January 2011. Pastor Margaret will be a first time grandma!

Pastor has served on many boards and committees. She has distinguished herself and commitment to the gospel with a passionate work through Grace Lutheran in North Camden.



### Weekly Email?

Do you get the weekly email? Want the newsletter in your inbox? Email [info@LutheranNeighbor.org](mailto:info@LutheranNeighbor.org)!

### Council Meeting Minutes

The Inn at St. Luke's will begin the first Sunday of Advent. The donation will be \$40 per window. The cost is \$40 per window can either be a single donation or multiple donations that total \$40.

Steve Mentzer has a list of Stewardship programs that are available through the ELCA. Currently, the Stewardship Committee chair is still vacant. It is hoped that both a chair person and members for the Stewardship Committee can be recruited by midyear 2011. Consideration will also be given to conducting "temple talks" that encourage people to share stories about stewardship.

An official installation date in early January 2011 will be selected for Pastor Margaret Herz-Lane's installation as pastor of St. Luke. The date will be announced as soon as it can be confirmed. (*The date of January 9, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. has been selected.*)

Efforts will be made to move forward with the concept of establishing a Mutual Ministry Committee, and Pastor Herz-Lane has requested that the congregation pray for her one day a week.

Committee reports as well as proposals for use of Schnabel funds are being completed for presentation at the Congregational Meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Several vendors have been identified that could complete needed repair work on the church organ, but additional assessments will be completed prior to any work being scheduled.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Cumberland has requested that St. Luke consider being a prayer partner with them.

Council members agreed that it would be beneficial to gain clarification of programs that Thrivent provides for its members.

Since Christmas is on a weekend day this year, the worship service schedule is being planned to ensure that needs of the congregation are met. Efforts will be made to adhere to the normal worship schedule while also providing special worship services to celebrate Christmas.



### 2010 Church Directories

are available in the back of the church.

Pastor Herz-Lane provided an overview of her pastoral activities since assuming her role as pastor of St. Luke. Activities included but were not limited to: visits to Council members and shut-ins, community meetings, area conference for ELCA, attendance at the Bishop's leadership day, and participation in Bible study groups.

Eric Haupt reported that the next national youth group gathering will again be held in New Orleans in 2012. A fund raiser is being planned to assist youth to attend this meeting. More information will follow in the near future.

The fourth reading of the budget was completed in preparation for the congregational meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### The Real St. Nick

"A vast multitude was imprisoned in every place," wrote an eyewitness. "The prisons – prepared for murderers and robbers – were filled with bishops, priests, and deacons ... so there was no longer room for those condemned of crimes."

You'd hardly expect to find old St. Nick in jail. But St. Nicholas is more than a children's Christmas legend. He was flesh and blood, a prisoner for Christ, bishop of the Mediterranean city of Myra.

What do we know about the real St. Nicholas? He was born, ancient biographers tell us, to wealthy parents in the city of Patara about 270 A.D. He was still young when his mother and father died and left him a fortune.

As a teen-ager, Nicholas' humility was already evident. He had heard about a family destitute and starving. The father had no money for food, much less the dowry needed to marry off his three daughters. He was ready to send his oldest girl into the streets to earn a living as a prostitute.

Under the cover of night, Nicholas threw a bag of gold coins through the window of their humble dwelling. In the morning the father discovered the gold. How he rejoiced: his family was saved, his daughter's honor preserved, and a dowry for her marriage secured. Some time after, Nicholas secretly provided a dowry for the second daughter. Still later for the third.

But on the third occasion, the girls' father stood watching. As soon as the bag of gold thudded on the floor, he chased after the lad till he caught him. Nicholas was mortified to be discovered in this act of charity. He made the father promise not to tell anyone who had helped his family. Then Nicholas forsook his wealth to answer a call to the ministry.

At the nearby city of Myra a bishop supervised all the churches of the region. When the bishop died, the bishops and ministers from other cities and villages – Nicholas among them – gathered to choose a successor.

Nicholas was in the habit of rising very early and going to the church to pray. This morning an aged minister awaited him in the sanctuary. "Who are you, my son?" he asked.

"Nicholas the sinner," the young minister replied. "And I am your servant."

