



The Acts of St. Lucas

135th Anniversary 1886-2021

NOVEMBER 2021



2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN TAKES PLACE IN NOVEMBER

My Giving to God's Work at St. Lucas

The St. Lucas stewardship campaign takes place the first three Sundays of November. Each weekend we will hear a brief message (briefer than the monthly messages) with Bible verses. Each message will end with open-ended questions for the congregation to ponder as we approach Commitment Sunday on November 21. We will hand out Estimate of Giving cards for 2022 on the 21st and ask folks to fill them out and place them in the offering plate. Those who can't be there that weekend will be mailed their cards and asked to return them in person or by mail. Thank you for our intentional stewardship at St. Lucas. The Lord does call us to be thoughtful about our giving.



Stage view: We had in the neighborhood of 80 people who joined us in the gym for the 135th anniversary dinner on Oct. 31. For more pictures of the anniversary dinner see inside.

CHECK OUT THE NEW ST. LUCAS WEBSITE Thanks to Gwen Steele (daughter of Georgia), St. Lucas has an entirely revamped website. The web address is the same. Click on this link to check it out: www.stlucastoledo.org.

PASTOR BILLMEIER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT DATE At the Annual Meeting on October 17 Pastor Billmeier announced a retirement date of Pentecost Sunday in 2024, so be sure to pick up your annual report to read his report and his recommendation for the pastoral transition. You will find your report in the narthex, if you missed the annual meeting. Look for your name on the label. We will mail or drop off those that are not picked up by Nov. 30.



Since 135th anniversary Sunday was celebrated on Reformation Day (Oct. 31), the Luther seal banner was part of the procession (at left). The 135th anniversary committee made sure the altar was decked out with seasonal mums for the celebration.



PASTORAL ACTS

Pastor Martin E. Billmeier

THE NEW CANDLES ON THE ALTARS

As I have announced that I believe God is calling both me and St. Lucas to a new adventure beginning Pentecost Sunday of 2024, I call your attention to a new candle on the main church altar. There has been a votive candle vessel in one of the sacristy cupboards the whole 27 years I have been here. It has the symbol of the old green LBW hymnal (Lutheran Book of Worship) on it, and is tinted purple. To my knowledge we have never used it in my time at this congregation. I have no idea where this candle holder came from or its original use. Well, the Spirit has led me to its new use. I am placing it on the main altar and we will light it for each worship service. The candle will be lit, so that when you see it on the altar you will pray for the transition process at St. Lucas that has begun now, and will last until Pentecost 2024. The lower church altar will have the candle at left, signifying the same prayer intention. I believe that we must bathe everything we do in prayer. I know that the call committee that brought me here prayed earnestly for God's guidance, so let us pray fervently, too.



Every time you see the candle (and other times), please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will raise up just the right people to serve on the transition team and the call committee for this process. Please also pray for church council as it leads. Pray for the congregation as it discerns God's will. Pray that God will send just the right 8th pastor to St. Lucas. Let us agree in prayer for a smooth pastoral transition. Then let us trust that God will work in our processes.

I am a great believer in the power of prayer intentions. The new candles on the altars will serve as reminders of our intention for the transition at St. Lucas. May God bless us all as we move into the future that God has in mind for us.

RECEIVED THE WEEK AFTER OUR ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Dear Pastor Martin and the people of God at St. Lucas,

It was a joy to worship with you on Reformation Sunday. Thank you for the gift card to Dave's Running Store. I will put it to good use. May God continue to bless you in this anniversary year.

Bless you,

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

CINDY'S CORNER DONATION NEEDS



St. Lucas Cindy's Corner is putting out a call for donations of new long johns (any size) and blankets. Please donate only new items. You may bring your donations to

church and place them in the narthex, or drop them off during the week to the St. Lucas office.





Acolyte Annette Mason stands ready to serve at the beginning of the service.



There was an in person attendance of 72 with 10 joining us via live stream. In a pandemic year we are grateful to meet at all.



