

"Deeper Discipleship  
& Closer Community  
with Jesus"



# St Luke's **MESSENGER**

September/October 2018

## PASTOR'S CORNER

"Everyone will be salted with fire." (Mark 9:49)

It is such a strange phrase in English. Jesus tells his disciples, "Everyone will be salted with fire." What on earth does that mean? Salt in the ancient world was primarily a preservative. Therefore, to be salted is to be preserved. Jesus is saying that if we are to be preserved, if we are to be saved from the madness of our world, it will come through fire.

But what does that mean? Fire in the ancient world was a purifier. Ore would be refined with fire in order to remove the impurities. Even forests and landscapes are cleansed and ultimately healed by fire. Jesus is saying that if we are to be preserved and saved then it will come through a cleansing and refining process of fire.

But what is this fire? It is the struggles, difficulties, trials, tests, and tribulations of life. If the negative, destructive, and bad things are not cleared out of our lives, then they will bring us down when all is said and done. But if the fires of life (the struggles and trials) run through us and remove the garbage, then we will be purified and ultimately preserved. The fire is destructive initially, but in the end it is a great force for healing and new life.

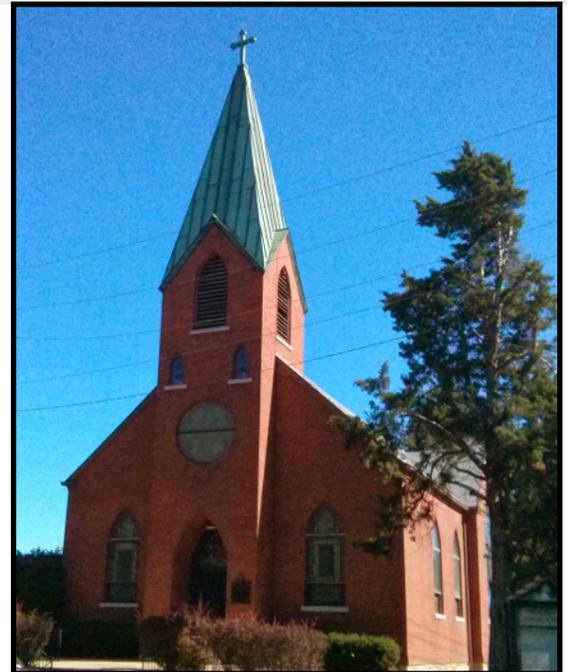
Paul said to the church in Corinth, "Each person's work will become evident...it will be revealed through fire. The fire itself will test the

quality of each person's work." We need the fire of God's judgments, the fire of trials and tests if we are to grow. We need to have the truth of what we are and what we invest in come to light. We need the worthless parts of our lives to be burned away so that we focus our time and energy on the things that truly matter to God.

I believe this is why Paul says that we "rejoice in our sufferings." As we walk the Way of Jesus, we see that the struggles of life are part of God's saving work within us and around us. We are being refined. We are being purified. Through the hard times, the garbage is getting removed so that the goodness of God's Spirit can flourish within us and around us.

So let us embrace the work of Jesus who said, "I have come to cast fire upon the earth and how I wish it were already kindled!" Our God is "a consuming fire" because he loves us enough to change us, refine us, and purify us. It will not be easy or "fun" but we still rejoice as the Lord burns away the selfish, greedy, and violent parts of us and replaces them with love, generosity, and kindness. This work of God is what will save us, it is what will preserve us as the world around us continues to decay in its self-centered rebellion against God.

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 Study

#### **Tuesday**

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

#### **Wednesday**

4:00 pm      Jesus Time

6:15 pm      Choir

## **Baptism Anniversary**

- Georgia Story (9/2)
- Cindy Ford (9/6)
- Donna Payne (10/15)
- Gavin Frazell-Nelson (10/19)



- Janice Zugelder (7/1)
- Micah Dierks (9/12)
- Donna Payne (9/20)
- Jamey Story (10/4)
- Yeshua Kammrath (10/9)
- Donna Hopkins (10/14)
- Carrie May (10/18)
- Judy May (10/28)
- Stanley Loftiss (10/31)

## **Wedding Anniversary**

- Jack & Deborah Wagner (9/28/1968, 50 yrs)
- Cindy & Chuck Ford (10/1/1994, 24 yrs)
- John & Lois Tiszka (10/2/2000, 18 yrs)
- Luke & Julie Kammrath (10/5/2012, 6 yrs)



## **Communal Council Corner**

As the new Stewards continue to get their bearings, we are focusing our energy on improving how we build relationships and take care of each other in our St Luke's community. As part of this effort we will be dividing the congregation into Steward Care Groups. Each group will be headed up by one of our six Stewards and will be a way for us to intentionally build community and love in our midst. Please be receptive to your Steward, as their purpose is to support and love you on your spiritual journey.

