

## Continue the journey ~ focusing on the ONE

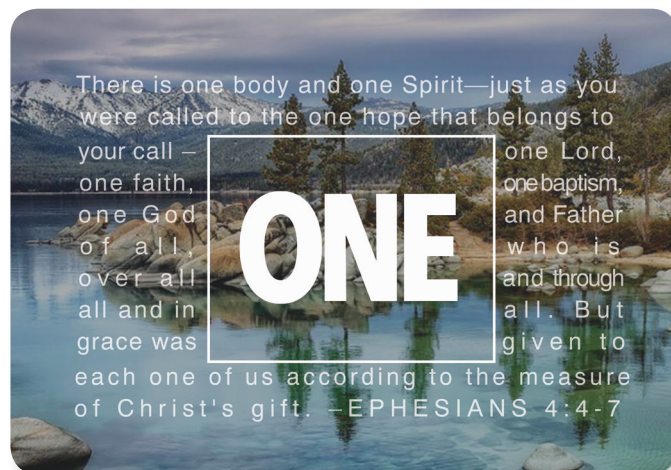
By Joshua Brown, Senior Pastor

Greetings all, at the close of our Advent season and the beginning of our celebration of Christmas! With 2019 winding down, it's important to stop and remember all the wonderful ways God has shown us His faithfulness this year. He has brought us through joys, and triumphs, along with challenges and heartache. Yet there has been one constant: the ONE, whose birth we celebrate this season. Christ is the ONE fulfillment of God's promise to redeem His creation.

He is the ONE head that unites the body of believers. He is our ONE hope, ONE peace, ONE joy, and ONE love from which all others flow. We will continue on in this journey of focusing on the ONE as we continue into 2020 and on towards Easter.

I'm super excited for the wonderful opportunities the New Year holds and I

pray you find ONE new opportunity to get involved in it!



## Unity Sunday | December 29 | 10 am

December 29th marks the close of our worship for 2019 and signals in the beginning of a new decade for St. Lukes. With our ONE focus, I can't think of a better way to usher in a new beginning than with a Unity Sunday

being together worshipping as one. The theme will be **new beginnings** as we look to 2020 as an opportunity for a fresh start! Luckily, the Bible isn't short on stories about new beginnings so you'll have to come see whose story

God has in store for us to learn from. I'm also excited to share that **Jessica Cartwright** will be doing the children's message as her first step towards a possible future in church work! Whether you are looking to learn from this last year, let it go, or start something new, I promise this will be a great service and way to kick off a new beginning! After service, be sure to head down to the Fellowship Hall for a special New Year-themed coffee hour hosted by our North Valleys OIKOS group. Can't wait to worship with you!

If you'd like to purchase a ONE t-shirt to wear on Unity Sundays, please stop by the marketplace. We have all sizes, including youth, on sale for just \$10!



## PARENTING THROUGH THE PHASES

next  
newsletter  
deadline:  
Jan. 24

### ST LUKES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**Joshua Brown**

Senior Pastor

**Megan Gibson**

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**Julie Foster**

Administrative Assistant

**Wes Sheaffer**

Interim Administrator

**Mike Benke**

Pastor Emeritus

**StLukesReno.org**

## Fusion | Parenting Through the Phases

Article paraphrased from "A New Kind of Leader" by Reggie Joiner

Kids matter more than adults. Yes, I said it. If you're an adult, you may be offended, but before you burn this article, let me clarify exactly what I mean. I'm NOT devaluing any person at any stage of life. An adult's life is just as valuable as a kid's life. No, the world doesn't revolve around your kid. What I am saying is that the first 18 years of a person's life are CRUCIAL for laying a firm foundation for their future. If that's true, doesn't it make sense to start influencing their character and faith as soon as possible?

What if we started acting like what we do for kids is more important than anything else we do — as parents? And as a church? What does that mean? How does that affect the way we operate today? How does that change the trajectory of our church?

Sometimes changing a diaper, filling water balloons, remembering their pet's name, or writing an encouraging text before their big test can leave an impression, and early impressions matter! A child's brain is made up of actual experiences. Basically speaking, what you do for a kid is an investment, increasing value over time. The sooner you start investing, the greater the return later. The early years shape so much of one's sense of purpose, belonging, and identity.

Let me rephrase our original statement: **What St. Lukes does for kids is more important than anything else our church does.** Think about how Jesus challenged His culture to shift the way they thought about children. "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

So what if kids don't sound like God, act like God, or smell like God. You should welcome every kid as if you're welcoming God. And if you're comfortable with who is showing up on Sundays, then you haven't opened the door wide enough.

Kids need a new kind of leader who will volunteer to do something more. What someone did for you. What you wish someone did for you. What you hope someone will do for your kid or grandkid.

