



# ST. LUCAS LANTERN

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**We Bring People to Christ, Nurture People in Christ, and Equip People for Christ**

### **July 2023**

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### **Insidious Influences**

The world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is full of influencers. Whether we realize it or not, everywhere we look and everything we see is trying to influence us. Whether we are on the highway, in the grocery store, or on our phones, we cannot escape the barrage of bright lights and flashy colors specifically crafted to influence us to think or act a certain way. Many of these influences are innocent and, for the most part, harmless. They want you to buy their brand over the competitor, get you to consider utilizing their business, or extend the warranty of your vehicle. Yet even these innocent ads serve to desensitize us to the level of information we are taking in at every given moment. Try as we may, it is nearly impossible to keep our minds from wandering down endless rabbit holes because of the constant stream of information our minds are always taking in, often without us even noticing.

Modern marketing statistics articulate that the average American is expected to see 4,000 – 10,000 ads... PER DAY.<sup>1</sup> Take a second to let that soak in. I was aghast when I read this statistic as I would have never guessed the number to be so high in my life (but I certainly believe it!). This means that 4,000 – 10,000 times a day, you look at something that has been specifically designed by paid and trained professionals to influence your brain into thinking in a certain way. I don't care how disciplined you may be, certainly some of these ads will accomplish their mission.

As I am sure you have seen, not every ad is innocent. In fact, more and more ads are designed to lead us into some form of sin whether it be: envy, lust, materialism, or despair. You see, every ad may

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<sup>1</sup> [How many ads do people see in a day 2021? - AdvertisingRow.com](https://www.advertisingrow.com/) | [Home of Advertising Professionals, Advertising news, Infographics, Job offers](https://www.advertisingrow.com/)

be completely unique and offer products that are entirely different, but they all have one thing in common: they are designed to keep you from being joyful and content. After all, nobody ever came up with a slogan “joyful contentment sells” because it just isn’t true. For us Christians, this poses a problem, after all joyful contentment is the way St. Paul tells us we are to live (Philippians 4:11-13). So what are we supposed to do? Do we throw away our phones, move out into the middle of nowhere and go off the grid with nothing but a Bible and a roll of duct tape? As tempting as that may sound for some of us, I’d like to offer a far more practical solution: we must be intentional about filling our mind with positive Biblical influences (Philippians 4:8).

This starts with getting into our bibles **daily**. We are so blessed to live in an era where Bibles are everywhere! Not only that, but we are legally allowed to read them as often as we like. God speaks to us through His word, it is the first place we should be going for an influential reset. I fully understand we all have busy schedules, but you will **always** have time for the things in your life you prioritize, this must be a priority. Although reading the Bible privately is an essential discipline, studying in the company of others (not simply online, but making every attempt to physically be present in fellowship with each other) is equally essential as it provides an environment where Christ promises He is present and active with us (Matthew 18:20). The time for passively reading the Bible and attending church on occasion is long since passed, in this world of subliminal influences we **need** fellowship with God’s Word and other believers.

If you have made it this far and thought “alright man, nice pitch, I get it read the Bible more, I’ll see what I can do.” Then I’d like to leave you with this final plea to help you take this seriously. When I was a criminal investigator, one of my favorite parts of the job was conducting interrogations. This was not because I am particularly skilled at the actual interrogation portion, but rather because I loved the set up. You see, half the battle with an interrogation is how you set up your interrogation room. If you are able to create an environment that is friendly yet subliminally says “I have you dead to rights”, you start an interrogation having already accomplished half the battle. Once the subject is in the room, you just talk friendly and confidently and allow their mind to

wander. Most individuals fall prey to the setup and, imagining you already know the whole story, confess fairly early with very little prompting. Before they know it, they are shaking my hand and signing a statement swearing everything they said was the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Often times, they would even thank me for listening to them confess to their crime.

