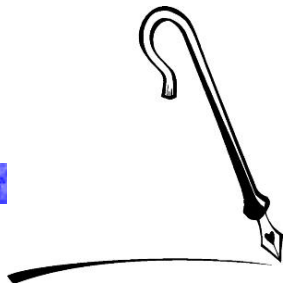




# Gospel Echoes

November 2011



## A Word from Pastor John...

Dear members & friends of the St. Luke's UMC:

As I write this newsletter, my mind is drawn once again toward our annual celebration of *Thanksgiving* which is on the horizon. I have many fond memories of past *Thanksgivings* when we would gather with our family, and extended family, for this annual celebration. One memory that especially stands out in my mind goes all the way back to 1955 or 1956 when I was nine or ten years old. Our family had been invited to my Aunt Jean and Uncle Doc's farm for the holiday, and I can still remember the delicious aromas of the turkey in the roaster, the yeast rolls that had just come out of the oven, and the pumpkins pies that were in the oven. Of course, all of us kids *were starving* (to hear us tell it) and we could hardly wait until we all settled down to enjoy this wonderful meal. This is not my favorite memory of that particular *Thanksgiving*, however.

It was a cold day and my cousins and I were outside playing (waiting for that magical moment

when dinner was served), and I remember there were snow showers. All of a sudden, my cousin Mike (who was a year younger than me) said, "Look, those two big dogs just jumped the fence into the pasture!" I looked to where he was pointing, and realized it wasn't "two big dogs" but it was two doe deer that had jumped the fence from the woods into the pasture. What a thrill! This was the first time, in my life, that I had the opportunity to see a deer in the wild (for Mike too), and we ran excitedly into the house to tell our family and everyone ran outside to see them (deer were very scarce in Ohio in the early to mid 1900's and weren't nearly as prolific as they are today). This is a special memory for me and has, no doubt, contributed to my zeal for deer hunting over the years.

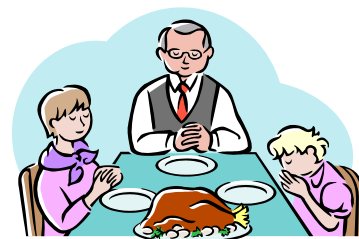
For my family, *Thanksgiving* was not just a day to get together and eat a delicious meal, but it was a time to focus on our blessings—to remember and be thankful. The Roman statesman and ora-

tor, *Cicero*, once said, "A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all other virtues," and I agree. It seems to me that a thankful heart helps us to have a good perspective on life as well as a good attitude about life. In fact, I believe a thankful heart—toward God—is the very heartbeat of worship.

I'm especially thankful to God for life, health, energy, eternal life in Christ, family, church family, friends, memories, freedom, and a great place to serve our Lord at St. Luke's UMC!

Onward & Upward,

Pastor John



# Pastor Mitch's Corner

## Turn Your Thanksgiving into Thanks-Living

November is the month we celebrate the annual feast day of Thanksgiving. How many years has it come and gone and we participate in the same ritual without blinking an eye? Of course, it's great getting to see family and friends that you might not otherwise see all year and some families might have special traditions that are very meaningful, but are we really, and I mean really, thankful for what we have been given? I want to challenge you this year at Thanksgiving to consider what God has given you and has done for you. Even if you don't think you have much, there are many more people that have less. And we can be thankful that Jesus paid the ultimate price of dying on a cross because of our sin so that we may live eternally with him if we accept him as our savior.



Now here is the big part of the challenge... once you've considered these things and realize how truly blessed you are, don't let it be just for Thanksgiving day. Let that become a part of your being. Remember every day that you wake up how thankful you are. Psalm 107: 21-22 says, "Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men! Let them also offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, And tell of His works with joyful singing." Do you offer sacrifices of thanksgiving to the Lord?

When we say "Thank you, Lord" let's make it more than just a shallow saying. Show God just how thankful you are by sacrificing for Him. Turn this Thanksgiving into Thanks-Living 365 days a year!

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Mitch

### Getting to Know You

#### *Supper with Pastor Mitch*

Thanks to all who have participated in the suppers. I have had a fun time getting to know you better! All of the spaces were filled, so if you were not able to attend a supper but are still interested, please let me know and we will arrange as many more as we need.