There are so many ways we as a church can move forward to raise up our families. I challenge you, whether you have kids or not, to do any or all of the following:

- 1 If you're not volunteering, start. Don't wait to be asked. Take the initiative now.
- 2 Pick a family to love. Pray for them. Babysit their kids. Invite mom or dad to coffee. Send them encouraging cards in the mail. Find ways to intentionally build your relationship with kids and parents.

(continued from page 2)

- 3 Begin prayerfully considering the possibility of St. Luke's starting a school. Pray for the students, the teachers, the board members, and all involved in the planning and execution of this huge project.
- 4 Join us for our Tuesday evening FUSION | Parenting Through the Phases, starting January 7th at 6:30 pm. Childcare provided. We will be discussing how to be intentional with those 18 years, and we need you! We need young families, seasoned parents, and everyone in between to link arms and provide support for the next generation. What you do for kids matters so bring a snack and join us!

## Tuesday | January 14 Holy Lands Informational Session

We had a great turnout at our last Holy Land Information Meeting and many people have shown interest. At this time we have 10 confirmed travelers. Pastor Josh together with Pastor Mark Duerr will be hosting informational sessions, on the first Tuesday of each month discussing the biblical explanations of the various locations we will visit.

We hope many of you will commit to exploring these great places and capture the real depth of this journey.

**Please remember**, we need

40 travelers confirmed and paid in full by May 1, 2020 for this trip to take place. Please contact Brigitte Stafford for details and to reserve your spot (sparkey024@aol.com).



## Fusion | Ladies Night | January 28 | Location TBD

We'll be meeting at 6 pm for a study, then doing some sort of activity in the community. Stay tuned for full details coming in January. Email [megan@stlukesreno.org](mailto:megan@stlukesreno.org) to be added to the group and to receive study notes.

## Fusion | Guys Night | January 28 | Location TBD

Pastor Josh will be leading a character study, then enjoy an activity in the community. Details to be announced soon. Check the Sunday sheets or email [megan@stlukesreno.org](mailto:megan@stlukesreno.org) to be kept in the loop.



## January Fusion | Tuesdays

1st Tuesday | Parenting Through the Phases

2nd Tuesday | Holy Lands

4th Tuesday | Ladies Night (normally 3rd Tuesday)

4th Tuesday | Guys Night



# Visions for a School

By Pastor Josh Brown

**A**t the congregational meeting, the vote was unanimous for Council to establish a team, with the help of Chuck Alvey, to explore the possibility of a school as part of St. Lukes.

Honestly, not a day has gone by where I haven't been thinking about it from the 100,000-foot level. I don't know what it will take, or what challenges will have to be overcome in order to get to the finish line, but I love to think about what it will be like.

I see a place for families and our community to come together to grow. I see a one-stop shop for people's

wellness. I want to create a hub for community that helps families create healthy rhythm for life. Children learn, parents learn, children grow, we all grow.

How cool would it be to have ministries train up these future generations? I see children learning to quilt and sew with our Prayers & Squares ladies. I see each child loading a box in a shipping container to send out with Orphan Grain Train. I see a gym where families can learn healthy habits, and a coffee house where kids can get a quick breakfast

on those hectic mornings and where parents can meet after dropping the kids off for bible study or to chat with friends. I see a hub for community connections and a place where people can find spiritual health. They can find support and hear about a God who loves and created them, who walks with them and challenges them, who calls them to serve.

Pastors are renowned for dreaming big dreams, but this one, I pray, is right around the corner.



## Recycling

St. Lukes is taking steps to be more environmentally conscious! You'll notice recycle bins throughout the church. We've transitioned from Styrofoam cups to paper for coffee hour. We're working on buying in bulk instead of individual packaging. If you have any ideas on this new initiative, please reach out to admin@stlukesreno.org. Every little bit helps us be better stewards to our community.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2020 Flower Chart

Sign ups for 2020 are now available on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

### 2020 Coffee Sign Ups

Help us offer a welcoming fellowship time on Sunday mornings! This is a great opportunity for individuals to celebrate occasions, ministry groups to share a mission or recruit new members, or just a group of individuals to come together to add to our Sunday morning experience. The sign-up sheet can be found in the kitchen.

### Congrats, graduates!

**Jennifer Marianne (Shulz) Goff**, received her Bachelor of Science degree in Software Development from Western Governors University. She plans to stay in Reno and is currently looking for a job in her field.



