

"Deeper Discipleship & Closer Community with Jesus"



St Luke's *MESSENGER*

July/August 2019

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Fear seized the whole Church." (Acts 5:11)

It is one of the darkest, if not THE darkest episode in the NT. It is what I have called, "Everyone's least favorite Bible story." It is the story of Ananias and Sapphira. It is the story of a husband and wife who think they can get away with cheapening Jesus's calling. They think they can work around God's word and no one will notice.

The story takes place as the Church in Acts is forming. At Pentecost, when the Spirit of Jesus was poured out upon his followers we are told they "held everything in common, selling their possessions and sharing with those in need." Then after the Church experiences her first persecution, the disciples beg to God for confidence. The Lord responds by once again pouring out his Spirit upon them. We are then told that "none of them said anything was their own, for they held everything in common....those with property would sell it and give the money to the community."

It is then that we hear about two examples. The first is Barnabas, who sells his land and brings all the money to be shared with the Church. The second example is Ananias and Sapphira. This couple also sold their land, but instead of bringing all of the money to the Church, they held back some for their own. Peter immediately knows that Satan is at work. Peter tells Ananias that if he wanted to keep the property then he should have never joined the Church and that the moment he chose to join the Church the property was no longer his. Ananias hears these words and drops dead. A few hours

later, Sapphira enters the scene without knowing what has happened. Peter asks her if they have shared everything with the Church. She responds that they did and she drops dead.

Jesus teaches and commands all of us in Luke 12, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor" and in Luke 14, "No one can be my disciple unless he gives up everything he owns." Like Ananias and Sapphira we desperately want to work around these words. We desperately want them to not be true. We desperately want to be part of the Church, while holding back parts of ourselves and what we have. But God has given us the cautionary tale of Ananias and Sapphira. To refuse to obey Jesus's word is to choose death. To cheapen Jesus's word is death. To be hypocrites is death.

So it is no surprise that we are told the whole Church was gripped with fear after they saw what happened to Ananias and Sapphira. But as the scriptures say, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." And as Paul says, "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling." So let's allow this story to make us fear the seriousness of the Lord's calling. May we allow that fear to drive us closer to the Lord, deeper into his embrace. Our journey with Jesus is not a game--it is a matter of life and death. God is not going to strike us down if we disobey. He is revealing that if we are not fully walking with him, then we are already dead. So may we hear his invitation to begin truly living--may we completely and fully share everything we have.

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

Monday

6:00 pm Gospel of Luke/Acts Study
6:00 pm Book Club: The Sparrow
(Sep & Oct)

Wednesday

4:00 pm Jesus Time (starts Aug 28)
6:15 pm Choir (starts Aug 28)

Thursday

6:00 pm Scripture Study: James
(Sep 5, 12, 19, 26, & Oct 3)



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)
- 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, 49 yrs)
- Dean & Tina Bridge (8/3/92, 27 yrs)
- Tom & Rose Tiszka (8/4/84, 35 yrs)



St Luke's Council Corner

In the last month or so, a new partnership opportunity has presented itself. Through what feels like a divine act, Pastor Luke was introduced to the outreach director for the Kansas City chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Pastor Luke will be called upon by Habitat to do house blessings for those in our local neighborhoods. Habitat is also exploring the possibility of renting our duplex as their offices on the Kansas side of the state line. We are hoping to move forward with something this summer and would relish the opportunity to have another great non-profit working on our campus. Habitat also offers the possibility of helping us with rehab on our current duplex and parsonage, as well as the possibility of helping us rehab any homes we may acquire adjacent to the Disciple Garden. Finally, Habitat is interested in exploring new builds with us on the vacant lots adjacent to the Disciple Garden--with us either working with those families or us possibly using a Habitat home for some sort of ministry. Please be praying for our relationship with Habitat and that the Lord would guide us in discerning his good will in this exciting series of opportunities.



Disciple Garden Corner

Another milestone has finally come...groundbreaking! Construction began on the sewer main that we need to extend for the city across 10th Street (east to west)...but... Yep, as I have now come to expect, we hit another bump in the road. There were old utility lines that no one knew about that were in the way (!). So we had to pause construction, make new plans for a work around, and get them approved. All that is done and we are ready to begin construction again. We will have to redo all the work that was done before. Lost time and money, but these unforeseen hiccups are part of the process, unfortunately. But we trust that the Lord IS working this for good. How? I don't know and frankly, it might be none of my business to know.

We now have our permit for building our main building on the Disciple Garden. The plan is to excavate and put footings in during July and build the structure in August, if the Lord wills it. We are also waiting on word from 1008 Brown Ave. The owner in Texas had a setback but is hoping to visit the house the first weekend in July and get it cleaned out and ready for sale. We will see if the Lord decides to open or close this door for us.

