



The Angel

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

310 Main St.

P O Box 187

Saxonburg, PA 16056

www.stlks.com



Church Council

Meeting

July 15, 2019

6:30 pm

St. Luke's

Vision Statement

Guided by the Holy Spirit
to share God's loving
grace through disciple-
ship; strengthening faith
through the Word, family,
fellowship and giving.

Worship Times

8:15 & 10:00

Communion

10:45 - 1st & 3rd Sunday

8:15 - 2nd & 4th Sunday

Both - 5th Sunday

Office Hours

Monday	9-3
Tuesday	9-3
Wednesday	9-3
Thursday	9-3

www.stlks.com



Farewell Celebration

for Pastor Keller
of St. Luke's - Saxonburg

Come join St. Luke's community in blessings and prayers
as Pastor Roger Keller moves from Saxonburg to Rosen-
berg, TX to serve Peace Lutheran Church.

On Sunday, **August 4, 2019**, there will one service at
9:45 am with a picnic to follow. Then an open house will
be held until 2:00 pm to wish Godspeed to Pastor Keller,
Jennifer and family. A memory table for mementoes or
objects will be provided for guests to display tributes of
fun times, great laughs, or good memories. (Please
mark each item with your name, so they can be re-
turned.)

His last Sunday leading worship will be August 11th at
8:15 am and 10:00 am (outdoor).

Council Communique`

Dear St. Luke's Members and Friends,

As Pastor Keller finalizes arrangements for answering the call to serve at Peace Lutheran in Rosenberg, Texas, we wish him well and at the same time look forward to new beginnings here at St Luke's. On August 11 we remember Pastor's 16 years of faithful service as he leads us in worship at the two services, 8:15 am and 10:00 am, for his final Sunday here at St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Going forward, Jeanine Sanford, Associate Minister of Pastoral Care and Outreach, will preach and preside at worship through September 29, with consecrated bread and wine from St. Paul's, Sarver. Beginning in October, we hope to have an Interim Pastor in place who will serve our congregation during the search for a new Pastor. After Pastor Keller's last Sunday, Church Council will assemble and authorize a Call Committee—consisting of selected Church members and including one Council member—to coordinate the call process along with support from the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) Assistant to the Bishop David Wendel. The Call Committee will advertise and disseminate information on the opening at St. Luke's, and will meet and interview potential candidates. When a candidate has been identified, the Call Committee will make a recommendation to Church Council and if Council agrees, the candidate will be presented to the congregation for a vote to officially extend a call to service among us. This is typically a six month to one year process.

We pray that God will bless Pastor Keller and family as they move to Texas and begin a new chapter in their lives. And we pray for continued blessings on this congregation as we also begin a new chapter that continues our 150-year history of Christian ministry here in Saxonburg. We trust that the Lord will guide and support us as we move forward.

Peace,

David Fugate, Council Vice-President

Judy Moser, Council Secretary

God's Love at Work Highlights for St. Luke's: June 2019

This month in ministry we held services at Elmcroft and The Orchard and the church was Open for Prayer. Two student were confirmed, two celebrated first communion, and nine graduated. We thanked our Sunday school teachers for the blessings they have been to our youth. We rejoiced with Pastor Storm as he celebrated his 65th year of his ordination. We hosted the Lutheran Lay Renewal conference and held one of the largest yard sales to date.

Income received	19,293	YTD income received	100,217
Income needed	19,320	YTD income needed	115,919
We still need	27	We still need	15,702

Thank You!

My heartfelt thank you to all who made the 65th anniversary of my ordination so memorable. Every thing was great: the sermon, prayer, special music, the hymns, flowers. What a surprise with a lovely reception: the delicious sandwiches, the cake, the banner. I thank all of you who worked so hard to make the occasion into such a wonderful day .

Hugs, Ralph Storm

Dear St. Luke's,

Many thanks for the delicious soup that was delivered to us.

We appreciated your thoughtfulness.

John and Gayle Gundlach

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Cabot United Methodist Church Food Bank would like to thank St. Luke's Lutheran Church for your very generous donation of \$424.00. Without the constant support and faithful giving of people like you, we would be unable to meet the increasing needs of many in our community. The caring hand of God reaches out to others through your continuous support.

We remain, your in Christ's Love,

Cabot Food Bank

Dear Congregation, Council Members and Pastor Keller,

Last July, you gifted me with gift cards to help alleviate some of the financial burdens created by the treatment needed for my daughter's eating disorder.

Thank you so much! Your collective generosity helped with food and gas... and even a small notebook for Ria, that she put to therapeutic use in the car over the course of many, many miles. That little notebook, purchased at Sheetz with that particular gift card, ran out of space long ago, but brought much needed relief from her disordered thoughts that plagued her at that time.

