

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

700 Southway Blvd East
Kokomo, In. 46902
765-453-0555

Michael D. Dominick, Senior Pastor

A WORD FROM PASTOR MIKE...

March 2009

Dear Friends,

I mentioned in a sermon a couple of weeks ago that God is shaking things up in our world. We are experiencing earthquake-like shaking in our economy, in the election of the first African American President in our history, in the change of Pastors at St. Luke's, in the reorganization of the United Methodist Church in our state, in our own personal budgets – and the list goes on and on. Some of these shakings are God's way of moving us on to something new and better. Others of the earthquakes are disquieting, and could be disastrous. How do we live by faith in such a time as this?

A verse of Scripture comes to mind. Hebrews 12:26-27 says, *"At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." 27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken--that is, created things--so that what cannot be shaken may remain.* "The things of God's kingdom cannot be shaken by the earthquakes of life. As we build our lives on that which is unshakable, we find the strength to weather the storm, even when times are tough and sacrifices are necessary. I believe we live in such a time as this.

Now, more than ever, is the time to go deep in our faith. Now is the time to draw near to God in prayer. Now is the time to seek His will. Now is the time to allow the Holy Spirit to search us and strip away anything that puts up a wall between God and us. There's an old hymn that says, *"Nothing between my soul and my Savior."* That is exactly what we strive for in both good and bad times.

Is there hope? Yes there is! God is still on His throne. The world did not give us forgiveness, eternal life, or peace in our souls – and *nothing* in the world can take it away! *"...neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!"* (Romans 8:38-39). Let us hold tightly to the one thing that cannot be shaken – our Lord Jesus Christ! And let us do all that we can to support and encourage and pray for and assist those who are suffering economically in these days.

God is good...all the time!

All the time...God is good!

Pastor Mike

WANTED: Donated pictures of the old St. Luke's located downtown and the present location to display in Heritage Hallway. Please turn in your donated pictures to the church office.

"TIME OF REFLECTION" will be the theme of the Lenten Ladies' Tea. It will be held on Saturday, March 21st, at 2:00 pm in the chapel. Tickets will be available in the narthex for \$3.00 each on all of the Sunday mornings in March. Plan to come and bring a friend! You'll be blessed!

Gospel Echoes

Greetings,

Things are going smoothly in the Youth Ministry right now. The Valentine's Dinner was great, thanks to everyone who helped and attended! The funds raised from the dinner will benefit the youth group. The H2O Project ended for the youth on Sunday, February 22nd, but you can still be a part of it by donating money. Anyone who makes a donation of \$10 or more will receive an H2O Project Water Bottle as a gift. I have about 100 water bottles left, and I intend to keep this going until they are gone. Thanks to those of you who have already made a donation!

At the moment we are gearing up for the summer and all sorts of fun activities that will take place then, and we're preparing for some changes to our volunteer youth worker process. If you are a current youth worker or are interested in working with youth please come to the informational meeting at 10:30am on Sunday, March 8th in the chapel.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jim Wilson

Friends,

We are just getting started with the Lent season. Forty days we are to be *remembering* Jesus, *reflecting* on what Jesus means in our lives, and *repenting* or expressing sorrow for not living as Jesus taught. All of this preparation for the *Resurrection!!* Please remember to keep your Lent promise so at the end of this time you will feel even closer to our Lord.

Palm Sunday is April 5th and the children are encouraged and welcome to carry palms at the beginning of each worship service. It is a time of celebration for all of us.

Watch the bulletin for details of our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services that take place during the week leading to Easter.

Our Easter celebration with the children, in Sunday School, will be focusing on "Jesus Is Light." Jesus penetrates the darkness of our world and whenever his light is received, new life is born and then the following week will be centering on the presence of Jesus, God and Holy Spirit by studying the walk to Emmaus. It is an exciting time in the Christian calendar.

I pray as you roll away the stones in your life that your tomb will be filled with his love, light and the celebration of His resurrection. Christ Is Risen, Christ Is Risen Indeed!!