Pastor Mitch

### Denominational Initiative: Vital Congregations

Every United Methodist congregation in the world will be participating in a major initiative that is focused on revitalizing our church by helping more and more congregations become vital places of ministry. The main focus for this initiative, and the areas we will be setting goals for, include worship attendance, professions of faith (making new disciples), faith development through small groups, engagement in missions and monetary support of missions. The Conference Church Development Team will be providing support for churches to help in this revitalization effort. This is an exciting plan so be on the lookout for more information concerning this global revitalization initiative.

## St. Luke's Youth Ministry

### Thanksgiving Pie-Making Tuesday, November 22nd 5pm-8ish

Join us for this annual event with James & Alice Richey as we make pies for the community. Pizza provided at 5:00pm and then we all become chefs!!!

### Sunday School for Middle and High School Students

We are using Student Life's "The Life of Christ: The Basis of Faith" curriculum. Be there at 10:00am.

### Sunday Night Youth Group for Middle and High School Students November 6th, November 13th, November 20th 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Join us for our regular Sunday evening activities with a new format. We will not meet on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend.

### Wonderful Wednesdays for Middle and High School Students

Be here on Wednesday nights starting at 5:45pm for dinner and Bible study from 6:30pm to 7:45pm.

### Rock & Worship ROADSHOW

*Saturday, November 5th*

*3pm to 11pm Cost: \$10 plus meal*

We're traveling to Fort Wayne for a special concert. Join us to hear MercyMe, Jars of Clay, Hawk Nelson, Group 1 Crew and Matt Maher. You can't beat this lineup at only \$10!!

As always, friends are welcome and I encourage you to bring someone with you—Deadline for signing up is Wednesday, November 2nd!



NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN ED DEPARTMENT



We are having a lot of fun practicing for our Christmas program! Some of the kids from the Kidz Bells are a part of the "Big Band of Shepherds" in the play and we've been practicing every Wednesday. The Big Band of Shepherds is a little "stretch" as far as the Christmas story is concerned! Instead of having traditional shepherds looking up into the night sky, our Christmas play finds them with their shepherd crooks and top hats doing a "Fred Astaire-type" dance routine!! We also have a group of "Wee Kings" who are also practicing an adorable dance routine using hat boxes that are decorated like Christmas gifts. Carrie Saulkie is working with the Wee Kings and it's great! You won't want to miss this year's Christmas program!! It's called "Star of Wonder" and we'll be performing on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, AT 7 PM. DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 6 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL! TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE NOVEMBER 6TH IN THE NARTHEX. THEY ARE ONLY \$6 PER PERSON! WOW! THAT'S A DEAL!! All proceeds will go to next year's VBS - which is going to be FABULOUS!!



ALSO, don't forget about UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEERLEADING!! Evaluations are December 9th and 10th. If you have children, grandchildren, or neighborhood kids, please give them a brochure and spread the word!! We will also have yard signs available as time gets closer. If you have any questions, please give me a call (765) 438-5981.

Blessings,  
Melinda



We are truly blessed!

## St Luke's UMC "Missions Moment"

Our loose coins offering for November will go to CAM. Here is a little information on that organization.



**CAM, Inc.**  
**Coordinated Assistance Ministries**  
**An Ecumenical Ministry to the**  
**Homeless**



P O Box 523/210 N Market  
 Kokomo, IN 46903  
 (765) 452-8963/FAX (765) 452-5985

**CAM, Inc. is a homeless shelter by night housing 16 men. We are a day time drop in shelter by day serving over 1,000 underprivileged clients in the area. CAM also has a family shelter for three families. We supply coffee and donuts each day to all who enter our doors and we give out hygiene kits containing:**

- Full sized**
- Shampoo**
- Conditioner**
- Toothpaste**
- Deodorant**
- Shaving cream**
- Razors**
- Toothbrush**
- Lotion**
- Wash cloth**

You can support CAM this month by placing your loose coins in the offering plate on Sundays.



To raise money and awareness for all the Ministries and Missions that we support here @ St. Luke's UMC, the Missions team has developed a **Greeting Card Program** of: Get Well, Happy Birthday, Thinking of You, Praying for You, Christmas, Easter... Please see the church office, and Julie, or any of the St. Luke's team members for any questions. [Shannon/Sherri/Nancy/ Patty/Carol/Rebecca/John/Mitch/Larry/Ed]

### Our ATTENDANCE for the month of OCTOBER...

**10/02/2011:**

10:00: 239

**10/09/2011:**

10:00: 231

**10/16/2011:**

8:30: 153; 11:00: 63

**10/23/2011:**

8:30: 163; 11:00: 72

The 2011 St. Luke's stewardship campaign desires to teach the basics of Christian stewardship. Here is our message for November:

God uses money to confirm direction.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."  
 (Proverbs 3:5-6)

### Our GIVING for the month of OCTOBER...



September total: \$43,341.52

September needed: \$49,815.08

September difference: \$ (6,473.56)

10/02/2011: \$12,723.81

10/09/2011: \$12,888.02

10/16/2011: \$ 6,631.24

10/23/2011: \$10,474.91



# UMW News



Hope Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 1st, at 1:00 PM, in the church Parlor. Lydia Burns will do the calling, Mary Miner will give the devotions and lesson, and Barb Lewis will serve refreshments. Visitors are welcome.

Naomi Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 1st, at 7:00 PM, at the home of Nancy McClure, 2502 Springdale Ct.. Nancy Slaubaugh will give the lesson.

Come for a special evening of fellowship!

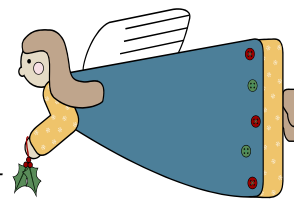


## UMW NEWS FROM NANCY:

- ◆ Thanks to Tanya Saul and all the Angels' Attic Bazaar Chairpersons for a job well done. What a perfect day!
- ◆ November 13th will be UMW Sunday at the 8:30 service. Jewel of a Woman for 2011 will be announced, prayer shawls will be presented, and a Thank Offering will be taken to support UMW Conference Missions.
- ◆ Hope and Naomi Circles sent 22 health kits to a district meeting.
- ◆ Our next UMW sponsored event will be an Advent Lunch on December 3rd. Music will be provided by BJ and Pennye Siefert and their daughter Stacey Fischer. All women and men are invited.
- ◆ Join a circle—receive a blessing! —Nancy Slaubaugh, UMW President

*Hi, St. Luke's Angels!*

*I would like to thank everyone who so graciously helped at the Angels' Attic Bazaar this year. A special thanks to all of the Chairmen for all of the time spent preparing for the day and spending the day. Everyone did a fantastic job; the fellowship was great!!! No matter what the job was, everyone deserves a lot of thanks!!!*



*Remember to mark October 13th on your calendar for next year's Bazaar!*

*In Christ's Love,*

*Tanya Saul*

**GOD IS GOOD!!!**

**J** JOY FELLOWSHIP will have a special Thanksgiving luncheon at Northwoods Commons on November 4th. We will meet at St. Luke's Church at 11:30 AM to go there for lunch at noon. Reservations will be made by signing up at JOY Fellowship or calling Eula at 453-6397 or Glenda at 453-1860. It is important that we have an accurate count, so let us hear from you!

**O** JOY FELLOWSHIP will meet on Friday, November 18th, at 11:00 AM, in the chapel. Joyce Brooks, chaplain, will bring a Thanksgiving message. Chicken-noodle lunch will be prepared by the JOY helpers. Join us for this special day!

**Y**

## BAZAAR REPORT

Our Church Library booth made \$123.88. Special thanks go out to Paula Shrock, Nancy Boughton, Kate Sozansky, Bonnie Harris, Greta Roberts, Tanya Saul and all who donated materials.

After the bazaar the children's books were donated to Vicki's book club and secular materials were donated to a local charity. Remaining materials were sorted and categorized (Thanks to Nancy Boughton) to be sold during Wonderful Wednesdays.

## BOOK ROOM GRAND OPENING

The Library is selling Christian books in our new bookroom during

Wonderful  
Wednesdays!  
These books  
have been either  
donated or  
"weeded out"  
from our Library  
in order to make  
room for newer

materials. All  
proceeds will be used for Library  
expenses and supplies. The  
Christian Booksale Room is located  
in the first room on the right as you  
head down the hall to the Chapel  
(room at bottom of attic stairs.)



## St. Luke's Library Desk schedule: Please recruit a substitute if needed.

9:50-10:00 (After 1st Worship Service)

Nov 6 Fannie Rody  
Nov 13 Nancy Boughton  
Nov 20 Wayne Sozansky

11:00-11:10 (After Sunday School)

Mary Lott  
Sandy Price  
Nancy Boughton



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

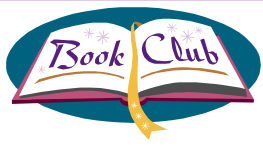


DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH. IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO EASTERN STANDARD TIME!