"Come with me," the old priest directed. Nicholas followed him to a room where the bishops had assembled. The elderly minister addressed the gathering. "I had a vision that the first one to enter the church in the morning should be the new bishop of Myra. Here is that man: Nicholas."

Indeed they did choose him as bishop. Nicholas was destined to lead his congregation through the worst tribulation in history.

In A.D. 303, the Roman Emperor Diocletian ordered a brutal persecution of all Christians. Those suspected of following the Lord were ordered to sacrifice to pagan gods. Nicholas and thousands of others refused.

Ministers, bishops, and lay people were dragged to prison. Savage tortures were unleashed on Christians all over the empire. Believers were fed to wild animals. Some were forced to fight gladiators for their lives while bloodthirsty crowds screamed for their death. Women suffered dehumanizing torment. Saints were beaten senseless, others set aflame while still alive.

Continued on p. 4

## Every Week at St. Luke

### Sunday

Christian Education

9-9:45 am, downstairs classrooms

Worship!! Traditional

10-11 am, Church

Sun. Choir Rehearsal

11 am, Music Room

H.S. Youth Group

7-8:30 pm, UFH

Narcotics Anonymous

8-9 pm, LFH

### Monday

Alcoholics Anonymous

7-8 pm, LFH

### Tuesday

Bible Study

10-11 am, ALC

Tae Kwon Do

6-8 pm, UFH

Bible Study

7pm, ALC

Focus Mentoring

7-9 pm, LFH

### Wednesday

Narcotics Anonymous

8-9 pm, LFH

### Thursday

Alcoholics Anonymous

10-11 am, LFH

Tae Kwon Do

6-8 pm, UFH

Focus Mentoring

7-9 pm, LFH

### Friday

Alcoholics Anonymous

8-9 pm, LFH

### Saturday

Sat. Choir Rehearsal

3:30-4:45, Church

Worship!!

Healing & Praise

5-6 pm, Church

Alcoholics Anonymous

6:30-7:30 pm, LFH

### Location Key:

UFH= Upper Fellowship Hall

LFH = Lower Fellowship Hall

ALC = Adult Learning Center

Continued from p. 3

## The Real St. Nick –continued

Yet persecution couldn't stamp out Christianity. Rather it spread. Third Century leader Tertullian observed, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."

Those who survived Diocletian's torture chambers were called "saints" or "confessors" by the people, because they didn't forsake their confession that Jesus Christ is Lord. Nicholas was one of these.

Finally, after years of imprisonment, the iron doors swung open and Bishop Nicholas walked out, freed by decree of the new Emperor Constantine. As he entered his city once more, his people flocked about him. "Nicholas! Confessor!" they shouted. "Saint Nicholas has come home."

The bishop was beaten but not broken. He served Christ's people in Myra for another thirty years. Through the prayers of this tried and tested soldier of faith, many found salvation and healing. Nicholas participated in the famous Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. He died on December 6, about 343, a living legend, beloved by his whole city.

St. Nick of yuletide fame still carries faint reminders of this ancient man of God. The color of his outfit reflects the red of bishop's robes. "Making a list, checking it twice," probably recalls the old saint's lectures to children about good behavior. Gifts secretly brought on Christmas eve bring to mind his humble generosity to the three daughters.

Yet if he were alive today, this saint would humbly deflect attention from himself. No fur-trimmed hat and coat, no reindeer and sleigh or North Pole workshop. As he did in life centuries ago, Bishop Nicholas would point people to his Master.

"I am Nicholas, a sinner," the old saint would say. "Nicholas, servant of Christ Jesus."



## Caring and Service at St. Luke

Our prayers and sympathy go to the families of Julia Callan and Thomas Weese, Lucie Cassedy Rosenthal and Donald Fitzgibbons, Charles Kreafler, and Joseph Hampton

## Birthdays of our Shut-Ins

12-15 Mr. Jack Jansen  
2513 Creighton Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21234-7011

12-24 Mrs. Edna Melzer  
Good Samaritan Nursing Center  
Room 417  
1601 E. Belvedere Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21239-3004

## Birthdays for December

12/01 Chinchilla, Jose  
12/02 Reeder Paula  
12/07 Phillips\* Isabelle  
12/09 Jordan, III James  
12/09 Brittingham, Nan  
12/10 Cochran, Vincent\*  
12/13 White,\* Noel  
12/13 Mathews, Jessica  
12/15 Jansen, Jack  
12/16 Rodgers, Susan

12/17 Sherman, Sr.,\* Chris  
12/18 Chinchilla, Amanda  
12/20 Merriken\*, Jack  
12/21 DeBord, Brian  
12/23 Williams, Dana  
12/24 Melzer, Edna  
12/25 DeBord, Donna  
12/27 Mathews, Don  
12/30 Zimmerman, Adam



## St. Luke News and Information

**Men and Women's Luncheons** — There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the church for two weekends before the luncheon. All are invited!