Blessings, Shirley



ST. LUKE'S NEWS YOU CAN USE....

HOPE CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 1:00 pm in the church parlor. Mary Miner will do the calling, and Joan Kellar will have devotions. Jan Adler will provide refreshments. Schire Glassburn will present her program on her mission trip. Our special word for this month is "Supportive" as we enter the Lenten season by sharing God's love. Invite a friend!

THE H2O PROJECT has ended for the youth, but you can still participate by donating money to the H2O Project. Donations of \$10 or more will receive an H2O Project water bottle as a gift. You can make a donation on Sundays for the next few weeks or during the week at the church office. We have about 100 bottles left, so hurry while supplies last!

THE FOOD PANTRY is having a clean-up day, Saturday, March 21st at 9am. Please mark your calendars if you would like to help.



NEED: The Miami Correction Center, Bill Babb, Chaplain, is in need of clothes for men for when they are released. The men need a set of good clothes to wear to be able to return to the community. Please place your nice clean clothes near the Missions Table in the narthex. Let's see if we can gather a sizeable selection of clothes for the men returning to society. Blessings, Missions Team

THE CHURCH WOMEN UNITED is sponsoring a program for the World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 6th. All are welcome to attend. Coffee will be served at 9:30 am. Program will be at 10:00 am. We will be meeting at the Salvation Army, 1101 S. Waugh St.

"In Christ there are many members, yet one body."

ALL OF ST. LUKE'S, Thank you for your prayers, your support, your love, your financial gifts! We are so touched. May God bless you as you have blessed us! John and Cindi Myers

DEAREST CHURCH FAMILY: In August of last year we asked for your help. Our daughter and sister, Debbie Hall, had suffered from a severe stroke 2 years prior. She was no longer able to work and had to go on long term disability. We had been able to pay the Cobra insurance payments for over a year and a half, until we just couldn't manage any longer. That's when we asked for your help. You responded immediately and generously. Fortunately, as of January 1, 2009 she was eligible for medicare. We just wanted to let everyone know how much we appreciated their love and support. Grant and Jane Richmond, Linda Rude.

God Is Good, All the Time! All the Time, God Is Good!

COMMUNITY LENTEN BREAKFAST SCHEDULE:

March 7th

Shiloh UM Church
5741 W CR 100 N

March 14th

Main Street UM Church
830 S. Main St.

March 21st

Grace UM Church
219 W. Mulberry St.

March 28th

Faith UM Church
1518 Faith Rd

April 4th

St. Luke's UM Church
700 Southway Blvd E.

Breakfast begin at 8:00 am. Call the church office to RSVP, 453-0555.

Everyone welcome!

JOY FELLOWSHIP will meet on Friday, March 6th, at 11:00am at St. Luke's Church in the chapel. Kim Clouser will share about "Home Instead," which helps people stay in their own homes, when they need some assistance. Following the program, we'll have a carry-in lunch with ham, cheese and potatoes provided. Bring a covered dish, a bingo prize, and a friend.

JOY FELLOWSHIP will meet on Friday, March 20th at 11:00 am at St. Luke's UM Church in the Chapel. Jean Good from Family Service Association will speak about the "Chores" help that they provide. Please plan to come and enjoy the program and lunch. Sausage casserole will be provided. Plan to join us and bring a friend, a white elephant, and a covered dish.



