



St. Luke's **MESSENGER**

November/December 2013

PASTOR'S CORNER

Luke 17:32-33

"Remember Lot's wife."

In our text from a few weeks ago we heard this exhortation from our Lord Jesus. He is calling us to remember the danger of looking backward. Earlier in his ministry he had told a man wanting to follow him, "No one after putting his hand upon a plow and looking behind is useful for the rule of God." When we look backward we cease looking forward to what is in front of us, where we are going, and what our goal is. Inevitably, we will get off track, stumble, and fall if we are looking backward in life. Lot's wife is a sober reminder of this, as she longed to go back to her city that she was fleeing and, in her looking back, lost her life.

It is a privilege beyond description to be a pastor at St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church--a community with a proud history of 113 years of gathering around the words of Jesus and putting that word into everyday practice. The number of lives that have been touched by this gathering of Jesus' disciples is beyond count and speaks to a faithfulness of those who have come before us. But this great legacy can quickly become a

danger to us, for it is easy to look back and get off course from where we are headed today.

And so, as we embark together on this new chapter of our journey, I think we all need to reflect again on Jesus' words, "Remember Lot's wife." Let us remember the danger of looking back and remember where we are to look and what we are to seek. Jesus tells us in that text that if we try to rescue and preserve what we have made for ourselves we will end up destroying ourselves. But if we are willing to continue to move forward, even destroying what things have been good and important in the past, then we will find true life and rescue.

What things are we as a community holding onto that are causing us to look back? What things are distracting us from our focus on Jesus and God's rule in our lives and world? With St Paul let us look forward and press on toward our goal of walking with Jesus, one day at a time.

- Pastor Luke



Worship and Bible Study Schedule

Saturday

4:30pm Worship Gathering

Sunday

9:00am Worship Gathering

10:30am Bible Study - Text of the Week

Monday

12:30pm Bible Study - "Parables of Jesus"

6:00pm Bible Study - "Follow Me"

Wednesday

4:30pm Kids' Time

Letter from the Board

On behalf of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, I am pleased and honored to announce the acceptance of our Divine Call of our two new pastors, Scott Eberlein and Luke Kammrath. It was well over a year ago that our congregation began its search for a new pastor to replace Rev. Michael N. May, who faithfully served St. Luke's for over forty three years, as Vicar, Assistant Pastor, and Pastor, and in June of this year, was named Pastor Emeritus of St. Luke's.

This calling process met with many challenges, given the tenure of Pastor May. But once the Board of Directors had the opportunity to meet and interview Pastors Scott and Luke, the Board decided to place an official Divine Call to each of them, with the understanding that they would be called to a shared ministry and they would be called as Co-Pastors. Both of these pastors served most recently at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission, KS, and Shawnee, KS. After receiving and accepting their calls, they were installed at St. Luke's on August 25, 2013. The following biography tells their story in much more detail, in their own words.

Biography

Scott and Luke live as part of an intentional Christian community on 17th Steet in Kansas City, KS. As a community they pray and read the Gospels together Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and share a meal and study/prayer/games on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday evenings. As a community they hold all their resources in common and open their homes for hospitality to families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Scott Patrick Eberlein

Scott grew up in Metro-Detroit, MI. He studied Human Resource Management at Michigan State University, graduating in 2006 with a B.A. Scott attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO, and in 2010 received a

M.Div. Scott has been in the Kansas City area for four years, he served his vicarage at Trinity Lutheran Church in Shawnee and Mission, and since that time has served as a part of the Trinity community as Associate Pastor, first as a "worker priest," later, on a full-time basis. Scott and his amazing wife Stephanie, have been married for five years and have two wonderful children, Karis (2 years) and Amos (3 months). And according to Scott he is a geek at heart, and while he is slow, also likes to run.

Luke Christopher Kammrath

Luke was born and raised in San Antonio, TX. He received his B.S. in Aerospace Engineering in 2003 from Texas A&M University and was a civilian Flight Test Engineer for the U.S. Air Force for 2.5 years. After hearing the call to leave everything behind to follow Jesus, he quit his job and received his M.Div. from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. On June 13, 2010, he was ordained and installed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mission, KS, as "worker-priest" and urban missionary. He has worked in urban gardening and is the author of *"Follow Me": The Way of Jesus According to the Gospel of Mark*. On October 5th he celebrated his one year wedding anniversary with his beautiful and intelligent wife, Julie Ann, who teaches kindergarten at Banneker Elementary in KCK.

Pastors Scott and Pastor Luke were called as Co-Pastors to St. Luke's, and they have both hit the ground running. They are very well educated and very dedicated to our entire ministry, and most of all very enthused about spreading the Gospel. Please take time to welcome them and congratulate them. It is my opinion that we have been truly blessed with their call to serve our Lord and Savior through St. Luke's, and I encourage all of you to share in our special ministry to those in the inner city of Kansas City, KS.

