

"Deeper Discipleship
& Closer Community
with Jesus"



St Luke's *MESSENGER*

March/April 2018

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Come down from the cross!" (Matthew 27:42)

As Jesus was hanging on the cross, naked and seemingly defeated, he was tempted with these words: "Come down from the cross and then we will believe!" The crowds wanted a spectacle. They wanted to be impressed. They wanted Jesus to be relevant. They wanted him to be a hero. Earlier in his ministry, Jesus had been tempted by the same thing as Satan told him to jump from the top of the temple and impress the people by making God come through for him.

As Christians, we are faced with the very same temptation all the time in our world. The world is begging us to come down from the Way of the Cross and join them in being relevant, successful, and impressive. The humble way of Jesus is a scandal to our world. It is shameful. It looks like failure. It draws no attention to itself.

Jesus could have saved himself and impressed everyone. But instead Jesus lived by trust in order to point everyone to his Father's love and salvation for all creation.

As a church community we are constantly being lured toward the seductive path of being impressive. As we continue to develop the Disciple Garden this will be a very strong temptation. We will be tempted by voices from within and outside of us that will urge us to "come down from the cross." These voices will urge us toward turning

the Disciple Garden into another impressive and relevant effort of human success.

Like Jesus, we must resist these temptations. We must be willing to be nobodies in the world's eyes. We will look like unimportant, irrelevant, and unimpressive failures. But through walking the Way of the Cross we do indeed shine a light to the whole world. But it is a light that draws no attention to ourselves, but as Jesus says, brings glory to our Father in heaven.

Jesus taught in the "Sermon on the Mount" that we must not do things to be seen by people. We must be the kind of people who aren't concerned with the opinions of people and are only concerned with our Father's opinion. We do things because our Father desires it and for no other reason.

So let's press forward, not looking for recognition. Let's accept being an unimpressive collection of Jesus's followers. Humble and broken addicts who are walking with Jesus in order to find healing and new life. The cross isn't an obstacle to get out of our way. The cross is **the** Way and it requires that our egos and our self-conscious concerns about the opinions of others die. But through this death we will find the true freedom of only being concerned about our Father's business.

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 Gospel of Luke-Acts Study
|

Tuesday

6:00 pm Revelation Study
| (Apr 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15)

Wednesday

4:00 pm Jesus Time
6:15 pm Choir



Baptism Anniversary

- Stephen May (3/6)
- Roxanne Deines (4/5)
- Yvonne Brown (4/10)
- Marcus Dierks (4/24)
- Donna Hopkins (4/26)
- Kathy Polzkill (4/26)
- Makayla Deines (4/28)



- Gavin Frazell-Nelson (3/5)
- Roxanne Deines (3/6)
- Makayla Deines (3/18)
- Ann Hauser (3/21)
- Michael May (4/6)
- Marcus Dierks (4/8)
- Yvonne Brown (4/12)
- Joanne Leive (4/13)
- Naomi Glynn (4/14)
- Lois Keller (4/17)
- Chloe Bridge (4/18)
- Lisa Dierks (4/24)

Wedding Anniversary

- John & Karen Wagner
(3/15/1980, 38 yrs)



Communal Council Corner

The Council has approved a budget for 2018 and it will be presented in June at our annual meeting. We continue to give great thanks for the faithful giving of our church community that allows us to be a light in this city. The Council is excited about the recent purchase of a church van. This will allow Kevin to continue to expand his reach to the children of our neighborhood. St Luke's Anglican will share the van with us and will reimburse us for half of its cost. The Council is also working to update our church sign. We will be rehabbing the existing sign structure for a rather small cost, but it will be a large improvement. Finally, the average worship attendance in 2017 was 53, up from 37 in 2013. We give thanks for the faithful participation of our community in our common life of worship and study. Please continue to challenge yourself in 2018 to plug into the life-giving Word and community of Jesus as often as you can. It is literally the best thing you can do for yourself.



Disciple Garden Corner

The Disciple Garden continues to move forward in exciting ways. Julie and Rion are attending a bee-keeping course in March. After our first hives are donated to us, they will head up the care of the hives and the training of others. Rion's construction of the first cabin is also moving forward. He is learning the process in order to propagate it and teach it to others in the future. On the engineering side, our firm has presented the preliminary plans for the first phase to the city. We are now in the midst of the "fun" process of responding to all the city's comments and feedback in order to get the plans ready for our final hearing in April. As the overall plans are finalized we are reaching out to get construction contractors lined up. We have received a couple bids for sewer construction and will be looking for water line and electrical line construction as well. Terra Dome, who is building our main Disciple Garden building is in the process of getting the building plans finalized and officially stamped by an engineer. If you have any leads for trusted contractors please pass them along to Pastor Luke or Rion.