I am happy to report that Ria is in the maintenance stage of her recovery journey. She recently launched her website in the hope of helping others... through peer support groups and financial assistance for treatment. Please visit www.youarelovedusa.org.

So many people have helped us fight the old satanic foe... through prayers, meals, financial help, etc. and we are so thankful.

Thank you for being part of our greater church family! We are so blessed.

Yours in Christ,

Rebecka Andrae and family

St. Luke's Memorials



Memorial money was given to St. Luke's Church ...

In Memory of
Mrs. Eleanor Hanna (April 4, 2019)

The family of Eleanor Hanna
Doris Herceg
Robert and Connie McKane

In Memory of
Mrs. Frances Setzenfand (April 17, 2019)

Thomas and Marjorie Walsh
Myron and Eleanor Homiak
Dale and Chris Arthurs

In Memory of
Mr. Gary Cooper (June 12, 2019)

The Cooper Family
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lacanic



Mission Support

June - August

Samaritan Counseling Center of Western PA - June

The Samaritan Counseling Center of Western PA is the highlighted ministry for mission support giving in June. Since 1982, the Samaritan mission is to empower those served to gain hope healing and the ability to move forward in their lives. The center is an ecumenical, non-profit organization providing psychological counseling and educational programs using the resources of faith. Its core values are faith, holistic wellness, community, charity, hope and healing, excellence and integrity. It provides individual, child/adolescent and family counseling to people of all or no religious background. They offer anger management, spiritual direction, educational programs, supportive groups and congregational care. There are 10 offices throughout the Pittsburgh area including the Hannastown Road facility in Cabot and two locations in Butler. The center and professional staff are fully accredited and licensed. The Rev. Graham Standish, executive director, participates in the Christian Leadership Network. He will be a St. Luke's speaker in the future. Flyers are available in both narthexes.

NALC - July and August

The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) national organization and district are the monthly recipients of the July and August mission support funds. The NALC is a fast-growing Christian church in the Lutheran tradition, uniting more than 141,000 Lutherans in more than 420 congregations across North America. The NALC embodies the theological center of Lutheranism in North America and stands firmly within the global Lutheran mainstream.

NALC is committed to the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God. In keeping with the Lutheran Confessions, NALC believes that all doctrines should and must be judged by the teaching of Scripture. The NALC has embraced four core values which shape our common life: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused. NALC is a church centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, animated by missions and evangelism, grounded in the 2,000-year tradition of Christian faith, and organized chiefly to serve the congregations. A renewed Lutheran community moving forward in faith, the NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe.

At the time of the constituting Convocation in August 2010, 17 congregations had voted to join the NALC. Of the more than 420 NALC congregations now, about 70 are mission congregations, reflecting the priority placed on missions and evangelism by the NALC.

St. Luke's is a member of the Mid-Northeast Mission District, which encompasses western Pennsylvania, western Maryland, western New York and West Virginia. The Rev. Carl Johnson of Kittanning serves as district dean. St. Luke's has participated in mission and national events, including disaster relief mission work.

The 2019 Convocation will be held August 8 and 9 in Indianapolis, where a new national bishop will be selected. Twelve pastors have been nominated. The theme is "Walking by the Spirit with the Fruit of the Spirit."

At St. Luke's



Bonnie Ekas	6/1
Patricia Ross	6/1
Cristie Crytzer	6/6
Jeffrey Markwell	6/6
Mary Zellhart	6/6
John Nuti	6/7
Marilyn Merbach	6/8
Edna Weckerly	6/8
Garrett Weston	6/8
Frank Burk	6/9
Kirstin Gordon	6/9
Nicholas Gordon	6/9
Tancie Plutyk	6/10
Sarah Edder	6/11
Margaret Reinhart	6/11

Erika Schuelke	6/11
Lynn Fox	6/13
Cole Edwards	6/14
Karen Pivni	6/14
Hannah Calorio	6/16
Patricia Perkins	6/16
Grace Bracken	6/17
Clifford Gayle	6/17
Donna Bowman	6/18
Noah Steiner	6/19
Lindsey Burtner	6/22
Jewell Yohe	6/22
Larry Parsons	6/23
James Wetzel	6/23
Rachel Boltz	6/26
Rhoda Shoaf	6/27
Mihkayla Perkins	6/28
Kathryn Hartzell	6/29
Dixie Cypher	6/30
Margot Frederick	6/30



