



St. Luke's **MESSENGER**

March/April 2016

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Their eyes were opened." Luke 24:31

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were blind and they didn't know it. They thought they could see just fine and their eyes were telling them a hard truth: Jesus, the one they had hoped would be the one through whom God would set the world right, was brutally executed as an enemy of the Roman Empire and the Israelite authorities of Jerusalem. Their eyes told them everything they needed to know: he was killed and therefore was a failure. Another dead-end hope, literally.

These two men impatiently tried to explain this fact to the stranger they happened upon along the road to Emmaus. This stranger sure was dense though, dense and oblivious. This stranger was bold as well, for after they painstakingly explained the disaster of the last few days, including the now missing body of their former teacher, this stranger called them out and called them fools. Then the stranger had the audacity to lecture them about the Law and the Prophets and how this Jesus, who was killed, was at the center of everything.

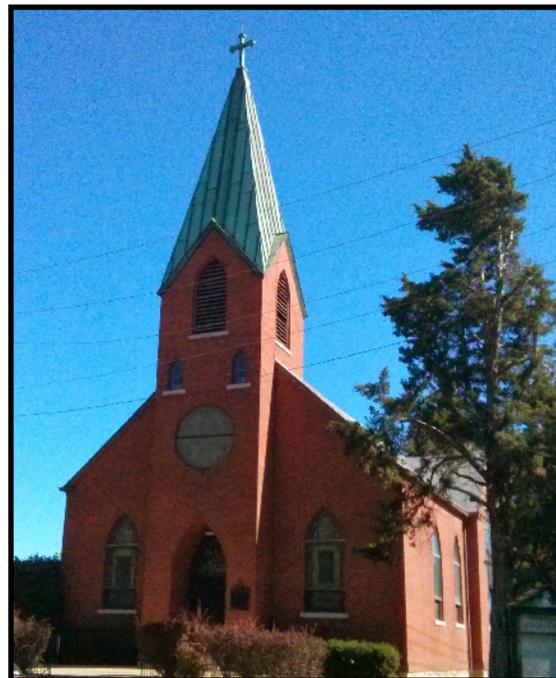
Despite their humiliation at the hands of this stranger, these two disciples did what Jesus would have wanted them to do: they offered and even insisted on giving this random stranger a meal to eat and a warm place to sleep for the night. And he agreed.

Then, as they gathered at the table, sharing food, fellowship, and hospitality with a total stranger, it happened. The stranger took the bread, gave thanks to God, broke it into pieces, and shared it with them. And it was then that their eyes were opened. They had thought they could see before, but they had been totally blind: this total stranger was Jesus, raised from the dead! But as soon as they saw him with eyes wide open, he was gone again.

Excited, they ran back to Jerusalem that very moment, in the middle of the night. There they found the rest of the disciples gathered and shared with them that the risen Jesus had come to them and that their eyes had been opened as they studied and talked about the Scriptures and when they shared a meal with a total stranger.

Almost 2000 years after this famous encounter we face the same struggle. The eyes of history, science, and everyday experience tell us that Jesus is simply dead. It is easy to trust those eyes and give in to the despair that the Jesus we hoped would be different is just another failure. But the eyes of history, science, and everyday experience are blind. The true eyes that can see are the eyes of faith, the eyes that are shaped by the study of the Scriptures and the sharing of a meal with the stranger among us.

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



Community Ministry Corner

In my opinion, through Bowen's truths (that we started exploring last newsletter), the four most productive energy efforts you and I can make in our never-ending daily growth plans are:

1) Working on ourselves and working to recognize our prior generation's strengths and gaps that continue as a part of our core selves.

2) Looking back/connecting back to our roots...

2a) ...by applauding the hard work of integrity each of our predecessors fought for (don't put any of them too high on any pedestals--your most revered, respected, and charismatic characters were/are a mess). Think of the Hebrews 11 "Hall of Fame" believers lists--then read the truth and read between the lines as to just how flawed and un-Christ-like they were in most words and actions.

2b) ...by taking the easily identified flaws in all our predecessors and doing the hard work of accepting/forgiving/reforming those patterns that have amplified themselves down into you and your children (apply this talk to blood relatives AND any group you "relate" to).

3) Check yourself and develop yourself--don't take the bait of focusing externally and using comfort, pain, and adrenaline to keep yourself from owning your garbage and your part in the dysfunction and the destructive

derailments in your life. The only chance for your circles to improve is by each person taking the opportunity and challenge to own up to their own stuff--this opportunity is given to each of us in this life by the living Christ. And if you grow on your end (pain-filled, but legitimate and real) then it will ripple out, giving health/truth shots to the hearts/minds/souls of those around you as well. So let's stop putting our energy toward the well-intentioned desire of getting others to raise their game and instead give our dedicated energies and focus toward the sanctification work that God ultimately has called and invited you and I into from the beginning. Let God, the Physician, heal you and work within you, as painful as it may be.

4) Speaking truth to another. Walt Wangerin's words in his book *As for Me and My House* solidly confront my desire to be safer by being silent when truth needs to be spoken. Our church buddy Kyle Adams also has some wonderful insights into the accountability we so often gloss away in our current sterilized presentation of forgiveness in the Christian community.

I'm thankful for those who give hard work to developing their understanding of immaturity in self and Christian communities. What a blessing to our hearts and souls, being able to hear and read, and inwardly digest another Christian's true struggle to grow, even the smallest amount, in integrity with our Lord and his creation. .