"Celebrate with the Siefert's" for our Advent Lunch on Saturday, December 3rd. The lunch will be at noon with the program following. Tickets will be on sale for \$4 in the narthex on November 13, 20, and 27. This is for women and men.

The family of Don Clark wishes to thank you for the cards we've received and the prayers you offered for us during this time of sorrow. We'd like to thank Pastor John and Melinda for the visit and prayers of comfort and strength. This outpouring of love and support was appreciated.  
—Janet & Alan Flowers

**VICKI'S BOOK CLUB**—Vicki Tedlock will continue taking monetary donations and books for children at the Rescue Mission and Open Arms. The children are from babies to 10 years-old. Vicki plans to go to the book warehouse in Indy to buy books the first part of December. You can write your check to Vicki Tedlock or St. Luke's. Please include a note on your check or envelope. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated!




The folders for "Let Us" ministers will be out in the narthex this month. If you haven't signed up for this vital ministry, call the church office at 453-0555 to enroll.



Cecil & Hazel  
Roberts' Anniversary  
Help Cecil and Hazel celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on December 12 by giving them a card. Allan and Greta will deliver it to them, (as a surprise), so just drop it by the church office by November 30th, instead of mailing it to them.

## Thanksgiving

A KUO Touch

Hi, my name is Julie\*. I am a single mother of 3 children. I am struggling to provide for my family, and doing the best I can. Unfortunately keeping food in the cabinets is difficult, especially with 3 growing children. It breaks my heart to have to do this, but I have had to put locks on the refrigerator and the kitchen cabinets. This is the only way that I can make sure that my children do not "snack" on what I have planned to prepare for dinner. Thanks to Kokomo Urban Outreach my family is able to eat a hot meal every Sunday evening in my neighborhood. This helps me to stretch the food that I have until the end of the month.

\* While this is not the mother's real name, the story is true. Thank you for caring for this family and many others.

## November 2011 Parish Nurse News by Cindi Myers RN, BSN



If you read the Parish Nurse segment in the Gospel Echoes, you know that I have informed you how important it is for us to take care of our physical bodies for 1. ourselves, for the 2. Holy Spirit, as it is the temple/tabernacle/dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. But now there is another reason to care for your body! The 3. Federal Deficit! I found the editorial by Jim Toedtman, thought provoking! Yes! I admit it...! read [AARP Bulletin](#). I just can't resist sharing.

1. **Cut 150 calories a day from your diet.** Skip the cookies. The cost of health care is at the heart of the nation's fiscal problems. Our fiscal future depends on getting our health costs in line. Start by eating less. The national eating binge has consequences starting with diabetes. Today 28.5 million people are diabetic, and another 66 million are pre-diabetic. Their medical bill, now \$174 billion a year is projected to soar, according to a United Healthcare study, costing the nation \$3.4 trillion in the decade ending 2020. More than 60 percent of those costs will be paid by the federal government. Cutting calories cuts the risk of diabetes, which saves money.
2. **Walk a mile a day...**or bike, or swim, or try any aerobic exercise that burns calories and strengthens the heart. Heart disease is the nation's leading killer. More than 40% of US adults can expect to suffer from cardiovascular disease by 2030, with medical bills exceeding \$1 trillion. More than ½ of those costs will be borne by Medicare. Extra exercise cuts the nation's medical bill.
3. **Pay your debts.** The fastest-growing item in the federal budget today is debt service-the interest we are paying on the \$14 trillion national debt. It's rising from \$186.9 billion in 2009 to \$320.9 billion in 2013. Household debt has exploded, too, as we turned to credit cards to finance daily living, especially in an era when wages barely kept pace with inflation. Household borrowing has doubled since 2000 to \$11.4 trillion, according to the Fed Reserve-an estimated \$36,514 for every man, woman and child. The situation is acute for older Americans: The average US family with a head of household age 60 to 70 has saved 25% of what it will need for retirement. Any new borrowing puts pressure on interest rates tomorrow. Conversely, trimming eases pressure on interest rates, which will reduce the amount of interest to be paid on the national debt. [ Also, in the same breath, pay your taxes! Besides, Jesus told Peter to go pay his tax, and Jesus, and he miraculously provided the funds...but the bottom line: "Give unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar...or the bank...or whomever you owe...]
4. **Plan to work an extra year or two.** This has multiple benefits. First, you will contribute to the Social Security trust fund. Secondly you will add to your retirement fund. Third, a delay in cashing out will bolster the Social Security fund and increase your benefit. [As far as I read in the Bible...it never once mentions retiring....this is actually a fairly new phenomenon.]
5. **Give Uncle Sam a gift.** Others do. Taxpayers' gifts to the US Treasury so far this year total \$2,429,800.03.

