

"Deeper Discipleship  
& Closer Community  
with Jesus"



Volume

# St. Luke's **MESSENGER**

## November/December 2016

### PASTOR'S CORNER

#### Re-Confirmation of Faith

This coming church year, Pentecost, the great celebration of the pouring out of Jesus's Spirit and the birth of the church community, falls on June 4, 2017. This date is a traditional time for the church to do "Confirmation," which is when Christians confirm the Lord's calling through Baptism by pledging their allegiance and obedience to Jesus above all else.

My challenge to our church community at St Luke's is to set aside this Pentecost date for us to have a chance to "Re-Confirm" our allegiance to Jesus and his community in this place.

I have long struggled with how to have closer community as a church in our current context. Church membership has become mostly meaningless to people in our world these days. We live in a world of "church shopping" where people will come and go to many churches, simply looking for a place that gives them what they want. Certainly, if a church is not bringing the truth of Jesus then people should look elsewhere. However, a true commitment to a church community needs to be recaptured among Christians.

The first church community in Acts was so committed to each other that they shared every possession in common and made sure that every person was taken care of. This is Jesus's dream for our church

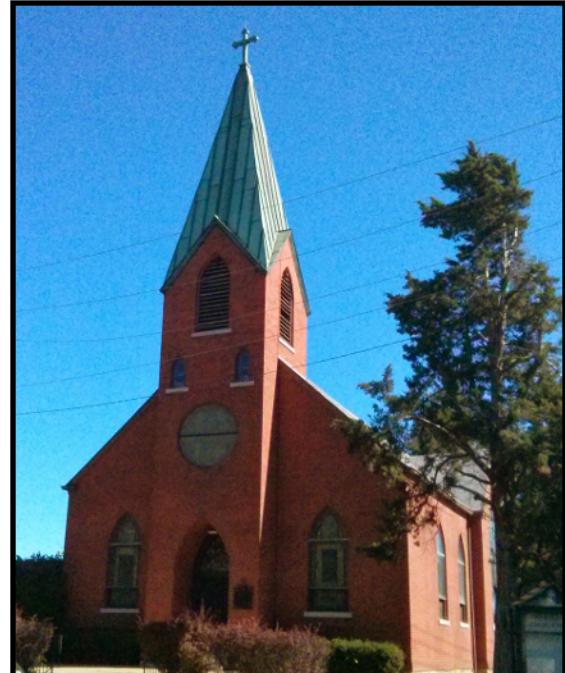
community. As daunting as it may seem, imagine how beautiful it would be for us to have such a commitment to each other that every member knew that they would be taken care of no matter what came their way. Imagine a church community where people saw how well we loved and took care of each other that they would beg to be part of us and rescued from the madness of trying to "make it on your own."

To take steps in this direction we need to have the words, teachings, and life of Jesus be the foundation. This is why I am continuing to challenge every one of you to go through the "Way of Jesus" class with me. When you have gone through this class I want you to then ask yourself these questions:

- 1) Am I willing to Re-Confirm my complete allegiance and obedience to Jesus?
- 2) Am I willing to Re-Confirm my commitment to the St Luke's community, promising to regularly gather for worship, study, and fellowship while promising to love and take care of this community as my primary family?

Ponder these questions as you count the cost and the blessing of such a commitment. Then let's gather on June 4 to celebrate the power of Jesus's Spirit and Re-Confirm our allegiance to him and his community.

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 Updates

Sports training for the summer involved tennis introduction and in the fall I introduced volleyball. Our oldest Jesus Time kids played in a volleyball league at Argentine Community Center and had a great time. The week they had parent conference conflicts, I brought the group younger than them to fill in and they looked great too. We closed the volleyball season on a Sunday afternoon at the three sand volleyball courts in Parkville. Next up is basketball that we'll train for in December with games beginning in January. The youngest Jesus Time kids will get their first taste of a sport at St. Luke's as a basketball team along with the group older than them having a 2nd year together.

We're thankful for the donations this Fall. Calvary Lutheran school gave St. Luke's old kid hymnals that we've been using on Wednesdays. Yvonne's memorial for her mother was used to purchase red CEB Bibles for the pews that you and I use on Sundays and our kids use on Wednesdays as we study the book of John. Steve and Chrissy May donated pumpkins for painting and a very nice air hockey table that the Sunday Jesus Time kids have enjoyed this month. And a big thank you to Karen and John for a really well-run Fall Festival, as well as you, our members and kids who served and played plenty with good food, good music, and good times.



## Community Council Corner

We had a wonderful Fall Festival on Oct 19. Thank you! Thank you! We were able to have fellowship with over 90 members of the neighborhood and congregation. From the wonderful baked goods all the way down to volunteers who helped set up and cook and tear down everything that evening we are so very, very thankful. The Holy Spirit is alive and well in the community of our congregation and we thank you all for giving us the opportunity to fellowship with our neighbors and each other. If you weren't able to make it, then you should challenge yourself to join us next fall when we do it again--it is well worth it!

Over the last couple months, Murray Rhodes, a local civil engineer and county surveyor, has been generously helping us out by looking over the Environmental Study and Title history of the 32 acres we are looking to purchase. He is making sure that everything is in good order before we make anything official. Murray has already given us a thumbs up and go ahead in regard to the Environmental Study and now we are waiting for him to give us the go ahead with the Title history. We cannot thank him enough for his graciousness, generosity, and expertise on this matter. If Murray tells us everything is in order, then we will proceed with the purchase of the property in the coming months. Look for the beginning of property development plans in the next newsletter.