Joyce & Justin Perkins	6/8
Dale & Chris Arthurs	6/10
Dean & Tracy Gilliland	6/10
John & Gayle Gundlach	6/12
Ron & Marie Riggs	6/13
Craig & Rachel Trimble	6/15
Walter & Audrey Gerlach	6/21
Paul & Sonia Markwell	6/22
Mary & Francis Byers	6/27
Charles & Elva Weston	6/28



Emery Bubb	7/1
Daniel Pflueger	7/2
Susan Beatty	7/3
Brady Lunn	7/3
Jakub Nelson	7/3
Ethel Kristofic	7/6
Thomas Weston	7/8
Angelo Natili	7/11
Edward Cypher	7/12
Robert Bicker	7/14
Amaya Gayle	7/16
Jacqueline Bice	7/17
Ron Riggs	7/17

Clarence Wagner	7/17
Jacob Fox	7/18
Evan Haas	7/18
Dale Arthurs	7/19
Lucas Ross	7/19
Martha Champion	7/20
Carl Bowman	7/21
William Sweeney	7/21
Katie Drennen	7/22
Callie Drennen	7/23
Michelle Freehling	7/23
Mary Elder	7/25
Kelsey Miller	7/25
Carol Pefferman	7/25
Ronald Perkins	7/25
Audrey Gerlach	7/28
Molly Begeman	7/30
Kimberly Buss	7/31
Krystle Ekas	7/31
Kenny Ross	7/31



Carl & Amy Smith	7/3
David E. & Kerri Hay	7/8
Clinton & Lindsay Cunningham	7/9
Pr. Roger & Jennifer Keller	7/9
Edward & Dixie Cypher	7/12
Jesse & Alicia Haas	7/15
Amanda & Christopher Jockel	7/16
George & Barbara Reuning III	7/18
James & Ronna Drennen III	7/20
Anthony & Dusty Olczak III	7/22
Albert & Shirley Kobert	7/25
John & Laura Logan	7/25

Summer Music



Summer worship needs you! This gives you an opportunity to share your talents with the congregation at any summer service and praise God in the process. Summer services are at 8:15 and 10:00, from June 23 through September 8, 2019. Talk to Cortney or contact her at Cortney.christoforetti@gmail.com if you would like to play or sing at one of these services.



PARISH PRAYER NOTES:

HOMEBOUND/UNABLE TO WORSHIP:

Georgetta Burk, 211 Murray Dr., Valencia, PA 16059

Fred Crux, 223 Pittsburgh Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056 (friend)

Ruth Cypher, 223 Pittsburgh Street, Room 33, Saxonburg, PA 16056

Margo Frederick, Elmcroft, 100 Bella Court, Room 313, Saxonburg, PA 16056

Audrey Gerlach, 402 Aderhold Rd, Saxonburg, PA 16056

Allen Knappenberger, 134 Marwood Road, Room 1940, Cabot, PA 16023

Jim McLafferty, 134 Marwood Road, Room 2254, Cabot, PA 16023

John Nuti, 121 Deer Creek Road, Saxonburg, PA 16056

Herb Richards, 130 Edgewood Drive, Sarver, PA 16055

Pearl Parnell, 330 High Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056

Barbara Schneidmiller, 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023

Ned Ziegler, 129 Dingel Road, West Sunbury, PA 16061 (associate member)

If you are aware of someone in the hospital or in need of pastoral care, please call the church office and let us know.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WE HAVE LIFTED IN PRAYER DURING JUNE:

Praise and Thanksgiving: for answered prayers, for the baptism of John Harrison Brose, Nathan Olczak is cancer free, for Diane (Shipe) and family (new members of St. James Lutheran), for Pastor Storm's 65 years of ministry, and all those who serve the Lord, for summer worship and outdoor services to enjoy God's creation, for the opportunity to share our church, faith with our community, for the Lutheran Lay Renewal Conference

Cares/Concerns: Gary Bachman (cancer), Lew Lee (cancer), Kristen Brant (chemo), Diana (breast cancer), Colleen Kristofferson (Kerri Hay's aunt/needs a lung), Kerri Hay (broken foot/recovery), Kristen Eyler (thyroid cancer), Lisa Butler (young mother/cancer), Don Grubbs (cancer), Doris Herceg (vertebrae/leg pain), Bob Shipe (cataract surgery), Eli Keller (torn labrum), Al Kobert (knee surgery), Beatrice Jamison (breathing problems), Rob Frazier (cancer), Paul Kollinger (heart ablation), Carolyn Cook (eye surgery), Noah Steiner & the Alaskan Mission Trip, Diane Marburger (surgery), Sam Bartley (skin cancer), for those impacted by storms/floods, Alivia, Richard, Gayle, all those with lingering illness, Adrienne Natili (broken foot), Virginia Beach shooting, Christians who suffer for their faith, Bunny Fisher, Larry Schmidt (non-clot blockage), Bill Oehlschlager (prostate cancer), Matt Sherlock (broken arm), Marie Florentine (cancer), Wayne Johnson (hospice), Steve (dementia), Rose Marie Grossman (surgery), Chase Pope (student needs guidance/both parents have cancer), Charlie Bice (leg infection), Terry Warren (neck disc), campers, Jason Fox (gallbladder)

