



St. Luke's **MESSENGER**

September/October 2015

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Trust God." Mark 11:22

Such a small and simple command from Jesus, "trust God." The heart of this command is a word very important to everything Christians are about: "trust" or "faith." This word we have used and thrown around so often as Christians that I think we forget to pause and reflect on what it truly means. What does it mean to "trust" or "have faith in God"? Does it mean knowing the right information and having the right knowledge about him? Or is it something more?

I believe that thinking about trust in other contexts is very instructive. What does it mean that I trust a parachute? Does it mean that I know certain things about how it works? Or does it mean I behave in a particular way with the parachute? Certainly knowledge can be an important piece of "trust," but it is also so much more. Am I trusting in a parachute by declaring that I think it will keep some *other* person from hitting the ground? Or am I only trusting in a parachute by actually putting it on myself and jumping out of an airplane?

I believe that the trust that Jesus calls us into with God is like trust in a parachute. Genuine trust is much more than making a statement, it involves our life choices about how we live each day according to that stated trust. As such, trusting God is not about just saying lofty things about what God

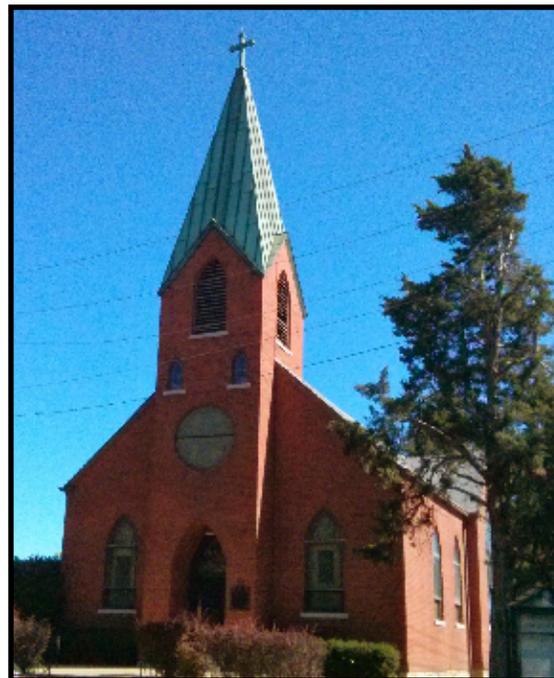
can do, it is about throwing our lives into his hands and trusting that he will come through for us when we take the leap of faith. As James says in his letter in the New Testament, we show our trust or faith by what we do, not by what we say.

So if we say that we trust that God will provide for us, what must that trust look like in our doing? Does genuine trust in God's provision mean that we figure out other ways to make sure we have what we need for tomorrow? Or does genuine trust in God's provision mean that we put on the parachute of his promise and leave the question of tomorrow completely in his hands?

Hopefully we can see that trust and faith is so much more than what we have often made it to be. The scriptures are right that everything comes down to trust and faith. But have we cheapened that trust and faith to only mean some sort of knowledge or assent?

Let us reflect once again on Jesus's word to us: "Trust God." How are you living by trust and faith in your everyday life? Are you putting on the parachute of God's promise to provide for you or are you bypassing the leap of faith in order to try and take care of yourself? Trust. Faith. So simple, but so much more than merely saying, "I believe."

Pastor Luke



Worship and Bible Study Schedule

Saturday

4:30 pm Worship Gathering

Sunday

9:30 am Worship Gathering

10:45 am Text of the Week &
| Jesus Time

Monday

12:30 pm Pastor Mike Bible Study

6:00 pm Pastor Luke Bible Study

Wednesday

4:00 pm Jesus Time

6:15 pm Choir

Board of Directors' Corner

It is the time for St. Luke's Board of Directors nominations and elections! We started taking nominations on August 16 and will continue to do so till September 16 in order to fill 4-6 Board vacancies at our congregational meeting on September 20. Jack Wagner, Ralph Heiden, and Georgia Story have finished up their time of service on our Board of Directors—we thank them so much for their years and years of faithful service. We ask the Lord to bless them in this season as they take a Sabbath rest from their leadership roles in our congregation. Chrissy May and Jennifer Wagner are up for re-election while Rose Tiszka, John Wagner, Karen Wagner, and Dick Vogel will continue on the Board as they finish serving their current two year terms. Please pray for our discernment in choosing new leaders for the season ahead and please pray that these new leaders will be given the strength and wisdom to lead us in the direction that Jesus desires for our community and family of faith.



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We cannot thank you enough for the generous outpouring of love we received on our farewell Sunday in July. We continually speak of how our 2 years with you were some of the best we have had.

My dad is doing well here, back in his home. We have completed renovations for him to be able to move around safely and comfortably, with his own apartment on the lower level. He has many upcoming appointments with new doctors and specialists, trying to figure out some of his health issues. He routinely sits on our front patio every morning, looking out onto the "park" as he calls it, that is our front yard. Karis and Amos are loving the open air. Karis has already caught a baby toad, started a rock collection, and befriended our neighbor's ponies, Care Bear and Rosie. Amos loves to climb, play, run, and he is getting so fast! They both celebrated birthdays and are ever growing and changing. Karis prays for her friends in Kansas City nearly every night. Scott has a second interview at a hospital just a few miles from our house this week. Steph is busy hanging pictures and trying to make the house feel like home. We are both putting lots of work into the outside, prepping for garden space next year. We are ready to get into a more regular routine here, as the summer draws to a close.

We continue to trust that God's Spirit will lead us to serve him here in our new location. If any of you ever find yourselves in the mitten, please let us know! You all are in our prayers and thoughts. Keep us in yours!