Finally, as we continue to grow in "Deeper Discipleship & Closer Community with Jesus," we personally invite you to participate in the four week "Way of Jesus" class and then re-confirm your commitment to Jesus and his community at St Luke's on Pentecost this coming June. Let's embrace Jesus's call in our lives!

## Property Corner

We thank everybody who gave up their Saturday morning in October to help us take care of some outdoor projects at the church. It is greatly appreciated and things look great! 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.



## Baptism Anniversary

- Micah Dierks (11/7)
- Jamey Story (11/13)
- Karen Wagner (11/18)
- Sonia Gardner (11/25)
- Judy May (12/1)
- John Wagner (12/2)
- Mary Richards (12/20)
- Dean Bridge (12/29)



- Carol Bunch (11/4)
- John Wagner (11/12)
- Karen Wagner (11/18)
- Charles Payne (11/20)
- Sonia Gardner (11/22)
- Phyllis Gallagher (11/26)
- Jack Wagner (12/28)

## Wedding Anniversary

- Bill & Lucy Mellott (12/22/1964, 52 yrs)



## Community Ministry Corner

Salmon has been on my mind this year, for the first time in years. Some tasty business. For me, better than the taste, are some wonderful memories, ones that not every kid gets to grow up with. A bachelor uncle who worked for Northwest Airlines, and parents and grandparents who enjoyed the outdoors and fishing, led to a happy teenage boy getting to fish Alaska two times before I was 18. Thank you Peterson and Dierks birth families!

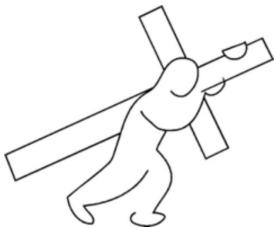
For some reason, I could not catch the knack of hooking a salmon. Reds on the Russian. Kings on the Kenai. My best success was setting the hook too late and reeling in a dandy 40+ King on the Kenai River that had a DNR tag in its dorsal fin. The rules state: no snagged fish can be kept. The men of the boat struggled greatly, wanting this lifetime memory to be perfect, but the fines would not be worth the risk to let me keep this dandy. I had been talked to about what the salmon "hit" feels like, and when to set the hook. Talking through experience is good, and the best you can give as a simulation for someone, until they get to experience it and truly learn for themselves...

Most can figure out the "hit" and hook "set" of Reds on the Russian River because the mass of salmon swimming upstream is so overpopulated--you can't NOT hook one. You can reach your fish limit in 15 minutes on the right days of June, July and August. Unless you are me. Fishing salmon was a different game than what I had been taught and experienced as a kid. I had all sorts of success with bullheads, panfish, bass, and walleye. So I thought experience was in my favor heading to the great state of Alaska. The simple difference for a salmon hit and catch, is that there isn't a strike or a hit from salmon at all. This is from what I understand from others teaching me, but I clearly couldn't understand well enough to feel and set the hook at the right time in any of my salmon fishing days to date.

And apparently the salmon hooks itself! All the fisherman has to do is cast upstream, feel the line as it drifts by downstream, and know the feel of a hesitation in the hook and weight movement, telling you the hook is in the salmon's mouth--then set the hook, reel it in, and repeat. This living/dying fish has no interest in a meal or diverting attention to the flash of a lure or a bead. The salmon honestly, again, from what I've been told, actually hooks itself... (and yet I cannot succeed in my experiences with it...even as THOUSANDS of fishermen lined up and down the banks, reeling in fish after fish, day after day, summer after summer).

So I've introduced you to the wild, wild world of salmon fishing in Alaska through the eyes and expertise of a 13-year old novice, educating you on what I've been taught by word of mouth and experienced myself. "It's easy," they say and prove while I watch and try, try again in admiration and frustration. As you've known me for a year, I believe you know what's coming next from me on any topic- thinking on a life experience as a metaphor to faith life. I will let you make some of your own parallels this month as I extend my thoughts of comparison into salmon life in the next newsletter. And thankfully I have an Uncle Jimmy, so I can tell you from experience (of watching his guaranteed success with each fishing excursion) that salmon does indeed taste incredibly delicious. Thanks for being kind to your nephew with countless fish stories and experiences growing up.

Kevin Dierks



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



## "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 teaches us the new story we are joining as Christians.

This class covers: 1) The story of our Father's creation. 2) The story of Jesus. 3) The story of the Spirit's work within Jesus's people. 4) The practices and teachings that plug us into this story and journey.

Please let Pastor Luke know a good time for you to participate.

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

- Prescription Drugs: 39 individuals
- Medical Supplies: 8 individuals
- Dental Care: 19 individuals
- Vision Care: 54 individuals

## Upcoming Dates

St. Luke's Council - Tues, Nov 10 & Dec 13, 5:30 pm

3rd Sunday Food Drive - Sun, Nov 20

Thanksgiving Eve Worship - Wed, Nov 23, 7:00 pm

3rd Sunday Food Drive - Sun, Dec 18

Jesus Time Christmas Caroling - Wed, Dec 21, 4:00 pm

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

### Metro Lutheran Ministry Sep/Oct Emergency Assistance

- IDs: 62 individuals
- Food: 1178 individuals
- Utilities: 87 individuals
- Housing: 110 individuals

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

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #133  
Kansas City, KS

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