Our Disciple Garden fundraising also continues to go well. At \$270,000, we have raised over 75% of our Phase One goal of \$350,000. Please help us keep the momentum moving forward by spreading the message of the Disciple Garden. Remember that once we get through the initial development that the Disciple Garden will be self-sustaining from a money standpoint. We will not need to do any on-going fundraising. It will not be a drain on the budget of the church. So keep your prayers coming. The Lord has given us everything we have needed (and more!). He will come through for us. He will not let us down.



Community Ministry Corner

Want to know ways to support the youth of St. Luke's?

Here are some ways you can support them this summer:

\$10 pays for a day at the pool for a few hours, \$20 pays for a van load of kids to swim at the pool for a few hours, and \$30 pays for a van load of kids to bowl for 2 hours at KC Bowl. Last summer we took kids swimming and bowling, and played soccer and tennis (which are free) with them once a week. We'll plan to keep that schedule this summer.

Here are some ways to support our neighbor kids each Sunday:

We'd like to start having our neighborhood kids sit in a pew with you. After they are trained for a few months on how to sit in church for an hour by me, we'd love to ship them off to your pew to continue growing with you while I start developing the next batch. Once y'all get comfortable with each other in church each Sunday, I can deliver them to your house for a board game night and/or meal. If you'd like to brave this growth venture, let me know. Ta, So, May, and Aung are ready. I sit with Gavin, Cameron, Alejandra, and Mason as the next batch. My hope is to move forward in the next few months to Samuel, Juanito, Erik, and Isabella. Then Junior, Lucas, Sammy, David, and Dameon. Then finally on to Xavi and his sisters.

Here are the typical support opportunities that continue to be available:

- Plastic Easter eggs and candy for April 1 Easter egg hunt.
- Food, golfers, and sponsors for our annual St. Luke's Golf Fundraiser (Friday, May 4).
- Wednesday snack at 5:00 pm or craft activity at 5:30 pm.
- Summer VBS volunteers for June 18-22 (6:00-8:30 pm) and food and craft donations when lists are shared.
- Coach or practice soccer, volleyball, basketball, football and kickball with them each sporting season.

And if you'd like to venture into some new uncharted waters of support, maybe be creative like Dave, who is having our older youth build picnic tables for the Disciple Garden this spring. Or maybe join us on our first camping outing efforts. Or maybe share a trade and train these kids during the summer evenings upcoming. Or maybe teach them how to fish, build, change car oil or tires, or whatever your heart desires to share from your interests.

So whether it is through food, structured church, and/or relationships and activities, I hope to get these kids so busy interacting with us weekly and daily, that they leave their phones at home and spend more time interacting with God's Word and his people. I want them to flip their screen-time realities into people-time realities. Then when they possibly tire of us in a few months or years, their video games and Youtube will be waiting for them. But hopefully we will have given them a taste of our learning to live Jesus's True Life each day. And hopefully they will return to Jesus as life unfolds for them.

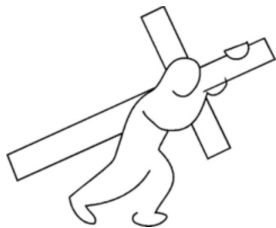
Kevin Dierks

Revelation Study

Please join us on Tuesdays (Apr 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, & 15) from 6:00-7:15 pm for a seven week study on the book of Revelation! We will decipher and interpret the wild prophetic images and what they are telling us as followers of Jesus today.

18th Annual Golf Tournament!

On Friday, May 4, we will be having our 18th Annual Golf Charity event at Painted Hills! Check in is at 7:00 am and we will tee off at 8:00 am. We will have a lunch gathering immediately following the tournament. Please go to our website to find registration forms!



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 & Holy Week Schedule

Mar 7: "I Am the Resurrection & the Life" (@ St Luke's, supper: 5:30 pm, worship: 7:00 pm)

Mar 14: "I Am the Way, the Truth, & the Life" (@ Grace, supper: 5:30 pm, worship: 7:00 pm)

Mar 21: "I Am the Root" (@ Faith, supper: 5:30 pm, worship: 7:00 pm)

Mar 29: Maundy Thursday @ 6:00 pm (bring food to share)

Mar 30: Good Friday @ 7:00 pm

Mar 31: Holy Saturday @ 7:00 pm

Apr 1: Easter Sunrise @ 7:00 am, Breakfast @ 8:00-11:30 am, Easter Festival @ 9:30 am, Easter Eggs @ 11:00 am

Upcoming Dates

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

Holy Week Worship - **Mar 29, 30, 31, & Apr 1**

Revelation Study - **Tues, Apr 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, & 15, 6:00 pm**

St. Luke's Council - **Tues, Mar 13 & Thurs, Apr 12, 5:30 pm**

Golf Tournament - **Fri, May 4, 8:00 am**

Metro Lutheran Ministry **Jan/Feb Emergency Assistance**

- IDs: 114 individuals
- Food: 780 individuals
- Utilities: 32 individuals
- Housing: 150 individuals

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

