

"Deeper Discipleship
& Closer Community
with Jesus"



St Luke's *MESSENGER*

July/August 2018

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Patiently waiting, he obtained the promise." (Hebrews 6:15)

Patience. As a child I remember my mom consistently reminding me that I needed to work on growing in self-control and patience. I also remember my parents regularly teaching me the importance of "delayed gratification." Oh, it was hard. Waiting has always been hard on me. I want to see things happen now. I want results now. I want the future to be here now.

The author of Hebrews challenges us to learn from our forefather Abraham. Abraham had to wait for 25 years before God's promise of a child was fulfilled. Fifteen years in, Abraham and Sarah got impatient and tried to force that promise into existence on their own. But this backfired in the drama and pain of Hagar and Ishmael. Then, after ten more years of waiting, Isaac was finally born to 100 year old Abraham.

Later on in Hebrews we then hear that even though Abraham got to see Isaac with his own two eyes, he never did see the restoration of all creation that God had promised would come through his family. Instead Abraham had to "see from a distance" with the eyes of faith. Faith allowed Abraham to live in God's future restoration in the present moment. Faith allowed Abraham to patiently wait on God. Faith allowed Abraham to be content in the present moment, trusting that God's future would come in God's own way and timing.

The Psalms repeatedly urge us to "wait on the Lord." As Jesus lived and died he was always waiting on the Lord. Early church father, Tertullian, said that patience proves our faith. Patience is the sign that our faith and trust in God is real. Therefore patience is the highest of virtues for us as followers of Jesus.

As the Disciple Garden project has been unfolding for us it has tested my patience and therefore my faith in God. It has been difficult at times to rest easy and content as the city has dragged out its approval process. It has been difficult to see the promise of what the Disciple Garden can become and yet feel like it is so far away and out of reach.

But as my parents often said to me, "Good things come to those who wait." And so we wait. We wait for the Disciple Garden project to move forward according to God's time-line. We wait for God to reveal his work and restoration in our individual lives. We wait for God to restore all of his creation. We can't yet see it with our physical eyes, but with the eyes of faith we see it at a distance. And therefore we get to celebrate its fulfillment in the current moment. As Paul says, all of God's promises are already a "yes" through Jesus the Christ. Through Jesus the future is now. And this future is already ours as we patiently wait.

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 Communion Study
| (Jul 2, 9)

Monday

6:00 pm Gospel of Luke/Acts Study
| (July 23, 30, Aug 6, 13, 27)

Tuesday

6:00 pm "Lost Connections" Study
| (Sep 4, 11, 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, 16)



Baptism Anniversary

- Charlene Sargent (7/13)
- Luke Kammrath (8/3)
- Rose Tiszka (8/12)
- Rion Glynn (8/20)
- Morgan Dierks (8/26)



- Janice Zugelder (7/1)
- Christine May (7/2)
- John Espino (7/10)
- Kathy Polzkill (7/20)
- Cindy Ford (7/25)
- Merilee Lea (7/27)
- Morgan Dierks (8/1)
- John Tiszka (8/4)
- Deborah Wagner (8/14)
- Dean Bridge (8/21)
- Charles Payne (8/21)
- David Sasnett (8/24)
- Ralph Heiden (8/27)

Wedding Anniversary

- Donna & Chuck Payne (7/11/70, 48 yrs)
- Dean & Tina Bridge (8/3/92, 26 yrs)
- Tom & Rose Tiszka (8/4/84, 34 yrs)



Communal Council Corner

On Sunday, June 17, at 10:30 am our congregation gathered for its annual assembly. Naomi Glynn, Ralph Heiden, and David Sasnett were reappointed as Stewards for another two year period. Christina Bridge, Carolyn Davis, and Ann Hauser were newly appointed to serve with them. These six Stewards will oversee Pastor Luke and Kevin Dierks in their ministries, will support Pastor Luke in the pastoral care of the congregation, and will oversee the finances of the congregation. Their main task above all will be to lead by example as they model a faithful life of discipleship and servanthood that is committed to the community of St Luke's. Please pray for these leaders daily that they may be filled with Jesus's Spirit as they guide us in his footsteps. Finally, VBS was a rousing success. We had 53 children registered from our neighborhood and consistent attendance in the mid 40s. We had five blessed evenings (and a nice cool weather spell) to share the love of Jesus in word and deed.



Disciple Garden Corner

The Disciple Garden is in full bloom. Two bee hives are thriving and gathering pollen at an astonishing rate. Dozens and dozens of fruit and nut trees are in the ground. The first cabin is almost complete. The goat barn and chicken coop are almost complete. Their shared pasture is being fenced in. The deer, raccoons, foxes, rabbits, bluejays, cardinals, robins, and hawks are all active. Volunteer groups are on their way in the next month. We continue to give thanks everyday for the beauty and gift the Disciple Garden is to us as a community.

On the engineering side of things we continue to go back and forth with the city to get our final plans approved (we have only one outstanding item that our engineers are addressing). We are hoping to meet with the city for final approval in August and then to quickly begin our construction projects. Our hope is to get our main building poured and buried (remember it will be an earth-sheltered building) this fall as well as the sewer, electrical, and water lines constructed. Please continue to keep this project in your prayers and continue to spread news about it to those you know. We have raised over \$285,000 and still need your help in getting us to our final number.

