

"Deeper Discipleship
& Closer Community
with Jesus"



St Luke's *MESSENGER*

May/June 2019

PASTOR'S CORNER

"They were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." (Acts 4:31)

As a child, I assumed the Pentecost event, the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the first Christians, was a one time thing. I assumed the first Christians received the Holy Spirit once and then held onto it. So then as an adult pastor, I was amazed when I finally understood the events of Acts 4.

In Acts 4, the focus is on the same exact Christians who had received the Holy Spirit back in Acts 2. In that first Pentecost event a great wind had shaken the place in which they were gathered and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Then in Acts 4, after some trouble with the authorities, these same Christians are gathered in prayer. They are begging for God's strength and confidence to fill them. And just like Acts 2, the room is greatly shaken and they are once again filled by the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit is something we possess, then why was there a second pouring out of the Spirit on the exact same group?

As a child, I had just assumed that once you received the Holy Spirit, the Spirit was then a possession of the Christian. I thought the Holy Spirit was a gift that God gave that we now own. I saw my parents give me birthday gifts and from that moment on they were MINE. But the text of Acts teaches us that the Holy Spirit is very different than this. The Holy Spirit is not something we possess. The Holy

Spirit is not something we own. The Holy Spirit is not ours.

Jesus taught his disciples in Luke 11 that our heavenly Father will always give his good gifts to his children. The one gift that Jesus says the Father will always give is his Holy Spirit. But Jesus also teaches us that we must pray unceasingly and with great persistence. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not something we achieve once. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is something we must submissively seek every day and even in every moment.

As soon as we think we are standing firm and "own" or "possess" the Holy Spirit, we can be certain that we are not filled by the Holy Spirit and that we have fallen from faith. We do not possess the Holy Spirit. We are possessed BY the Holy Spirit. This subtle difference in grammar makes all the difference in the world. To think we possess the Holy Spirit is to still be in control and under the dominion of our egos. But to be possessed by the Holy Spirit is to lose ourselves and belong to something so much bigger than ourselves.

So let us pray daily. Let us beg daily for the Holy Spirit. Let us beg to lose ourselves. Let us let go of our attempts to possess God and instead be possessed by him.

Pastor Luke



Worship and Bible Study Schedule

Sunday

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9:30 am | Holy Communion |
| 10:30 am | Food & Fellowship |
| 11:15 am | Text of the Week Study
& Jesus Time (in May) |
| 11:00 am | VBS (in June) |

Monday

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 6:00 pm | Gospel of Luke/Acts Study |
|---------|---------------------------|

Tuesday

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 6:00 pm | Resurrection Bible Study
(May 7, 14, 21) |
| 6:00 pm | Galatians Bible Study
(Jun 4, 11, 18, 25, Jul 2 & 9) |

Wednesday

- | | |
|---------|---------------------|
| 4:00 pm | Jesus Time (in May) |
| 6:15 pm | Choir (in May) |



Baptism Anniversary

- Michael May (5/13)
- Bob Leive (5/15)
- Sondra Loftiss (5/25)
- Debbie Wagner (5/26)
- Joanne Leive (5/27)
- Jennifer Wagner (6/1)
- Carrie May (6/2)
- Ann Hauser (6/13)
- Cameron Williams (6/28)



- Todd Deines (5/2)
- Sondra Loftiss (5/3)
- Bob Leive (5/9)
- Sarah Martin (5/23)
- Kevin Dierks (5/26)
- Georgia Story (6/9)
- Charlene Sargent (6/9)
- Rose Tiszka (6/12)
- Richard Vogel (6/13)
- Luke Kammrath (6/23)

Wedding Anniversary

- Stephen & Chrissy May (6/3/1989, 30 years)
- Bob & Joanne Leive (6/6/54, 65 years)
- Bob & Carrie May (6/7/1986, 33 years)
- Todd & Roxanne Deines (6/10/2000, 19 years)
- Stanley & Sondra Loftiss (6/15/2013, 6 years)
- Kevin & Lisa Dierks (6/17/1995, 24 years)
- Janice & Paul Zugelder (6/30/1979, 40 years)



