



# St. Luke's **MESSENGER**

November/December 2015

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### "When I drink it in the Kingdom of God" Mark 14:25

As Jesus gathered with his students for the Passover celebration he told them that he would not drink wine again until God's Kingdom broke forth into the world. Who knows what the disciples were exactly thinking as they heard these words, but they were probably assuming that time would be a long way off in some far-off and distant future.

In light of this, one wonders what these same students thought as they stood far-off, watching Jesus be crucified the very next day--watching Jesus drink wine from a sponge as his final act before death. Would they have seen that act of drinking wine as Jesus being wrong about his previous statement? Would they have seen this as Jesus just giving up on all of his hopes in the reality of God's Kingdom in order to have one last drink? It would be very hard to fault the disciples for thinking these things as they watched their teacher die.

But a couple days later, on Sunday, when Jesus burst forth from his grave, one can guarantee that all of those previous thoughts changed. Imagine their surprise as they realized that death was unable to hold Jesus and that the long awaited resurrection of the dead had already begun. Imagine them remembering Jesus drinking wine on the cross as they also remember his assertion that the Kingdom of God will be present when he drinks wine again.

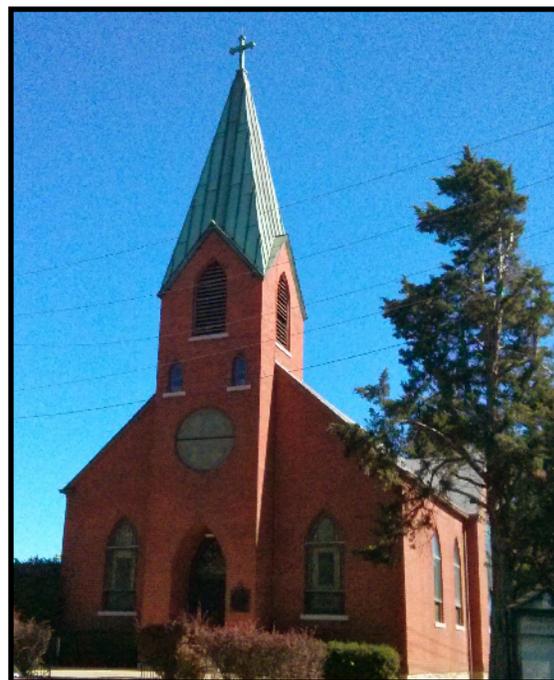
How difficult it must have been for them to think that the coming of the Kingdom of God was actually the moment of Jesus being crucified. How could this be? Wasn't God's Kingdom supposed to be the great military victory of God over his enemies? Could it really be that the Kingdom of God breaking into the world was instead a man living by full trust in God and loving and forgiving his enemies as he died? This literally changed everything.

What about us? Have we ignored the fact that Jesus drinks wine on the cross after promising that he wouldn't drink it till God's Kingdom came into the world? Are we willing to wrestle with what that means for all our ideas and expectations of God's Kingdom?

If Jesus was right, then we have to face the reality that God's Kingdom is not something we are waiting for in the future, but a present reality that has come through Jesus and his faithfulness--a reality that we are being called to participate in as we live by trust and love and forgive our enemies.

How much might our view of what it means to be Christian change if we were to see the Kingdom of God in this way? And in what ways can we as a church community embrace the full presence of this Kingdom of God in our midst and lives?

Pastor Luke



### Worship and Bible Study Schedule

#### **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

We have a new Board of Directors at St. Luke's for the next year. Rose Tiszka is our president. Jennifer Wagner is our vice president. Karen Wagner is our treasurer. Chrissy May is our secretary. Kyle Adams, Yvonne Brown, Roxanne Deines, Todd Deines, David Sasnett, Dick Vogel, and John Wagner compose the rest of the Board. We are very thankful for these servants of St. Luke's who have willingly given and offered themselves to help lead and guide us in the direction of Jesus. The leadership of St. Luke's has a very exciting time ahead as it is tasked with continuing the journey of leading this ever-evolving community in the directions that Jesus would lead as the neighborhood and city continue to change and shift. We ask you to diligently pray for these leaders that they may listen carefully to the Lord's voice and have the courage to take us where he is asking.



