

"Deeper Discipleship
& Closer Community
with Jesus"



St Luke's *MESSENGER*

May/June 2018

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Saint Paul's words, "pray without ceasing," were a mystery to me as a child. I remember being puzzled at the concept of non-stop prayer. How could somebody do that? So you just do nothing with your whole day except ask things of God?! You can't even sleep?!

Our struggle with Paul's words reveals that our concept of prayer is fundamentally misguided. When most people think of prayer they think of the dictionary definition: "a solemn request or thanksgiving addressed to God." Now this definition isn't wrong, but it only covers about 1% of the Biblical idea of prayer.

If prayer is only requesting things of God, then it is 1) not something we can do non-stop and 2) also something very selfish. Have you ever known someone who only talked at you and never listened? Is that what our relationship to God is like?

True prayer starts and ends with listening. It is a demeanor and disposition toward God that is ready to listen to him in every moment and ready to follow him wherever he leads. Certainly God is interested in our requests and thanksgiving, but he is much more interested in our attention.

So to "pray without ceasing" is to go about all of our lives ready and eager to hear God speaking to us.

Therefore, in order to pray we need to quiet and silence all the other voices that are trying to distract us. This means we need to stop distracting ourselves with non-stop stimulation through cell phones, TVs, laptops, busy schedules, etc. This also means we need to come to terms with the voices in our heads. No, you are not crazy for hearing voices in your head. We all do. The voices of our egos, our parents, our co-workers, our friends, our culture, etc. These voices are constantly pressuring us to conform to their expectations and desires. They are also distracting us from the voice of God.

So let's take some time this spring to rethink our prayer lives. Let us reflect on our attentiveness to God's voice throughout our days and nights. God's voice is found in 1) God's creation, 2) the Scriptures, and 3) the community of Jesus. Let us point our attention and focus to these things so may be in a constant state of prayer.

Saint Anthony of Padua said, "You pray the best when you do not know that you are praying." This means the key to prayer is simply focusing on God. Don't focus on "praying," that misses the point. Focus on God. Look for him. Listen for him. Everywhere. All the time.

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 Communion Study
| (Jun 11, 25, Jul 2, 9)

Tuesday

6:00 pm Revelation Study
| (May 1, 8, 15)

Wednesday

4:00 pm Jesus Time
6:15 pm Choir



Baptism Anniversary

- Michael May (5/13)
- Bob Leive (5/15)
- Debbie Wagner (5/26)
- Joanne Leive (5/27)
- Jennifer Wagner (6/1)
- Carrie May (6/2)
- Ann Hauser (6/13)



- Todd Deines (5/2)
- Bob Leive (5/9)
- Sarah Martin (5/23)
- Kevin Dierks (5/26)
- Haley Bridge (6/8)
- Georgia Story (6/9)
- Charlene Sargent (6/9)
- Rose Tiszka (6/12)
- Richard Vogel (6/13)
- Luke Kammrath (6/23)

Wedding Anniversary

- Stephen & Chrissy May (6/3/1989, 29 years)
- Bob & Joanne Leive (6/6/54, 64 years)
- Bob & Carrie May (6/7/1986, 32 years)
- Todd & Roxanne Deines (6/10/2000, 18 years)
- Kevin & Lisa Dierks (6/17/1995, 23 years)
- Janice & Paul Zugelder (6/30/1979, 39 years)



Communal Council Corner

The Council has called our annual Communal Assembly for Sunday, June 17, at 10:30 am immediately following worship. Please put this date on your calendar and join us. At this meeting we will give annual updates on our financial situation and all our ministries. We will also be appointing two new Stewards to join Naomi Glynn, Dave Sasnett, and Ralph Heiden on our Council. Jack Wagner and Yvonne Brown are taking a break from the Council in order to allow two new voices to join our leadership. We give Jack Wagner and Yvonne Brown a big thank you for all of their work and guidance these past two years. We also ask you to start prayerfully discerning members of our community to nominate for these two open Steward positions. Keep in mind that our Stewards are primarily spiritual leaders who have shown commitment to our worship and study life and who would be good examples for our community to follow. Share these names as soon as you can with Pastor Luke or with any member of the Council.



Disciple Garden Corner

As spring begins to explode all around us, the Disciple Garden is coming to life in beautiful ways. We celebrated this budding life with our first camp out and camp fire at the Disciple Garden. We had 14 members join us for the fire while five stayed all night to camp. Please keep your eyes and ears open as we announce more opportunities for gathering at the Disciple Garden this year. Also, we encourage you to make an effort to get out to the Disciple Garden this spring to walk the maturing trail system as well as to enjoy the beautiful meadow space in the center of the property. As always, ask Pastor Luke or Rion for a tour if you are interested.

The Disciple Garden enjoyed having a volunteer group from Ascension Lutheran in Wichita, KS, come out and work in March. These 23 youth helped with the continued clean up of the space as well as the back breaking work of moving hundreds of logs we have accumulated for fire wood. We look forward to them coming again next year! We also look forward to the addition of our first bee hives in the next couple months. Along with the bees we will be planting hundreds of shade trees, fruit trees, and nut trees in the coming weeks. If you want to contribute trees to this project please let us know! On the engineering side of things we continue to go back and forth with the city to get our final plans approved (we are getting close!). We are hoping to break ground this summer and fall with our initial construction projects that will allow us to get our main community building established. Please continue to keep this project in your prayers and continue to spread news about it to those you know! We are still looking to raise around \$70,000 and we gratefully welcome every gift, no matter the size.



