



St. Luke's **MESSENGER**

January/February 2014

PASTOR'S CORNER

Matthew ch. 5-7

Folks will often times say something provocative in the hopes of hearing a certain reaction or, someone may overstate their case to make a point - exaggeration, while it can be dishonest is also a form of communication that we hear and use all the time. Because we are used to this sort of thing, it might be easy to think that Jesus is overstating his case as he preaches his first big sermon of Matthew's gospel. Jesus says things like, love your enemies, pray for those who abuse you, if someone hits you turn the other cheek, lend without expecting repayment (let alone interest), and don't worry about... well pretty much anything.

While living in the world that we do, reading Matthew 5-7 is as challenging as the words are ingenious. Getting rid of enemies by embracing them, taking care of accounts receivable by forgiving debts, it is not what one would expect to hear. To our ears, it may even sound overstated. The thing is, when Jesus speaks to us he knows all about the world we live

in - but more than that he brings with him the promise of a world made new, a world in which enemies are reconciled and debts stand between no one (monetary or otherwise), it is a promise of nothing less than God's world made right, restored.

Just in case we are tempted to think that Jesus might be overstating his case, he makes sure that this promise of a world made new is not just something that we can look forward to but something that we are invited, more than that, called to participate in today.

"Everyone who hears these words of mine," Jesus says, "and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock... But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a fool who built a house on sand."

May God our Father, give us ears to hear the words of Jesus and boldness to put them into practice. Amen.

Peace in Jesus and his way,

Pastor Scott



Worship and Bible Study Schedule

Saturday

4:30pm Worship Gathering

Sunday

9:00am Worship Gathering

10:30am Bible Study - Text of the Week

Monday

12:30pm Bible Study - "Parables of Jesus"

6:00pm Bible Study - "Follow Me"

Wednesday

4:30pm Kids' Time

Community Ministry Corner

News & Needs of MLM's Community Care Center

The extremely cold weather has its challenges for the families seeking assistance from the MLM Community Care Center. Families are without utility services and doubling up with other families while others are moving into shelters, trying to stay warm. MLM has been blessed with some extra monies to assist families and the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) will soon be in effect to help families with fuel bills. MLM will have LIEAP applications available in the office after the 15th of January. Requests for space heaters are up and warm clothing. Donations of warm clothing, coats, thick socks, and boots are welcome, too!

New SER Workers for MLM-Wyandotte Office

Enola Summer, Michael Davis, and Carol Ambrose are the newest addition to the SER staff at the MLM-Wyandotte office. Enola very capably handles the food pantry and has a gift for making people feel comfortable asking for assistance. Michael just started in

in December and will assist Enola with the pantry and some custodial duties, too. Carol Ambrose began on January 3rd and will be our clothing connection for families, making sure documentation is completed on all clothing applications.

Estella Williams is not exactly a new addition but started with MLM in July of 2013. Ms. Williams works at the St. Luke's office of MLM mornings and spends the afternoons at the main office on Holmes as case manager. Ms. Williams had a lot of things she didn't bargain for when in August, Yvonne was hospitalized. Things went well and we thank all the volunteers and staff for pitching in during Yvonne's absence.

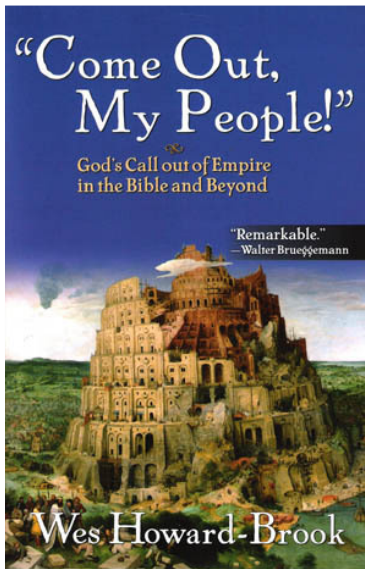
We welcome them all to our team here at St. Luke's/MLM!

Yvonne Brown, MSW

Director of Community Ministry



"Come Out My People" Retreat



Join us from **9:30 am – 4:15 pm, Saturday, Feb 22, 2014**, here at St. Luke's Lutheran Church down in the parish hall for a special retreat with Wes Howard-Brook and Sue Ferguson-Johnson.

Throughout the Bible, there is an argument between two "religions": not "Judaism" and "Christianity," but the "religion of empire" vs. the "religion of creation." We'll explore some key episodes in this battle, including how Jesus took the side of the "religion of creation." The retreat will combine presentation, silent reflection, small group sharing, and shared prayer and song as we consider how we as disciples are called today to "come out of empire" and live ever more completely in the realm of the Creator God.

