



August 6, 2017

Dear friends in Christ,

Amazingly, it has already been a month since I came to serve here at St. Luke's. This month has gone incredibly fast. I want to express first of all my gratitude to all of you for the warm welcome you have given me. I truly feel at home here, and I thank you all for that.

Secondly, I want to give you an update on what is going on here at St. Luke's. As you know, although the vast majority of the construction of the new church is completed, there are some important projects that are still in progress. Perhaps most visible is the ongoing construction of our baptismal font. Progress has been slower than I would like but is at least still coming along. Also, our new altar, tabernacle, ambo, crucifix, and candlesticks are in production. I have been in touch with the contractors and artists who are producing them, and they have assured me that they will all be ready and in place in time for the Mass of the Blessing of the New Church, which will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 17.

I have also been in touch with the artist who is creating an icon of St. Luke, which will go in the niche to the left of the sanctuary. I do not yet have a time frame on when this will be completed. So far, I have seen a rough sketch of the icon and its production has been approved.

There are many other things on the list: interior and exterior signs, a permanent sign by 42nd Avenue, a storage shed, to name a few. Regarding the grounds, we are at present seeking bids for both landscaping/lawn care and snow removal. Much of the grounds will be left in a natural state, allowing local vegetation and wildflowers to grow. The area that will have to be mowed regularly is fairly minimal; this reduces the cost of maintaining the grounds, among other things.

John Graveline, our director of faith formation, has also been working on revising and improving our faith formation program. He has held several meetings with parents over the last few weeks to seek input and to plan the schedule for this coming school year.

And, we, of course, are getting ready for the rapidly approaching return of the GVSU students. I am looking forward to seeing them at our Masses, which will now be held here at the church rather than at the Cook-DeWitt Center (except the first 5:30 Mass of the new school year, on August 27). Certain activities such as weekly Eucharistic Adoration which previously used to be on campus will now take place here at the church and will, of course, be open to the entire parish community. More information on this will follow soon.

There is much more that I could add, but I think this is long enough. However, one final thought: like the entire Church, the purpose of this parish community and of everything we do here is to grow in holiness; that is, to grow closer to Jesus Christ, or rather, to let him draw closer to us. My hope is that everything we do going forward will fulfill this simple yet noble goal.

May the Lord Jesus bless each one of you,

Fr. Bill

Transfiguration  
of the Lord



**Parish Information**  
 10144 42nd Avenue  
 Georgetown Township, MI 49428  
 616-895-2247  
 Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
[lukespot.com](http://lukespot.com)  
[GVSUCatholic.org](http://GVSUCatholic.org)

**PARISH STAFF & CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>Rev. Bill Vander Werff</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	FrBill@lukespot.com
<b>Mr. John Graveline</b>	<b>Faith Formation</b>	faithformation@lukespot.com
<b>Ms. Caitlin Cusack</b>	<b>Music Ministry</b>	music@lukespot.com
<b>Mrs. Kim Thomas</b>	<b>Parish Secretary</b>	secretary@lukespot.com
<b>Mrs. Alyssa Freehafer</b>	<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	bulletin@lukespot.com
<b>Ms. Sue Sandberg</b>	<b>Bookkeeper</b>	accounts@lukespot.com
<b>Mr. Dave Zinger</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>	maintenance@lukespot.com
<b>Mrs. Ramona Baldrige</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	housekeeping@lukespot.com

**Sacramental Emergency Contact Number**  
 616-649-2518



***This Week's Scripture Readings***  
 Available online at [usccb.org/bible](http://usccb.org/bible)

***Ministries for Aug. 13***

**Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass.**

**Lectors**

8:00 a.m. Yvonne Boon (1st), Karon Flagg (2nd)  
 10:30 Robert Talbert (1st), Karon Flagg (2nd)

**Altar Servers**

8:00 a.m. Jacob Vantrepott, **Server Needed**  
 10:30 Simon Morgan, Aaron Morgan

**Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**

8:00 a.m. Sheryl Horton, Tim Alt, Jessica Oostindie  
 10:30 Cathy Talbert, Linda Mitchell, Elaine Briar,  
 Pam & Larry Van Wyk

**Ushers Please arrive at least 20 minutes prior to Mass.**

8:00 a.m. Jason Horton (lead), Jerry Casha, Max Ainslie, David Boon  
 10:30 Kevin Devos (lead), Larry Flag, Tom Garvelink,  
 William Norton

**Happening this Week in Our Parish**

**Sunday (8/6) Transfiguration of the Lord**

8:00 a.m.	Mass + Richard Olechnowicz	Church
9:15	EM Training	Church
10:30	Mass Artists	Church
12:00 p.m.	Lector Training	Church
4:30	RCIA/Catechumenate	Church
5:30	Mass For Our People	Church

**Monday (8/7) St. Sixtus II & Companions; St. Cajetan**

**Tuesday (8/8) St. Dominic**

5:00 p.m.	Mass Those who Suffer	Church
5:30	Reconciliation	Church
7:30	K of C Council Meeting	Church

**Wednesday (8/9) St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross**

5:00 p.m.	Mass The Sick	Church
5:30	Reconciliation	Church
7:00	Capital Campaign Leaders Meeting	Church
8:00	RCIA/Catechumenate	Church

**Thursday (8/10) St. Lawrence**

3:30 p.m.	Food Pantry	Church
5:00	Mass Engaged Couples	Church
5:30	Reconciliation	Church

**Friday (8/11) St. Clare**

**No Mass or Reconciliation**

9:30 a.m.	Parish Breakfast Club	Murphy's
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**Saturday (8/12) St. Jane Frances de Chantal**

9:00 a.m.	Mass Newly Married Couples	Church
9:30	Reconciliation	Church

**Sunday (8/13) 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m.	Mass	Church
10:30	Mass	Church
2:00 p.m.	Baptism Preparation	Church
4:30	RCIA/Catechumenate	Church
5:30	Mass	Church

***Food Pantry Needs***

St. Luke's Food Pantry appreciates your help!