Friends, Satan has your flesh dead to rights and he has set this world up to lead you right into his trap. Your only chance to see through his schemes is to prioritize your faith. Never forget, his goal is to have you smile and thank him as he leads you away from the salvation you have in our Savior, Jesus Christ. There is no greater priority.

*Seminarian Tyler Simmons*



**ECC:** Children are having fun this summer.





**BINGO:** Come one, come all! Both men & women!! Bingo is scheduled for Thursday, July 6 at 6:30 p.m. in

the multi-purpose room. The cost is \$5.00 to play. Some people bring snacks to share. Our charity this month is Center for Animal Rescue & Enrichment of St. Louis. They are requesting bleach, laundry detergent, paper towels, used bed sheets (no holes), pens, used towels (no holes), dish detergent and bottled water & energy drinks for the staff and volunteers. Both snacks and donations are voluntary. Please let me know if you plan on attending - sharon.m3845@yahoo.com or (314) 922-4678.

If you are unable to attend but still want to donate, there is a black & white tote in the back of church where you can put your donations



**RED HAT:** All ladies are invited to gather together on July 16 to attend a Red Hat luncheon. (no Red Hat required) A location has not been decided yet but will be published prior to the event date. This is a

wonderful time to get to know the ladies of the church on a more personal basis. Let's kick COVID and start enjoying each other again..

**GREETING CARDS:** Greeting cards are available. There are birthday, thank you, sympathy, get well cards, gift card holders and more. Personalized cards can be made. Proceeds go to the **Building Major Repair**. For more information contact Kathy Christopher (314) 351-2628 or officeofstlucas@yahoo.com.



**VBS: St. Lucas held VBS** the week of June 4-9. We had 90 children registered, and we had a high percentage of children who attended each day.

St. Trinity Lutheran joined our VBS again this year. Several volunteers joined us, as well as several children. They were a true blessing, and all the volunteers played an active role and helped our VBS run very smoothly. We also had 15 children/students from Christian Friends of New Americans, as well as a mission team from Decatur, IL with 2 adult and 10 student volunteers, and 2 adult volunteers from Extreme Faith STL who were hosting the mission team. It was a fabulous week!

Our theme this year was "Stellar – Shining Jesus' Light." The children rotated into different areas, with the elementary children and preschoolers in separate "crews." They all learned Bible stories and did hands-on activities in Stellar Bible Adventures. The elementary students made some very fun crafts in Constellation Crafts and the preschoolers had lots of fun in Preschool Craft and Play. The very popular Imagination Station had fun science-y gizmos, and Preschool Explorations had interactive activities for the little ones. They all ran off some energy in All-Star Games. Of course, they had awesome snacks in Galactic Snacks, and it was a big hit every day. They LOVED singing and dancing at our opening and closing. We had a great turnout for the family celebration on Thursday evening, followed by Ted Drewes. We had at least 100 people attend, and it was wonderful to visit with them afterwards.

Each year we donate our offerings to a charity, and this year's charity is Feed My People. We collected \$90.00 to be donated, and also collected a table full of non-perishable items to donate.

Our VBS program is a great outreach to our community. Not only do we reach the children, but we also reach their families. We have

several members of the community who volunteer each year, and this year we had quite a few student volunteers. They were all excellent!

We would like to thank all the volunteers for giving their time and talent to help with *Stellar – Shining Jesus' Light*.

Thank you also to the many individuals and families who generously donated to VBS, and to all those who worked behind the scenes. Most of all, thanks to the entire congregation for your support and prayers.