Community Ministry Corner

In our study of John, Jesus tells them then and us today, who play church: "You worship Moses (John 5:45-47) and his Commandments (which are the Father's). If you don't see and follow the people and words that are meant to draw you to the Father, then you won't truly see My presence, power, and truth. They are right here in front of you. Above you and beneath you, even surrounding you. I am here to discipline your self-deceptions and tear you down and build you up in truth, purity, and beauty. But it is easier to stay in the foggy jungle of your mind and body, your blind dominance, and your group's comfortable overconfidence of established patterns and norms. These things drown out the True call to take a step into new learning and the unknowns of true life and understandings. The beginning of my easy yoke of reliance on the Father and His love, discipline, and justice, is by being a committed student of His Scriptures."

When I was a teacher in Dallas, Sam was the first person to change up faculty devotions. He said, "I thought I'd try something different".... and read right out of the Bible. It was a foreign concept to me. It was dry reading. It didn't seem as clear and mastered as a 150-word reflection on a verse or two of Scripture removed from the original manuscript. It echoed a memory of ten years earlier--of the blond hippie father of two at a campground I managed, who sat in his passenger side seat of his van with his Bible open, reading and pondering, while his kids played nearby. It was something I had never seen before... reading right out of the Bible. Surrounded by nature, woods, a lake, his family, and camping strangers (and me). And I was a student in a Lutheran college. I was born and raised in west rural Minnesota, and had spent most of my days in a Lutheran church and school. It was something different... reading right out of the Bible instead of the back of a bulletin. I thought myself above it, better than it. I already knew and had been taught the answers. It was a foreign concept to me. It looked boring. It seemed meaningless and misled. I tried it myself after the fancy Lutheran teaching degree had already stamped me a professional. I'd get up waiting for a substitute teaching phone call at 5:00 am--I was faithful to reading a chapter of it, and it was dry, boring, somewhat fruitless.

And here I am 25 years later, learning to humble myself as a dependent child, dependent on the Father for all good things. And the Scriptures have come alive, and provide depths and challenges and joys I can't get enough of. I used to love the daily devotion snippets each morning of my life as a colleague, teacher and leader. Not anymore. Yet I still stay deeply in love with the secondary texts of folks like Eugene Peterson. They savor and process each twist and turn and connection picked up on and revealed by other deep students of the full Biblical story, as God reveals himself to us now and all throughout history. And I am continually enamored with the Scriptures (John 5:39a) that are inspired for us to help recreate true, sincere love for the Creator. They inspire some of the uncoordinated movements in our attempt to mimic and live truly into the model of the Savior. I beg and learn to patiently listen and look for a sense of the Presence and Power of His Spirit among us. As mentioned last time I talked, this resonates with Steve Sloman's interdependent beauty that is possible as the Father's church is in bodily unity under Christ the head. Jesus says the Scriptures are a witness (John 5:39b). And I will love, honor, and cherish that relationship by placing it near the top of my time and talent analytics spreadsheet.

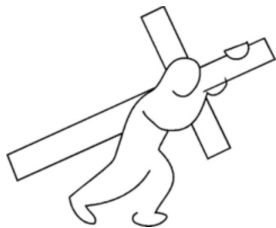
Kevin Dierks

"The Way of Jesus" Catechism

Pastor Luke Kammrath has published "The Way of Jesus" Catechism that he has been using as a teaching tool at St Luke's. This tool is meant for everyday use in the home and devotionally. If you want a copy search for it on Amazon.com or ask Luke for a copy!

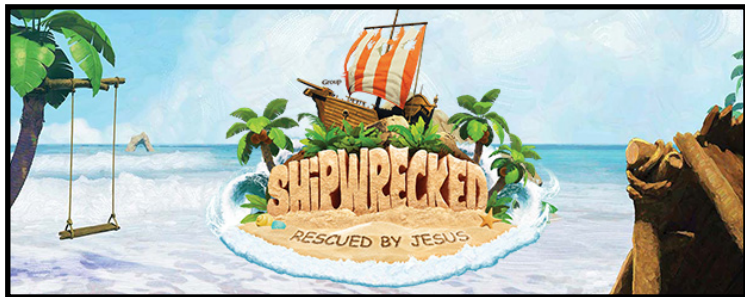
18th Annual Golf Tournament!

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



Vacation Bible School!

Join us for the week of June 18-22 for Vacation Bible School! Monday through Thursday we will meet from 6:00-8:30 pm for fun learning about Jesus, playing games, and doing crafts! On Friday we will celebrate our week together and God's love for us with a family night! We will have a cook out from 5:00-7:00 pm along with fellowship and games. If you can volunteer or provide supplies please reach out to Kevin: kgdierks@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates

Revelation Study - **Tues, May 1, 8, & 15, 6:00 pm**

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

St. Luke's Council - **Thurs, May 10 & Tues, Jun 12, 5:30 pm**

Communion Study - **Mon, Jun 11, 25, Jul 2, 9, 6:00 pm**

Annual Communal Assembly - **Sun, Jun 17, 10:30 am**

VBS - **Mon-Thurs, Jun 18-21, 6:00-8:30 pm; Fri, Jun 22, 5:00-7:00 pm**

Metro Lutheran Ministry **Mar/Apr Emergency Assistance**

- IDs: 178 individuals
- Food: 780 individuals
- Utilities: 61 individuals
- Housing: 40 individuals

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

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