

"Deeper Discipleship  
& Closer Community  
with Jesus"



# St Luke's **MESSENGER**

May/June 2017

## PASTOR'S CORNER

"Leave your home and family..." (Genesis 12:1).

Out of nowhere the word of God came to seventy-five year old Abraham and called him to leave everything behind to follow the Lord on a new path. Hundreds of years later, Moses was an eighty year old man when the Lord spoke to him at the burning bush and called him to leave everything behind for a new adventure of going toe-to-toe with the most powerful emperor and empire in the world.

I believe God specifically called these men when they were old to teach us that 1) they were not doing this out of some youthful zeal and 2) the calling of the Lord has no respect for our age or situation. When God calls it doesn't matter how old we are or how comfortable in our patterns we may be, he expects us to get up and go. Whether 8 or 80, the calling of the Lord can come at any moment. And maybe the older we are, the more ready we should be, since the Lord seems to like shaking up the lives of those who are old.

Our congregation is now 117 years old, but Jesus will not let us use our age as an excuse for not embarking on new adventures in Kansas City, KS. Our newest adventure and calling, the "Disciple Garden," may feel overwhelming to us. We may feel that we don't have the energy or youth for it. Our sinful selves may be screaming for us to just "take it easy" and not get involved

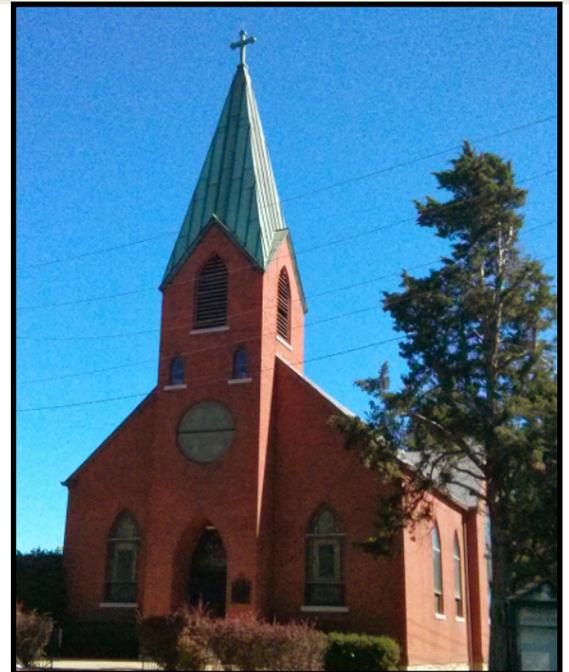
in something so epic.

But when we follow Jesus there is never a time for complacency. It is a non-stop journey and we always need to be on our toes as we stick with Jesus in all that we do. This spiritual movement is essential for the health of our faith. Similar to how physical movement is essential for the health of our bodies. If our bodies become sedentary, they will break down. If our faith lives become sedentary, they will break down. Therefore, God loves us so much that he is constantly calling us to get up and follow. He knows we need this for our own good.

So let's remember God's call to Abraham. Let's remember the profound trust that Abraham had in God--a trust that was willing to abandon every comfort zone in order to be with God and rely on him. Abraham knew that it was better to be with God than to have every comfort and familiar thing.

As Jesus says, "The Kingdom of God is like a treasure buried in a field. When a man discovered this treasure he sold everything he had in order to buy that field and secure that treasure." May we at St Luke's be this passionate for God's Kingdom and his calling in our lives. May we be willing to drop everything else in our lives in order to make walking with God the only thing that matters.

