

"Deeper Discipleship
& Closer Community
with Jesus"



St. Luke's **MESSENGER**

January/February 2017

PASTOR'S CORNER

"The Garden of St Luke's"

God's creation started with a garden as he brought our beautiful world together (Gen 2:8). Then his new creation started with a garden as Jesus was buried in a garden (John 19:41) and then was seen by Mary as a gardener after he was raised from the dead (John 20:11-16).

As of Dec 28 we have officially closed on the purchase of 3200 (26 acres) & 3201 (6 acres) N 10th Street, KCK, for \$42,000. We are tentatively calling this property "The Garden of St Luke's," for we hope that God's work in the world of making beautiful gardens will continue through us in the years ahead on this property.

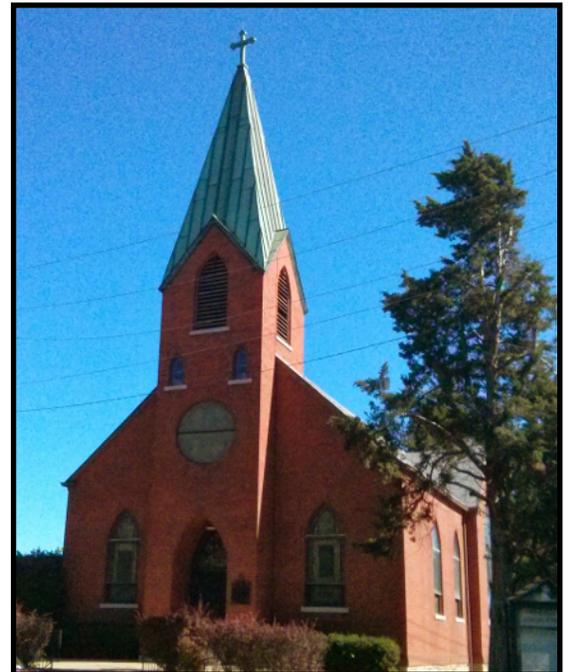
This is a scary adventure we are embarking on. As a leader I have been very nervous at times taking us down this road because such an undertaking can feel overwhelming for our small band of disciples at St Luke's. Along the way I have had to constantly reassure myself and others that the Lord will provide if we act in faith. And sure enough, the Lord does provide and is faithful. When I returned to the office after officially closing on the purchase of the property, there was a \$55,000 anonymous donation that had just come in. For us, as a small and humble church, this is a big deal. We give thanks to this unknown donor while at the same time seeing the Lord's timing of this as a profound sign of his continued provision for us.

I walked the property a couple times this past week and it is a beautiful place where I could feel the presence of God. In Genesis it states that the Lord himself walked in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. It is my prayer that this property will be such a garden where we and those of our city can come to experience the presence of God. The general plan is a threefold one where we will pursue our vision of "Deeper Discipleship & Closer Community with Jesus" through a Community Center, Food Forest, & Residential Village.

The Community Center will be a place for training in the Way of Jesus and building relationships while reaching out and loving our neighbors around us. The Food Forest will be a green space for retreat, for the production of food, and for learning how to have a healthier relationship with the creation. The Residential Village will be a place to live for interested members of St Luke's as well as a place for offering hospitality to those in need.

As part of this endeavor, Julie and I are feeling the Lord's call to help lead the way by relocating to the property when that stage of the development arrives. We hope that others will discern the Lord's calling in their own lives over the coming months and years and see if they would join us in such a path.

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
5:30 pm "Way of Jesus" (Jan 9-30)

Wednesday

4:00 pm Jesus Time
6:15 pm Choir

Thursday

5:30 pm "Way of Jesus" (Feb 2-23)

Community Council Corner

The acquisition of the 32 acres is a very exciting one and we want to give a big thanks to Sebastian Patti (from Chicago) and his sister Helen Hill (from Oregon) for selling us the property for way less than it is worth. We hope to do their gift honor by using this property for the Lord's work in this city. In order to accomplish this, we have assembled our planning committee for this property (currently Tina Bridge, Steve May, Kevin Hutchings, and Pastor Luke, as well as Rion Glynn in a consultation role). In the coming months and years this group will refine and execute our vision for the development of this land. We pray that the Lord fills them with his Spirit and guides them on this journey.

Our desire and hope is to fund the development of this new property with resources outside of our modest budget which means we will be asking companies and individuals for their support in the funding and execution of this vision. If you know of any people who might be interested in contributing to this project please let someone on the planning committee know. Most importantly, however, we are looking for people to commit their prayers and lives towards making this new vision a reality.

This whole endeavor may seem an overwhelming task for us, but remember that feeding 5000 people seemed to be an overwhelming task for the disciples with only five loaves of bread and two fish. But sharing and giving things over into the hands of Jesus made the impossible happen. May we have the same courage and faith to share and put this completely into the Lord's hands. He will provide.



Community Ministry Updates

Thank you for the very generous church donations of Walmart gift cards (everyone), assorted ornaments (Karen), shirts (Naomi), assorted hats/scarves/gloves and socks (Yvonne), fruit (Steve), and gift bags (Marie) and bringing back the brown bag parting gift tradition for kids on Christmas Eve (thanks Yvonne). Kids were given these gifts after our neighborhood caroling on the evening of Dec 21. The families of our kids showed great thanks for these kind donations from y'all as we support them in the hard work of raising their families.

We also continue to assess options for purchasing a used 12-passenger van to allow for easier arrangement of getting our neighborhood kids to the games, practices and activities we schedule for them. If you have any interesting leads, please let us know. We'll start to publish dates and times of games as they are scheduled if any ever want to see the kids in action each season.

