

"Deeper Discipleship
& Closer Community
with Jesus"



St. Luke's **MESSENGER**

September/October 2016

PASTOR'S CORNER

"I am on trial for the resurrection." Acts 24:21

As Paul's missionary journeys take him deeper into Roman territory, he finds that the resurrection of Jesus is deeply offensive to all the world. Kicked out of one town after another, Paul finds himself arrested and on trial in many instances. Inevitably it always comes out that Paul's preaching of the resurrection is just too disturbing for people to handle. But why? What is so offensive about the resurrection?

Resurrection means a new world and a new world order. Death being final and getting the last word is the central mark of our world as we know it. Everything revolves around this fact and those in power use the threat of death as their ultimate weapon. So when Paul preaches the resurrection of Jesus, he is preaching a complete overhaul to the world as we know it. No longer can death be used as a threat and weapon. No longer are the powers and authorities in charge, their threats are empty and impotent.

The very fabric and structures of our lives are organized around the threat and fear of death. The ways we grab for money and the ways we want weapons and armies. All the ways we approach life are centered around our fear of death and wanting to protect ourselves against it and the suffering it causes.

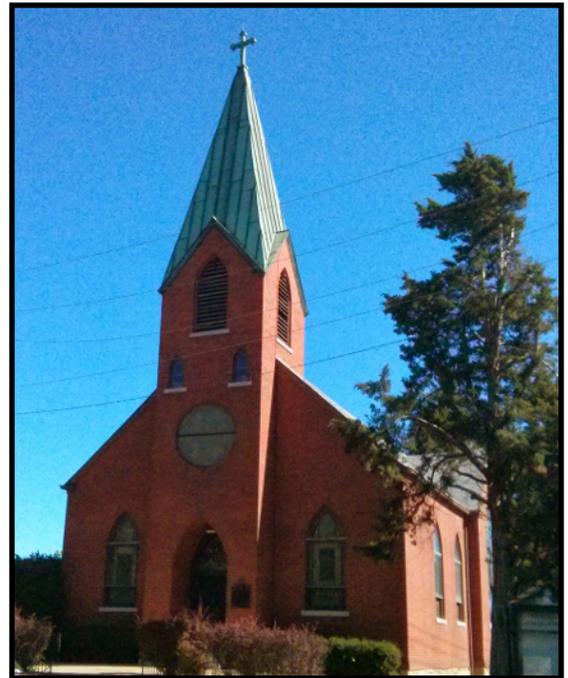
But if the resurrection of Jesus is

real and the threat of death has been broken, then imagine how different life truly is. No longer do we need to worry about retirement. No longer do we need to worry about insurance. No longer do we need storehouses of wealth. No longer do we need to worry about war. No longer do we need to worry about home invaders. If death truly is no longer something that has power over us, then the way we live in the world will be completely different. THIS is why they killed Jesus and THIS is why Paul got in trouble for preaching the resurrection.

As we journey towards "Deeper Discipleship & Closer Community with Jesus" it is essential that we keep the resurrection at the center of everything. The resurrection is God's act in the world that literally changes everything as we know it. Every Sunday is a little Easter where we remember that we can live differently in the world because of the resurrection.

So we need to ask ourselves again this day: Do we truly trust that Jesus has been raised from the dead and that death is defeated? It was this crazy trust that empowered the first Christians to let go of everything and to die boldly as martyrs. They truly trusted, deep in their hearts, that suffering and death was defeated. A new world has come, let us live free from the fear of death.

Pastor Luke



Worship and Bible Study Schedule

Sunday

9:30 am Worship Gathering
10:30 am Food & Fellowship
11:15 am Text of the Week Study
| & 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

As this school year kicks off, 4th grade's Concordia Publishing House (CPH) religion is a new experience and study guide for me. I've grown and been challenged quite a bit in the walking through the Bible here at St. Luke's and on 17th Street in this first year, as we flip through/dig into the New Testament, over and over and over again. The interest in digging deeper is challenging, satisfying, and humbling. Life is full of so many assumptions and standard pat answers given to us as Christians and adults as to how we should answer life's deep questions--and these answers need to be challenged. I'm thankful for you here, and those on 17th Street, willing and wanting to be in study and discussion about the depth and the width and the height of God's will unfolded in the passion and life of Jesus and those who straggle along behind on this side of the grave.