Bereaved: for family and friends of June Gibino, Gail Schmidt, Jackie Gordon, Dorothy Powell, Henry Iman, Wayne Thoma, Gary Cooper, Mike Cehily

Outreach/Evangelism

St. Luke's Participates in Mingle on Main

St. Luke's is inviting the community to be a part of its 150 years of ministry service. Musical selections on the historic organ and tours of the church's stained glass windows are being featured during Saxonburg's Mingle on Main monthly events. There will be an organ concert at the next Mingle on July 11th. The August date will feature an encore presentation of the church windows, which were given as gospel inspiration by various families and church groups in 1947. The windows tell the gospel story, and are dedicated to well-known Saxonburg names such as Bachman, Knoch, Cooper, Freehling and Bicker. The two-manual Moller pipe organ was dedicated in April 1929. The organ was funded by Ferdinand Roebeling in memory of his father, John Roebeling. The organ, rebuilt in 1977, has pipes measuring in length from three inches to 16 feet.



They say it takes a village and that is particularly true when it comes to Yard Sales. Gayle Gundlach and the yard sale crew spent over two weeks setting up the rooms with all of the donations. All of the work benefits the Capital Campaign Fund. The dollar amount raised was 2,427.18.



Open for Prayer

July 22nd

6:00 to 8:00

St. Luke's Sanctuary is

Open for Prayer the 4th Monday of every month. Stop by and pray in the quiet of the sanctuary.



The Orchards at Saxonburg

(formerly Saxony Health Center)

Worship Service

July 14th at 2:00 pm

All are welcome to come!



Two monthly services are held - one in the Alzheimer's Unit and the other in the main residential area of Elmcroft. This is your chance to serve and love the community. Many residents respond to old favorite hymns, and would welcome fellowship. They would appreciate assistance turning pages and offering encouragement. The first service is at 2 p.m. in the Alzheimer's Unit and second is at 3 p.m. in the main residential area, on July 7th. Each service is approximately 30-45 minutes in length. For additional information, see Jeannine Sanford.

Fellowship Life



The Family Fellowship Ministry is for Christian families looking to connect with other Christian families, particularly those with young kids through upper elementary. Family fellowship allows families to grow spiritually together, creating a bond that supports one another through everyday life with Christ. The Family Fellowship Ministry has the following planned for the summer. Hope you can join us. Any questions please contact Mandy Jockel, Interim Director of Discipleship, at mjockel716@yahoo.com or (724) 816-1034.

Park Playdate

—>Alameda Park (Butler)

—> 10:30 a.m.

- ♦ July 8th
- ♦ August 5th

—>Spring Valley Park

—>10:00 a.m.

- ♦ July 16th
- ♦ August 13th

Family Movie Nights

♦ July 12th - *The Grinch*

♦ August 9th

—>Centennial Hall

—>6:00-8:00 p.m.

Pizza Before the Parade!

- ♦ Join us in Centennial Hall @ 5:00 p.m. on July 18th for pizza & snacks before heading out to watch the Fireman's parade!

For more information regarding the Family Fellowship at St. Luke's please contact Mandy Jockel mjockel716@yahoo.com or call/text 724-816-1034

Playground Addition



The Raymond and Theresa Montag playground will receive a new addition the week of July 15th. A new playset was ordered after the church office received a private donation. The playset will delight children and is dedicated to Anthony McRandal by his family. The church and community youth are truly blessed by this wonderful donation.

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

SHIP WRECKED

July 21-25

6:00 - 8:00 pm

All children ages 3-6th grade are welcome to attend

Registration now available online at stlks.com or contact the church office at 724-352-2333 or stlukechurch@consolidated.net.



VBS Picnic

Thursday, July 25

5-8 PM

SEBCO Pool (Main Pavilion)

Niagara Fall Youthworks High School Mission Trip July 7 - 12, 2019



We have a total of 5 youth and 2 adults going to Niagara Falls, NY this year for Mission. Please pray for these students and adults as they work to touch hearts in the mission field.

Adult leaders: KELLY WESTON AND PASTOR KELLER.