Next newsletter we'll share details for a women's retreat that St Luke's will be coordinating for later this spring.

Property Corner

We thank Dave Sasnett for helping with plumbing issues, toilet replacement, and stained glass lighting! In the coming months we will be replacing the protective glass on the outside of our stained glass windows as well as painting and caulking the trim. Please call John Wagner if you have questions: (913) 208-8344

Food & Fellowship!

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.

Baptism Anniversary

- Richard Vogel (1/1)
- Travis Renne (1/1)
- Bernardo May (1/2)
- David Sasnett (1/24)
- Jack Wagner (2/8)
- Robert May (2/23)



- Christina Bridge (1/3)
- Marsha Oyer (1/7)
- Julie Kamrath (1/14)
- Kathy Tharp (1/19)
- Stephen May (1/25)
- Robert May (1/31)
- Jennifer Wagner (2/3)
- Jeanne Gardner (2/6)
- Dorothy Melott (2/10)
- Johanna Bridge (2/14)

Wedding Anniversary

- Michael & Judy May (1/3/1971, 46 yrs)
- David & Marie Sasnett (1/27/2007, 10 yrs)



Community Ministry Corner

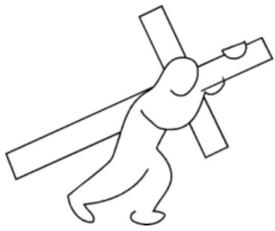
As Jesus heals Simon's mother, in Luke 5, he soon after tells the disciples to "toss your nets on the other side." And in the end, with nets abundant and breaking and exceeding their highest fishing success stories, Jesus then says, "drop the nets, drop everything you know and the empty things you rely on, and let's fish for men with our very lives." So to follow up on my last article, my best advice for you and me is to jump in and live out the salmon life as modeled.

So how best to "snare" a fellow fish, a fellow bottom feeder? The whole world is given the call of Jesus, even as we fumble along or put our fingers in our ears. So as we enter the waters of life, that Pastor Luke clarifies as symbolizing "chaos", do we stick to the comfortable stomping grounds of the masses, the stagnant ponds, tanks, lakes, and creeks of life? Or do we venture out into the wide open, wild oceans to really grow and mature? Salmon start by navigating familiar fresh water for the first 6 months to 3 years. But then it is time for smolting, preparing and changing for the big transition of heading into the wide open, full of risk, salty ocean for 1 to 8 years, to feed and grow before being drawn back to our Creator's plan and calling of swimming upstream. Another site states, "Salmon exhibit a remarkable homing instinct...even after travels exceeding thousands of miles." Wherever you're from and however you got here, you know in your heart of hearts where Jesus's true call is leading you, an uncomfortable journey with no place to lay your head.

There's a 2014 National Geographic article sharing new efforts of humans to relocate salmon that are caught in landlocked pools and can't get to the ocean due to drought. "But relocating the salmon leaves them more vulnerable to predators and disease, they experience greater shock than if they had made the hard trek themselves, and they are less likely to track the signal that will lead them back, ending up in the wrong rivers." This is like the cheapened and watered down Christianity in the world, trying to make things easy on people. It is nothing less than a mockery of the challenge of the real faith life we are called into. It seems good, but it only does harm. Another article from Natural World News (2015) notes that trout have now quit migrating so they can gorge on salmon eggs. "Never before have we seen a migratory species retire early to avoid the risk of the ocean, feasting on highly nutritious salmon eggs." Careful little salmon, watch out for the wolves in sheeps' clothing, who can cleverly or blindly rationalize that they really are providing what is in the best interest of family, communities, and churches, while lining their pockets and bellies as they preach an easy and comfortable Christian life.

Let each of us accept the truly challenging call of swimming with the fishes, instead of staying comfortable on the banks and trying to lure others with the promise of comfort. The call and true challenge of Jesus is to dive into the chaos, head first, acknowledging we have little idea of what we are and will be doing, to surrender and start the process of maturing, so we are ready to answer at any time concerning the hope we have been given. This means facing the turbulence and unknowns and overcoming insurmountable obstacles of boulders, obstruction, human-made dams, and whatever in the food chain has more power and position to sit and stalk for their own selfish gain. We get to live out this sacrificial life to glorify the Father as others sense the Holy Spirit's call to truly follow Jesus's path.

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



"Way of Jesus" Four-Week Study

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.

Join us on Mondays, Jan 9 to Jan 30, 5:30-7:00 pm or on Thursdays, Feb 2 to Feb 23, 5:30-7:00 pm.

Upcoming Dates

"Way of Jesus" Study - **Mon, Jan 9 to 30, 5:30 pm**

St. Luke's Council - **Thurs, Jan 12 & Tues, Feb 14**

3rd Sunday Food Drive - **Sun, Jan 15**

"Way of Jesus" Study - **Thurs, Feb 2 to 23, 5:30 pm**

3rd Sunday Food Drive - **Sun, Feb 19**

Ash Wednesday - **Wed, Mar 1, 7:00 pm**

Kansas City Medicine Cabinet Nov/Dec Emergency Assistance

- Prescription Drugs: 41 individuals
- Medical Supplies: 2 individuals
- Dental Care: 26 individuals
- Vision Care: 54 individuals

Metro Lutheran Ministry Nov/Dec Emergency Assistance

- IDs: 31 individuals
- Food: 1172 individuals
- Utilities: 48 individuals
- Housing: 41 individuals

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

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