- Jack A. Wagner, President





Baptism Anniversary

- Payton Sanders (11/1)
- Jordan Mankin (11/5)
- Jamey Story (11/13)
- Jake Mankin (11/22)
- Santana Gutierrez (11/23)
- Sonia Gardner (11/25)
- Lorraine Hachinski (12/1)
- Judith May (12/1)
- John Liddle (12/7)
- Samantha Liddle (12/7)
- Mary Richards (12/20)
- Dean Bridge (12/29)
- Andrew Horton (12/29)
- Carter Ryan (12/31)



- Carol Bunch (11/4)
- Lorraine Hachinski (11/6)
- Amber Lear (11/10)
- Madison Lair (11/13)
- Dora Lopez (11/14)
- Laverne Lauber (11/17)
- Charles Payne (11/20)
- Travis Renne (11/20)
- Merrick Dombrowski (11/23)
- Sonia Gardner (11/22)
- Phyllis Gallagher (11/26)
- Skylar Ryan (11/28)
- Mariann Neeper (12/1)
- Joshua Dominguez (12/4)
- Tela Dewey (12/7)
- Joyce Vogel (12/16)
- Carlos Ortega (12/23)
- Alyssa Ortega (12/23)
- Jack Wagner (12/28)



Wedding Anniversary

- Jim & Jennifer Wagner (11/1/69, 44 years)
- Mark & Barbara Welch (12/15/79, 34 years)
- David & Elizabeth Mellott (12/21/02, 11 years)

Kids' Time

It is 4pm and my desk is over-flowing and my phone is ringing off the hook. My staff reminds me “isn’t it time for you to get going?” I stand up, straighten the stacks and let the ringing phone go to voicemail. I can’t be late for Kid’s Time or the kids will tell me I’m late!

Four years ago, my husband John and I returned to St. Luke’s Lutheran Church after a fifteen year absence. John’s family was born and raised there and my family joined St. Luke’s when we moved to Kansas City in 1968. We were married at St. Luke’s and we baptized our three children there. We transferred to another church closer to our home to give our kids the opportunity to attend confirmation and to have access to a fully functioning youth group. As soon as our nest became empty however, we found ourselves missing St. Luke’s. Most of our family and dear friends had never left after-all, so transferring back simply felt like we would be returning home.

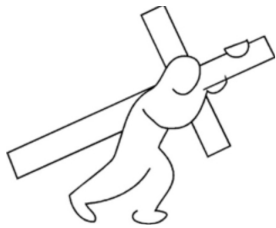
What we didn’t expect was to find ourselves volunteering to work with young children on Wednesday nights before choir rehearsal started. But soon I felt I had found a new calling. These kids were truly excited to see ME. They sought me out when I was “late” and wanted to know why. These kids let me tell them about Jesus without slamming a door in my face or laughing at me! These kids simply wanted to BE with all of us no matter what was planned for the evening.

Kid’s Time was aptly named many years ago when Wednesday night at 4:30pm was set aside to allow children in the neighborhood to settle in, to craft or color, to listen to stories of Jesus, to sing and dance, to eat cool snacks...the list goes on and on. This time of year we are working hard to prepare a Christmas Program which will be presented during a worship service in December. Our choir director, Marsha Oyer is the Director and Producer and I must say, these programs are fun and very relevant for the children. No more Mary and Joseph standing around peering into a manger with angels singing from the balcony. These stories are rich with humor, full of new music, easy to follow and the kids really enjoy performing in them! Amazingly many of the same people who launched this program still help today in many different ways and I know why. I too would find it hard to turn away from this program after having been the recipient of so many rich blessings in such a short period of time.

Three years ago I think a lot of us wondered what would become of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church when Pastor May retired. Where in the world would we find another young energetic Pastor with the same passion to serve this city and the surrounding neighborhood as Mike and Judy had done for over forty years? But as most of you know by now, those prayers were answered. We have been blessed with TWO amazing young families willing to pick up the Cross for us! These two shepherds, Pastor Scott and Pastor Luke, come to us with a connection to the urban center of KCK and both share wholeheartedly the concern we have for the children of our neighborhood and congregation.

Being a beneficiary of such a gift only makes me think there must still be much work to do! I, for one, can’t wait to see what is in store for this congregation. The Holy Spirit was hard at work planning for St. Luke’s long before any of us even began to anticipate a change. What in the world will happen next? Stay tuned and keep your eyes on Jesus!

-Karen Wagner



St. Luke's has a new website!!! Come check it out and find access to great resources like the church calendar, sermons, reading suggestions, and more!

www.stlukeskck.org



The St. Luke's Golf Tournament, October 4, 2013

It was a great day at Painted Hills Golf Course in Kansas City, Kansas as St. Luke's held their annual tournament. The weather, food and fellowship was a true hole-in-one.

We thought this year's tournament might pose a challenge, Painted Hills underwent extensive renovations and was not available for our yearly first Friday in May tee-off. We are happy to say that we still had more than 100 entries for the event. Many of the players have participated faithfully during the past 13 years. We had 18 hole sponsors and six major sponsors who each donated \$600 or more.

The final numbers are not in yet but we look to raise over \$6,000 in this year's event to help the mission ministry of St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

Every year we are blessed with the gracious help of others. Thank you to those who got up early to help with registration.

A big thank you goes to all who donated the delicious dishes that were enjoyed after the tournament and to Jennifer Wagner for organizing the helpful volunteers that day. Thank you to Balls Food Stores for the donation of the pork. A special thank you must go to

Nate and Shelly Simpson for the smoking the meat. You know, the reason that the delicious pork is so tender is due to the fact that Nate spends all night at the course tending to it. Thanks also to Mid-west Distributing for the cold beverages and Coke-a-Cola for the soda donations.

Thank you Bob May and Scott Collins with MC Electric for their annual over-the-top donations and teams.

This tournament wouldn't be a success without John Tiszka and Lois Keller and all of their help with donations and hands on care the day of the tournament. Kind donations were also provided by: Jelly Belly, Go Chicken Go, Adrian Bank, Naked Juice, Marzetti Salad Dressings, C&C Produce, Liberty Fruit, and others.

So many in our congregation and friends of the church have helped over the years make this golf outing a great event and for that we are grateful.

Look for next year's event to be back on the old date around the first of May. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

-Chrissy May

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
722 Reynolds Ave
Kansas City, KS, 66101

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Special Worship Services

Thanksgiving Eve: 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm and 9:00 pm

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