We welcome back John Wagner (after a brief hiatus) to the position of Property Deacon and we thank David Sasnett for his service over the last year. Metro Lutheran Ministry funded a new chair lift in the west stairwell. This will add much needed accessibility to the lower level of St Luke's. St Luke's also fielded a men's softball team this summer for the first time in years (decades?). A lot of fun was had by both those who played and those who came out to support. Finally, on a personal note, I (Luke) want to give thanks to St Luke's as I celebrate the last five years of ministry in this place. It is one of the greatest blessings I have ever experienced in life and I eagerly look forward to the many years to come. Thank you for all your love and support over these years!



## **Disciple Garden Corner**

The Lord very graciously moved things forward faster than we anticipated in July. On July 9 we met with the city Planning Commission and they forwarded us on and we met with the City Commissioners and the Mayor on July 26. There we received approval of the master plan for the Disciple Garden. Praise God! With the sewer and water plans approved we are moving forward toward construction with Blue Nile Contractors. We are still awaiting electrical plan approval, but once we receive it, we will move forward with Bob May, son of the congregation, for electrical conduit construction. The hope is to have the utilities constructed and in place by November. In parallel we are in the process of getting our building permit so that Terra Dome can begin excavation and then pour the shell of the earth-sheltered main building. It is amazingly exciting to have these huge projects about to finally happen!

We also had a couple great servant groups come out to help with the Disciple Garden in the last couple months. One group from Atonement Lutheran and Holy Cross Catholic built a foot-bridge for our main trail. Another group from Chicago and Our Savior Lutheran here in town helped pick up trash and clear some area for our future cul-de-sac. We have also cleared the path for the fencing of the main pasture for the goats and chickens and will be completing the fencing project this Fall. The Disciple Garden continues to take shape in such beautiful ways and we have had the blessing of watching our second pair of baby deer grow up on the property this year as well as a growing family of wild turkey. Please continue to keep this project in your prayers and continue to spread news about it to those you know!



## Community Ministry Corner

The back to school routines, if you know what I mean. Using the recap of summer memories from each child to assess sentence and paragraph structure as a starting point (as a gauge for where kids are and where we hope to take them in the next months), I've blended **paragraph structure** abc's with Bible/God/life for the first time this year.

### A- An Introduction

### B- The Body

### C- The exciting conclusion

Here is my connection between the three parts of a paragraph and the three persons/power of the Trinity - independent, yet interdependent.

**A-** An introduction to the Bible and God and Life. The introduction that my religion classes and I are dipping our toes into is Genesis 1. **God the Father**, whose loving being/action that has no beginning and no end, is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient and reveals himself in the creation narrative. His being of love creates and is independent and interdependent with his creation, and we are a part of the story--this is His history. We quickly jump on, jump in, and pervert the Creator's vision and execution of the holy life. We pervert his phraseology and intent and beauty. We title ourselves king of creation. We empower and entitle ourselves with dominion/domination over creation instead of seeing ourselves as servants of the Creator to all his creation (not just man).

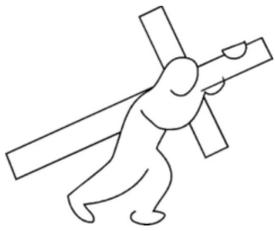
**B-** The Body, easy enough translates to **Jesus** in the Flesh. God shows us what true humanity is called into. We can be baptized into death of self/self-centered/selfish possession into new wineskin, new birth, new cross carrying members who develop into a healthy selfless body. This happens by focusing in on and feeding on the one thing needful--the truth concealed and revealed in **Christ alone**.

**C-** The exciting conclusion: the rest of the story. The Son reveals for three years his death to self--beginning at his baptism in the Jordan and then for 40 days in the wilderness by continuing to hear the Father's will and way while being starved and fully cleansed of the ways of humanity/self. For three years he continues to overcome/reveal the powers of man/Satan/death. Then he is raised to eternal life at the right hand of the Father, revealing Himself again post tomb as the Father's true Son to His fault-riddled faithful followers. After modeling the narrow way, he reveals the need for His physical presence to move on so His Spirit can complete the Father's will. The actions of Jesus--resurrection, rebirth, repentance, revelation, redemption of all creation--are the blueprint given to humanity for all creation. So the **Holy Spirit** enters to create the rest of the story. His presence acts in sparking true faith, understanding, and living. The Spirit supports, stirs, and sustains true faith for our individual living and for our interdependent living as the Body of Christ on earth today. Through this we catch glimpses of true life. Like Jesus, we can likewise die to self, satan, and our pseudo-salvation systems so we can practice daily being allegiant to the Father's will and justice alone.

Kevin Dierks

## 5th Annual Fall Festival (Wednesday, October 17, 5:00-7:00 pm)

Please mark your calendars and join us for our 5th Annual Fall Festival on October 17 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for a beautiful evening of food and fun! Please email Kevin Dierks at [kgdierks@gmail.com](mailto:kgdierks@gmail.com) if you are available to help with food, games, or activities. Please join us to connect with our neighbors and each other in deeper ways!



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)



### "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, Sep 27 & Tues, Oct 30, 5:30 pm**

Fall Festival - **Wed, Oct 17, 5:00-7:00 pm**

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

### Metro Lutheran Ministry Jul/Aug Emergency Assistance

- IDs: 90 individuals
- Food: 1031 individuals
- Utilities: 70 individuals
- Housing: 14 individuals

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

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