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

6:00 pm      Gospel of Luke/Acts

#### Tuesday

5:30 pm      "Way of Jesus" Study  
|                      (May 2, 9, 16, & 23)

#### Wednesday

4:00 pm      Jesus Time  
6:15 pm      Choir

## Baptism Anniversary

- Michael May (5/13)
- Bob Leive (5/15)
- Debbie Wagner (5/26)
- Joanne Leive (5/27)
- Jennifer Wagner (6/1)
- Carrie May (6/2)
- Ann Hauser (6/13)

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

- Todd Deines (5/2)
- Bob Leive (5/9)
- Sarah Martin (5/23)
- Kevin Dierks (5/26)
- Haley Bridge (6/8)
- Georgia Story (6/9)
- Charlene Sargent (6/9)
- Rose Tiszka (6/12)
- Richard Vogel (6/13)
- Luke Kammrath (6/23)

## Wedding Anniversary

- Stephen & Chris May (6/3/1989, 28 yrs)
- Bob & Joanne Leive (6/6/54, 63 yrs)
- Bob & Carrie May (6/7/1986, 31 yrs)
- Todd & Roxanne Deines (6/10/2000, 17 yrs)
- Kevin & Lisa Dierks (6/17/1995, 22 yrs)



## **Community Council Corner**

The Council has called a Communal Assembly for Sunday, May 7, immediately following worship. The Council is recommending the Assembly designate some of our funds toward the development work of the "Disciple Garden." Come to worship to get a handout explaining things in much more detail.

St Luke's has committed to a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday after-school program experiment for the next school year (this is in addition to our "Jesus Time" on Wednesdays). St Luke's will partner with Priest Gene Flanery and his wife by providing Kevin Dierks, our building, and helping with food and transportation for the youth.

St Luke's has partnered with a group of Bhutanese Christian refugees. They are now using our sanctuary for worship on Saturdays. We look forward to getting to know these brothers and sisters in Christ and supporting them as they attempt to make a home in a new land.

The "Disciple Garden" project is coming along steadily. Both of the abandoned cars have been removed. We also give a big thanks to Ascension Lutheran in Wichita, KS, for sending a group of high school youth to help us with clean-up. The youth stacked hundreds of tires and hundreds of bags of trash on the curb. We thank "Operation Brightside" for hauling all of that away for us free of charge. There is still some trash clean-up work to be done, but the majority is now complete. We will be putting together a fund-raising video in the coming months for this project. We will ask you to share this video with your family and friends when it comes time to launch our fund-raising effort. Our tentative time-line estimation has the first phase of development moving forward in the fall of 2017 and being completed in early 2018. Please continue to pray for this project and how you can be part of it.

## **Property Corner**

We had a successful workday on April 8, thanks for the help! Hubert Brown will now be our main grounds-keeper and he has been doing a wonderful job. Now that the weather has warmed up our stained glass window updates are coming along. Call John Wagner if you have questions: (913) 208-8344

## **17th Annual Golf Tournament!**

On Friday, May 5, we will be having our 17th Annual Golf Charity event at Painted Hills! Check in is at 7:00 am and we will tee off at 8:00 am. We will have a lunch gathering immediately following the tournament. Please go to our website to find registration forms!



## Community Ministry Corner

I've been teaching/learning as an adult for 20+ years. I learned as a child for 20+ years. This is one of my most emphasized lines for the kids I teach today: "When you think you know something, you better check yourself and recognize that you do NOT know anything. You know how I know this? Because I don't know anything...and yet I fool myself into thinking I know a lot."

I played basketball as a kid for 20+ years. I've coached kids basketball for 20+ years. I find it hard to see a coach that I think teaches defensive skill sets better than me. Most coaches I've worked with have taught offensive sets and understood them better than me. But I do think I break down individual offensive growth fairly well. So having taught shooting to myself and others for 40+ years, I am coming to understand how little I know about shooting. As a kid I shot a lot and made a lot of shots, but I still didn't learn how to legitimately shoot until I started coaching 5/6th graders as a 25 year old.