**Our current food pantry needs:**

**Canned Fruit & Vegetables**

To donate, please drop items off in the shopping cart outside the pantry/McConnon Room at the church.

**Next pantry date: Aug. 10**

**Food Pantry is still collecting Family Fare Receipts.** For the receipts to count we **must have the full receipt**, not just the bottom part.

***CSA Update***

If you have returned your CSA card, thank you!

With your generous response to date, we have reached 96% of our parish CSA goal. 47% of our households have responded. Congratulations and thank you for your stewardship! Our goal is 100% participation, which means a completed pledge card from every household. **If you have not responded, please do so as soon as possible.**

Finances for July	Envelope	Online	Combined	Budgeted	Over/Behind
Total for July	\$ 17,441	\$8,955	\$ 26,396	\$ 30,000	\$ (3,604)
Weekly Average for July	\$ 3,488	\$1,791	\$ 5,279	\$ 6,000	\$ (721)

**Saint Luke University Parish**  
 August 6, 2017  
*The Transfiguration*  
*of the Lord Sunday*  
 Volume 11, Number 37



## **Altar Flowers for Sunday Aug. 6**

**In Memory of  
Cassandra Thurow  
By Randy, Jeanette & Mike Thurow**

## **SCRIP**

It is August, which means it is time for back to school sales! Scrip can help you get what you need while earning rebates for the parish. Stop by the Scrip table after Mass for more information.

### **Diocese of Grand Rapids to host Baraga Days**

The Diocese of Grand Rapids will host the annual Baraga Days celebration this year, Sept. 2 and 3. Baraga Days is an annual commemoration and celebration of Bishop Frederic Baraga, a legendary figure in the history of northern Michigan and pioneer of the American Catholic Church. Key celebrations include Native American Presentation and Drum Circle at Cathedral Square Center, Mass in Slovenian at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, Presentation on "the Life and Times of Bishop Baraga – A Historical Review" by James A. Surrell, Mass in English with Bishop Walkowiak at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. For more information visit the diocesan website: [dioceseofgrandrapids.org](http://dioceseofgrandrapids.org).

### **Parish Needs Fundraiser**

Do you hate taking back your pop & beer cans? Problem solved! Just drop them off at Diane Emelander's home at 10301 68th Ave. Allendale.

### **St Luke's Women's Fellowship August Meeting**

The Women's Fellowship August meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 16 at 6:30 p.m., at the Parish Center. We are very fortunate to have Fr. Bill as our guest speaker. Sloppy joes, or pulled pork for sandwiches, and buns will be provided. We just need side dishes or desserts. No reservations needed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeanne Benedict, at 616-677-5428, or at [thequeenjeanne@charter.net](mailto:thequeenjeanne@charter.net). Not a member yet? No problem, join us! Follow us on our Facebook page: [St. Luke University Parish Women's Fellowship Group](https://www.facebook.com/St.LukeUniversityParishWomen'sFellowshipGroup).

### **Thank You!**

Thanks for participating in our church directory, because of all the pictures you purchased you raised \$868.00 for the church! We are so thankful for our great parish!



### **Ministry to the Homebound**

If you or someone you know is homebound and unable to come to Mass on Sunday, please let us know. We have parishioners that will happily bring the Eucharist, or just visit with you on Sunday. Please call us at the parish office 895-2247 or email Barb Blankemeier at [markandbarb.b@gmail.com](mailto:markandbarb.b@gmail.com).

### **Parish Items in Storage**

Would any one who has items stored for the church please contact Dave Zinger with a list of what you have and how best to reach you. We need to log what we need and dispose of what we do not. If there are items that need to be saved, they need to be tagged with their purpose and contact info.

Thanks,

Dave Zinger

[d.zinger@lukespot.com](mailto:d.zinger@lukespot.com), 616-635-9554

### **Seeking Loving Host Families for YFU Exchange Students**

Youth for Understanding (YFU) needs host families for high school exchange students for the 2017-18 school year. Many students are willing to attend their host family's religious services as often as they do. Here is a small sample of available students: Fuka, 16-years-old, from Japan; Bowen 15-years-old from China; Sophie, 16-years-old from Germany. You can request more details about any of them or see other possible students at [www.yfuusa.org/meetstudents](http://www.yfuusa.org/meetstudents). Many different kinds of families can host. You don't need to have high school age kids. You just need the ability to be a good parent for a high school student and to open your heart to another child. Most students stay from August through June, though you can host for a shorter time. The students bring their own spending money and health insurance and can share a room with a host sibling. Host a YFU exchange student! For more information, please contact Nicholas Paauwe at 616-808-1155 or by email at [npaauwe@yfu.org](mailto:npaauwe@yfu.org). You can also visit [www.yfu-usa.org](http://www.yfu-usa.org) to fill out an online application.

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A Community




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