St Luke's Council Corner

In the last few months the Council has been working with the Kansas District of the LCMS to adjust our constitution for their lawyers (we receive our non-profit church status through them). The Council brought the proposed adjustments to the Congregational Assembly and it was unanimously decided to approve them. As such, we now have an officially approved constitution that works for all parties involved. Additionally, under Kevin's lead, the Council is excited for our new experiment with VBS this summer (see more details on the next page). We are urging everyone who is present for worship on Sunday mornings in June to stick around for our two hour VBS that will immediately follow. We want our youth to see first hand how important time with Jesus is through the example and modeling of our adults. So stick around and help out with a task or just hang out and start to build relationships with some of the youth you don't know very well. Finally, if you haven't already, please reach out to Pastor Luke if you still want to receive your newsletter through a physical mailing. Our goal is to minimize any mailing and printing waste with our current methods of distributing the newsletter. Please know that there will always be hard copies at the back of church for our members to pick up.



Disciple Garden Corner

It has finally come...the day we have permission to begin pulling construction permits! We finally received approval for every last, tiny detail from the city and state for the Disciple Garden project. Now we move into the season of waiting on contractors to fit us into their construction schedules. Our first construction projects will be sewer, water, and electrical infrastructure as well as getting the foundation and structure of the main building in place. Then we will move on to finishing the interior of the main building and getting the driveway and parking area in place. Finally we will have to put sidewalks in place along 10th Street as the city is requiring that of us. We are excited to finally get ground breaking underway and transition our waiting into a new phase.

In the meantime, the Lord has put a possible opportunity before us. The south boundary of the Disciple Garden is a series of five houses on Brown Avenue. One of these houses is potentially for sale (1008 Brown Ave) and the congregation has given the Council the authority to explore and possibly purchase this home. Such a purchase might be a faster, cheaper, and less disruptive way to expand our Disciple Garden community. It would also allow our Disciple Garden caretakers to begin living on site sooner, rather than later. Please pray for the Lord's will to be done.

Community Ministry Corner -- VBS!!!

Out comes the Resurrected Lamb of **April** Easter, **May** we now prepare our resurrected hearts for the **ROAR** (VBS theme 2019) of **June**. A new VBS (vacation Bible school) format begins this June 2 and each of the 5 Sundays of June 2019 at St. Luke's. Your Steward will be contacting you in May as to the Sunday selected for your steward group to be present and accountable for VBS in light support/participation as we explore the five VBS Bible themes of 2019.

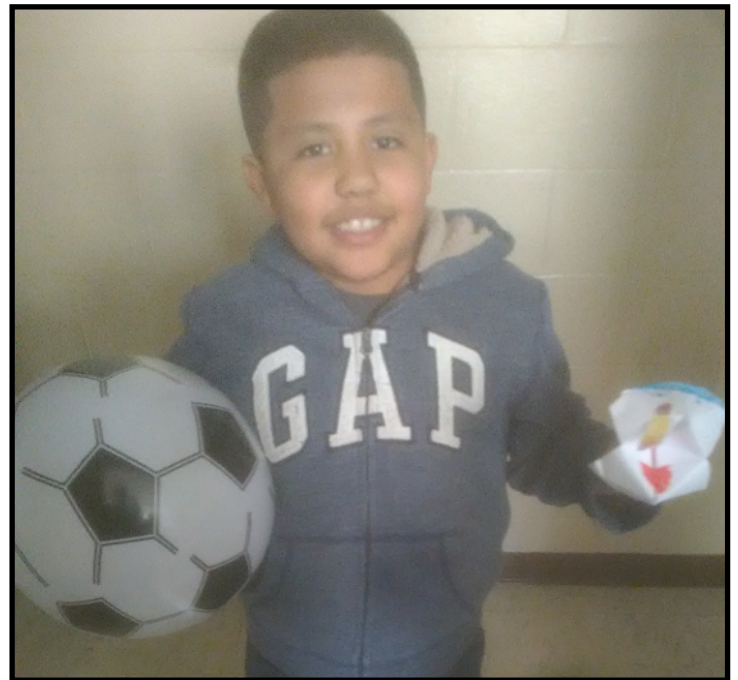
Rather than a week of evenings traditionally in June at St. Luke's, we will use Bible study hour after church each Sunday in June for our kid (and now adult) VBS experience. All the normal leads of VBS are in place (Chef Janice, Game Guy Dave, Crafty Marie, Lyrical Lisa, Literal Bible Lesson Luke, Kevin with one child group, Julie with the second child group) and their support staff. We want to invite our entire community at St. Luke's to continue to live into "Deeper Discipleship and Closer Community" with the 2 hour VBS (from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm) each Sunday of June. Children will be divided into 2 groups and you can loosely join in anywhere on campus as the youth journey from station to station. It's as easy as 1) Bible focus, 2) crafts, 3) hearty snack and games, 4) songs/skit, and out the door (before 1:00 pm). Snacks will be enough food to keep our mass of kids and adults comfortable through our full morning into early afternoon together.

