

"Deeper Discipleship
& Closer Community
with Jesus"



St Luke's MESSENGER

September/October 2017

PASTOR'S CORNER

"The Lord will build a house for you..." (2 Samuel 7:11).

The people of Israel had broken the covenant with the living Creator God and had gone astray as they insisted on trying to put God in a box and get him pinned down under their control. This had started with their building of the tabernacle (tent) and then climaxed with David's attempt to build a large temple for God, since David was feeling guilty for the fancy palace he had built himself.

The Lord's response to David's idea is telling. The Lord is not interested in David's building project and does not give him permission to go ahead with it. Instead God is interested in his own building project. God tells David that he will make a "house" for his people and in fact make his people into a "house."

When God created the heavens and the earth he was making a "house" for himself and for all his creation, that we might dwell in harmony with him. Even though we humans ruined God's building project, the Lord persisted and never gave up. Through Jesus, the Creator brought his promise to David to fulfillment. The Creator made Jesus's body and all those who are part of Jesus's community into a "house" where he dwells and through this "house" he will bring new life to his creation that we are destroying.

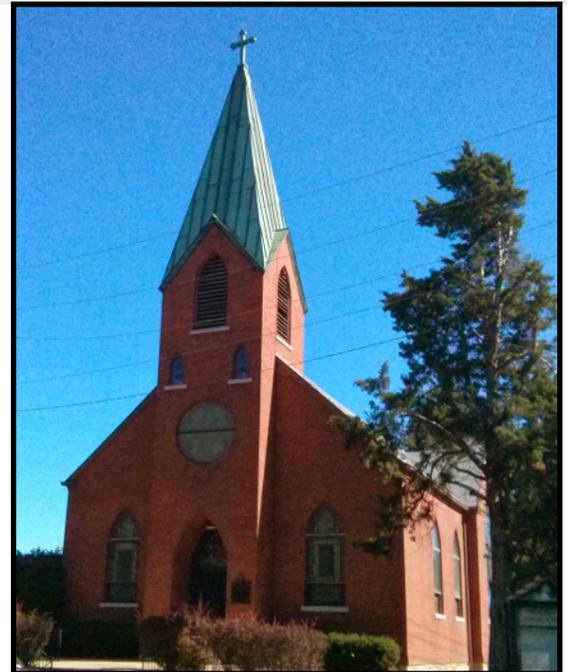
As we embark on the Disciple Garden development project we

need to check ourselves and make sure our hearts are in the right place. What is the purpose of the Disciple Garden? Is it a misguided human building project, attempting to control God and his world (while making a name for ourselves)? Or is it part of God's building project, part of his work to make his people into a community and bring his presence back to his creation (bringing glory and honor to his name)?

If the Disciple Garden is a human building project then it may be impressive for awhile, but ultimately it will fail and be torn down like David and Solomon's grand temple. But if the Disciple Garden is part of Jesus's work and efforts to make his creation and people a "house," then it will have his blessing and will endure as only God's work can.

Let us pray that our hearts and our work at the Disciple Garden are about God's plans and not about ours. Let us focus on Jesus and continue to listen to his word everyday of our lives, so that we may be led by him and not by our deceptive desires. Let us pursue the Disciple Garden because it is the faithful thing to do and not for any other reasons. As Gamaliel said in Acts 5, "If their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

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

Tuesday

6:00 pm "Faith & Culture"
| (Sep 5, 12, 19, & 26)

Wednesday

4:00 pm Jesus Time
6:15 pm Choir

Baptism Anniversary

- Chloe Bridge (9/1)
- Georgia Story (9/2)
- Cindy Ford (9/6)
- Haley Bridge (9/12)
- Donna Payne (10/15)
- Gavin Frazell-Nelson (10/19)



- Micah Dierks (9/12)
- Donna Payne (9/20)
- Jamey Story (10/4)
- Yeshua Kammrath (10/9)
- Donna Hopkins (10/14)
- Carrie May (10/18)
- Judy May (10/28)

Wedding Anniversary

- Jack & Deborah Wagner (9/28/1968, 49 yrs)
- Cindy & Chuck Ford, (10/1/1994, 23 yrs)
- John & Lois Tiszka, (10/2/2000, 17 yrs)
- Luke & Julie Kammrath, (10/5/2012, 5 yrs)



Community Council Corner

The Council has made the decision to pass the facilitation of Kansas City Medicine Cabinet off to our in-house partner, Riverview Health Services. The vital service that Kansas City Medicine Cabinet offers will continue at our site, but in 2018 Riverview Health will take over its administration in order to maximize our ability to help those who come through our doors. We think this is the best fit for both ministries and will help the most people in our city.

The Council has put together a congregational survey in order to gather information from our communal members. This information will help us to know you better and therefore serve alongside you better. Please look for the survey at the entrance of the sanctuary and please fill it out for us.



Disciple Garden Corner

The Disciple Garden continues to evolve and progress in its development. The "food forest" space continues to be expanded and prepared through the application of cardboard (free from recycling centers) and wood chips (free from tree trimming companies). Nine apple trees and some garlic will get planted this fall followed by a new round of fruit/nut trees scheduled for the spring (courtesy of an organization we are partnering with called "The Giving Grove"). Thanks to Rick Wagner, the area for the first buildings has been cleared and is ready for surveying and infrastructure development. The walking trails continue to mature and have become more and more walker friendly (check with Pastor Luke or Rion Glynn if you want a tour of the trails sometime!). We are currently waiting on our third and final engineering/planning bid and will be moving forward with one of these bids in the next month.

