

"Deeper Discipleship
& Closer Community
with Jesus"



St Luke's **MESSENGER**

January/February 2018

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Give us water to drink" (Exodus 17:2).

When the people of Israel had left their slavery in Egypt's civilization behind, they entered into the wilderness. There they were forced to rely on the Creator for everything they needed. Very quickly the people thought the Lord was going to let them die of dehydration. To their eyes there was no water anywhere for them to drink. But there was water. It was simply hidden from their eyes. So Moses struck a rock with his staff and out flowed the water. The Lord provided and, most importantly, the Lord was with them on this journey.

A few months ago, Rion Glynn (our head gardener) and I were lamenting that the Disciple Garden had no on-site source of fresh water. Based on old documents there was a spring and stream that flowed through a section of the Disciple Garden, but the city had long since rerouted that spring into the storm water drainage system (you can hear the constant flow down on 10th Street by the drain). We were very disappointed and discouraged by this. We talked about researching to see if we could dig our own well and how expensive and intensive such a process would be.

And then it happened. A few weeks ago Rion was out digging a post hole for one of our cabins. He had dug many before on the Disciple Garden and assumed it would be an

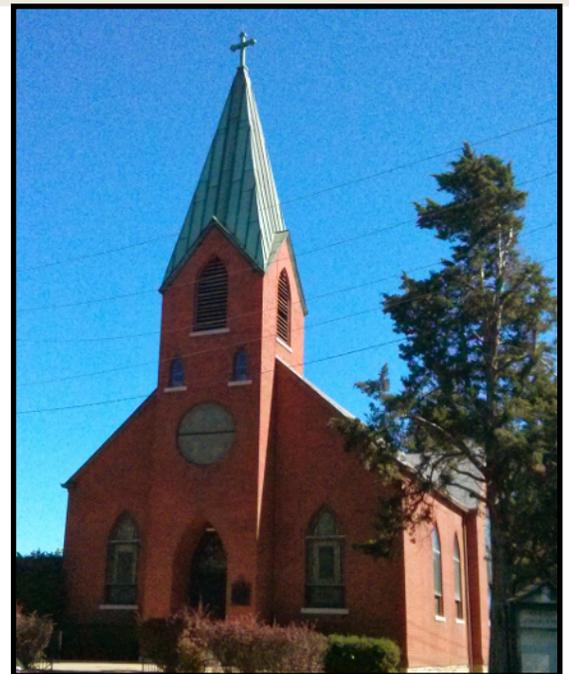
uneventful thing. But as he dug he noticed that the soil was different than in all the previous holes he had dug. Less than two feet down he suddenly found his hole filled with water! The Lord had provided!

But we were concerned at how polluted the water might be. We weren't believing yet. So we got a water testing kit. And though full of sediment, it tested cleaner than the tap water coming out of our faucets. The Lord had provided!

This water episode really hit me in the gut. It showed me where my faith in the Lord was not as strong as it needed to be. It showed me again (as if I needed more signs!) that the Lord is with us in the Disciple Garden development. Just as he provided what his people needed in the wilderness, he will provide everything we need if we faithfully walk with him on this journey.

Like the people of Israel in the wilderness, everything we need is right around us if we would only have the eyes to see. It will likely not be in the form we are expecting, but it will be exactly what we need, when we need it. So let's open our eyes, truly open them. Look around you. Can you see it? God's provision for you is all around you. God has already provided everything we need. He is a good and generous caretaker.

Pastor Luke



Worship and Bible Study Schedule

Sunday

9:30 am Worship Gathering
10:30 am Food & Fellowship
11:15 am Text of the Week Study
| & Jesus Time

Monday

6:00 pm Repentance Study
| (Feb 5, 12, 19, & 26)

Tuesday

6:00 pm Disciple Garden: What,
| Why, & How (Jan 9, 16, & 23)

Wednesday

4:00 pm Jesus Time
6:15 pm Choir

Baptism Anniversary

- Richard Vogel (1/1)
- Bernardo May (1/2)
- David Sasnett (1/24)
- Jack Wagner (2/8)
- Robert May (2/23)