The part that is exciting about the new religion class experience for me is that it is based on the Old Testament. I'm intrigued to wrestle with the texts with these 4th graders and to go deeper in self-study of the Old Testament word by word. I know the stories and the formulaic answers fairly well. My attendance was impeccable in both the LCMS Monday-Friday school and Sunday School classes. And now I'm getting paid to dig deep into the CPH focal points of the Old Testament for our 4th grade (and 45 yr old) faith hearts, and I've got a ton to learn, and many stamped assumptions (self-taught

and otherwise) to unlearn.

Lesson 2 of 4th grade religion has a fun "cross" out activity. After Lesson 1 focuses on the good stuff of seven creation days, Lesson 2 jumps to Genesis 3 to the Fall. In the book we colorfully cross out the sins of false witness, slander, sexual immorality, murder, adultery, etc.

So I've challenged the class, and my own mind, to try and understand exactly what these big words mean and, better yet, what they mean to God. So rather than a simple gloss over and quick check list, let's go deeper. It can be a cop-out to just say, "I haven't killed anyone (murder) and I haven't taken another man's wife (adultery), so I am good." So we'll try to shine the light on our hardened hearts. For example, theft: What besides the pizza slices, money, bubble gum, and scissors that I stole when I was 5 and 10 is God asking me to see in my heart and mind? How do we steal another's good mood, each other's time, etc.? And in regard to murder: How do the jealousy, anger, and hatred in my heart develop and shape the way I treat my neighbors? So in addition to the quick and comfortable colored-cross of Jesus activity, we are trying to learn from the deep struggle that Jesus lived out into mature commitment to the Father's will in each episode of His earthly journey--a journey we are called to follow as we live and do likewise.

(continued on page 3)

Community Council Corner

This summer we made the difficult decision to discontinue our Saturday worship service. Our attendance had dropped to an average of six people over the last six months and so it seemed the wise use of our resources to pull the plug. One of the positives of this development however is that we as a congregation now have the opportunity to all worship together as one group every week. This is a true blessing as we grow in "Deeper Discipleship & Closer Community with Jesus." As part of this initiative and vision, we personally invite you to participate in the four week "Way of Jesus" class this year and join us for Food & Fellowship after Sunday worship.

Finally, on Sunday, August 21, our congregation made the decision to move forward with the purchase of the 32 acres at N 10th and Esplanade for \$42,000. This is contingent on a Title Report and Environmental Study being provided by the seller. If the details get worked out on this, the plan is to use our memorial funds for this purchase and call the property, "St Luke's Memorial Garden." We have been unexpectedly blessed with the funds for this purchase in the last year (with \$20,000 coming our way this month). Please stay tuned for many more details in the coming months.

Baptism Anniversary

- Chloe Bridge (9/1)
- Georgia Story (9/2)
- Cindy Ford (9/6)
- Haley Bridge (9/12)
- MaLena Bunch (9/16)
- Morgan May (9/22)
- Donna Payne (10/15)
- Gavin Frazell-Nelson (10/19)



- 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, 48 yrs)
- Cindy & Chuck Ford (10/1/1994, 22 yrs)
- John & Lois Tiszka (10/2/2000, 16 yrs)
- Luke & Julie Kammrath (10/5/2012, 4 yrs)



Community Ministry Corner (continued)

So this calendar year, I'll be processing and consuming each word of the Old Testament as I prepare for the lessons of 4th grade CPH curriculum. And as I work through the challenge of learning, unlearning, and relearning, GUESS WHAT? - I get a great resource that's **readily available to each of us** at St. Luke's:

Pastor Luke has a deep commitment to the fresh study of Scripture and is willing to challenge even the scholars to a depth seen by few (even as He's saved by grace and also a sinning human as well). In fact, he and the Stewards, have invited you to take part in the four part and four week introductory Bible study of the "Way of Jesus"--we have already been through this class as a group of leaders this past month. After experiencing it for myself, I even asked them, your church leaders, to make this class a requirement for being a member here (!). I would love to hear your thoughts on this idea. You should know that I think this class should be required, even though I am a person who will strongly resist almost any mandate given to me in life.

So like Santa, I'll be tracking the sign-up list to see if you're man/woman enough to accept the **minor** challenge of giving six total hours of your life in the evening to Bible study during this coming calendar year. I look forward to seeing your interest and investment in this Bible study time, and then the way you hear, process, and challenge the "Way of Jesus" booklet that Pastor has put together for us. It will be a fun journey as we seek deeper study and relationship as the visible body of Christ as St. Luke's.

Kevin Dierks

Property Corner

The interior rehab work in the parsonage is complete. We thank Ryan Hartje for his work! We will be having a workday Saturday, Oct 1, at 9:00 am. Please join us! Please call John Wagner if you have questions: (913) 208-8344

Food & Fellowship!

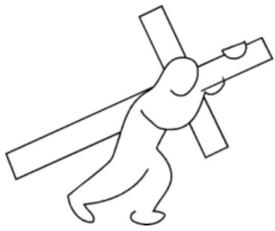
Now on Sunday mornings, following worship, we are having an intentional time to build "Closer Community." Please challenge yourself to join us for some food and time to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ in a deeper way. We are in this together as a new family through Jesus, so let's build relationships of trust so we can rely on each other as we follow Jesus together.

Baby Shower! Sunday, Sep 18!

We will be having a baby shower for Pastor Luke & Julie on Sep 18, following worship. Registry is under "Julie Phillips" at Target and Buy Buy Baby, everything they need is on there. They don't need any more infant clothes. Please join us for some fellowship!

"Way of Jesus" 4-week Class

All members of St Luke's are challenged in this next year to go "Deeper in Discipleship" by taking a four week class with Pastor Luke that covers the basics of our faith. This class covers: 1) The Old Testament story. 2) The story of Jesus. 3) The teachings of the Christian life. 4) The practices that keep us on this journey. Please let Pastor Luke know a good time for you to participate.



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



3rd Annual Fall Festival!

On Wed, Oct 19, 5:00-7:00 pm we will be having our 3rd Annual Fall Festival! Food, carnival games, and fellowship! Everyone is invited as we build "Closer Community!" Bring your family and friends! Please consider volunteering for this fantastically fun outreach event for our neighbors. You won't be disappointed! Please prayerfully consider donating your time and/or resources to this event. Please mark your calendars and plan now to join us. If you wish to volunteer call Karen Wagner at 913-439-7476 or Kevin Dierks at 913-709-1349.

Upcoming Dates

St. Luke's Council - **Tues, Sep 13, 5:30 pm**
 3rd Sunday Food Drive - **Sun, Sep 17**
 Baby Shower - **Sun, Sep 18, 10:30 am**
 St. Luke's Workday - **Sat, Oct 1, 9:00 am**
 3rd Sunday Food Drive - **Sun, Oct 16**
 Fall Festival - **Wed, Oct 19, 5:00-7:00 pm**

Kansas City Medicine Cabinet Jul/Aug Emergency Assistance

- Prescription Drugs: 19 individuals
- Medical Supplies: 4 individuals
- Dental Care: 11 individuals
- Vision Care: 40 individuals

Metro Lutheran Ministry Jul/Aug Emergency Assistance

- IDs: 179 individuals
- Food: 1171 individuals
- Utilities: 17 families
- Housing: 24 families

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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