

"Deeper Discipleship
& Closer Community
with Jesus"



St Luke's **MESSENGER**

November/December 2017

PASTOR'S CORNER

"The stone filled the whole earth..." (Daniel 2:35).

The prophet Daniel had many wild dreams from the Lord. In one of his dreams he saw a great man-made statue. This statue was composed of different man-made metals and materials that were pieced together. Then Daniel saw a stone, that wasn't cut by human hands. This stone struck the statue and shattered it to dust which then blew away in the wind. Then the stone, not cut by human hands, became a great mountain that filled the whole earth.

The prophet Daniel interpreted this dream to mean that the Creator was going to one day step in and destroy all human empires and civilizations. Then the Creator would replace all these man-made kingdoms and governments with his own kingdom and government.

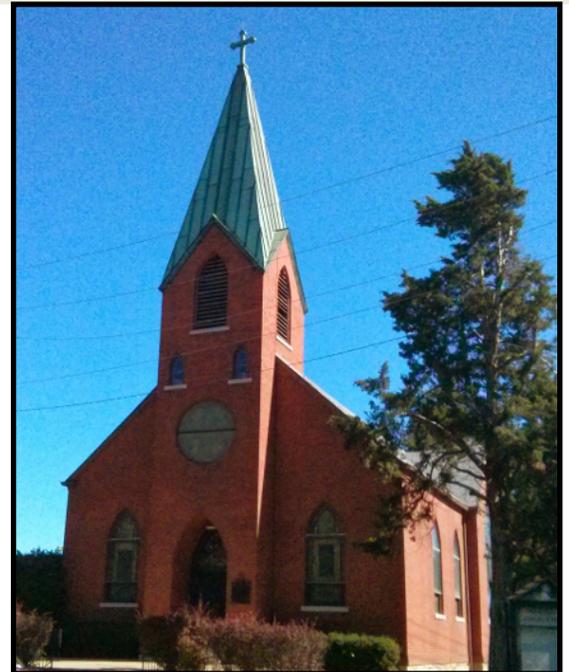
The followers of Jesus came to realize that this dream was fulfilled through Jesus. Jesus himself was the stone, not made by human hands, that came to destroy human civilization and empires. The surprising twist was that Jesus conquered the kingdoms, empires, and governments of men not with violence, but with sacrificial love. The great blow that Jesus struck against human ambitions and progress was through his cross. By loving and forgiving his enemies, by turning the other cheek and laying down all weapons Jesus struck human civilization with a fatal blow.

Humans have been convinced that they have great power. But Jesus exposed human power as empty. Humans have been convinced that they are in charge and that they run the world. But Jesus exposed all human rulers and emperors as having no clothes. As the apostle Paul put it, "Jesus disarmed the rulers and authorities. He made a public mockery of them and triumphed over them on the cross."

Through Jesus the powers and authorities of our world are now impotent. They have been struck with a fatal blow and their time is over. In place of them Jesus has established his community of the church. Jesus's church is the great mountain that will fill the earth. Jesus's church is the mountain spoken of by the prophets Isaiah and Micah. Jesus's church is the alternative political reality where war ceases and weapons are turned into gardening tools. Jesus's church is the place where all people of all nations and all backgrounds are welcome. Jesus's church is filled with his Way of truth, justice, love, and humility.

It is my prayer that our Disciple Garden will be a part of this great vision. It is my hope that through the Disciple Garden we will be doing our small part as the church of Jesus by creating a sacred space to invite all people to be saved from the tyranny of human rulers and civilization.

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 Baptism Study
| (Nov 6, 13, 20, & 27)

Tuesday

6:00 pm "Faith & Culture"
| (Nov 7, 14, 21, & 28)

Wednesday

4:00 pm Jesus Time
6:15 pm Choir

Baptism Anniversary

- Micah Dierks (11/7)
- Jamey Story (11/13)
- Karen Wagner (11/18)
- Sonia Gardner (11/25)
- Judy May (12/1)
- John Wagner (12/2)
- Dean Bridge (12/29)

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

- Carol Bunch (11/4)
- John Wagner (11/12)
- Karen Wagner (11/18)
- Charles Payne (11/20)
- Sonia Gardner (11/22)
- Phyllis Gallagher (11/26)
- Jack Wagner (12/28)

Wedding Anniversary

- Bill & Lucy Mellot
(12/22/1964, 53 yrs)



Communal Council Corner

Kevin has been working with Gene Flannery and they have launched ASK (After School Kids) on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays here at the church. Around 12 students come each day to work on homework and learning, while also having a brief time to focus on Jesus. As his ministry continues to evolve and expand, Kevin is forming a Community Ministry Committee to help support him in his work in our community. Additionally, Yvonne Brown will be forming a Hospitality Committee that will oversee our parsonage and duplex ministries. We received news this past month that Kansas City Medicine Cabinet decided to decline working with Riverview Health Services on our campus. We are disappointed but will stay the course of ending our work with KCMC at the end of December. Finally, we had a great celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on Sunday, October 29. We are so grateful for the great cloud of faithful witnesses who have gone before us.