Peace in Jesus and His way,

Scott, Steph, Karis and Amos (3630 Frains Lake Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105)

Property Corner

We have a lot going on and a lot that has gone on to update and repair our property:

- We have new oil candles for the altar that will minimize cost and upkeep.
- We give a big thank you to Rick Wagner and his crew for clearing the tree branches and debris from our kids park across from the church.
- We have a bid to repair some small damages to our educational building roof. That job will be done in September.
- We will have a new floor laid in the lounge on Sept 17-18. This job will be done with money provided by the Sewing Circle and Elsie Rohner's memorial.
- We will have the foundation of the church building patched and tuck-pointed in early September. This work was graciously donated by John Gooden. Please thank him the next time they are here.
- We will be getting our front sign redone and illuminated. We will hopefully get this done by the end of the year.
- We are looking into getting the stained glass and our exterior windows re-caulked.

Finally, YOU ARE INVITED to a work day on Saturday, October 17, from 8:30 till 11:30 am. We will be doing general clean up, weed eating, pruning, trimming, and planting. Come up early and have breakfast provided by MLM. Please bring a friend (we have plenty to do!) and please bring any trimmers, and garden implements that would fit these jobs.



Baptism Anniversary

- Chloe Bridge (9/1)
- Georgia Story (9/2)
- Cindy Ford (9/6)
- Haley Bridge (9/12)
- MaLena Bunch (9/16)
- Erma Stewart (9/18)
- Morgan May (9/22)
- Donna Payne (10/15)



- Micah Dierks (9/12)
- MaLena Bunch (9/19)
- Donna Payne (9/20)
- Jordin Brown (9/29)
- Jamey Story (10/4)
- Carrie May (10/18)
- Judy May (10/28)

Wedding Anniversary

- Jack & Deborah Wagner (9/28/1968, 47 yrs)
- Cindy & Chuck Ford (10/1/1994, 21 yrs)
- John & Lois Tiszka (10/2/2000, 15 yrs)
- Luke & Julie Kammrath (10/5/2012, 3 yrs)



Community Ministry Corner

I've got some work to do. As I listen to the Riverview, Metro Lutheran Ministry, and KC Medicine Cabinet folks speak of their experiences with Yvonne Brown, and as I listen to her share some glimpses of her experience and expertise that she shares in passing and during Bible study discussions, I recognize the gift she has been and continues to be, serving this church and neighborhood. Also, as I listen to the preaching, teaching and discussion at St. Luke's and at our 17th Street community surrounding the Bible's words and Christ's, I know this is the Calling for the life of this Christian.

My first 2 weeks in August were consumed with the morning teaching position I accepted at the middle school of Calvary Lutheran. Now that home visits and meetings and open houses are completed, I can better focus in on what has been done for St. Luke's and the neighborhood through the years and how I can support what that hard work has accomplished as I offer who I am to y'all and learn from the strides you have made.

At my installation service at St. Lukes on August 9, I was shocked to see two Calvary teachers know about and join your celebration service. On Sunday, August 16, at my installation at Calvary, I was shocked to see Pastor May

and Judy know about and join their celebration service. Texas Lutheran Church and School ministry ties are a different experience than what I am understanding the ties in KCK and KCMO to be, and I'm sure to keep learning more in many other ways.

I shared with St. Luke's Board some of my hopes for the first six months. I look forward to beginning to put time and heart into accomplishing some of my goals for learning and serving in St. Luke's neighborhood and church. One of those goals is to invite myself into your home to visit with you. A time consuming but beautiful experience of teaching in Lutheran schools is the time at the start of each year given to doing a home visit with each student's family. Additionally, I've had a chance to visit briefly with the staff of MLM, KC Medicine Cabinet, and Riverview that is on site each week and look forward to developing a relationship of support of them as they serve on this campus.

Also, thank you so much for the kind potluck welcome for Lisa, the kids and me after the installation service. It was delicious.

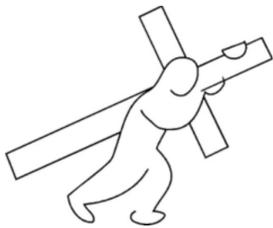
Kevin Dierks

Sermon Series: "The Gospel of Mark" (May 31 - Nov 22)

We continue our journey this Pentecost season as we walk straight through the Gospel of Mark. Join us as we explore Mark's introductory and revolutionary picture of the person of Jesus. We will let his words and life shape our lives as we try to faithfully live in 21st century America. If you want a companion resource for our journey through Mark's Gospel, check out Pastor Luke's book, *"Follow Me": The Way of Jesus According to the Gospel of Mark*, which is available on Amazon.com or personally through him.

Jul/Aug MLM Emergency Assistance

- IDs: 73 individuals
- Food: 493 individuals
- Utilities: 21 families
- Housing: 4 families
- School supplies: 135 children



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



2nd Annual Fall Festival

On Wednesday, October 14, 5:00-7:00 pm we will be having our 2nd Annual Fall Festival! Food, carnival games, and fellowship! Everyone is invited because "all people count"! Bring your family and friends!

Members of the congregation will be asked again to volunteer for this fantastically fun outreach event for our neighbors. We encourage you to prayerfully consider donating your time and/or resources to this event. I promise you will come away refreshed and excited for the future of this congregation. Additional information will be available over the coming weeks. Please mark your calendars and plan now to join us. If you are unable to volunteer, we hope you can join us for the dinner and fellowship. If you wish to volunteer call Karen Wagner at 913-439-7476.

Upcoming Dates and Times

Starting on Sunday, September 13:

Worship Gathering — 9:30 am

Fellowship/Study Hour — 10:45 am

Jesus Time — 10:45 am

Congregational Meeting/Elections:

Sunday, September 20 — 10:30 am

2nd Annual Fall Festival:

Wednesday, October 14 — 5:00 pm

Work Day:

Saturday, October 17 — 8:30 am

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

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