## 2nd Annual Fall Festival - Recap

The work of St. Luke's was well represented with the many hands that pitched in to organize, setup, execute, and clean up our second annual Fall Festival. It was enjoyable to watch the people of this place in action. From the donation of pumpkins, the week prior, for the Jesus time kids to decorate and set out for the Fall Festival event, to the sacrifice of listening to the radio to game 5 activity of your beloved Royals instead of watching the event--it was an impressive example of service to our neighborhood and kids.

Thank you to John and Karen Wagner for being the leads on creating this event and running the planning, and day of details. Games secured were fun to run for us as church members and fun to play for our kids and adults. The apple bob is one I personally haven't seen for years, and the church and school kids would not be denied doing whatever it took to teeth the stems for a winner. Face painting and tattoos were popular stops as well. Grilled dogs and brats satisfied with the complement of chips, drinks and fruit. The setup in the grass for sitting and eating went well and the games on the edge of the street worked nicely. The cake walk and ring toss for two liters had a mass of treats and sweets on stock and plenty of winning for the kids--definite fan favorite games. We'll look to keep rotating the other games set up for the kids interest year after year. Next year the kids and I will canvass the neighborhood with the flu shot forms and flyer the Wednesday prior to the event to bring in even more of our neighborhood for the fun. Thank you to all who pitched in.

The most enjoyable part for me as the new kid was watching how much work people freely offered to pitch in for setup and clean up. It is fun to watch how freely we get after work for this event, for the workday this fall, and in the other elements of weekly worship, Bible study and Jesus time focus for adults and kids. Thank you for your presence and impact on this neighborhood and church.  
--Kevin Dierks

## Property Corner

Our work day in October was very successful and we give a big thank you to those folks that showed up to help and continue to make our grounds more and more beautiful. Also, the roof of the educational building has been patched and the church roof guttering has been diverted to drain to the side yard of the parsonage so that we hopefully avoid the minor flooding we had during the wet season this year. Finally, the new floor in the lounge is in place and is a beautiful gift given to us by Elsie Rohner's Memorial and the Sewing Circle.



## Baptism Anniversary

- Jamey Story (11/13)
- Sonia Gardner (11/25)
- Judy May (12/1)
- Mary Richards (12/20)
- Dean Bridge (12/29)



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

## Wedding Anniversary

- Bill & Lucy Mellot (12/22/1964, 51 yrs)



## Community Ministry Corner

Our new "spring" life in Kansas City coincides with the season of Fall in Kansas City. Lisa's and my forty years of life have 2 geographic experience bases: Central Texas, sun and high temperatures, which were a refreshing change of pace from my Minnesota and Wisconsin first 20 years and the regularly overcast, damp, or down-right freezing temperatures. If you've been within earshot or Facebook post awareness of my wife Lisa, you may recognize the joy the Fall in Kansas City has brought to our hearts. We are mesmerized by the maple tree leaves...I am in love with the 18th Street Expressway bridge that opens up a view of the east horizon with the sun rising over the KCMO skyline and also shows the moon trailing away toward the west horizon. The drive allows for jr- Marcus to read his latest 5th grade novel of choice to me. Yet now we enter the "dark" season of the north. The sun now rises later in the drive, so there is not a view of sunrise each AM bridge crossing, nor the natural light for Marc to read along our route. Will Lisa and I be as excited about this leafless season and the increased hours of dark vs Texas living?

