

THE OUTLOOK

St. Luke's United Church of Christ
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Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor
Nanette Moore,
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Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor
David Lyon & Ralph Koch,
Pastor Emeriti

December 29, 2019



As we turn the last page of the calendar on this decade, it finishes with a flurry! December has been a full and rewarding month on our shared faith journey. Advent worship focused on "Simple Moments of Beauty." With help from our new friend, Sr. Anthony, who we met in our Advent Movie, *The Christmas Tree*, we have become more aware of the beauty of God's presence with us. We have been invited to awaken to that beauty and to grab hold of it for ourselves; to find the place in our hearts where God is waiting for us; to find a sense of peace.

December has also proven another lesson of Sr. Anthony. That is that when we truly find a place of peace it will lead us to serve others. The month has been busy with plenty of opportunities of service for everyone to find their own place. Folks brought gloves, scarves, hats, leggings and sweatpants for the warming tree. Others rang bells—in worship and on parking lots! The choir rehearsed and sang. The Children's Pageant was the effort of over thirty people. Volunteers partnered with Community Service League at the Christmas Store. Special offerings raised \$1,465 for Holiday Helpers, \$536 for the UCC Christmas Offering and \$9,530 for the St. Luke's Christmas Offering. And what about the project the Council shared at the Christmas Eve Service? And, right now we are at \$565 (and still counting) designated to address the critical issue of shelter for those on the street during dangerously cold nights. Did I miss anything? I hope not, because I want to thank and celebrate everyone and every act of service and worship that were faithfully offered by a congregation that continues to amaze me with energy, commitment and creativity.

Yet, it is Howard Thurman who tells us, *"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations to bring peace to the people, to make music in the heart."*

So, the "work of Christmas" doesn't stop as we turn the page and enter into a new decade. It starts here! January carries us into the Season of Epiphany. It is a time when we focus on trying to recognize and follow Christ more deeply, more compassionately, more creatively as the year and decade unfolds.

As we enter the new year through the gate of Epiphany, we will be looking for the ways and places the presence and light of Christ continue to shine forth. Along the way we will discover more of who Christ is and who we are to become in the process of our following his path. We will discover, too, that when we put our hands to the ongoing "work of Christmas," that our lives and our congregation will continue to be a shining light that will make the presence and light of Christ shine forth through our ministry.

I celebrate the year that we have had together at St. Luke's! It is a blessing to have walked with you this year. I look forward to the year to come...and the years after that. It is with joyous anticipation and the fullest assurance of hope that I call us all to wonder "what lies out there for us *next*?"



The family of Evelyn Thomas	Jerry & Judie Brunner	Harold & Winnie Gertz
John Curtis	Nancy Meyer	Rhonda Smart
Jim Lucas	Karen Puhr	Stacie Burks
Coeanna Obermeyer	Helen Koch	Vic Monteleone
Evelyn Fifield	Jason Smart	Jake High
Marguerite Adair	Wini Baker	Brandon Borgman
Julie Filbeck	Rebecca Ash	Alberta Franciskato
Timothy Wilder	Jim Dillie	Burdette Obermeyer
Peace for our World		

May it be understood that any pictures/videos taken during any church event may be used for promotion.
If you are not in agreement with this notify the church office.
The deadline for the next Outlook will be January 20, 2020

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

KID'S CLUB

Inviting all kids in 3rd—5th grade, to join us on the 3rd Sunday of the month for lunch, activities, devotions and fun. We will meet from noon (right after worship) until 1:30 PM. The next meeting of the Kid's Club will be **January 19th.**

ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 26th,
Immediately following worship**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
90th Birthday
CELEBRATION HONORING



Bonnie Borgman

**Sunday, January 26, 2020
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

St. Luke's United Church of Christ
Please RSVP to Crystal Todd
By January 22, 2020

816-529-1706 OR crystto4@att.net

Your presence is your gift for this celebration



Our sympathy is extended to Larry Thomas and family upon the death of his mom, Evelyn Thomas, who died on November 28, 2019

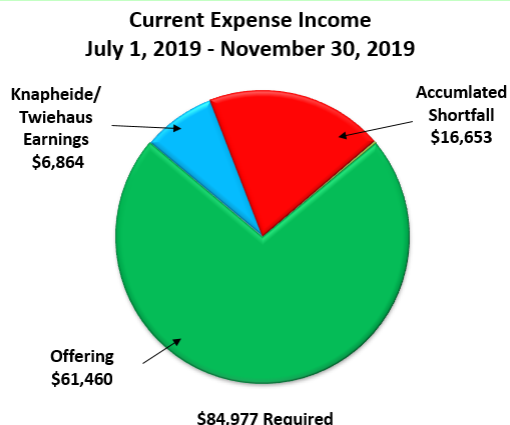
Thank You! A big thank you to all that helped with ringing bells for Salvation Army. It was a great success. Larry Paul



St. Luke's Memorial Fund for Church Mission was established in 1985 with a principal amount of \$10,000. Through 2019, \$151,935 has been given to others from earnings of this fund. These donations have been used in a variety of ways:

- Funding UCC related institutions such as Emmaus Homes, Steppingstone, Blue Springs Terrace
- Helping local missions such as Community Services League, Micah Ministry, ICAN, and others
- Helping individuals such as Faith Wildschuetz
- Helping world missions such as Tilda, India School of nursing and Disaster Relief
- Helping the Samoan Church

When needs are identified, this fund helps St. Luke's to be able to respond. In 1988 and 1989, earnings from this fund were used to help the Jackson County Temporary Shelter. And now, thirty years later, this fund is once again helping provide shelter to those in need.



Through November, our Current Expense offerings including Sunday School totaled \$61,460. The Knapheide/Twiehaus Fund contributed an additional \$6,864 toward our Current Expenses. These contributions resulted in a shortfall of \$16,653 when compared to our budgeted Current Expenses. We appreciate and thank you for your support of St. Luke's.