



The Epistle

Volume XXXXIII

November 20, 2007

Number 24

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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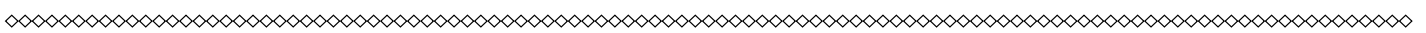
Blest Thanksgiving, Everyone!!

**Worship with us next Sunday,
November 25, 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.**

Scripture: 18:9-14

Sermon: “Justifying Greed vs. Justifying Grace”

Pastor Mark Matheny



Just around the corner...

--- St. Luke's 2007 CHARGE CONFERENCE, 2:30 p.m.,
Sunday, December 2 in the Doyle Masters Chapel



--- SPECIAL 4 p.m. Gatherings
December 2, 9, 16 and 23 (see inside article)

MISSION STATEMENT

“We are becoming a faithful community of disciples
striving to share the heart, mind and hands of Jesus Christ.”

Thanking, not Paying Back

Dear Friends,

One of our great forefathers, Benjamin Franklin, once said...

“To the generous mind the heaviest debt is that of gratitude when it is not in our power to repay it.”

Now, Franklin was not inclined to be very theological, but as Christians we can be. It's not a stretch to acknowledge that God has given us so great a gift that we can never repay the Lord for it. It's the gift of Jesus Christ, God's Son, present with us through the Holy Spirit.

What does this tell us about our Thanksgiving holiday? To paraphrase a favorite chorus (“seek ye first...”),

**THANK YOU FIRST YOUR CREATOR GOD
FOR THE CHRIST, HIS SON,
ALL OTHER THINGS FROM HIS SPIRIT
FLOW TO YOU, AL-LE-LU, ALLELUIA!**

Let's spend some time amidst all the hoopla this year in thanking God for Jesus, the greatest blessing of all!

In service,

...Pastor Mark

“Paul’s Missionary Journeys” A Great Adventure

We fifteen St. Lukers who experienced Greece and Turkey want to share with y'all in a variety of settings. In January, a church-wide Wednesday dinner will be set aside. Beyond that, if your Sunday School class or other group would like to have a presentation, please call the church office for scheduling.

We THANK YOU so much! ...Pastor Mark

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Sanctuary on Tuesday morning, November 27, beginning at 9:30 a.m. There is much to do, and anyone who is interested in helping is welcome to come. *Please join us.*

...Gwynne McKenzie, Worship Committee

Christian Homebuilders Trip

The Christian Homebuilders will go to Calvary Episcopal Church on Wednesday, November 28 to hear the Rhodes Singers' Christmas concert. They will leave the church at 11 AM. Lunch will be served after the concert by Lolo's Table, voted best new Memphis restaurant in 2005. The cost of lunch is \$7.00. Guests are invited to join the group. Sign up in the Christian Homebuilder's class or call **Betty Green** at 753-7762.

HURRAY for Jade McMillan Masters, born to Beth and Michael Masters on Friday, November 16. Proud Granny is Bettye Jo Masters. Mother and Child are already home as of Monday, the 19th.

SYMPATHY

The members of St. Luke's extend sincere sympathy to Mike Smith in the November 13, 2007 death of his mother, Alice Smith; and to the family of IDA PFANSCHMIDT who died November 16, 2007.

Would you or your Sunday School class like to adopt a Neighborhood Centers family for Christmas? If so, please contact **Shirley Bell, 458-7204.**

THANKS to the Stewardship Class for sponsoring two dinners at Wesley Foundation for U of M students.

POINSETTIAS that are placed in our sanctuary at Christmas are some of the loveliest of the decorations, not only because of their color and freshness, but because of the love they represent.

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone, please fill out the form below and return it, along with your payment, to the church office staff. Poinsettias this year are \$13.00 each.

...Gwynne McKenzie, Worship Committee

I/We would like to order _____ poinsettias in honor of:

from _____.

I/We would like to order _____ poinsettias in memory of:

from _____.

MUSIC NOTES

4 @ 4:00 pm

Mark your calendars now for 4 special events on the 4 Sundays of Advent at...4 pm.

It's a wrap! -- Free Gift-wrapping

December 2, 4 pm-- Fellowship Hall

'Silent Night'

Children's musical featuring Cherub, Jubilate and Chorister choirs

December 9, 4 pm--Fellowship Hall

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Featuring music by Chancel, Youth, and Chorister Choirs as well as handbells and instrumentalists.

December 16, 4 pm--Sanctuary

Following the Festival will be a Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings. Reservations requested by Dec. 13-- 452.6262.

Christmas Crafts and Carols

December 23, 4 pm--Fellowship Hall

THE MITTEN TREE

The Mitten Tree for Sherwood Elementary students will be on the second floor (near the Church School Office). Cold weather will be coming. Please help decorate the tree with mittens, gloves, caps, and new or used jackets. Also, there is a need for underwear (boys' sizes 6-10, girls' sizes 6-10) and socks. *Questions?* Contact **Barbara Caldwell**, 323-0919.

THANK YOU!

Our Lifeblood drive yesterday was a success and I wanted to thank everyone who came to the Fellowship Hall to donate. We collected 12 units of whole blood. Each unit, after being separated into its components, has the potential to save 4 lives, or 48 individuals who receive these components. That's really incredible! For those of you who were not able to participate in our drive yesterday, please try to get to a donor center this week. Particularly during the holidays, when all of us are so very busy, our community faces severe blood shortages, so giving at this time of year is especially important.