Dalton Costick	Renee Ott	Terri Kamper (St. Trinity)
Carol Miksad	Zane Norris	Mariah Menard (St. Trinity)
Phil Miksad	Deb Rose	Vicar Donny King (St. Trinity)
Heidi Lewis (St. Trinity)	Art Matia	Levi Leighton (St. Trinity)
Janice Taylor	Joyce Kolnik	Johnna Pierzynski
Phil Miksad	Barb Morrison	Rachel Simmons
Lottie Bess	Jim Morrison	Tyler Simmons
Elliott Willerton	John Smith	Lydia Eddingfield
Diane Haywood	Nancy Roach	Jeanine Davis
Judi Lund	Debbie Bretz	Lilly Willis
Cathy Feldmeier	Don Bretz	Barb Kurtz
Donna Scalise	Don Baggett	Sue Hasselbring
Dawn Schlesselmann	Paa yaw Adu Boahen	Val Weerts
Randall Schlesselmann	Nanama Adu Boahen	Steve Kulifay
Kamron Schlesselmann	Sharon Majoros	Frank Schmaltz
Zach Schlesselmann	Sydney Kuhnert	Darma Ludwig
Caylin Schlesselmann	Peighton Gerner	Amy Yusko
Pastor Larson	Norah Kramer	Mission Team helpers (6)
Lisa Larson	Vivian Kramer	CFNA student helpers (3)
Jacob Larson	Kathy Christopher	



### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR- E-CYCLING EVENT:**

What do you have sitting around the house with a cord or battery that is getting in your way of clearing out to make room for new stuff? I know you have accumulated items since our last event which was in 2021! Put everything in a pile and bring it to our E-cycling Event scheduled for **Saturday, August 26 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.** Most items will be taken at no charge. A list of items appears on the church website (<https://www.stlucascms.org/>) so you can see what kind of things they will accept. Go to the church calendar and click on August 26 to view. This event is sponsored by a grant from Thrivent.



St. Lucas helps Feed My People with donations from our members. In the month of July, we are asking for any kind of donation, canned goods, personal products, etc. Feed My People provides

these items to their clients, as needed.

**Volunteers** are needed at the High Ridge Location. Contact Mary Hettenhausen at 636-677-9885 if you would like to volunteer.

### **WEEKLY E-NEWS & MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOW ONLINE**

The monthly St. Lucas Lantern, and weekly e-news has been added to our website at [www.stlucascms.org](http://www.stlucascms.org). Go to the Connect tab. At the bottom of the list is a link called "Newsletters." Pick the month and click on it to be brought to that newsletter. It's just that easy.



## July

Date	Early Service	Late Service
July 2	Phil Miksad ( <b>Elder</b> ) Diane Dymond ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Stan Shurmantine and Jane Townsend ( <b>Usher</b> ) Joyce Bruss ( <b>Reader</b> ) Lilly Willis ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Steve Kulifay, Timothy Adams ( <b>Video Tech</b> )	Art Matia ( <b>Comm Setup</b> ) Dan Arbet ( <b>Elder</b> ) Travis Lawson ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Laurie Riley, Sherri Luxen ( <b>Usher</b> ) Nancy Roach ( <b>Reader</b> ) Johnny Bewig ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Kamron Schlesselman ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Travis Lawson, Nancy Kramer ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )
July 9	Bob Sadlon ( <b>Comm Setup</b> ) Bill Bartlow ( <b>Elder</b> ) Judy Willenbrock ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Tom & Nicole Buffington, Sharon Majoros ( <b>Usher</b> ) Pat Carlton ( <b>Reader</b> ) Timothy Adams ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Carolyn Crump, Timothy Adams ( <b>Video Tech</b> )	Travis Lawson ( <b>Elder</b> ) Myrna Land ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Art Matia, ( <b>Usher</b> ) Kayla Barnes ( <b>Reader</b> ) Riley Roper ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Norah Kramer ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Dawn Schlesselman, Sue Hasselbring ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )
July 16	Phil Miksad ( <b>Elder</b> ) Joyce Kolnik, Deb Rose ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Judy Willenbrock, Rita Zipay ( <b>Usher</b> ) Mary Bartlow ( <b>Reader</b> ) Lilly Willis ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Steve Kulifay , Carolyn Crump ( <b>Video Tech</b> )	Jane Mihalevich ( <b>Comm Setup</b> ) Dan Arbet ( <b>Elder</b> ) Warren & Nita Huffines ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Robert McNeil, Jane Mihalevich ( <b>Usher</b> ) Laura Hertel ( <b>Reader</b> ) Vivian Kramer ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Kamron Schlesselman ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Stacey Wellman, Liz Kurtz ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )
July 23	Nancy Roach ( <b>Comm Setup</b> ) Bill Bartlow ( <b>Elder</b> ) Sharon Majoros ( <b>Greeter</b> ) June Wooldridge ( <b>Usher</b> ) Tom & Nicole Buffington ( <b>Reader</b> ) Timothy Adams ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Timothy Adams , Steve Kulifay, ( <b>Video Tech</b> )	Ron Shebik ( <b>Elder</b> ) Charlotte Brewer ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Ron & Joan Shebik ( <b>Usher</b> ) Tom Kramer ( <b>Reader</b> ) Tracy Jasper ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Norah Kramer ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Travis Lawson, Caylin Schlesselman ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )



<b>July 30</b>	Phil Miksad ( <b>Elder</b> ) Diane Dymond ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Stan Shurmantine and Jane Townsend ( <b>Usher</b> ) Stan Shurmantine and Jane Townsend ( <b>Reader</b> ) Lilly Willis ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Carolyn Crump, Timothy Adams , ( <b>Video Tech</b> )	Dan Arbet ( <b>Elder</b> ) Dorothy Arbet, Rena Crites ( <b>Greeter</b> ) Robert McNeil, Jane Mihalevich ( <b>Usher</b> ) Travis Lawson ( <b>Reader</b> ) Angel Jasper ( <b>Acolyte</b> ) Kamron Schlesselman ( <b>Video Tech</b> ) Nancy Kramer, Liz Kurtz ( <b>Shep Watch</b> )

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 – Ryleigh Willenbrock	10 – Eric Roach
3 – Dorothy Arbet	12 – Nancy Kramer
4 – Kayla Barnes	Sawyer Shackelford
Rena Crites	13 – Adam Moore
5 – Matthew Morrision	14 – Laurie Riley
Lloyd Rogers	Michael Schuster
6 – Monica Pirtel	16 – Daniel Arbet
Vicki Walters	17 – Frank Schmaltz
June Wooldridge	20 – Kim Vitale
7 – Carl Fahrenkamp	22 – Andrea Vajda
9 – Amy Schumacher	28 – Jim Vuch
	30 - Phi Nguyen