--Kevin Dierks

Board of Directors' Corner

We first want to give a deep and heartfelt thank you to Francisco and Nette, for each giving us over a decade of faithful service. They did countless "thankless" jobs over the years that were so crucial to our church community and our partner ministries. Without them we wouldn't have been able to carry out the Lord's work. So thank you, Francisco and Nette, for all your work and we hope that the Lord will bless you as you explore a new season of life!

We also want to welcome and give a big thanks to Hubert Brown, who is stepping into our janitorial position, and Lois Keller, who is stepping into our administrative assistant position. Both Hubert and Lois have been great gifts to us already, helping us get through this difficult and sudden time of transition. Hubert has started tackling some extra projects of deep cleaning and waxing our old floors--what a difference! While Lois has been helping us spearhead so many different projects as we try to reorganize and revamp some of our book-keeping and administrative practices. We thank them both for their servant hearts and behind the scenes work that truly make our ministries shine. We also must give a quick shout out and thank you to Rose Tiszka, our president, who has stepped up in numerous ways to fill the gaps in this time of transition. THANK YOU!

Baptism Anniversary

- Stephen May (3/6)
- Roxanne Deines (4/5)
- Yvonne Brown (4/10)
- Merilee Lea (4/13)
- 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 (4/12)
- Lois Keller (4/17)
- Chloe Bridge (4/18)

Wedding Anniversary

- John & Karen Wagner (3/15/1980, 36 yrs)



Community Ministry Updates

On Monday and Wednesday evenings we have partnered with Priest Gene Flannery in offering ESL classes to those in our neighborhood. Gene is the Anglican Priest who is planting a Spanish speaking congregation which worships in the sanctuary on Sunday afternoons. About a month into this experience, we see approximately 10 learners being instructed at two levels in the rooms of St. Luke's. Yvonne and Kevin coordinate a meal each Wednesday evening for these teachers, learners, and their families. Children of the learners on these evenings can work on homework in the basement or play games with Kevin. Speak with Yvonne or Kevin if you desire to be involved or support this new program at St. Luke's.

KC Medicine Cabinet (KCMC) at St. Luke's has extended its service hours in February. Annette runs the morning offering of KCMC and she is now taking walk-ins, in addition to appointments. Tuesday through Thursday from 12:30-2:30 pm will now be headed up by Rose, Yvonne, and Kevin. Jodi at KCMC headquarters is VERY excited about this offering from St. Luke's, especially with Yvonne's Spanish speaking fluency available to clients on Thursday afternoons.

The Easter egg hunt this year will happen at 11:00 am, March 27, following the 9:30 worship. Please consider filling plastic eggs with sweets, treats, etc., and bringing them in for the Easter kid fun. Those choosing to donate can leave the Easter eggs in the basket at the entrance of the sanctuary.

Finally, St. Luke's 3rd to 5th grade Jesus Time kids are two games (first games ever!) into their five game spring basketball season. Juanito, Juan, and Marcus scored the first baskets in game one. Alejandra, Mason, Fermin, and Damian played great defense and had some close shots in our 20-6 loss. Stop in to cheer and support these wild ones at Bethany Gym on Central if you have interest: March 5, 2:45 pm and March 12, 2pm.

Property Corner

We would like to give a BIG thank you to the great crew that showed up to help with our first round of cleaning for the parsonage. Your help was so key for our super productive morning and we had a lot of fun in the process!

We are looking for painters to help refurbish the walls in many of the rooms of the parsonage. If you would like to volunteer for this duty, please call John Wagner at [913 208-8344](tel:9132088344).

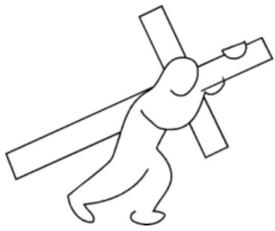
We will have another work day in early May (likely May 7), so stay tuned as we get the details on that finalized.

Third Sunday Food Drive

Watch for sales on items like tuna, peanut butter, cereal, crackers, fruit cups and other easily prepared foods. So beginning in March bring food to share with our community-based ministries on the third Sunday or whenever you want. There will be a special container at the back of the church for your donations.

St. Luke's Charity Golf Classic!!!

- Check in: **Friday, May 6, 2016, at 7:00 am**
 - Tee time: 8:00 am
 - Post Party to immediately follow.
- Go to the St Luke's website for entry forms.



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



Holy Week Schedule

- Mar 24 — Maundy Thursday, 6:00 pm
- Mar 25 — Good Friday, 7:00 pm
- Mar 26 — Holy Saturday, 4:30 pm
- Mar 27 — Easter Sunrise, 7:00 am
Easter Festival, 9:30 am
Easter Breakfast, 8:00 - 11:30 am
Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 am

Upcoming Dates and Times

- LWML Mission Breakfast - **Sat, Mar 19, 9:00 am**
- LWML Bake/Craft Sale - **Sun, Mar 20, 10:30 am**
- Third Sunday Food Drive - **Sun, Mar 20, 9:30 am**
- St. Luke's Board Meeting - **Tues, Apr 5, 5:30 pm**
- Third Sunday Food Drive - **Sun, Apr, 17, 9:30 am**
- Golf Tournament - **Fri, May 6, 7:00 am**

Kansas City Medicine Cabinet Jan/Feb Emergency Assistance

- Prescription Drugs: 26 individuals
- Medical Supplies: 6 individuals
- Dental Care: 23 individuals
- Vision Care: 71 individuals

Metro Lutheran Ministry Jan/Feb Emergency Assistance

- IDs: 61 individuals
- Food: 504 individuals
- Utilities: 10 families
- Housing: 6 families

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

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