# Discipleship to Missional Community (D2MC) with PLI

By Pastor Josh Brown

St. Lukes is all about “Growing Relationships through Faith” UP, IN, and OUT. We are looking for 6 people who are interested in going through a 2–1/2 year training process to tackle the charge Jesus gave His disciples to “Go and make disciples”. This is a leadership development community helping leaders learn how to engage in Discipleship to create Missional Communities (D2MC). We will start in the fall of 2020. If you are interested in going through the program with Brittany and me, please let me know ([josh@stlukesreno.org](mailto:josh@stlukesreno.org)). This will be key training for equipping

members of our congregation to lead in the future of the ministry Christ has called us to. I can’t wait to begin the process and see how God blesses it. My prayer is that this coaching and development will be like steroids to our OIKOS ministries and our many ministries at St. Lukes. If you are a missional leader but can’t commit to D2MC, don’t worry, know I will be leading all our missional leaders through the training I’m receiving, Brittany will be leading our worship leaders, and the

other participants will be training our OIKOS leaders so everyone will learn together!

**ACTION POINT:** If you know you can’t participate in D2MC, and you aren’t serving in a leadership role currently your role is still crucial: PRAY. PRAY FOR THE PARTICIPANTS, OUR LEADERS, AND OUR CHURCH THAT THIS WOULD BE BLESSED AND MULTIPLIED BY GOD!



## Discipleship to Missional Community

### WOMEN'S NEWS

#### Ruth Guild

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone that made the Older But Wiser dinner a success.

To **Theresa Schmauder** for all the music provided, to **Nancy O'Brien** and **Kathy Dickens** for the wonderful food, to **Christi Spiker** for the beautiful decorations, to the **Youth** for helping with set up and serving and to all the wonderful ladies that donated the pies. A great time was had by all.

Another BIG THANK YOU to all the ladies that helped bring the BASKET BONAZA to another successful year. We had over 100 baskets and raised over \$3000. We will be deciding where we will spend that money at our January meeting. There have been several suggestions already for which mission we should support. Bring your suggestions to the January meeting, which will be Tuesday, January 14th.

The 3rd THANK YOU goes to **Candy** and **Jeff Kiel** for hosting our Annual Christmas get together. It was great just to be able to enjoy everyone's company, the delicious soups made by Jeff and Candy, to sing Christmas carols and to hear the Christmas story by **Vicki Benke**.



### FROM COUNCIL

Approved minutes from the November Council meeting are now available on My St. Lukes and printed copies can be found in the Narthex.



### ONLINE RESOURCES

#### GIVING:

[stlukesreno.org/donate/](http://stlukesreno.org/donate/)

#### SERMONS:

[stlukesreno.org/sermon/](http://stlukesreno.org/sermon/)

#### MY ST. LUKES

[stlukesreno.ccbchurch.com](http://stlukesreno.ccbchurch.com)

## Shared Harvest

St. Lukes is hosting the assembly of bags for Shared Harvest on Sunday, January 26 and Sunday, February 23. The assembly will take place in the Fellowship Hall.

**Volunteers are needed.** We need 4-6 volunteers at 12 noon to create the bag in a bag (paper grocery bag put inside a plastic grocery bag), set up tables, remove food items for that month from the Food Pantry closet and set them logically on the tables. We also need 4-6 volunteers at 12:30 to greet and help unload the items from other churches, set them in the appropriate place and count items. Finally, we need 4-6 volunteers to run the assembly line and fill bags. No experience needed. Please contact **Barbara Hoffman** at **775.826.2253** or **775.560.4901** (cell) if you have questions or would like to help.

### JANUARY SHARED HARVEST NEEDS

- ▶ 27 jars of Peanut Butter (no glass)
- ▶ 40 cans of fruit
- ▶ 40 powdered milk packets
- ▶ Bar soap

**Deadline: Jan. 26, 11:00 am**  
**Please place items on the Shared Harvest cart in the Fellowship Hall.**

#### Assembly:

St Lukes Lutheran Church  
Jan. 26, 1:00 pm

**VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!**

## Good Shepherd

The Good Shepard Clothes Closet is a local non-profit organization that collects and distributes free clothing and bedding to local residents. Last year, they once again served over 30,000 people in the Reno/Sparks area.

### New Children's Program

Good Shepard is currently visiting local elementary and middle schools on a monthly basis distributing shoes and clothing to families in need. There is a never-ending need for shoes and clothes for children in grades K-8 that this program is designed to serve.

Please consider donating gently used

clothing for this special new ongoing program, serving our local community.

Winter is here and cold weather clothes for men and women are needed now. If you want to help those in our community, please put your donations in the barrel marked Good Shepard in the Fellowship Hall. Good Shepard survives based solely upon donated goods and cash donations and would greatly appreciate your support.

### Questions?

**Terry Hoffman, 826-2253**



## Short-term Missions Meeting: Sunday, January 26

By Erika Mechsner, 209.595.8807, emechsner@gmail.com

- **WHAT:** A general informational meeting about opportunities to serve on short-term mission trips through St. Lukes
- **WHEN:** Sunday, Jan. 26th during the 11:00 service (right after a missions-themed Fellowship Hour!), in classroom N-2.
- **WHO:** Anyone interested in sharing the Gospel and traveling! We will be talking about opportunities not only for this year but for the future as well. I have served with team members from 10-80 years old, from students to teachers to doctors to retired police officers, so you may be a perfect fit.
- **WHY:** In the Great Commission in Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations. We are part of a global Church, but short-term mission trips aren't even just about what we do during the trip! Involvement in short-term mission trips reinvigorates and refocuses our at-home ministries too.