Krystle Ekas

Zane Lynch

Alex Olczak

Rachel Steiner

Garrett Weston



The Milestone of First Communion was celebrated with on June 9th. Congratulations to Kamryn Burtner and Grace Wetzel. Each of the students was presented with a cross necklace. The necklace represents a declaration of faith. We hope these tokens will help them tell the world who they are and what they believe.

Christian Education



Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

Thank you to all who shared the teachings of Jesus this school year.

Abby Fields—Nursery Care/Sunday school

Mandy Jockel—Pre-K and K

Julie Edder—1st-2nd

Kim Lunn—3rd-5th

Bill Gordon/Jennifer Keller—Confirmation

Cristie Crytzer – Sr. High Youth

Sue Beatty, Pastor Keller, Jeremy Andrews—Adult Sunday school

Funday Sunday: Sonya Winter, Holly Puett, Jeannine Sanford

Substitutes: Kelly Weston, Jennifer Gundlach, Cindy Bearrow, Jessica Andrews, Amy Amadee



Graduate Blessing



Our High School Graduates were honored on June 9th and presented with a personalized NIV Life Application Study Bible.

Our graduates are:

Rachel Boltz

Abby Fields

Mihkayla Perkins

Payne Crouch

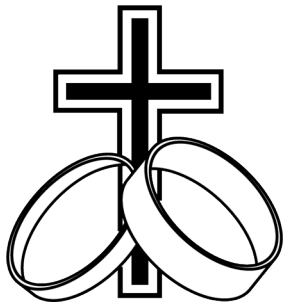
Adam Hartzell

Rachel Steiner

Alex Edder

Eli Keller

Autumn Trempus

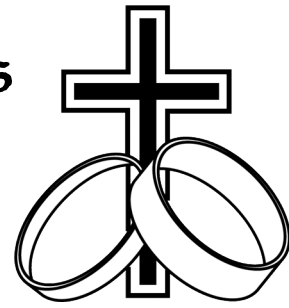


Golden Milestones

1 Family

3 Couples

120 Years of Marriage



Can you imagine the wisdom from three couples wedded for a combined 120 years of marriage? And talk about keeping it all in the same family!

It's been a busy past few weeks for the Riggs-Weston households! Ronald and Marie Riggs and Chuck and Elva Weston each celebrated 50 years of marriage in June. They married in 1969, the same year that Centennial Hall was dedicated. They are the parents of John and Kelly Weston, who are mere babes with just 20 years of marriage.

Ronald and Marie Riggs



Ronald and Marie Riggs, Kelly's parents, were introduced by Marie's brother-in-law on Feb. 13, 1969. They liked each other from the start. For their first date, they went with family to go square dancing at the Saxonburg fire hall. They courted four months to the day of their marriage on June 13, 1969 (Friday the 13th). They went for a weekend trip to visit Marie's brother in Maryland, and they decided to get married the following weekend.

The Riggs married at LaPlata Episcopal Church in LaPlata, MD. Marie's brother and sister-in-law were attendants. They remember that their wedding day was hot, with temperatures in the 90s. Ron and Marie went to the Army base where her brother was stationed, and then to his house for a small reception with friends. Ron lost his wedding ring in the water the next day, and it was never found. Their honeymoon was spent in LaPlata and Washington, DC. There was a small reception with family when they returned home from Maryland.

The Riggs have a son, daughter, two grandsons and one granddaughter. They are both retired and enjoy traveling. They are celebrating their 50th with a cruise to New England and Canada. They are very proud of their children, Kelly and Brian.

Words of wisdom: "Keep a sense of humor and keep your mouth shut! Always have faith in God and each other. Both will get you through the hard times and make the good times sweeter."

Chuck and Elva Weston



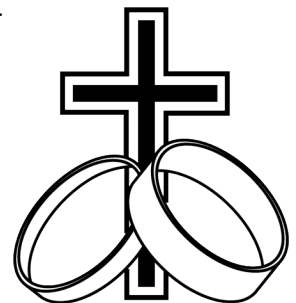
Now for the next 50 years. John's parents, Chuck and Elva Weston, observed their 50th wedding anniversary on June 28. Chuck and the former Elva Butterworth met in November 1964 on a blind date. Chuck was with a good friend of Elva's and Elva was with Chuck's best friend. They all went to a movie at the Roland Theater in their hometown of Philipsburg.

A week later, they went on their first date to a movie. "The movie was awful and we were both embarrassed," Elva said. "It was before the moving rating system came out." They went for pizza afterwards. Chuck and Elva became engaged in April 1966. Chuck had planned to be very romantic and propose the night of Clarion University's spring formal. But Chuck was so excited that he asked her at lunch instead.