We will be kicking off our Disciple Garden fundraising challenge on Sunday, September 17, immediately following worship. Please stay for the handouts and a short presentation from Pastor Luke. We already have over \$130,000 set aside for the Disciple Garden, but now we are challenging our congregation to dig very deep and raise \$220,000 more this fall. This would bring us to our Phase One goal of \$350,000 and would allow us to get our boots fully on the ground at the Disciple Garden while beginning our ministry efforts. We will then raise the remaining \$200,000+ from those outside of our immediate St Luke's community. Raising \$220,000 this fall sounds very intimidating for our small community, but so did feeding 5,000 people out in the wilderness for the twelve apostles. Never forget Jesus's words that a tiny seed of faith can move mountains. And compared to some mountains in our world, \$220,000 is nothing. So let's turn to the Lord, reach out in prayer and act on faith as we challenge ourselves to give back to the Lord what belongs to him anyway. Let's hand him our loaves and fishes and trust that his power and generosity will make it more than enough.



Community Ministry Corner

Continuing from the last newsletter, we're talking about basketball as an analogy for faithfully living and learning how to glorify the Father in our relationships...

Our last insider tip on basketball shooting is to *take the muscles out of the method completely*. It doesn't take strength to get a ball into a 10-foot rim, it takes a sense of vision and direction and some awareness and coordination. Our learning minds (whether as 5 year olds or 45 year olds) need to see that all the "truths" that we know so well and have been taught so passionately (by memorization, lecture, and consensus from generation to generation) are *almost completely wrong*. Rather than focusing, we default to letting our muscles and the false wisdom of others reinforce our bad habits. In 1st grade, we count eight joints that are all part of a proper (from the ground up) shooting technique. We need to strip back all the over-teaching and over-analyzing, and practice feeling how our eight joints work together silently, smoothly, behind the scenes, and amazingly in unison and rhythm: 1) toe joints, 2) ankles, 3) knees, 4) hips, 5) shoulders, 6) elbow, 7) wrist, and 8) fingers all contribute toward properly arced and successful shots.

I see this as analogous to the harmony of 1) our awareness of our own individual workings and 2) our awareness of the members of the Body of Christ in your church or family settings. We need to look and feel past what we see right in front of our face and what think we know so well. *We don't know anything* and a lot of times the things we *think we know* could not be more wrong, foolish, or destructive. As the Body of Christ, we need to get our heads and mighty muscles out of the way and out of the equation. These pieces in our framework usually overpower, dominate, and destroy, while closing us off and shutting us down.

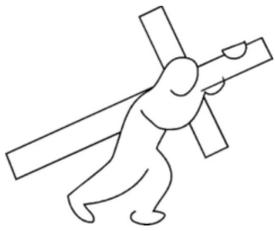
We need a few good men, women, and children, to be available enough to learn something new, to see and feel our way through and past the distractions all around and within us that draw our attention and passion away from learning the Way of Jesus. We need to practice the movements and connections of Jesus's Way (joints and tendons working in harmony from the ground up), doing his smooth dance of love as we relate to our Father above and to his creation all around us. We need to stay focused most on showing awe, honor, and respect to our Father, Creator, and LORD. We need to do all this, not uniformly, but creatively, cooperatively, and passionately while using our unique and developing Jesus-skills to be humbly united with our Lord as his creation. When our coordination is less than impressive and we fall on our faces, then we will get up again and dust ourselves off. We will be relentless and unrelenting in figuring out our inner and inter workings, both as individuals and as a community in communion with the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We will work to help his wild, unregulated, unrelenting, and non-formulaic will to be done on earth more rightly. We will gladly give our focus and intentionality to become in-sync with the Spirit and in a more harmonious relationship with the Lord and all his creation.

Our soil continues to be plowed and prepared by the Lord everyday so we might make a difference for his kingdom here on earth. So stay alert, humble, and hungry to learn and teach a thing or two. I'm hopeful for a 25% shooting percentage for our team, where we continue getting out of the gate and finding Jesus's Way from the inside out. It's too easy and empty for our hearts to think we already have victory and success. Let us instead be alert and seeking to get in-sync, not being distracted by our world, but instead fully living into our calling of seeking and finding his connections and rhythms in us and our neighbors. Let's learn to feel and use our joints productively.

Kevin Dierks

4th Annual Fall Festival (Wednesday, October 18, 5:00-7:00 pm)

Please mark your calendars and join us for our 4th Annual Fall Festival on October 18 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for a beautiful evening of food and fun! Please email Kevin Dierks at kgdierks@gmail.com if you are available to help with food, games, or activities. Please join us to connect with our neighbors and each other in deeper ways!



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 a four week discussion group (from 6:00-7:15 pm on Tuesdays, Sep 5, 12, 19, & 26) on topics important to our social context and the culture we live in. We will wrestle with 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) Privilege & White Supremacy (Sep 5)
- 2) Guns, Cops, & War (Sep 12)
- 3) The Internet, Social Media, & Pornography (Sep 19)
- 4) Money & the American Dream (Sep 26)

Upcoming Dates

"Faith & Culture" Conversations - **Tues, Sep 5, 12, 19, 26, 6:00 pm**

"The Spirit's New Creation" Study - **Mon, Sep 11 & 18, 6:00 pm**

St. Luke's Council - **Sep 14 & Oct 10, 5:30 pm**

Disciple Garden Fundraising Kick-Off - **Sun, Sep 17, 10:30 am**

Fall Festival - **Wed, Oct 18, 5:00-7:00 pm**

Metro Lutheran Ministry Jul/Aug Emergency Assistance

- IDs: 168 individuals
- Food: 940 individuals
- Utilities: 42 individuals
- Housing: 118 individuals

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

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