If you can't make the meeting but want to know more about short-term mission trips, please call or email!



## EVENTS

### Scrapbooking Day Jan. 4 | 9 am – 6 pm

Calling all scrapbookers! We'll be hosting a scrapbooking day here in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 4 from 9 am until 6 pm. Please bring a lunch if you plan to stay all day.



### Roots class Jan. 11 | 8 am – 4 pm

Our next Roots class will be held on Jan. 11 from 8 am-4 pm. If you're interested in learning more about our church history, want to become a member, or just want to hear more about the various ways to get involved here at St. Luke's, this is for you! Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact the office (office@stlukesreno.org).



### AA Meetings Beginning January 3

A local AA group will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall beginning January 3 from 5:30-6:30 pm on Mondays and Fridays. If this is something that would benefit you or if you know of anyone who would benefit from this type of fellowship, please help spread the word.

### St. Luke's Marketplace

ONE shirts are now for sale for \$10 in the marketplace! Stop by Sundays between services to purchase yours along with other St. Luke's swag including travel coffee mugs, stainless steel water bottles, sweatshirts, and baseball caps, while supplies last. Cash, check, and credit cards are accepted. Items range in price from \$10-\$30.



### Gray Matters Save the Date!

Monday, January 13

at 10:00 am

● Monday Matinée ●

Watch your Sunday bulletin  
for details.

## Odyssey is gearing up for a new start!

**B**eginning January 12, we head back to the Holy Lands to meet the characters of the Bible and watch as Jesus' ministry unfolds around them. We are always looking for new volunteers and "travelers". Children ages 3 thru 5th grade are welcome to come with us as we journey through God's redemption story and learn how we fit into His big plan! Odyssey will be happening every week throughout the summer so if you're in town (or can make it back) always plan on Odyssey!

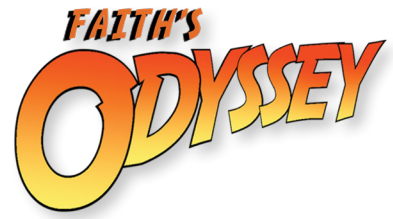
### If you're new to the ministry...

Let me give you some nuts and bolts for the kick off on January 12th. Odyssey starts at 9:30 in the

Sanctuary with worship during the Modern service. Please check your children in at the check-in station in the Narthex prior to entering the sanctuary. At 9:45, the children leave to travel with Odyssey. They will meet in the "customs room" to get their lanyards, have their passports stamped, and get into groups (they might enjoy a little sing-a-long time as well). Then they are off to their journey where they'll watch and play along with the story of the day in drama. They do a craft in the market place to reinforce the story, and then visit the synagogue to learn lessons to take home. Odyssey used to finish at 10:30 am, but on January 12th, we'll be concluding at 10:45 am, which is when parents can head down to the Fellowship Hall and into the Odyssey hallway to collect their children.

### Odyssey Opportunities!

We need 1-3 people each month to help organize and direct the Odyssey experience. That means making sure we have drama materials, craft materials, and teaching materials for each week. **Elizabeth Peterson** is scheduling the volunteers for the day, **Luke Schober** is prepping drama leaders, and **Pastor Josh** will help with setting up the rooms for the month. Approximately six months before your month, you would look at the curriculum materials and



begin planning to ensure we have everything needed to make this the best experience possible for our children as we ensure they are being raised with a knowledge of the Lord. The good news is, if you are directing, that doesn't mean you have to be there those weeks; this is more of the background stuff.

### If you are willing to help...

Please email [josh@stlukesreno.org](mailto:josh@stlukesreno.org). If you already have a team you want to work with, state that as well. The goal is to have enough directors that each team only does two months a year (once every six months). Well done, good and faithful servants (in advance)!!!

### Volunteers

Please meet in the Marketplace at 9:15 am each Sunday you're working for a review of the game plan for the day as well as a time of prayer for the children.

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## Bible Studies

- **Ladies' Bible Study**  
Sundays at 9:30 am in Room N1
- **Youth Bible Study**  
Sundays at 9:30 in Room N-3
- **Tuesday mornings with Bill Heinicke**  
From 11 am-noon in Room N-1
- **Fusion | Tuesdays**  
1st Tuesday | Parenting Through the Phases  
2nd Tuesday | Discipleship  
3rd Tuesday | Ladies Night  
4th Tuesday | Guys Night

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## Nursery

Nursery care is available Sunday mornings from 7:45 am until noon.

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