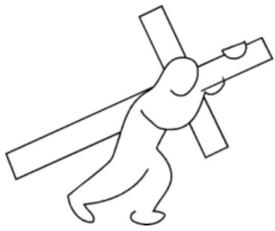
How about you, who likely have experienced many seasons in this region? Do you appreciate the gift of seasons KC provides? How fresh the air and cool the breeze and how energizing the moderate, comfortable temperatures of these fall months have been to us as the newest kids on the block. Having been in KC for a few decades or a lifetime longer than us, have you gotten comfortably numb to how vibrant the weather these past two months have been? Might you take the seasons for granted? Does this season resonate less with you than a more preferred season? His mercies are new to us each morning- like fresh morning dew...or humidity...or sleet..or snow.

So far, I am fully present, intimately aware, and completely in tune with the shifts in the outdoors here. I feel most alive within the newness of our life in KC. Will I feel the same as the inevitable winter season unveils itself? Will the newness of the next season(s) be as captivating, mesmerizing, energizing as the ideals of fall temperatures and colors currently on display? I also

appreciate, that often times, it takes us some serious seasons/seasoning in life to relish the newness of each day and each season for what it is. There is a solid presence created through the successes and errors provided in this 43-year-old pacing through seasons and years. We'll see in January if our family photos and oohs and aahs continue amidst the "oh wow!" and ouches of winter season temperatures and winds. Or will our energy get viewed/skewed with the negative, at times bitter, reflections like I give of dreary skies and long winters in MN (even as they were full of amazing experiences/memories of times/seasons now gone)?

Thank you: For remembering, but as/more importantly, re-creating (playfully) each day and each experience with the freshness it merits, coupled with the seasoned experience/integrity it takes, to LISTEN/SEE, VALUE, and SEIZE the opportunities afforded within each day, to grow into our mustard-seed sized faith/speech/service for our LORD and His Will. For making faith/growth tangible, with childlike faith/freshness in each moment and interaction that He provides for us. For listening and learning and serving under Him, as we mature past our preferred childishness, seasoned by His grace and mercy into faithful humility for each day and season. Thank you for our learning alongside each other daily, the ebb and flow of giving and receiving from one another, among the mercies and gifts that He offers up by us and to us each day.

Lord help us to be ever present and willing participants in the vibrant spring; hot, humid summer; pleasant, colorful fall; and doldrum, draggin' on of winter seasons of our life and FAITH life, as You ignite/inspire us to graciously receive gifts and gracefully and freely share Your gifts daily with Your created/creative servants and even with those surrounding us who forsake your invitation to Truth and Life. Allow us: to open up our senses and awareness, to shake off dull sloth, to seize the days we are provided, to serve joyfully for Your kingdom present among us, to graciously and mercifully receive and give our daily bread with thanks, to willingly make each season what You desire it to be for each and for one another. Help us in each day and season to truly offer our thanksgiving life to you Lord.



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](http://www.stlukeskck.org)



**Sermon Series: "The Gospel of Luke"**

**December 6 - April 10**

When we begin our new year as a church community with Advent we will embark on a journey through the Gospel of Luke. Join us as we let our year and lives be shaped by walking with Jesus as he brings the Kingdom of God into our world. If you want a companion resource for our journey through Luke's Gospel, check out Pastor Luke's book, *"Father Into Your Hands": The Way of Jesus According to the Gospel of Luke-Acts*, which is available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or personally through him.

**Upcoming Dates and Times**

First Communion Class - **Sat, Nov 14, 9:30 am**

LWML Breakfast Meeting - **Sat, Nov 21, 9:30 am**

LWML Craft/Bake Sale - **Sun, Nov 22, 10:45 am**

LWML Advent Dinner - **Tues, Dec 8, 6:00 pm**

Jesus Time Christmas Caroling - **Wed, Dec 16, 4:00 pm**

Christmas Festival - **Thurs, Dec 24, 4:30 & 9:00 pm**

**Sep/Oct Kansas City Medicine Cabinet  
Emergency Assistance**

- Prescription Drugs: 33 individuals
- Medical Supplies: 4 individuals
- Dental Care: 23 individuals
- Vision Care: 79 individuals

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

- IDs: 77 individuals
- Food: 488 individuals
- Utilities: 23 families
- Housing: 24 families

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

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