The choir sang *Christ the Sure Foundation* arr. Theron Kirk



The Eucharistic celebration (above) and recessional to the hymn *All Are Welcome* (below)



Bishop Beaudoin preached on the church's "500 year rummage sale" alluding to Phyllis Tickle's book *The Great Emergence*. What new thing is God bringing about in this era?



At right: Sharon Stofan presented the bishop, an avid runner, with a scrip program \$100 gift card for Dave's Running World as a gift for preaching our anniversary service. **At left:** Pastor Billmeier cut the first piece of chocolate anniversary cake and Angie Basilius did the honors with the white cake **Thanks 135th Committee:** Sharon Stofan, chair; Mike Biscay, Dan Markley, John Mensing, Diane Porter, Ken Sikorski





ACTS OF EDUCATION

BY SHARON SCHAEFER, SUNDAY SCHOOL CORRESPONDENT
LOVE, LEARN, AND SERVE GOD

This month's article is a reprint from one Sharon wrote in 2010. It's still relevant, isn't it?

For Such a Time as This

In Esther 4, Mordecai says to Esther, "Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this." So taking off on those famous Bible words:

- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to be a caretaker for your friend at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to help our community garden efforts at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to write a symphony in honor of St. Lucas at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to use your singing voice at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to use your speaking or writing at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to introduce your family to different programs St. Lucas offers so they may know the sharing of the spirit with others at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to supply cookies, fruit and coffee on Sunday mornings at St. Lucas at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to be the editor of the ACTS at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to be the village that helps raise children at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to help the neighborhood by working in the Thrift Shop at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to minister to the sick and homebound by being a visiting elder at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to teach others about the love you have received from God at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to do anonymous, kind acts for others at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to get a sign for the St. Lucas Community Garden at this time,
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to give an open-hearted welcome to the returning soldier from Iraq at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to prepare the altar for communion at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to be the Pastor of St. Lucas at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to be the Organist/Pianist/Choir Accompanist at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to be the Choir Director at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you were meant to be a gatekeeper at worship services to make sure people now they are welcome at this time.
- ⇒ Maybe you are in prayer for specific injuries and illnesses of suffering people at this time.

"We've been positioned on the planet for such a time as this"

-Beth Moore

You see that this list can go on and on and on. Can you also see that this effort to continue to make our church a welcoming community is not always easy but worth it for such a time as this? Can you see that everything each of us does for such a time as this is very valuable and honors our Creator? Using the words "I was meant to _____" will change your response to these words.

St. Lucas Sunday School Purpose Welcome & Statement

All children are welcome to St. Lucas Sunday School to learn about building relationships with God and people, enjoy Bible stories, participate in art projects, and have fun and experience sharing/caring with each other.

What's Different?

During a church festival like All Saints Sunday, some new things happen in worship. For example, you might sing certain songs. You may light candles. Different colors may be used for the paraments, which are the pieces of cloth on the altar and other places. Using the categories below, describe what's different about your church service this Sunday.

Music _____

Colors _____

Candles _____

Pastor's stole _____

Paraments on altar _____

Mood of service _____

Prayers _____

Rituals _____



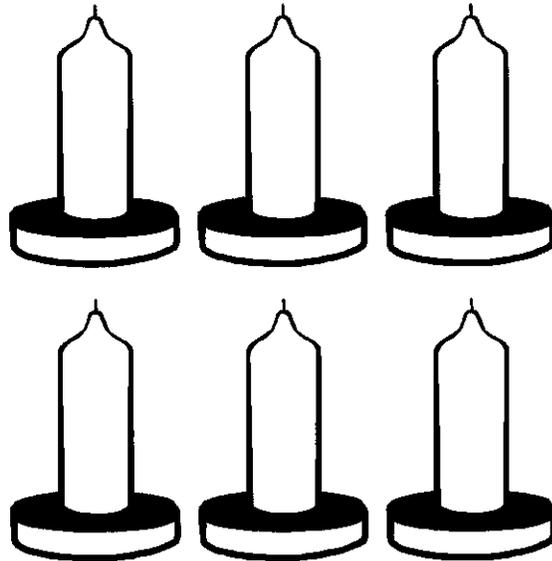
READER

All Saints Sunday

- Today is **All Saints Sunday**.
- On All Saints Sunday, we **light candles** to remember saints who have died.
- All Saints Sunday also honors Christian saints who are **still living**.