Look for notices of next year's scheduled drives!

...Carol Counts Likens

REMEMBER ST. LUKE'S IN YOUR WILL!

YOUTH NEWS

Hello everyone! Here's what's going on this week:

Sun., Nov. 25

9:30 - 10:30 - Sunday School

No Evening Activities

Wed., Nov. 28

5:45 - Dinner

6:30-7:20 - Gathering for Prayer

Congratulations to our top Fruit Salespeople: 1st Place - **Liz Bobbit**, 2nd Place - **Jamie Rogers**, and 3rd Place - **Ryan Fesmire**! Thanks for your hard work, guys.

Peace

...Beth

VISION UPDATE

Shout an "Amen!" Our Vision Team completed its work last Sunday, November 18! Next steps:

1. Approval at our Charge Conference, December 2;
2. Presentation in Worship, December 9;
3. "Covenant Services" on January 13.

Praise the Lord and pass the implementation!

AN ADVENT STUDY OPPORTUNITY "Prepare Your Heart"

(What the Gospels really teach about Jesus' birth.)

December 2 - 30

Fellowship Hall

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Take advantage of this opportunity to enrich your holiday.

ANOTHER INFANT BAPTISM THIS SUNDAY

We will be delighted to baptize **Carol Ann** and **Greg Weidenhoffer's** baby daughter, **Abbey**, in the 10:50 a.m. service this Sunday, the 25th.



Welcome Our New Church Member

James Stephen (Jim) Story, 3634 Douglass Avenue, 38111, 508-1266 (cell). Jim unites with St. Luke's by renewal of vows. **Janie Hendrix** and **Pat** and **Dan Murrell** will serve as his Covenant Companions.

SCOUT NEWS

One more Eagle Scout project finished. Matthew Allen is well on his way to becoming an Eagle Scout!

Keep the aluminum cans coming.

...Burgess

CHURCH CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, November 21 - CHURCH OFFICES / CLC / DAY SCHOOL / CHALLENGERS / PDO CLOSED
6:45 am – Men’s Prayer Breakfast (FH)

THURSDAY, November 22 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
CLC / CHURCH OFFICES / DAY SCHOOL / CHALLENGERS / PDO CLOSED

FRIDAY, November 23 – CHURCH OFFICES / CLC DAY SCHOOL / CHALLENGERS / PDO CLOSED

SATURDAY, November 24
4:30 pm – Soup Kitchen (FH)

SUNDAY, November 25
8:30 am – Worship (Sanctuary)
9:00 – 11:00 am – Library open (211)
9:15 – 9:45 am – Adult Coffee Fellowship (Lobby)
9:30 am – Sunday School
10:50 am – Worship (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, November 26
7:00 pm – Jesus is Lord Basketball (CLC)

TUESDAY, November 27
9:00 am – Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics (CLC)
9:30 am – Decorate Sanctuary for Advent
10:15 am – Senior’s Choir (Choir Room)
10:30 am – Joy Club (FH)
6:30 pm – Cub Scouts (Children’s Building)
7:00 pm – Boy Scouts (CLC)

WEDNESDAY, November 28
6:45 am – Men’s Prayer Breakfast (FH)
5:45 pm – Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30 pm – 2nd & 3rd for the 1st (Generation) - Chapel
Ruth Ann Shelton, speaker
Leadership from the Heart (CLC Mtg. Room)
Intersection (CLC Lounge)
Helping Hands (CLC)
Children’s Choirs
Youth (3rd floor)

7:30 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, November 29
9:00 am – Sit & Be Fit Chair Aerobics (CLC)
10:00 am – Small Group (211)

FRIDAY, November 30 - CHURCH OFFICES / CLC CLOSED

SATURDAY, December 1, 2007
12:00 Noon – Veteran’s Christmas Party (FH)
4:30 pm – Soup Kitchen (FH)

ST. LUKE'S STAFF
Dr. R. Mark Matheny, Minister
Rev. Shirley Lynn, Minister of Evangelism
J. G. Walker, III, Director of Music
Beth Ryan, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries
David Day, Director of Recreation & Outreach Ministries
Beth Masters, Director of Children's Ministries
Virginia Hathorn, Ministry Assistant
Cathy Cooley, Day School Director
Dawn Kimble, After-School Director
Wes Kirkpatrick, Organist
Candy Williams, Communications Secretary
Rorie Read, Scheduling Coordinator
Vickey Hobbs, Business Manager

RADIO BROADCAST - WREC 600 AM

Sunday, November 25, 2007

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Given in appreciation of St. Luke's Ministries

10:50 MUSIC

“Prayer for Guidance” Chancel Choir & Wesley Bells

RECORD OF LOYALTY - NOV. 11, 2007

Attendance

Sunday School				<u>232</u>
Worship	8:30	<u>63</u>	10:50	<u>309</u>
				<u>372</u>

2007 Pledge Update

Budget received \$17,242.00

2008 Pledge Update

210 commitments received for \$731,462.00. If you have not turned in your commitment card, please do so.

JOY CLUB NEWS

Joy Club members will gather on Tuesday, November 27, at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for PLAY DAY. Bingo will be played and a delicious lunch enjoyed.

Bring a friend along. Call the church for luncheon reservations. The bus will be as usual.

...Dorothy Sue

P.S. Don't forget! December 18 will be our Christmas Party!

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