Our neighbors continue to be very interested in the Disciple Garden. On one occasion this past month Rion was approached by a woman in her 30's who lives in the adjacent apartments. She was excited to learn that we will be offering food-growing classes in the coming years. She has lived in cities her entire life but has always wanted to learn how to grow food. We look forward to the opportunity to connect with these new neighbors of ours.



Community Ministry Corner

So after 25 years of best and worst teaching methods in Christian education, now each day we read straight from Scripture (the primary text), interacting with it and each other's best learnings and observations. Then, in my first year in KC, we'd ask each child to share something they are thankful for (some times deep, often shallow/parrot answers, often mocking/silly). And my second year we added that we share something in our heart that we know we need His help with (silence, struggle into a glimpse of awareness and vulnerability). And now in the third year we've lumped on the heavy homework load of sharing what we **have learned** about people this week AND what we **have learned** about God in the past week (repeat).

So as Jesus simplifies and cuts out any overteaching or mastery arrogances. These two questions also get us to vulnerably sit listening and learning from our hearts to His two stripped back commands: love God ("do you love me?") and love each other as part of His creation ("feed and care for my sheep/creation," John 21). And we've tweaked this two part gut-check with the kids from **past perfect** tense (**have learned**) to a more humble/real/ongoing learning mind/heart community to **present perfect progressive** tense (what **have** you **been learning** about people this week? and what **have** you **been learning** about God this past week?) Seeking some little new insight/reinforcement/contradiction that will help us to learn/relearn/unlearn prior understandings and truths to better serve God alone and first, and his people and creation interdependently. This model is my current best 1-2 punch as to real learning and living in an active faithfulness together every day. 1) Scripture reading and discussion 2) care/awareness for God learning/loving and people learning and loving sharing and praying. And certainly there's some more layers to add beyond these (we are only sitting on our posteriors for these 2 modes of faithfulness).

I use this teaching technique only with the 1st to 4th graders I work with in three settings (any older and you and I already know and have too much). We're too often self-assured, critical of new content/comments, and simply know all the answers (our hearts/minds/hands/feet/artries are too hardened). It seems to take half a year with kids, by my best observations, to **sometimes** be able to flip the script within minds and classrooms to see some cracks and softening in the certainties, cock-sureness, and individual and social tactics and structures, within our poor models of education and life robotry and arrogant humanity today. Sometimes, then some truth and light might be fostered and nurtured up together slowly for the half-year remaining you have to work with children before they are back into the norm of man's mass-numbing and dead education, "Christian" and American living.

This year's newer **present perfect progressive** tense questions of course are also mocked and made fun of. To me this resonates with how Jesus and saints gone before seem to sense they are on the right track of beginning their unique path into his unique, yet interdependent Narrow Way of true faithfulness. We need more independent one-on-one learning time with God, as well as occasions each week of interdependent efforts with others who also are finding their way struggling into Jesus's easy yoke of learning, living, and serving. I am learning to believe the Father supports this as His way of living/learning/growing. This growth is opposed to the world's hell-stamped and System-approved ways of learning, living, and serving that are all around us.

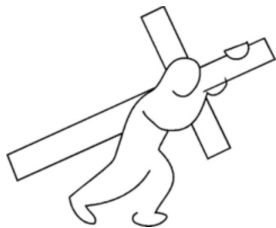
Kevin Dierks

"The Way of Jesus" Catechism

Pastor Luke Kammrath has published "The Way of Jesus" Catechism that he has been using as a teaching tool at St Luke's. This tool is meant for everyday use in the home and devotionally. If you want a copy search for it on Amazon.com or ask Luke for a copy!

18th Annual Golf Tournament!

On Friday, May 4, we had a wonderful 18th annual golf tournament! The weather was perfect and the food was good! We thank everybody who participated in this, helping us to raise over \$11,000 for our ministry efforts!



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



"Lost Connections" Study

Join us on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in September and October for a unique, seven-week study on our "lost connections" in life. We have become disconnected from meaningful work, other people, meaningful values, childhood trauma, respect, the natural world, and a hopeful future...and these disconnections are slowly killing us.

This study is inspired by Johann Hari's book and his exploration into the wide-spread depression and anxiety that afflicts all of us to one degree or another. We will explore how our culture and society is driving us into depression and anxiety and its false "solutions." Then we will explore how Jesus and his community offers us the Way to healing and reconnection.

Don't miss it! Look for a sign up sheet at the back of the sanctuary!

Upcoming Dates

St. Luke's Council - **Thurs, July 26 & Tues, Aug 14, 5:30 pm**

Communion Study - **Mon, Jul 2, 9, 6:00 pm**

Gospel of Luke/Acts Study - **Mon, Jul 23, 30, Aug 6, 13, 27, 6:00 pm**

"Lost Connections" Study - **Tues, Sep 4, 11, 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, 16, 6:00 pm**

Jesus Time Restart - **Wed, Aug 29, 4:00-6:00 pm**

Metro Lutheran Ministry **May/Jun Emergency Assistance**

- IDs: 83 individuals
- Food: 1077 individuals
- Utilities: 55 individuals
- Housing: 24 individuals

St Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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