**Christmas Luncheon** — December 8th at 11:30a.m. at the Fisherman's Exchange. All are invited. Sign up sheet in the back of the church.

**9am and 10am Nursery** is for small children. Led by Director Mindy Hollifield. Secure and reliable.

### 10am Tuesday Bible Study !

The book of Luke! Meet in Adult Learning Center. Enter Woodhome office doors! Open to all! Come and be refreshed ! This Bible study is for beginners, newbies, old friends!

**Saturday Choir meets at 4pm each week. / Sunday Choir at 11am**

**9am Women's Bible Study** is for all women, especially moms with kids in the nursery. Check out the Women's Devotional Bible available to you! *Led by Carol Conroy*

**High School Youth** meets every Sunday at 7pm in the Upper Hall with Mr. Eric Haupt.

**9am Lutheranism 101.** A beginners course for some and a refresher course for others. Meet in the Adult Learning Center. Led by James Ward and Joe Benham

**Koffee Klatch will be the 2nd and 4th Sundays.**

**Brick Orders for Courtyard ongoing!** Forms in the back of the church. Next order - December 2010.

**Newsletter Deadlines** January Newsletter deadline will be November 28th.

### Fall Office Hours

The Office is closed on Friday. Karen Goodrich is generally in the Church Office Monday through Thursday, 9:30am to 2pm.

### Usher Schedule and reminder

**USHER REMINDER:** When you take the attendance count each week, please record it in the book. Someone from each team should be assigned to do this.

### Usher Schedule

#### December 2010

Bo Cochran, Aaron Egner, Zach Egner, Stacie Miller

#### January 2011

Jack Walters, Janice Walters, Fred Hobine, Ruth Hobine

### Altar Flowers

Call the church office to get the date you would like. Flowers are \$17 per vase.

*St. Luke  
Food Pantry*

### **Food Pantry needs donations!**

*Thank you to all that contributed to the food pantry! Items needed: Jelly, peanut butter, tuna, noodles, cereal, juices, canned fruit & canned meat. We cannot accept food items that are near or past the expiration date - please check. You can also send in care products such as soap, shampoo & lotions etc.*

### **Food Pantry**

NEW HOURS:

Wednesday ONLY

10—11:00am

Carol Conroy of Evangelism will help people during this hour.



## St. Luke Thank You

Dear Members of St. Luke,

*"If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."* –Matthew 10:42

These words of Jesus describe the blessing of giving to others, and are certainly applicable to those who give to the less fortunate at Augsburg Lutheran Home and Village. Thank you for your gift of \$1,787.48 to our residents. (This was raised during Lent 2010.) As previously active church members, our residents often think of the joy they experienced through the ministry and fellowship of their churches. Continuing that connection through gifts such as yours is a true blessing to our residents.

We want to let you know how grateful we all are for your generosity. The residents of Augsburg added you to their prayers and ask the Lord's support and blessing on all that you do.

In His Name, Glenn Scherer, Executive Director.

St. Luke Family,

It's been almost a year since I moved to Washington State, which seems hard to believe. So much can happen in a year!

I hope the new school year has gotten off to a good start. I'm sure that means new church classes and Bible studies as well.

I recently started work on my masters in Nursing Education. I still work on the floor full time and will continue to do so, but it's options for the future.

Love you all, God Bless – Hannah Jones

Dear Friends

Thank you for all the cards, notes, calls, e-mails and especially the prayers after my recent fall. What a joy it is to have such a wonderful caring Church family. Words cannot express how good it feels to know you care.