Remembrance Candles

Below are some unlit candles. Light these candles by drawing flames. On each candle, write the name of a living Christian saint you want to honor or the name you want to remember of a saint who has died.



What is a Saint?

In order to learn how a saint can be described, crack the code for this sentence.

_____ n t _____ r _____ p _____ o p _____
 ▲ ○ ● ▲ ○ ● ● □ ●
 _____ v _____ n g or d _____ d, who
 □ ● ● ● ● ○
 b _____ v _____ n J _____ v _____
 ● □ ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ▲ ▲
 _____ n d _____ v _____ f _____
 ○ □ ● ● ● □ ● ●
 _____ o r d _____ n g to h _____
 ○ ★ ★ ● ● ● ▲
 t _____ h _____ n g .
 ● ○ ★ ●

A = ○ C = ★ E = ● I = ● L = □ S = ▲

Which is More Saintly?

Think about three saints in your life. Write their names in the boxes. Then write words that describe them underneath their names. Lots of descriptive words are provided, and you can use your own words, too.

	Willing	Funny	POLITE	HONEST	
KIND	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	RESPECTFUL Caring
Gentle	_____	_____	_____	_____	
BOLD	_____	_____	_____	_____	
	LOUD	HELPFUL	Faithful		

Time for Reflection

On All Saints Sunday, we think about what it means to be a Christian. Think about these questions and write your answer to each one.

One thing I learned about All Saints Sunday is... Being a Christian means that I can...

The people in life who are most important to me are...

It's important to live like a saint because...



ALL SAINTS
 KIDS
 SUNDAY
 PAGE



by volunteer Joy Huener

CINDY'S CORNER MINISTRIES

NOVEMBER 2021

Cindy would like to remind people who want to eat at Cindy's Corner, that everyone must have their COVID Vaccination card with them. If you still need your COVID vaccine, Rite Aid across the street will administer the vaccine at no cost and no ID needed.

Cindy's Corner assisted the 135th anniversary committee with Oktoberfest at the beginning of October. We served brats, hot dogs, sauerkraut and cabbage, German potato salad, chips, cupcakes for dessert with sodas and water. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Our Angie Basilius oversaw the bingo games. The prizes were phone stand, cleaning supplies, puzzle books and other small items. The kids had a craft table, overseen by Manuela. Emmitt and Shandonna provided the music, as did Ron Lang. And of course, they were all marvelous! We gave out free tickets and every hour, 12 PM, 1 PM, and 2 PM, a ticket was called. The winner received a \$25 gift certificate from Wal-Mart. We also had a 50/50 raffle. The winner was our own Pastor Billmeier. Pastor gave up his prize, so they could draw again for a winner. What a wonderful thing to do!

The 135th committee arranged for a petting zoo. They had a horse, one goat, one sheep, one alpaca, a cow and several rabbits and chickens. Everyone loved it, especially the children! Cindy Kirk gave out prizes to all the children, such as candy and small toys. Fun was had by all who attended! A huge thank you to all who volunteered or donated prizes or food.

A huge thank you to Angie Basilius, Chris Lease and Brian Brushaber and Sherry Lance for preparing all the food, and Ken Sikorski for grilling the brats and hot dogs.

This month's family member is Steve Herman. Steve has been with us for quite some time. He is very friendly and helpful to those around him. Way to go, Steve!



This month's volunteer of the month is LaVonda Rodgers. LaVonda is a very hard-working woman. She helps at St. Lucas Cindy's Corner by picking up and delivering the food every week and taking over another load to St. John's God Squad as well! She is such a blessing to all of us. She works at St. John's God Squad helping with the food program. What would we do without her? When you see LaVonda, tell her how much she is loved and valued!

Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them. Psalm 126:5-6

St. Lucas 135th Anniversary March 21, 1886—March 21, 2021

Anniversary Dinner Photos (We think we got each table!)



Peggy Ramm, Sharon Olmstead and daughter Deb Hurley



Karine Rowell, Mary Good, Deb Reis, Wayne Lemke, Harold & Carol Petoskey



Arienne Custer, her mother Joy Huener, Cindy Kirk, Chris Lease, Norma Ramos-Prater, Suzie Martinez



Cody Bridenstine & Steven Junge, Pat Bair, Pat & Karen Wilson



Jill Hojnacki, Deb Lajeunesse and daughter Kristin Balazs, Annette Mason and daughter Sarah Sigurdson



Matt Berger, Jennifer Ziolkowski & Neil Neukam



Shandonna Flunder, Brandon Moore (grandson of Emmitt), Cindy Kirk, Emmitt Williams, LaVonda Rodgers



Patrick Codden & Gary Shope, John Kern

135th Anniversary Photos



Ron & Susan Lang, Fritz Bloedow, Ed Bloedow, Mike Biscay



David Reedy, Brian & Pam Hoch, Sue White Wendt & Keith Johnson



Jamie & Rob Dauel, Bishop Beaudoin, John Mensing



At far left: St. Lucas strives for inclusivity. We offered chocolate and vanilla cake; At left John Mensing talks animatedly while Bishop Beaudoin and Mary Frances Berger enjoy a laugh; Above Bishop Beaudoin offers the grace while Ken Sikorski looks on. At right Brian Hoch thanks the 135th anniversary committee; Susan Lang & Jill Hojnacki at the food line, the meal was great!



Thanks to all who attended and all who made it happen!

Above: Mary Frances Berger & Faith Wolfram
At far right: Randy Hyter & Fritz Bloedow in the food line (we all agreed the catered meal was delicious). At near right: Hildegard Ruelke with daughter Jennifer



BEA'S VIEW



THANK YOU JESUS FROM ST LUCAS
YOU HAVE BEEN SO GOOD TO US.
THANK YOU FOR BEING SO NEAR
135 YEARS YOU HAVE BLESSED US HERE
Bea

SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS We offer our sympathy and prayers for Becki Kincaid & Amy Herrick at the unexpected death of Becki's mom, Lorraine Kincaid, in Sherwood, Michigan on November 3. Lorraine is also the grandmother of EricaRae Herrick. She was 72 years old and had been married to her husband, Garth, for 53 years.

FUNDRAISER AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN DOWNTOWN for a close relative of **Emmit Williams**, whose severe medical condition requires a specialist at a cost of \$10,000 out of pocket. \$5,000 is already raised. Benefit concert "Simply Shann" Nov. 13, 5-9pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church downtown. Food & fun. Free will donations. Or, donate directly by using a pew envelope at St. Lucas, marking it "Medical Benefit" and dropping it in the offering plate.

CONGRATULATIONS RICK CHARCHOL & JASON



SLOUGH, united in marriage at the St. Lucas altar in a private ceremony on November 6. They will be moving to Palm Springs, CA at month's end, so we will have a brief "Farewell & God-speed" rite at 10:30 on Sunday, Nov. 21.



Welcome New Member

On Sunday, October 24, at the 10:30 service we welcomed into membership Dorothea Etue by letter of transfer. Dorothea is pictured here with her daughter, Yvonne Reed. Welcome Dorothea!

NOVEMBER DARTBALL SCHEDULE

Nov 15 1st St John #2 @ St. Lucas
Nov 29 Trinity @ St. Lucas

St Lucas Garden News

*The days are growing shorter, the nights are turning cold,
The brittle scent of frost rides on the breeze.*

*The calendar reminds us that the year is growing old,
As yellow, orange, and scarlet paint the trees.*

*As winter stalks the garden and birds head for the South,
The garden's final season settles in*

*As winter's chilling blizzards pour from the North Wind's mouth
To mock the Jack O' Lantern's fading grin*

The St. Lucas Community Garden contributed tomatoes, zucchini, eggplant, and green bell peppers to the vegetarian lasagna served at the 135th Anniversary Dinner. The lasagna and the dinner were both declared a success. Since the dinner, the garden has produced a few more tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers before finally succumbing to the frost. Oh, and another 6 pound zucchini was found hiding under the mass of leaves! That's two huge zucchinis from our bed, as well as many smaller ones with yellow summer squash as company.