They were married in Elva's church, Trinity Methodist in Philipsburg, on June 28, 1969 on a beautiful but hot day. Rev. Stratford Taylor of Trinity Methodist officiated, and he was assisted by Father Harvey Knudsen of St. Paul's Episcopal in Philipsburg. The wedding was bigger than initially planned, but they invited many relatives and friends, including a teacher who had both of them in first grade. Elva wore a long white wedding gown and didn't realize she had a train until the wedding day. Chuck and his groomsmen wore suits instead of tuxedos. Chuck and his best man were in a room waiting to hear the organ chime (their entrance cue) but did not hear it at first. Thank goodness, the organist played the chime again and Chuck arrived!

One of their favorite memories is of Father Knudsen demonstrating how the bridesmaids should not do the "silly hippity hop" step. Their favorite song is "Edelweiss" from the *Sound of Music*. Elva still has her wedding gown, veil, headdress and shoes, and Chuck has his suit. They spent their honeymoon in Niagara Falls.

Chuck and Elva moved to the Saxonburg area shortly after their marriage. Elva had just graduated from Clarion and was looking for a library position. Chuck's employer wanted him to move to southwestern PA, and the local area was perfect. After two years, they purchased a home in Winfield Township, and have resided there ever since. They have three sons, two in Penn Township and one in Oakmont, three grandsons and two granddaughters.



John and Kelly Weston

Last, but not least, we have John and Kelly Weston with 20 years of marriage to total the combined 120 years.



John and Kelly met as students when they were in 10th and 9th grades at Knoch High School. They initially met in marching band, and then got to know each other better in pit orchestra. John played the baritone saxophone and Kelly was learning to play the alto sax. John and Kelly started dating after they returned from a band trip to New York City.

They went to a movie with friends on their first date. Their songs in high school included Bryan Adams' "Everything I do" and "From this Moment On" by Shania Twain and Bryan White. John proposed during Kelly's freshman year at college.

Seven years and one month to the day after they started dating, Kelly and John were married on May 22, 1999 at St. Luke's by the Rev. Gary Brubaker. Some 100 people were in attendance. They remember it as a beautiful wedding day with some rain at the reception. The couple honeymooned in Niagara Falls and Toronto. They have two sons, Evan and Garrett.

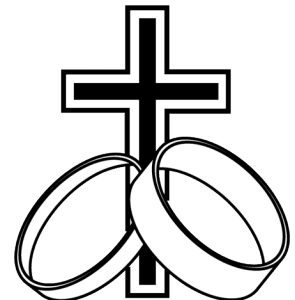
Words of wisdom: "Marriage Encounter is a great thing. We highly recommend it for anyone who hasn't done it. Remember it takes three in a marriage – you, your spouse and God."

Kelly added: "We both had great role models in both of our sets of parents. Marriage isn't always the easiest, but we both understand that it was a lifelong commitment for better or for worse. I feel like I married my best friend because we 'grew up together.' We are very close with our parents and in-laws."

Be devoted to one another in love.

Honor one another above ourselves.

Romans 12:10



Golden Milestone

We have another person joining St. Luke's Golden Milestone 90 club! Martha Champion turns that special age on July 20.

In 1929, Martha (Mart) was born in Bridgewater Township, Williams County, Ohio, to the late Harry J. and Winifred L. Davis Close. She had two sisters.

Martha went to elementary school in Ohio and Michigan, and later graduated from high school in Pioneer, Ohio. She pursued post-secondary studies at Defiance College and Bowling Green State University. She was baptized and confirmed at age 12 in Michigan.

On April 14, 1957, she married William (Bill) Champion at Pioneer, Ohio. She was an elementary and junior high teacher. Martha taught in a one-room country school in northwest Ohio and later at Elyria, OH, Ann Arbor, MI and in New York. She served as a substitute teacher in Tonawanda, NY.

Bill was a music professor and a big band leader. He retired in 1992 from the University of Buffalo, NY. Bill is a veteran, serving with the US Navy in Washington, DC and in California. The Champions were active in former churches as part of the church choir, trustees and parish staff.

The Champions moved to Concordia in 2013 to be near one of their children, and they joined St. Luke's two years later. "We wished to find a local church and was happy to find St. Luke's," Martha said. "We find it friendly and a traditional church family. We are learning to become Lutherans!"

They have two sons (Slippery Rock and Frederick, MD), two grandsons, one step-grandson, one step-grandaughter, three step-great-grandsons and one step-great-grandaughter.