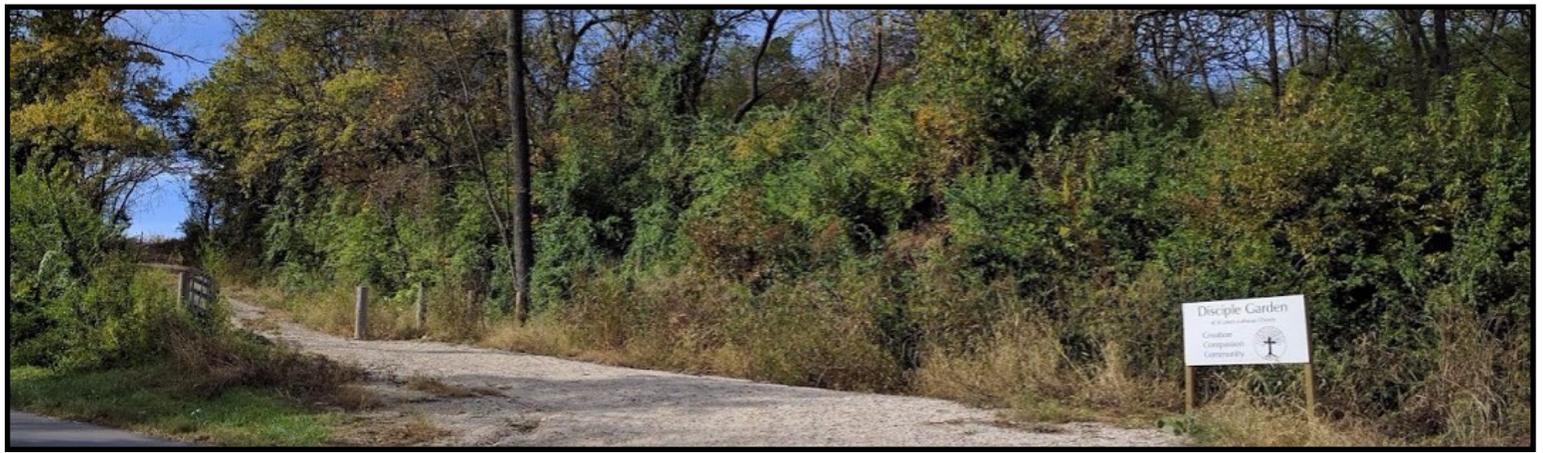


Disciple Garden Corner

The Disciple Garden has reached some significant milestones in the last couple months. We have a beautiful sign marking the property. We have a tool shed up and running. We have started designating boundaries for the food forest and future sections for outdoor gatherings, chickens, and goats. We have planted eight apple trees. We have also moved forward with an engineering firm that is moving us toward building utilities infrastructure and our first residence and gathering place. We meet with the city planning group on November 1.

We kicked off our in-house Disciple Garden fundraising challenge on September 17. We challenged our members to pray about how they could give sacrificially to this project. We are asking them to get their initial gifts in by Thanksgiving. We have already received tens of thousands of dollars in contributions and are excited to see how the Lord provides. Once we get to Thanksgiving we will be launching our expanded fundraiser. We will have a video to share and will be encouraging every member to ask their family and friends to join us in raising funds to meet our Phase One goal of \$350,000 (we are almost 50% there!) and our overall goal of \$550,000. Our Phase One goal will allow us to get our boots fully on the ground at the Disciple Garden while beginning our ministry efforts.

Finally, our new sign has already opened some awesome doors. Just down the street from the Disciple Garden is a special high school for kids who have had a lot of emotional trauma (Bridges Academy). One of the teachers saw our sign and checked out our website. She then reached out to us eager to explore future possibilities of partnering together! On another day, a neighborhood gentleman by the name of Ray stopped by the Disciple Garden. He saw the sign and immediately recognized our church as a place where he and others had received lots of help in the past. It is so exciting to see the doors the Lord is opening for this exciting ministry effort!



Community Ministry Corner

Attention! Attention! I'm learning to feel badly for any who have been "gifted" the advantages in life, to those who easily garner attention. You've heard me hint at it in newsletters, such as the charisma, charm, looks, and PR training of those in customer service. Those who "just have that something about them" may have some added layers of deep challenge. They have a burden with the comforts and conveniences that deceive and leave us susceptible to false worship, self-worship, stagnation with overconfidence, and blind-spot certainty.