The colder nights and the first hard frosts are notice that it's time to put the garden to bed for the winter. We'll be removing the spent plants and laying down a layer of mulch to protect and feed the garden over the winter. The garden offers prime opportunities for YOU to enjoy the last of the fall sunshine while getting some healthful outdoor exercise. Contact Mike Biscay (419) 244-2243 or email mbiscay@hotmail.com to join us in putting the garden to bed for the winter. Also, if you have maple, tulip, elm, or any other leaves that aren't oak (which take too long to break down in the beds) please bring a bag or three to provide warm covers for our snoozing beds. Thank you. Autumnally, Mike Biscay

ST. LUCAS PRAYER LIST

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Cindy Kirk, Lorraine Willoughby, Gwen Steele, Mary Good, Christy Lazaris, Barb Beaverson, Lotte Hall, Sally Wing, Jody Steuer, Phil Chambers

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY:

Sandy Polk, Rick Mason

SHUT IN

Bill Granger, Cheryl Ivy Jones, Carl Hischka, Frank Zarnoch, Roger Druckemiller



Sympathy & Prayers

The St. Lucas faith community mourns the death of long time member, **Rose Steinmiller**, on October 28 in Florida. Rose was surrounded by family and under hospice care when she passed. A service took place on Nov. 3 at Walter Funeral Home. May Rose rest in peace in heaven.

We offer our sympathy and prayers for the family of **Michael Walker**, whose funeral Pastor Billmeier conducted on Oct. 27 at Bersticker-Scott Funeral Home. Michael was a first cousin to Karen Flowers and Kathy Jones.

We offer our sympathy and prayers for the family of **Jack Webb II**, whose funeral Pastor Billmeier conducted on Nov. 4 at Bersticker-Scott Funeral Home.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVANTS

4:00 Elder Ted & Marge Rodnicki

9:00 Elder Pat Wilson

10:30 Lector Susan Lang

Elders Georgia Steele

Faith Wolfram

Jill Hojnacki

Patrick Codden

Head Ushers Randy Hyter

Russ Wells

Offering Ushers Sally Ortiz

Pam Hoch

Acolyte Jill Hojnacki

Camera 4pm Steve Seaton

9am Gary Stofan

10:30am Steven Junge



Happy November Birthday

Say a prayer for each of these on their special day.

Jack Gorny	1
Patrick Codden	6
Ken Sikorski	6
Carla Steele	7
Brayden Adkins	10
Rebecca McQueen	10
Deb Hurley	15
Charles Busch	19
Aidan Gage (Kane)	23



HAPPY NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY!

Say a prayer for each of these couples on their special day:

Bob and Sue Alley	25
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THRIFT SHOP SCHEDULE

Every Tue. & Thu. Yvonne Reed & Hildegard Ruelke

Every Tue. Deb Hurley **Every Thu.** Susan Lang

If you at one time volunteered in the Thrift Shop and would like to get back on the schedule, please call Yvonne Reed.

Summer Appeal Gifts

As of November 3, 2021

New Bal. \$ 27,470.00

St. Lucas Cindy's Corner

Gifts/Expenses

Sept 1 Balance	\$ 16,499.43
Receipts	320.00
Disbursements	(1,163.05)
Sept 30 Balance	\$ 15,656.38
Bal. Last Year	3,327.25

GENERAL FUND REPORT

SEP 1 BALANCE	\$(11,619.17)
RECEIPTS	13,673.25
DISBURSEMENTS	(18,334.36)
SEP 30 BALANCE	(16,280.28)
BAL. LAST YEAR	501.86

Applying Bible Principles Stewardship Message

Our giving to God is to be sacrificial.