Most people may not know that Martha was an identical twin. "Mary was her name. We were always so close. Our lives were entwined in so many ways," Martha said. "My other sister was a half-sister, who was a second mother to us."

Favorite Hymns – *Softly and Tenderly, Amazing Grace, In the Garden, There's Something About That Name Jesus*

Favorite Scripture– Psalm 23, Matthew 19:26 (*With God all things are possible*), John 3:16 (*For God so loved the world...*), Psalm 28:7 (*The Lord is my strength*) and John 8:12 (*Jesus said 'I am the light of the world.'*).

Words of Wisdom– Learn to forgive and prayer helps. Learn to love. It always brings happiness.

Happy Birthday Martha!!



Milestones

Pastor Storm Observes 65 Years as Ordained Minister

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29: 11



It's rare when somebody stays in one profession all of his or her life. It's even more precious when you spend it in the service of the Lord for the sake of others.

The Rev. Ralph Storm celebrated 65 years of ordination on June 16. He was honored at a reception following worship at St. Luke's to the very day 65 years ago.

The Jeremiah passage served as his ordination scripture. It has been a guiding principle for all of Ralph's life, ever since he felt the stirring of the Holy Spirit in high school. Ralph has seen a lot in his years of ministry. Over the decades, he has served six parishes, a number of interims and supplies, as a mission developer, and has provided leadership on various boards, organizations and ministries.

Ralph remembers his ministry calling as if it was yesterday. He got a scholarship to go to the annual church gathering at Silver Bay in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. Two Sunday school teachers took a group of five high school-aged youth from Buffalo to the gathering. Ralph said he felt God calling him to ministry during a candlelight closing service while the choir was singing "Follow the Gleam." That night, he dedicated himself to the Lord's service.

"I knew from the start of my senior year that I wanted to go into the ministry," Ralph said. His family was very supportive and encouraging, helping to inspire his vocation. "My family was very faithful at church and my father was on church council. Church was very important to us," he said.

Raised in Buffalo, NY, Ralph graduated from high school at the age of 16. He then went on to graduate from Hartwick College in 1951. Three years later, Ralph received his Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

The summer of 1954 was significant for the 23-year-old Ralph. He was ordained, had his first ministry job offer, and was married shortly after his ordination.

But it was all worth it. He married the former Juanita Jean Corrigall on June 19, and soon they were getting ready for his first assignment: professional mission developer with the Board of American Missions. Ralph said it was unusual for a seminarian to be assigned that position, as he learned of his call during his senior year at seminary.

Ralph remembers that there were always surprises during his ministry. For instance, the young newlyweds traveled to Elmsford, NY to start a church there and learned there was no home for them yet. “We got a little money at our wedding and strangers in town took us in for five weeks,” he recalled. “Every parish had a surprise or two. We learned over the years that no two are the same. Every church was different.”

For the next 30 years, Ralph served as mission developer from 1954-55, and as pastor of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Elmsford, NY (1955-1965), Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Elmira, NY (1965-1970), St. Matthias Lutheran Church, Greensburg (1970-1972), Messiah Lutheran Church, Wesleyville (1972-76) and Trinity Lutheran Church, Meadville (1976-1984). He also did doctoral studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City and at New York University. He has been selected twice for inclusion in Who’s Who in Religion.

Ralph also was a bit of a ministry pioneer during the 1950s. He was featured in a magazine article that highlighted outdoor worship services at drive-in theaters. Ralph and Juanita did that for six summers. He had a strong partnership with his wife over the years, who often served as director of religious education.

Ralph retired from active ministry the 1980s. In 1985, the Storms moved to North Carolina. During that time, he held several positions including executive director of Haywood Christian Ministry, Joint Action in Community Service counselor at Oconaluftee Job Corps, activity director in a nursing home, and social worker for the Department of Social Services. He also served interim pastorates in Newport, TN, Greeneville, TN and Newland, NC. Over the years, he has served in camping ministry positions, on community and church boards, and for the church synods in various ways.

The Storms moved to Concordia in 2009 to be near their two daughters and three grandchildren. Juanita passed away one month after they arrived. Daughter Naomi lives in Allison Park and her sister Tracy Ellen resides in Meadville. In the past decade, Ralph has continued in ministry as an interim pastor at Grace@Calvary in Butler, and has preached and presided at a number of Lutheran churches in the area. He also is very active in the Concordia community. He is founder and leader of the mMADD (men Meeting After Dinner for Discussion) at Haven One.

Ralph reflected on 65 years of ministry during a Q-and-A session:

How has God used you to preach the gospel?

“I have always been open to his calling. Wherever God wanted me, that is where I wanted to be.”