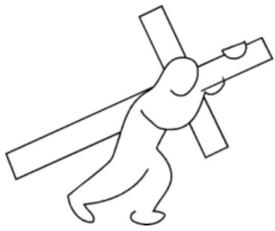
"BEEF" is a common acronym to get kids aware of the parts that make the whole. B (balance), E (eyes), E (elbow), F (follow-through). Guess what? That's a start, but there's a lot more involved. It is both more complex and even simpler than that. Shockingly, I've added many analogies to get kids to dig deeper, slow down, focus on what they're doing, and question if it is actually benefiting them and their team. One example is "goose neck," the look of your shooting wrist after the shot is released (this also happens up in the clouds like a goose). This year, I've added that the ball needs to "arc like a rainbow" instead of be shot at the rim "like a missile." In the last 10 years I've added the analogy of a "merry-go-round." You are connected to a pole and you can only move your toes, knees, elbow, wrist, and fingers in one direction--up and down--until the wrist flops over, up in the clouds, like a goose neck. I've also tried to teach kids the benefit of doing a little work (footwork/body positioning) as the ball is coming to you from a pass. I've talked about and taught "Triple Threat" positioning, that if your body is pivoted toward the basket then you have three options a defender has to respect--you might shoot, dribble, or pass. I also introduce the concept of our nose and the rim being magnetically attracted to each other. This helps players have their heads "on a swivel" so they are looking at the rim while also seeing everything and everyone on the court to the left and right.

So congratulations, you've concluded my Shooting Clinic 101. You likely won't listen or apply it any differently than any kid who has made a basket as a 5 year old--chucking it up with all his might and making 2 out of every 2000, with parents and grandparents still cheering and talking about that one amazing shot and what a real natural their child is. And you probably have no use for my self-proclaimed deeper truths of shooting, as there aren't too many basketball courts in your present or future. But once again I challenge you to apply this to your faith and life of following Jesus. There are lessons for you and me to learn as we choose to devote ourselves to being faithful students of Jesus's word. We need to reflect on the way we live and how we have been practicing the truth of Jesus. We need to re-assess the "proper form" of following Jesus we think we have mastered for decades.

The very humbling truth about teaching shooting is that the teams I've coached have really lousy shooting percentages. And my own kids who I have indoctrinated have varying degrees of success and good form--yet I would have thought Micah, Morgan, and Marcus would be able to shoot lights out with all this life knowledge I inflict on them. While they've been fun to watch, their shooting percentages are just as terrible as mine or any other kid I've coached or coached against through the years.

Next newsletter, I'll reveal new truths that I have become aware of this year concerning shooting a basketball. After all these years, how can I still have more to learn and teach in better ways? I guess I'm a slow learner. But I am glad to say, and genuinely mean, "I do not know anything." And that is exactly where a disciple had better position himself mentally if he is to be teachable, moldable, and a benefit to his team and his heavenly Father.

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)



**"Maker Fun Factory"**

**Vacation Bible School!!!**

Sunday, Jun 18 - **6:00-8:30 pm**

Monday, Jun 19 - **6:00-8:30 pm**

Tuesday, Jun 20 - **6:00-8:30 pm**

Wednesday, Jun 21 - **6:00-8:30 pm**

Family Night, Thursday, Jun 22 - **4:30-6:30 pm**

**Upcoming Dates**

Golf Tournament - **Fri, May 5, 8:00 am**

Special Communal Assembly - **Sun, May 7, 10:30 am**

"Way of Jesus" Study - **Tues, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 5:30 pm**

St. Luke's Council - **Tues, May 18 & Jun 13**

New Member Welcome - **Sun, Jun 4, 9:30 am**

Annual Communal Assembly - **Sun, Jun 11, 10:30 am**

VBS Start - **Sun, Jun 18, 6:00 pm**

**Kansas City Medicine Cabinet**  
**Mar/Apr Emergency Assistance**

- Prescription Drugs: 76 individuals
- Medical Supplies: 6 individuals
- Dental Care: 17 individuals
- Vision Care: 52 individuals

**Metro Lutheran Ministry**  
**Mar/Apr Emergency Assistance**

- IDs: 145 individuals
- Food: 906 individuals
- Utilities: 71 individuals
- Housing: 106 individuals

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

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