Come a little early at 9:00 am or earlier to partake of the free MLM breakfast that ends at 9:15 am. Lunch will be provided and we will take a free-will donation to show our appreciation to our guests. We will conclude the retreat with a worship gathering in the sanctuary from 4:30-5:30 pm.

Please RSVP with Pastor Luke at luke.kammrath@gmail.com.

www.stlukeskck.org/more/come-out-my-people-retreat/



Baptism Anniversary

- Laverne Lauber (1/1)
- Dorothy Brown (1/1)
- Richard Vogel (1/1)
- Travis Renne (1/1)
- Edna Schons (1/1)
- Richard Vogel (1/1)
- Bernardo May (1/2)
- David Sasnett (1/24)
- Richard Kielman (2/6)
- Jack Wagner (2/8)
- Dolores McCulloch (2/15)
- Robert May (2/23)



- Christina Bridge (1/3)
- Amanda Kenney (1/3)
- Jake Mankin (1/10)
- Lluvia Rocha (1/14)
- Paul Eicholz (1/15)
- Kathy Tharp (1/19)
- Steven May (1/25)
- Robert May (1/31)
- Michael Eicholz (02/1)
- Jennifer Wagner (02/3)
- Jeanne Gardner (2/6)
- Dolores McCulloch (2/7)
- Dorothy Melott (2/10)
- Johanna Bridge (2/14)
- Elizabeth Troxel (2/15)
- Paul Jagusch (2/17)
- Jodee Crosthwait (2/22)



Wedding Anniversary

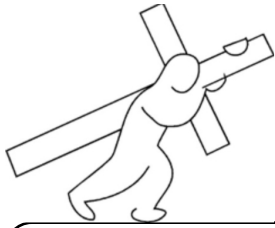
- Michael & Judy May (1/3/72, 42 years)
- David & Marie Sasnett (1/27/08, 6 years)

Board Corner

The past couple of months have been exciting times for the St. Luke's community. Fresh off the heels of a fantastic golf tournament this fall, we were ready to celebrate the holiday season. After gathering together as a church family on Thanksgiving Eve, we had the great opportunity to celebrate the First Annual St. Luke's Thanksgiving Feast -- close to 60 individuals from the community gathered together on Thanksgiving Day to share a hot meal and a time to give thanks. It was a great blessing to all those helping out as well as those who were served. It was universally declared to be a new tradition (though a few took issue with Pastor Scott's Tofurky). The Advent and Christmas season provided the opportunity for St. Luke's to love and serve our neighbors as we were able to utilize the Church Parsonage to provide housing to a family in need. In the new year we are partnering with Kim Wilson Housing to provide funding so that we can continue to utilize that space to love and serve our community. In the year ahead of us we look forward to continuing to share the good news of the Gospel with our community in word and deed. Our Christmas Eve worship was again, a beautiful and meaningful celebration of Jesus birth and the coming of God's Kingdom. At our last board meeting we also renewed our support of Lutheran High and have sent a contribution that makes us an associate member congregation.

LWML News from Lutheran Women in Mission

January 25th Lutheran Women in Mission will gather to plan ahead on our approaches to missions and member development for 2014. We will be inviting all women of the congregation to the mission of the LWML which is: to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world". We will meet at 9:00 am for a pot-luck breakfast, devotions and then a planning session with business and mission in mind as well as updates on the Kansas City Crossroads and Kansas District activities. A special invitation will go out in the mail to all women of the congregation and friends of St. Luke's Ladies Aid.



St. Luke's has a new website!!! Come check it out and find access to great resources like the church calendar, sermons, reading suggestions, and more!

www.stlukeskck.org



Community Ministry, together with MLM

| One Family's Story |

Mrs. C is the mother of five children. She was referred to MLM by the USD#500 liaison for homeless families. Mrs. C needed help with a utility bill from a Section 8 apartment she was living in that was non-compliant with Section 8 housing. The apartment had a water leak that covered the floors, walls and hoards of roaches. The carpeting was always damp and there was mold on the floors and walls. Mrs. C's oldest son had very serious asthma and was constantly in and out of the hospital because of the housing conditions. The landlord moved the family to another apartment but it was just as bad as the previous one. Through all this turmoil, Mrs. C lost her section 8 housing and has to appeal the decision. So

the family became homeless and currently in negotiations for a new place to live. In order to get into the new home, she has to pay the remainder of the utility bill so that she can get services on in the new apartment. MLM was able to assist the family with the \$258.49 BPU bill and is looking forward to her and her children to be back together in their own home.

- Yvonne Brown

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