- Christina Bridge (1/3)
- Marsha Oyer (1/7)
- Julie Kammrath (1/14)
- Kathy Tharp (1/19)
- Stephen May (1/25)
- Robert May (1/31)
- Jennifer Wagner (2/3)
- Jeanne Gardner (2/6)
- Johanna Bridge (2/14)

Wedding Anniversary

- Michael & Judy May (1/3/1971, 47 yrs)
- David & Marie Sasnett (1/27/2007, 11 yrs)



Communal Council Corner

With another church year behind us and another before us, life is good at St Luke's. Almost 120 years of ministry in this place and we are pressing forward with vigor and excitement. We don't know the details of what is ahead, but we know the pattern: death and resurrection. The Lord will continue to help us put to death the old as he raises us to new life in him. The journey of faith is always hard, but it is also full of the joy and provision of the Lord. Therefore, as we start a new church year we give thanks. We give thanks for all the blessings the Lord has given us. The gift of this faith community and the individuals within it. The gift of his Word of truth that guides us daily. The gift of his very self that dwells within us through his Spirit. These are the gifts and blessings that truly matter in life. May we always remember that as we press onward, doing everything we do to the glory of God our Father.



Disciple Garden Corner

The Disciple Garden has again reached some significant milestones in the last couple months. The skeleton of our goat barn is up and ready for walls to be completed once the weather warms up (see above). The skeleton of our first cabin is also up and in place (see above). We also have plans to get our chicken coop and sauna skeletons up soon. There are more fruit trees (apples, pears, and cherries) in the ground ready for spring and even more to come. We have also had a planning meeting about bees with our bee donor and will be exploring getting our first hive this spring (the Disciple Garden and our whole world certainly needs more of these pollinators!). We have a couple bat boxes that are ready to go up and bring a healthy bat population to the garden for insect control. The plans for the community center building are getting finalized by our builder. Our engineering firm has started its survey and is almost ready with its preliminary plans to present to the city. Things are progressing in a fast and exciting way and 2018 should only bring faster movement to the project. Exciting times!

Our Disciple Garden fundraising also continues to go very well. Please continue to pray about how you can contribute to this fundraising effort. We especially need your help in spreading the word. 1) Share our video, website, and brochure with your family and friends. 2) Share your connections to other congregations with us so we can present our idea to them. 3) Share your connections to possible donors if you would like us to make a personal ask. Please help us with this, spreading the message of the Disciple Garden is possibly the most important part of this project. At almost \$240,000, we have raised over 62% of our Phase One goal of \$350,000. We are on the home stretch for Phase One and could use your help to finish it off. Our Phase One goal will allow us to get our boots fully on the ground at the Disciple Garden while beginning our ministry efforts in full earnest. Let's keep pressing forward!



Community Ministry Corner

After our stroll through the Old Testament this past church year, I'm invigorated. Challenged. Humbled. Shocked. Embarrassed. I am feeling convicted as I am being refined yet again in 2017. The prophets of old proclaim that the True God is less than impressed with the sincerity of his Called faithful. This wake up call rings out loud and echoes forth, proclaiming the day of the Lord to generation after generation. As His truths are uncovered again and again, and declared again and again, we see the corruption, the games of faith, the inactivity, the counter-productivity among us and within us. The conviction and condemnation in Ezekiel 6 and elsewhere declare that we plant ourselves under any and every shade tree and are content in very much disrespecting the Father's Call to complete obedience. We are content to disrespect the Father's will for our very lives. We do this by paying tribute to the idols of our culture's ways of life and by sacrificing our children to be burned alive in each generation's infidelities. We are regularly and accurately called prostitutes with rather graphic breakdowns as to just how we conduct ourselves. The Lord knows our works (Revelations 3:1,8,15).