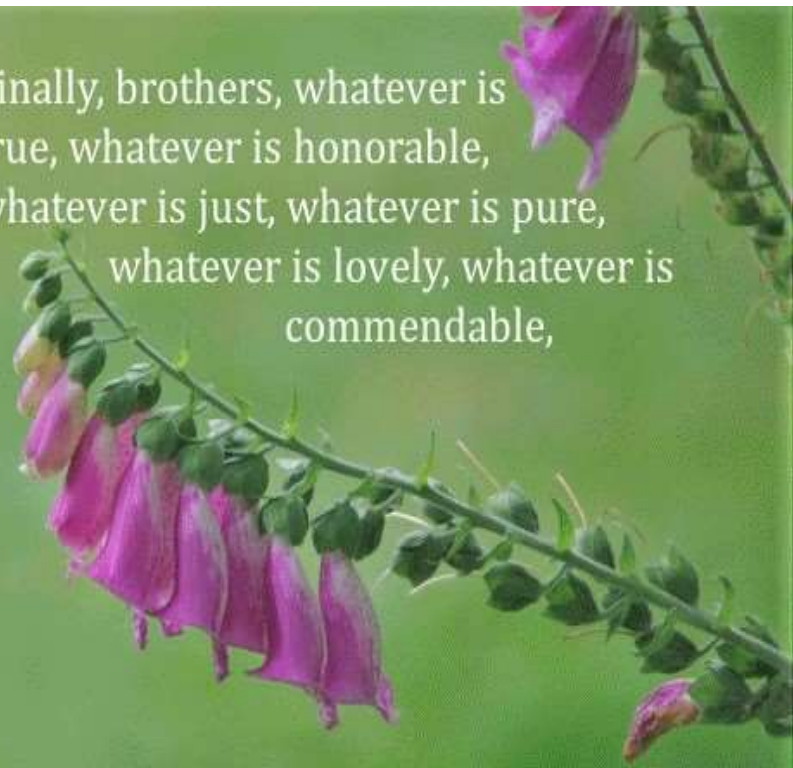
## JULY ANNIVERSIERS

3 – Jason & Tara Christopher	1 year
7 – Carl & Cindy Maulhardt	39 years
23 – Martyn & Sharon Bierman	24 years
24 – Randall & Dawn Schlesselman	19 years
27 – Phil & Carol Miksad	49 years
30 – Jim & Barb Morrison	32 years
31 – Jeff & Kayla Barnes	2 years

# Reading Through the Word

## JULY

- 1...            **Isaiah 1 & 2 & 3; Titus 3**
- 2...            **Isaiah 4 & 5; Psalms 115 & 116; Jude**
- 3...   **Isaiah 6 & 7; 2 Chronicles 26 & 27; Philemon**
- 4...            **2 Kings 15 & 16; Hosea 1; Hebrews 1**
- 5...            **Hosea 2 & 3 & 4 & 5; Hebrews 2**
- 6...            **Hosea 6 & 7 & 8 & 9; Hebrews 3**
- 7...   **Hosea 10 & 11 & 12; Psalm 73; Hebrews 4**
- 8...   **Hosea 13 & 14; Psalms 100 & 92; Hebrews 5**
- 9...            **Micah 1 & 2 & 3 & 4; Hebrews 6**
- 10...           **Micah 5 & 6 & 7; Hebrews 7**
- 11...           **Isaiah 8 & 9 & 10; Hebrews 8**
- 12...           **Isaiah 11 & 12 & 13 & 14; Hebrews 9**
- 13...           **Isaiah 15 & 16 & 17 & 18; Hebrews 10**
- 14...           **Isaiah 19 & 20 & 21; Hebrews 11**
- 15...           **Isaiah 22 & 23 & 24; Hebrews 12**
- 16...           **Isaiah 25 & 26 & 27 & 28; Hebrews 13**
- 17...           **Isaiah 29 & 30 & 31; James 1**
- 18...           **Isaiah 32 & 33 & 34 & 35; James 2**
- 19... 2 Kings 17; 2 Chronicles 28; Psalm 46; James 3
- 20...           2 Chronicles 29 & 30 & 31; James 4
- 21...   2 Kings 18 & 19; 2 Chronicles 32; James 5
- 22...           **Isaiah 36 & 37; Psalm 76; 1 Peter 1**
- 23... 2 Kings 20; Isaiah 38 & 39; Psalm 75; 1 Peter 2
- 24...           **Isaiah 40 & 41 & 42; 1 Peter 3**
- 25...           **Isaiah 43 & 44 & 45; 1 Peter 4**
- 26...           **Isaiah 46 & 47 & 48 & 49; 1 Peter 5**
- 27...   **Isaiah 50 & 51 & 52; Psalm 92; 2 Peter 1**
- 28...           **Isaiah 53 & 54 & 55 & 56; 2 Peter 2**
- 29...   **Isaiah 57 & 58 & 59; Psalm 103; 2 Peter 3**
- 30...           **Isaiah 60 & 61 & 62; John 1**
- 31...           **Isaiah 63 & 64; Psalm 107; John 2**

A close-up photograph of a flowering plant with several pink, bell-shaped flowers hanging from a green stem. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Finally, brothers, whatever is  
true, whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is  
commendable,

if there is any excellence, if there is  
anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things. Philippians 4:8

