



St. Luke's **MESSENGER**

March/April 2015

PASTOR'S CORNER

"My kingdom is not of this world..." John 18:36

As Jesus stands trial before the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, the kingdom Jesus has been proclaiming to have broken into the world is put on trial. The entire Gospel of John is coming to a climax in this scene. This kingdom has been confusing everyone and even upsetting people to the point that Jesus has been pursued by the authorities through almost the entirety of John's Gospel. Jesus has finally been captured by these authorities that have been trying to arrest him and even stone him to death for years. They finally have Jesus right where they want him, bound with their chains and on trial for treason.

But here, as Jesus faces Roman justice, the greatest human justice the world had ever seen, everyone is still confused by Jesus's kingdom and no one is sure how to go about legally legitimizing his execution. Pilate, who has been working his whole life to gain more power and climb the ladders of Roman society, is left confused by this Jesus who is being charged for treason by his opponents. Pilate asks Jesus if he is indeed claiming to be ruler. Jesus responds to Pilate by telling him, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my followers would fight to prevent my arrest."

Pilate is confused even more now, for Jesus is indeed claiming to be ruler, yet he wants nothing to do

with the power and wealth of Rome--in fact, Jesus won't even participate in self-defense for himself or others. Jesus's behavior doesn't fit into Pilate's conception of what a ruler is like. Rulers fight, battle, and compete to be in charge, to gain more power and wealth, and to protect what is theirs. Clearly Jesus is right, the kingdom he is bringing is not like the kingdoms, empires, nations, and governments in our world.

Jesus goes on to tell Pilate that he was born for this one reason: "to testify to the truth." Jesus has come to expose the truth about rulers and kingdoms. Jesus has come to expose the reality that human rulers who fight and claw for power and wealth are not legitimate, they are frauds. The true ruler has another nature altogether. This nature was revealed by Jesus as he stripped off his clothes of status and washed his disciples feet. Instead of going up the ladder of power and status, Jesus goes down that ladder and becomes a servant. Instead of amassing wealth, Jesus empties himself of all ownership. Instead of fighting and defending himself, Jesus lives by trust that his Father will defend him.

The kingdom has come and the truth has been revealed. The authorities and rulers couldn't handle this truth so they killed Jesus. What will we do when we are faced with this truth?

Pastor Luke



Worship and Bible Study Schedule

Saturday

4:30pm Worship Gathering

Sunday

9:00am Worship Gathering

10:30am "Text of the Week"

Monday

12:30 pm Pastor Mike Bible Study

6:00pm Pastor Luke Bible Study

Wednesday

4:30pm Kids Time

15th Annual Golf Classic

Fellow Golfers,

It's time once again to sign up to play in the 15th Annual Charity Golf Classic. This is an opportunity to have some fun and fellowship while benefiting your community. The goal of the tournament is to raise funds to provide needed services and advocacy to children, youth adults, seniors, and families in Wyandotte County. Services include educational opportunities, health screenings, and transitional housing to low-income individuals through its relationship with Riverview Community Services, Inc. and Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry. In 2014 St. Luke's provided approximately \$450,000 in financial aid and "in-kind" services to over 10,000 individuals.

The Charity Golf Classic will be held at Painted Hills Golf Course located at, 7101 Parallel Parkway in Kansas City, KS. The date for the tournament is May 8, 2015.

Painted Hills is a spikeless course.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- Check in: Friday, May 8th
- Start time: 8:00 a.m. (The tournament ends when participants are finished).
- Prizes will be awarded to "1st and 2nd place finishes in Both A & B flights". Other great prizes will be awarded!
- Post-Classic party: This year we will have the dinner and awards at the golf course in the Fairway room located upstairs and will begin immediately following the Classic. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Send in your entries (available on the St. Luke's website) as soon as possible and help us continue our work in Wyandotte County.

Sincerely, John Tiszka & Steve May

Committee Chairs



New Book and Bible Study!

Pastor Luke Kammrath is finishing up his new book on Luke and Acts:

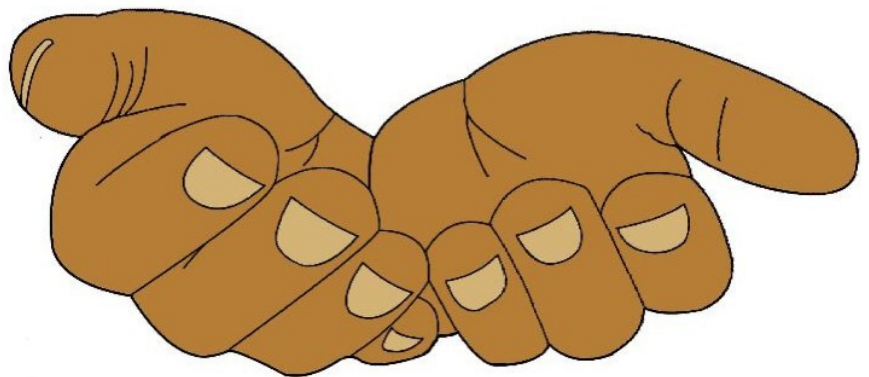
**"Father, Into Your Hands"
The Way of Jesus
According to the Gospel of Luke-Acts**

Look for copies to be available on Amazon.com in the coming weeks.

Join Pastor Luke in going through his new book, Mondays @ 6:00 pm in the Lounge, starting March 23.

"FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS"

THE WAY OF JESUS
ACCORDING TO THE
GOSPEL OF LUKE-ACTS



Sermon Series: "The Gospel of John" (Dec 24, 2014 - May 10, 2015)

From Christmas through Easter we will be walking straight through the Gospel of John. Join us as we explore the images of the Gospel of John: new birth, the Word made flesh, light/darkness, living water, true food, the good shepherd, the gate, vine/branches, etc. Through these powerful and evocative images we will be challenged to rethink the way we see the world around us and God among us. We will then be challenged to rethink our relationship of faith with Jesus. Do we truly trust his word to the point where we will obey his word in all things? Or is our trust so superficial that we are not willing to risk our lives on his word?

Baptism Anniversary

- Stephen May (3/06)
- Roxanne Deines (4/05)
- Yvonne Brown (4/10)
- Madison Lair (4/11)
- Merilee Lea (4/13)
- Paul Jagusch (4/16)
- Sarah Brown (4/16)
- Makayla Deines (4/28)
- Roxanne Deines (3/6)
- Makayla Deines (3/18)
- Ann Hauser (3/21)
- Amanda Martin (4/3)
- Mike May (4/6)
- Yvonne Brown (4/7)
- Lois Keller (4/17)
- Chloe Bridge (4/18)

Wedding Anniversary

- William & Mary Richards
(3/20/1954, 61 yrs)



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Board of Directors' Corner

It is hard to believe it is almost spring. These past couple of months have really moved quickly and as a Board of Directors we have some great news to share. As we have previously noted, in October we began discussions about filling our Community Ministry Liaison position. Yvonne Brown has served faithfully in that role for decades - she has been steadfast in serving community needs for a population that is in frequent turmoil. As many of you know, while Yvonne has had some health concerns over the past year and has had to take a step back she remains a vital part of our family and is quite excited about the news below.

As we have looked for ways to move forward, we have had the opportunity to interview Kevin Dierks. Mr. Dierks is a Christian educator with significant experience as both a teacher and principal. He exudes love and care and has a strong desire to serve those in need. After prayer and discernment we recommended that St. Luke's extend a call to Mr. Dierks to serve in the role of Community Ministry Liaison. On February 15th the congregation voted unanimously to call Mr. Dierks to come and join the St. Luke's family. While we patiently await God's guidance and Kevin's discernment process, we invite you to pray for Kevin and his family as they work to make a decision in the next few weeks. The Community Ministry Liaison position will fill several needs that we have and open up new opportunities for our outreach to the community and specifically to the children in our neighborhood.

As they have been, these are certainly exciting times to be part of the St. Luke's family, as we take part in God's work in Kansas City and look forward to what He will continue to do in our midst. We thank you for your faithful prayers and support. Together we are a family of faith, boldly declaring to the world that *All People Count*.

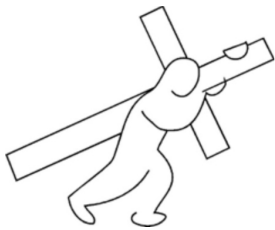
Property Update

With the turning of the seasons, we are all anxious to get outside and get our hands dirty. We will have a cleanup day in the spring that will be announced later. A special thanks goes out to Marie Sasnett for volunteering her services on beautifying the church landscape, and to Kathy Polzkill for her many trips to church to trim and clean up parts of the grounds.

The next big project we will be looking at is the refurbishing of the louvers in the church steeple. I will be taking bids for this project and hope to raise money for our capital expense account to cover this. If anyone knows of a company that could take on this project, please contact me, John Wagner, at 913-208-8344.

Jan-Feb Emergency Assistance

- IDs: 53 individuals
- Food: 481 individuals
- Utilities: 39 families
- Rent: 14 families



Come check out our website and find access to great resources like the church calendar, sermons, reading suggestions, a full-color newsletter, and more!

www.stlukeskck.org



Lent Midweek Worship Schedule

Join us as we continue our journey of exploring John 10 and Jesus as the "good shepherd." He is the only true leader and ruler who will lead us to life.

- Lent III Wed -- Mar 4 @ Immanuel
- Lent IV Wed -- Mar 11 @ Bethel
- Lent V Wed -- Mar 18 @ Grace
- Lent VI Wed -- Mar 25 @ Faith

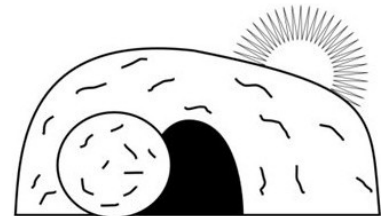
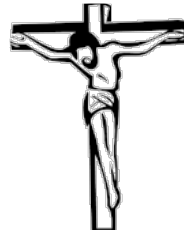
Worship services start at 7:00 pm. A supper will be served starting at 5:30 pm.



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Join us for Holy Week this year as we see Jesus's journey to the cross in John's Gospel come to its completion!

- Apr 2, Maundy Thursday -- 6:00 pm (bring a dish to share)
- Apr 3, Good Friday -- 7:00 pm
- Apr 4, Holy Saturday -- 4:30 pm
- Apr 5, Easter -- 6:30 & 9:00 am
- Apr 5, Easter Breakfast -- 7:30-11:00 am
- Apr 5, Easter Egg Hunt -- 10:30 am



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