The Christian celebrations of our day and time ring out without fear of physical persecution. I believe we've flipped the script. Our Luke 2 Christmas recitations, while beautiful in pitch and child's smiles, lack substance and depth and impact. Just another tamed tradition, empty of the substance and bite of the Lord's complete demand upon our life. We need to recognize how quietly we cohabitate with the world's watered down, palatable (and quite perverse) version of Jesus Christ. We turn him into a cute Christmas accessory to top our Christmas asher pole tree. Then we offer up our very lives and the lives of our children as sacrifices to our middle class lives of conveniences and imagined stresses, worries, and fears. Revelation 3 has the potential to wake us up from our slumber, if we have ears to hear. It is a Call to be either hot or cold and not stuck in our lukewarm, comfortable, and idol-filled lives. We are rich, have grown wealthy and don't need a thing (3:17). He is, was and will continue (3:15-16) to spit us out, unless we wake up to the hot seat. And we (3:18), if we're honest, are miserable in this American life of ease, disease, and dis-ease anyway...so why would we settle in for its bland, over-rehearsed way of living?

Happy Holidays. Christ broke free from Christmas and his birthday manger nativity scene thousands of years ago. While there is tremendous truth and abundant depth of meaning and message in Mary, Joseph, and baby mild moments, His ways are way deeper and wilder than little baby Jesus alone. He is not here...simply for a cherished live nativity reproduction. He has grown and prays, studies, lives, and teaches us the Father's will and Call among us. And like true saints and martyrs gone before, we too are called to be and do likewise. He is not here in his manger crib alone, or simply to be surrounded by loved ones. He is here, there, and everywhere, refining and completing his worj within us. He has arisen... from Christmas traditions and nativities prisons. Alleluia!

Let our spitting out of hot cocoa that burns our tongue each Christmas wake us to the entire Bible's wake up call. The Lord will spit out our mellow, moderate, assimilated, and watered down lives. Why wouldn't we want Him to spit us out if all we can muster in his mercy and grace is a lukewarm passion, study-life, and commitment? Today, hear the trumpet call proclaiming yet again. Today is the day of salvation! Let heaven, nature, and humanity, if it has the presence to humble itself in the sight of the Lord, SING. Let the truth be proclaimed again and again: change your hearts and lives! This is the true Christmas birth story for each day.

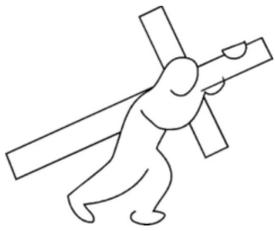
Kevin Dierks

Repentance Study

Please join us on Mondays (Feb 5, 12, 19, & 26) from 6:00-7:30 pm for a four week study on Repentance! We will discuss the four daily steps of the repentance journey: 1) listening, 2) confessing, 3) letting go, and 4) growing.

Disciple Garden: What, Why, & How

Join us for three weeks of study and discussion (from 6:00-7:15 pm on Tuesdays, Jan 9, 16, & 23) on the Disciple Garden project. We will meet in the lounge at St Luke's.



Come check out our website and find access to great resources like the church calendar, sermons, online-giving, a full-color newsletter, and more!

www.stlukeskck.org



Lent Worship Schedule 2018

Join us for Wednesday worship (7:00 pm) and soup suppers (5:30 pm) during Lent. We are doing a series on six of the "I Am" statements of Jesus in John's Gospel. We will be doing our traditional round-robin as we visit each of the different LCMS churches in KCK.

Feb 14, Ash Wednesday: "I Am the Bread of Life" (@ St Luke's, worship only)

Feb 21: "I Am the Light of the World" (@ Immanuel)

Feb 28: "I Am the Good Shepherd" (@ St Luke's)

Mar 7: "I Am the Resurrection & the Life" (@ Grace)

Mar 14: "I Am the Way, the Truth, & the Life" (@ Bethel)

Mar 21: "I Am the Root" (@ Faith)

Upcoming Dates

Disciple Garden: What, Why, & How - **Tues, Jan 9, 16, & 23, 6:00 pm**

Repentance Study - **Mon, Feb 5, 12, 19, & 26, 6:00 pm**

St. Luke's Council - **Thurs, Jan 11 & Tues, Feb 13, 5:30 pm**

Ash Wednesday Worship - **Wed, Feb 14, 7:00 pm**

Lent Worship (7:00 pm) & Soup Suppers (5:30 pm) - **Wed, Feb 21, 28, Mar 7, 14, & 21**

Metro Lutheran Ministry Nov/Dec Emergency Assistance

- IDs: 75 individuals
- Food: 1036 individuals
- Utilities: 67 individuals
- Housing: 41 individuals

St Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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