Community Ministry Corner

Feeling the heat. I sure am, as I continue to be perplexed by the Rubik's Cube reality of our individual complexities. The realities of nature & nurture and the angels & demons we allow (or even cultivate) within ourselves. The experiences, relationships, and choices of this life and how they play with our hearts as they are replayed in our memories. How can the good and the bad, the beauty and the beast so easily, readily, and subtly cohabitate? We quickly use, excuse, and accuse with the easy outs of busyness, business as usual, and busybodiness in order to avoid, blame, and focus on anyone other than ourselves. At the same time, we also need interactions with each other for the tricky balance of truth, accountability, boundaries, and healthy conflict that is necessary for us to be in the love of God.

Perhaps the best practice field for being a child of God (for us who claim or feign Christianity) is **within each** complex **self** through the humbling beauty and burden of time-out, boredom, learning, contemplating, and listening at the Creator's feet and the feet of a few focused others. The consuming fires of this earthly life are a fiery **hell** of never ending consumption to our divided and distracted hearts. We are dared and called to wake up out of our comfortable temperatures, our cozy tendencies, and our complacent comas of following the flesh instead of the Spirit. The Lord wants us to wake up to a newer and truer awareness of his presence and his demand and invitation into new life, rest, and freedom from our oppressions and oppressing. So we may live for the Spirit instead of the flesh and share in the devotion that springs forth into true soul living as we learn each day the righter way.

And yet these fires of hell on earth are at the same time the **heavenly**, consuming fires of each day that must and will refine us and draw us closer to God's truth, accountability, and unconditional love. This is so we can love his creation in every moment, with every ounce of our attention and intentions. We are being called back to the simple life of God's garden so we can once again be pruned, grown, and harvested as his faithful creation. So we no longer support, divide, or tithe any portion of our being toward the living death of tuning out or being out of tune with the Creator's conducting. The Creator's song is the only sound and melody worth attending to. It is the one we will truly recognize and resonate with (for only the Father and his will are good), if we can become quiet enough in our Spirit guided flesh to really listen, sense, see, be, and follow.

Kevin Dierks

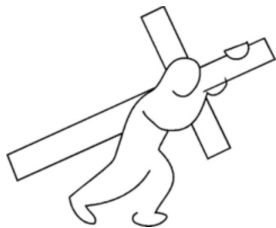


Scripture Study: James

Join us from 6:00-7:30 pm on Thursdays this Fall (Sep 5, 12, 19, 26, & Oct 3) as we study one of the oldest documents in the New Testament. We will wrestle with the teachings of Jesus that James was passing along to the members of the earliest church. We will be challenged on how to daily live out our faith.

School Supplies Donations

Please bring your school supplies donations to St Luke's at some point between now and Sunday, August 4. During the first week of school, which starts August 7, Metro Lutheran Ministry will be giving them out to families who are in need.



Come check out our website and find access to great resources like the church calendar, sermons, online-giving, a full-color newsletter, and more!

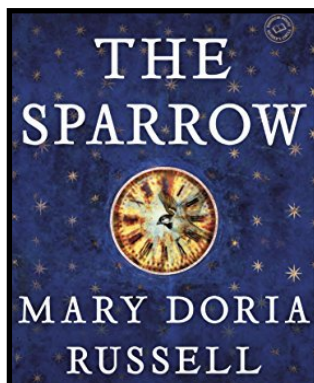
www.stlukeskck.org



Book Club: The Sparrow

Join us from 6:00-7:30 pm on Mondays this Fall (Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, & 28) as we kick off our new book club! We will read about 50 pages in advance each week and then gather to discuss as a group. Each book will have a faith and spiritual focus that we will connect to our own lives of discipleship.

Our first book will be Pastor Luke's favorite novel, "The Sparrow." Please let Pastor Luke know as soon as possible that you will be joining us so we can get books ordered for everyone. Also, if you want to be the lead on a book in the future, please talk to Pastor Luke about your idea.



Upcoming Dates

- Gospel of Luke/Acts Study - Mon, Jul 1, 8, 15, 29, Aug 5, 12, 19, & 26, 6:00 pm
- Council - Wed, Jul 10, & Tue, Aug 5, 5:30 pm
- School Supplies Deadline - Aug 4
- Book Club: The Sparrow - Mon, Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, & 28, 6:00 pm
- Scripture Study: James - Thurs, Sep 5, 12, 19, 26, & Oct 3, 6:00 pm

Metro Lutheran Ministry May/Jun Emergency Assistance

- IDs: 166 individuals
- Food: 1133 individuals
- Utilities: 24 individuals
- Housing: 76 individuals
- Showers: 62 individuals

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

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