When one has the advantage, he or she is treated differently, with kid gloves. This leads to an inability to fully mature without some great life wake up call or slowly developing perceptive insights into the depths of our duplicity. This is especially true for those with various elements of physical beauty because of the attention directed and fawned upon them. The rules and interactions for the privileged are different. The "ins" are granted perks, gimmes, mulligans, and wishes. So much can be overlooked for those with looks. And if looks aren't your advantage, then transfer it over to where you recognize you've been gifted or blessed; where the advantage IS in your favor. It's subtle, and yet there are clear memories in my mind from each season of my life, of the easier ways given to those with looks, personality, wealth, health, family, connections, intelligence, humor, expertise, natural talent, and on and on.

Wherever the benefits and easier paths lie in life, they are in fact that, a lie. Because we each have our part and role in the Body of Christ to develop in, let us ask ourselves how can we take our personal advantages, recognize their power, and surrender them to the Lord and his Kingdom come. This is Jesus's path rather than taking the praise from others for ourselves and playing a fairly tricky game of popularity and friendship with others.

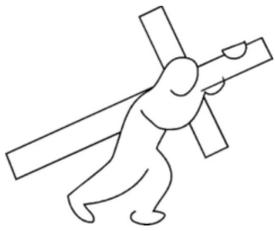
One of Pastor Luke's Repentance Bible studies on competition focuses on being, and continually becoming, aware of man's praise and attention. "Do not be arrogant or jealous. Do not measure yourself or others by civilization's standards. Do not compete to lift yourself up over others. Do not take power over others like the rulers of civilization." It is often subtle, sometimes blatant (even if a blind spot), and can even be well-intentioned. Yet be not deceived... we have an audience of One that truly matters. God's truths, mysteries, and judgments are beyond our understanding (Romans 11:33). So let's be in deep presence, awareness, and contemplation, begging for His will to be revealed in our daily intentions. Let us be intentionally in relationship with Him and His creation, and the have nots, and the haves too, as we hear his call to reject the accolades of humans. Let us be intentional about tempering any attentions and praises entering our ears, eyes, mouth, heart, gut, and ego. Let us grow in awareness as to when, where, why, and how these are issued from our mouth, heart, mind, and mannerisms. We do this so that we can each work more rightly on maturing for the King and His will on earth, while tempering the distractions and deceptions of human interests, agendas, wills, words, and looks.

I'll have to explore more later on those who are dealt the deficiencies in life. Adversity can develop some true benefit to self, community, and King. Yet this position too could become a tricky crutch, chip, or hindrance to truth and growth. It is important to speak directly at us who proclaim to be in the know about Christ and his kingdom. We need to be careful so we are not seduced with, and into, the duplicity of human attention, support, and praise.

Kevin Dierks

Baptism Study (Mondays, Nov 6, 13, 20, & 27, 6:00-7:30 pm)

Please join us for a four week study on Baptism! We will discuss 1) how we are born into the false story of civilization, 2) the call of Jesus to change stories, 3) our rebirth into God's story, and 4) our new walk of faith with Jesus. Baptism is all about God bringing us into his story so we can find our place, purpose, and identity within it. Our whole Christian journey is nothing more than the journey of Baptism. It is a daily walk that should guide every thought, word, and deed.



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



"Faith & Culture" Conversations

Join us for another four week discussion group (from 6:00-7:15 pm on Tuesdays, Nov 7, 14, 21, & 28) on topics important to our social context and the culture we live in. We will wrestle with more four hot-button and sensitive issues in an open-minded and conversational way. We will root our discussions in Jesus while creating a safe-space to share our thoughts and struggles with each other. We will meet in the lounge at St Luke's.

- 1) Death & Dying (Nov 7)
- 2) Sex, Gender, & Marriage (Nov 14)
- 3) Food (Nov 21)
- 4) Patriotism & the National Anthem (Nov 28)

Upcoming Dates

- Baptism Study - **Mon, Nov 6, 13, 20, & 27, 6:00 pm**
- "Faith & Culture" Conversations - **Tues, Nov 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:00 pm**
- St. Luke's Council - **Thurs, Nov 9 & Tues, Dec 12, 5:30 pm**
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship - **Wed, Nov 22, 7:00 pm**
- Christmas Caroling - **Wed, Dec 20, 4:00-6:00 pm**
- Christmas Eve Festival - **Sun, Dec 24, 5:30 pm**

Metro Lutheran Ministry **Sep/Oct Emergency Assistance**

- IDs: 191 individuals
- Food: 1031 individuals
- Utilities: 111 individuals
- Housing: 152 individuals

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

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