Any challenges in serving as minister?

“I think the ministry today, in some ways, is easier for pastors. When I started, you never really knew a day off unless you took it off. Things are mandated now. I started out with the highest salary in my class, \$3,000 a year. Some were \$1,800 a year. Today there are minimum salaries. On the other hand, seminarians have debt today that we didn’t have.”

What did you learn from your ministry over the years?

“What the seminary didn’t teach you...you meet all kinds of people!”

Are there significant highlights?

“Every congregation we left had a healthy balance and a strong youth program. It was a real joy in life that peers elected me” as president of the ministerial association in every town where Ralph served.

Has the church changed over the years?

“There is a spiritual diminishment in churches. It is not as important in peoples’ lives as it used to be. There are other activities on Sunday: sport leagues are playing and the stores are open. But there is a wider vision of the church too. I never would have thought of seeing a Bible study in a bar room (Theology on Tap). All those things are new to me. I don’t think we have the interest in world mission as we once did.”

What gives you the greatest joy in ministry?

“I have the ability to be involved in peoples’ lives. I remember toward the end of my active ministry, my wife kept saying, “Every time a person in the congregation dies, another piece of you seems to go.’ I would hear a lot from former parishioners, especially at Christmas. Remembering our ministry together, that has fulfilled me.”

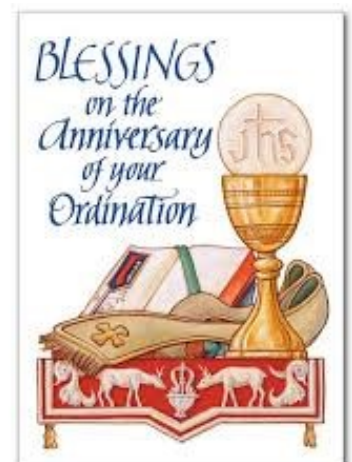
What are you most thankful for in ministry?

“That God has been with me and has given me the strength and the wisdom to serve all these years.”

What do you consider your greatest blessing?

“To be able to have been a servant of the Lord, and the fulfillment of a dream that God would walk with me through these years. I could have never done this alone.”

Looking back over these 65 years, Ralph summarized his final thoughts in these four words: “God has been good.”



Festive city ringing after the bell consecration

Hundreds of visitors (including Ellen Dodge and Karen Krenitsky) attended the consecration of two new bells in the Göttingen Church of St. Albani on Sunday, June 23, 2019 - and then followed up on a "festive city ring" of all downtown churches.

The consecration of the two new big bells attracted hundreds of parishioners and visitors to the Albani Church. After a service and a feast around the church, many of them also watched the rare spectacle of the "festive city noise" from different points in the city center.



In fact, the acoustics seemed particularly impressive when, after the bells from the Jacobi church tower started, the bells of various churches gradually began, until at some point bells were ringing from all directions.

It started with a 10-minute carillon of St. Jacobi ("Tedeum", "Brother Jakob"), then came the new plenum of St. Albani. Every few minutes, further bells set in, first St. Mary's, then St. Jacobi, then St. John's, later St. Michael and St. Paul's. Finally, in the final ten minutes, all the bells were heard together.

Actually, such a festive city ringing sounds only on high church holidays - or at the turn of the year, but then it is often in the hustle and bustle. That was quite different: many listened very attentively to the different but harmoniously harmonized tones of the different bells. Some of them listened very hard, others simply closed their eyes and gave themselves to the altogether half-hour spectacle.

The new Albani bells contributed their part. They had previously been solemnly consecrated during the service. Already during the service, they were introduced and briefly rang - in succession the 2302 kg (5075 lbs.) heavy, the Christ bell, and the 3397 kg (7489 lbs.) weighing the Gnadenblocke, bell which is the bell that represents the first article of the Creed of Luther's Small Catechism ("I believe that God has created me and all creatures"). The ensemble is completed by the prayer bell and baptismal bells. In his sermon, Superintendent Friedrich Selter not only focused on the bells themselves, but also on their symbolic meaning: "The sound of the bells belongs to the soundtrack of a city," he said. He carried a message into the city and called to the community. "The history of the bells urges us to seek peace."

Article translated and modified from the Gottinger Tageblatt.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

June 16, 2019 thru September 8, 2019

8:15 am and 10:00 am

Outdoor Services (10:00 only)

June 23

July 14

****August 11****

****Pastor Keller's Final Worship Service****

August 25



August 4, 2019

150 Year Celebration Picnic

One worship service at 9:45 am

11:15 am picnic

Open house until 2:00 pm to wish Godspeed to Pastor Keller, Jennifer and family.