Here is the point. Everyone has a stake in this historic fiscal challenge, and the longer we 'all' ignore it, the greater the cataclysm awaiting us. This is not just a Washington problem. It requires a combination of common sense and forceful action. Citizens can lead the way!

Yes, we are dismayed by Washington, and disappointed, and disgusted...but we are all involved, and we can all do our part.

Finally, another point I would personally like to add: monitor your bills, and report insurance fraud.



November 17 is the Great American Smokeout Day! If you smoke; please start preparing yourself to quit.

Why quit?

1. We your church family love you and want you to quit!
2. When you work up to the November 17 date, start writing a log, when do you smoke, who are you smoking with, what are you "feeling" when you smoke.
3. On November 17, throw the cigarettes and ashtrays away!
4. Repeat daily,... minute by minute: "I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me. I can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me!"



## November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 1:00pm Hope Circle 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm SPRC Meeting 7:00pm Naomi Circle	<b>2</b> 1:00pm Prayer/Bible Study 1:30pm Pastor's Bible Study 5:15pm Mentored HandBells 5:45pm Wond. Wed. Meal 6:30pm Wond. Wed. Classes 8:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	<b>3</b> 8:00am Seekers 6:30pm Men's Fraternity 2 7:00pm Praise Team Practice	<b>4</b> 9:00am Linda Smith's Bible Study 11:00am Joy Fellowship 5:00pm Allison Myers Rehearsal Dinner 5:00pm Allison Myers Wedding Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 10:00am Allison Myers wedding
<b>6</b> 8:30am Worship 10:00am Sunday School Hr 11:00am Worship 1:00pm Hartselman Family Reunion 1:00pm Boy Scout Venture 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>7</b> 11:45am Altar Prayer 6:00pm Supper with Pastor Mitch 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study	<b>8</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm Missions Committee Meeting 6:30pm Trustee Meeting	<b>9</b> 1:00pm Prayer/Bible Study 1:30pm Pastor's Bible Study 5:15pm Mentored HandBells 5:45pm Wond. Wed. Meal 6:30pm Wond. Wed. Classes 8:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	<b>10</b> 8:00am Seekers 6:00pm Supper with Pastor Mitch 6:30pm Men's Fraternity 2 6:30pm UMW Ex. Board Mtg. 7:00pm Praise Team Practice	<b>11</b> 9:00am Linda Smith's Bible Study 12:00pm FaHoCha class party 5:00pm Missions Cookie Baking 5:00pm Handy Wedding Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 8:00am UMMI Breakfast @ Golden Corral 9:00am Handy Wedding
<b>13</b> 8:00am UMW SUNDAY 8:30am Worship 10:00am Sunday School Hr 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>14</b> 11:45am Altar Prayer 4:00pm Prayer and Share 5:00pm Glenda Mann-United Way 5:00pm Stephen Ministry 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study	<b>15</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Finance Meeting	<b>16</b> 1:00pm Prayer/Bible Study 1:30pm Pastor's Bible Study 5:15pm Mentored HandBells	<b>17</b> 8:00am Seekers 6:30pm Men's Fraternity 2 7:00pm Praise Team Practice	<b>18</b> 9:00am Linda Smith's Bible Study 11:00am Joy Fellowship	<b>19</b> 9:00am Blue Star Moms-Stacy Handy
<b>20</b> 8:00am Newsletter Deadline 8:30am Worship 10:00am Sunday School Hr 11:00am Worship 1:30pm BoyScout Venture 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>21</b> 11:45am Altar Prayer 6:00pm Gideons Meeting 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study	<b>22</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 3:00pm Richeys-Youth pie baking	<b>23</b> 1:00pm Prayer/Bible Study 5:15pm Mentored HandBells 8:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	<b>24</b> HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:30am Worship 10:00am Sunday School Hr 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>28</b> 11:45am Altar Prayer 4:00pm Prayer and Share 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study	<b>29</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Administrative Board Meeting	<b>30</b> 1:00pm Prayer/Bible Study 1:30pm Pastor's Bible Study 5:15pm Mentored HandBells 8:00pm Chancel Choir Practice			