St. Luke's Vitals for the Month of
FEBRUARY



ATTENDANCE

02/01/2009

9:00 151

11:11 67

Total: 218

02/08/2009

9:00 195

11:11 48

Total: 243

02/15/2009

9:00 150

11:11 65

Total: 215

02/22/2009

9:00 169

11:11 54

Total: 223

January Attendance
899

OFFERING

02/01/2009

\$10,197.00

02/08/2009

\$11,253.91

02/15/2009

\$6,802.00

02/22/2009

\$6,777.94

Total January Offering

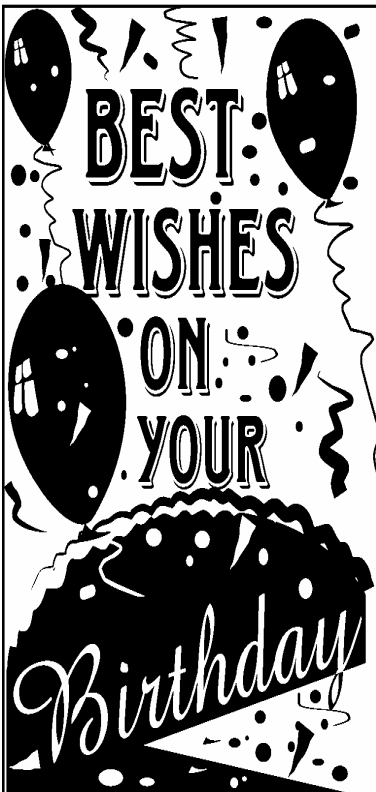
\$35,030.85

Needed Each Month

\$43,210.32

Difference

(\$8,179.47)



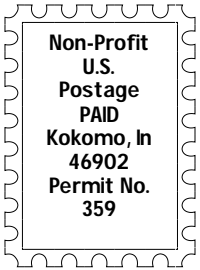
Clydette **WHITE**, Brian **CLOUSER**, Rebecca **VALDEZ**, (1); Tom **ANDERSON**, (2); Thomas **LOTT**, Jeff **HANDY**, Nathan **MULKEY**, (3); Gloria **LONG**, Melesha **HARRIS**, (4); Wayne **MAST**, (5); Sam **PARR**, (9); Mabel **WILLIAMS**, (10); Rose **PRATT**, Kathy **GENTILE**, (11); William **PITMAN**, (12); Mary **DAHLQUIST**, Bob **WITTIG**, (13); Mary **MINER**, Nancy **BOUGHTON**, Carol **MERRILL**, (14); Howard **TYNER**, Bob **SHORT**, Jean **NEWMAN**, Randy **HARRISON**, (15); Tiffany **RODY**, (16); Jesse **NEWMAN**, Kari **SALSBERRY**, Jim **WILSON**, CAMI **HANSEN**, (17); Cindi **MYERS**, Tsuyoshi **SALSBERRY**, Jacob **BOSWELL**, Colin **OSMAN**, (18); Charlene **BARKER**, Anna Lou **WALKER**, (19); Mary Jo **JONES**, Jerry **LAMBERSON**, Shirley **VERNON**, Jim **RICHEY**, Christy **EDWARDS**, (20); Ruth **CASE**, Caleb **HARRIS**, Sam **SALKIE**, (21); Jane **RICHMOND**, Sheryl **BOURFF**, (23); Jerry **LOGAN**, Jeff **ROMACK**, Jonah **GEISELMAN**, (24); Stephen **GEISELMAN**, Mike **GEISELMAN**, John **MOORE**, Alexis **BENSON**, (25); Mary **MARTIN**, (27); Brian **HARRIS**, Mary **WAGNER**, (28); Nancy **CURRY**, Dale **LEESE**, (29); Rayna **MARR**, (29); Hollie **Puckett**, Matthew **BENSON**, (30); Jennifer **MANSUR**, David **GIBSON**, (31).

Happy Birthday to you!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We are to be content with what we have.
"Keep your lives free from the love of money
and be content with what you have,
because God has said, "Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you"" (Heb. 13:5).

OFFICE NEWS

MONDAYS in March
March 2
March 9
March 16
March 23
March 30


On Mondays I need a volunteer from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm to answer phones and sit in the church office while I am away at our weekly Staff Meeting.

**THANK YOU TO ALL MY VOLUNTEERS!
I APPRECIATE YOU SO MUCH!**
May God bless you! Rachel Harris

FRIDAYS in March
March 6
March 13
March 20
March 27

On Fridays I need a volunteer to stuff the bulletins from 1:00 pm until they are finished.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.



BULLETIN DEADLINES ARE THE THURSDAY OF THE WEEK AT 8:00 AM.
Please stick to the above deadlines.