If you are on vacation the Sunday your Steward selects, having a family get together or a hot lunch date, no worries, no stress--enjoy your Sundays wherever they find you. However, we would love for you to attend all of the five Sundays (or at least any you are in town for). Thank you in advance for being a support in our intentional efforts to talk and live the truth of Jesus in the company of all generations of Jesus's followers at St. Luke's. We will watch our youth enjoy and be challenged after church each of these five June Sunday mornings. This will take the place of Pastor's Bible Study hour for the month of June.

Kevin Dierks

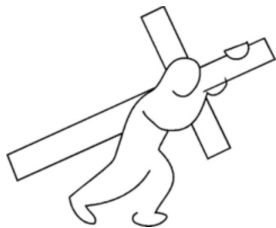
Galatians Bible Study

Join us on Tuesdays in June (4, 11, 18, & 25) and July (2 & 9) as we dive into a study on Paul's first letter and possibly the oldest document in the New Testament. We will wrestle with Paul's pastoral advice for the first group of churches he planted in modern day Turkey. Join from 6:00-7:30 pm in the Lounge!



Happy Hour Bingo!

Join us on Friday, June 7, at 5:30 pm for a fun night of bingo in the church lounge! Please bring a free will donation for the Disciple Garden, an appetizer to share with others, and a white elephant gift for our prize table. Also bring a friend as well! We look forward to seeing you there!



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



DO YOU READ THIS NEWSLETTER?

THEN GET BACK TO US!

Changes are coming! St Luke's Council has decided that we will be significantly trimming our mailing of the newsletter as times and needs continue to change. You will have four options moving forward of how to receive the St Luke's newsletter.

1. Pick up a printed copy at the back of church.
2. Read the newsletter online at www.stlukeskck.org
3. Receive the newsletter via email. If you want to be on the email list then email stlukeskck@gmail.com with the request.
4. Receive the newsletter via traditional mail. If you want to still receive a physical copy mailed to your home then call us (913) 303-0977 and let us know.

Changes will begin for our July/August newsletter. So get back to us as soon as you can!

Upcoming Dates

- Golf Tournament - Fri, May 3, 8:00 am
- Gospel of Luke/Acts Study - Mon, May 6, 13, 20, Jun 3, 10, 17, & 24, 6:00 pm
- Resurrection Study - Tues, May 7, 14, & 21, 6:00 pm
- St Luke's Council - Thurs, May 9 & Jun 6, 5:30 pm
- VBS - Sun, Jun 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.
- Galatians Study - Tues, Jun 4, 11, 18, 25, Jul 2 & 9, 6:00 pm
- Happy Hour Bingo - Fri, Jun 7, 5:30 pm

Metro Lutheran Ministry Mar/Apr Emergency Assistance

- IDs: 7 individuals
- Food: 895 individuals
- Utilities: 18 individuals
- Housing: 15 individuals

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

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