We want you to know . . . about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 2 Cor. 8:1-2

Describing the Macedonian Christians, Paul wrote, “. . . during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a generosity on their part. For . . . they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond” (2 Cor. 8:2-3).

What does it mean to give beyond our ability? In some ways, it means to discard our treasured calculators and push our giving to the point where the numbers don't add up. It means to give when the proverbial bottom line indicates we shouldn't give. It might also mean to give away not just the luxuries, but also some of life's necessities.

Let's face it — most Christians (including most of us) do not give beyond our ability. Most of us do not give out of proportion to our income. In effect, we claim 1 Corinthians 16:2 as our life's verse concerning giving, where we are admonished to give as God has prospered us or in direct proportion to our income. Make no mistake about it — that's a good pattern for giving, a pattern that every child of God should be following. But sometimes, God calls us to give out of proportion to our income. God calls us to give sacrificially in order that God's kingdom might advance and prosper.

Such giving is unguarded, spontaneous, and uncalculated. This type of giving refuses to count the cost of giving, but instead, counts only the joy of fully obeying how God has directed in our lives. Such giving is frequently lavish and represents an act of love and discipleship. Such giving is exemplified by the widow who gave all that she had (Mark 12) and by the Macedonian Christians.

David Livingston, pioneer missionary to Africa almost two centuries ago, was described as having “sacrificed” his life in service for Christ on that continent. His response is highly relevant to our living and our giving:

Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of the great debt owing to our God which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own reward of healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege . . . when we remember the great sacrifice which He made who left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us.

As you consider your giving, are you giving less than your ability, according to your ability, or beyond your ability?



ST. LUCAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 WALBRIDGE AVENUE
TOLEDO, OHIO 43609
419-243-8189

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE HANDLE PROMPTLY

NOVEMBER 2021
THE ACTS OF ST. LUCAS NEWSLETTER

Parish Staff

Martin E. Billmeier, Pastor
 Georgia Steele, Office Manager
 Jamie Dael, Organist
 Ron Lang, Choirmaster
 Steve Seaton, Custodian

Church Council

Brian Hoch, President; Jill Hojnacki, Vice-president, Jason Slough, Treasurer; Sharon Stofan, Secretary; Mike Biscay, Fritz Bloedow, Randy Hyter, David Jerman, John Kern, Cindy Kirk, Christy Lazaris, Diane Porter, LaVonda Rodgers, Steve Seaton, Lorraine Willoughby, Pastor Billmeier

Parish Office Information

Tuesday-Friday—9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 Phone: 419-243-8189 Fax: 419-243-8180
 Secretary Email: stlucasooffice@gmail.com
 Pastor Email: pastorstlucas@gmail.com
 Cindy's Corner: 419-724-1908 stlucascindyscorner@gmail.com
 Website: www.stlucastoledo.org

Northwest Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

621 Bright Road, Findlay, Ohio 45840
 1-419-423-3664
 Bishop: Rev. Daniel Beaudoin
 Website: www.nwos-elca.org



Worship & Sunday School Times

Saturdays: 4:00 p.m.
Sundays: 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Sept. to May
Wednesdays: 11:45 a.m.—Wednesday Chapel

The Sacrament of Holy Communion and healing rite are offered at all services.

Mission and Vision

ST. LUCAS PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The people of St. Lucas Lutheran Church invite and welcome everyone to enter and feel God's presence.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. We believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior.
2. We embrace diversity and welcome all unconditionally.
3. We commit to live God's Word and share the Good News.
4. We strive for closer relationship with God and each other.
5. We demonstrate compassion and forgiveness through open hearts and open minds.

****Handicap Accessible Building****

***Elevator Next to Handicap Parking on Walbridge Ave.
 Please come dressed as you are...ALL ARE WELCOME***

AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME - adopted 1999

In accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ St. Lucas welcomes all. By this we mean we extend the radical welcome of Jesus Christ to people of every age, race, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic level, mental health diagnosis, recovery status, education level, or previous religious experience to participate in the sacramental life and work of our congregation.