God Bless, Dolores Brittingham

## Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 5pm  
Christmas Eve Carols 9:30pm  
Candlelight Service 10pm

Christmas Day 10am  
Christmas Day Carols and Prayers 5pm



## St. Luke Health Ministries:

We pray that you and your loved ones experience God's gifts of peace and wholeness as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child! This special time of the year finds us with little free time. We get busy with the additional activities at church, all of the preparation activities, family gatherings, and parties at work and with friends. As we think about these many activities, we are mindful of holiday **indulging and drinking**.

The serious issues related to alcoholism are difficult to talk about during any time; yet alcoholism is a real problem in our personal and family lives. Alcohol use and misuse is involved in family conflict and painful relationships, work related problems, and many thousands of deaths every year. The Bible encourages us to limit our alcohol use, and stay in control of it (Eph. 5:18, 1 Tim. 3:3). At the same time, Scripture gives us confidence that with God's help alcoholism can be conquered (Ps. 103:1-5, Mt 9:12, Heb. 12:1-17, 1 John 1:1-10).

It is important to remember that alcoholism is a **progressive disease** that affects the drinker as well as his/her family and friends, but that **help is available**. The church has resources to help you. In addition Alcoholics Anonymous can help you if you have a drinking problem, or if someone you know has a problem with alcohol. Reaching for support is not a sign of weakness: it takes a lot of strength to start back on the road to wholeness.

Please let us know if we can be of any help to you or your family.

Health Ministries I.C.A.R.E., Inc.

Memorial Brick Paver Form  
St. Luke Lutheran Church

***A Lasting Gift for Thriving Ministry in the Community***

St. Luke is pleased to begin the renovation of the church courtyard including sidewalks, steps and ramp to the church. This project is important and exciting because it will greatly improve the accessibility to ministry at St. Luke. 4 x 8 inch bricks will be part of our sidewalk design. What a special way to memorialize loved ones, both living and deceased. What a meaningful way to remember and to acknowledge special occasions such as the birth of a child, baptism, wedding, graduation and other important commemorative events.

Please complete a separate form for EACH brick. Attach check for minimum \$50 per brick payable to **“St Luke Lutheran Church”** memo **“brick.”** Mail to Church office or put in a Pew LOVE envelope for offering plate:

**St. Luke Lutheran Church**

**Attn: Karen Goodrich**

**7001 Harford Road**

**Baltimore, Maryland 21234**

**410.444.5171**

**LutheranNeighbor.org**

You may choose a message of 1, 2 or 3 lines in length (no difference in cost) and up to 20 characters per line. (Our engraver automatically centers each line.) Each box should contain no more than one letter or punctuation mark. **Leave a blank box to indicate a space between words.** You may use upper and lower case letters. Please print neatly.

<b>Line 1</b>																				
<b>Line 2</b>																				
<b>Line 3</b>																				

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL COST: Minimum \$50 per brick (you can make a donation greater than \$50)**

[Brick Orders for Courtyard ongoing!](#) Forms in the back of the church. Next order - December 2010.

Financial Ministry Update as of September

YTD 2010	Giving	Expenses	Over/Short
Actual	101,610	- 129,912	= (-28,302)

To St. Luke Church,  
 Thank You, Thank you, Thank you!  
 For all the physical and financial support that you have given to this church throughout the years.  
 You are a blessing to this church and all of God's children are appreciated.

God says it best: 2 Corinthians 9:7-10 and Malachi 3:10c:

*"Let each one give as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his own heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient. As it is written, He scatters abroad; He gives to the poor; His deeds of justice and goodness and kindness and benevolence will go and endure forever! And God Who provides seed to the sower and bread for the eater will also provide and multiply your sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness."*  
*"May God continue to open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."*

So we the Council say thank you for all that you do. Doing what God asks comes first. We pray that God's will is to be done in our finances because God is the one Who can do all that we dare, dream, hope or ask for. He is also the one Who can keep harm from us. We are praying that God hears our cry for help at St. Luke over all situations. Would you please continue to pray with us. Thanks be to God Who cares for us affectionately and cares about us watchfully. In Jesus name.

**ST. LUKE  
 LUTHERAN CHURCH**

7001 Harford Road  
 Baltimore, MD 21234

An Evangelical  
 Community in Christ!  
[www.LutheranNeighbor.org](http://www.LutheranNeighbor.org)



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