



St Luke's Lutheran Church Newsletter

"Deeper Discipleship & Closer Community With Jesus"

September | October 2019

Pastor's Corner

"As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:18)

Peace. It is one of the most important and constant themes in all of Scripture. It is also a word that gets thrown around a lot. But what does it really mean? What does it really look like? Jesus famously says in his beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be God's children." But what does it mean to be a "peacemaker"?

Peace in Hebrew is the word *shalom*. *Shalom* is best translated in English as something close to "harmony." *Shalom* is when everything is in its proper place and relationship to the things around it. So peace is really about wholeness and completeness. There are two aspects to this wholeness that are centered on the two great commandments: 1) peace with the Creator and 2) peace with the Creator's creation. So first we must ask, are we whole, in harmony, and at peace in our relationship to God? Then we must ask, are we at peace and in proper and balanced relationship with the rest of God's creation?

Our peace with God requires us to step out into the light of God's truth. It requires us to be vulnerable, weak, open, and naked before God. In other words, it requires the sacramental work that the Church has called "confession." If we are not in a constant state of confession, vulnerability, and openness before God, then we will never find peace and never be peacemakers. But if we step out of our hiding and out of the darkness, then we will find the peace that "transcends all understanding." And there in that light we can begin to bring peace to the relationships around us. As Jesus tells us, "If you have something against your brother or sister, then first go and be reconciled before you come to the altar of the Lord." It is essential that we offer the peace we



have with God to all the relationships we have with others.

But as we learn clearly from Paul, peace with others is a two way street. We cannot force others to be at peace within themselves or with us. All we can do is be at peace with God within ourselves and then vulnerably offer our true, weak, unmasked, and peaceful selves to others. But being such an embodied peacemaker will not always bring peace to our relationships. For as Jesus says, "I have not come to bring peace, but division." Our inner peace with God will oftentimes cause us to be divided from others. For as we dwell in the light and truth of peace, those who want to dwell in darkness and deception will be divided from us. They will hate, persecute, and reject the light of peace that we embody. Our peace is a threat to them. But in the midst of this division we must patiently stay the course. For as far as it depends on us, we must be peaceful and at peace with those around us. And we pray that God will use the peace he works within us, to eventually heal all relationships in creation.

Pastor Luke



Council Corner

We are still in a holding pattern in regard to the possibility of Habitat for Humanity using our duplex for their offices. They are stuck in their current lease into 2020, so unless a new owner purchases the building they are currently in (which is a real possibility that is being explored) they will not be able to join us until 2020.

Our hope with the parsonage is to get the Karenni family we have been working with to move in during September. This family had lost their home in a fire and they are currently squeezed into a two bedroom apartment. If they do not move into the parsonage, then the Council will begin exploring other options.

As a new school year begins, we challenge you to take this opportunity to reassess your own calendar and priorities. Challenge yourself to plug into the Bible studies and gatherings of our church community. Our health as a church is completely dependent on the spiritual health of each of you. Do your part to listen to Jesus, daily. Do your part to connect in relationship with each other. The church is not an institution, a building, or a pastor. The church is all of us surrendering to the word of Jesus, daily.



Disciple Garden Corner

We have completed the construction of the sewer and water mains that needed to be brought across and under 10th Street. We also have completed the excavation for the building and for the retention pond. Construction on the building was scheduled to start in the middle of August, but the rain in Nebraska delayed our contractor on the project that was immediately ahead of ours. And the rain here at the end of August has also given us a slight delay. Assuming the weather cooperates we are hoping to get construction of the building started in the last couple days of August. In the meantime we are working to get contractors lined up to do the interior work of the building once the concrete exterior is finished.

The latest on 1008 Brown Ave is that the owner was again unable to visit in July. So the current plan is for the house to get cleaned out without the owner visiting. We have been told this might begin at any time. Once the house is cleared out we will have a chance to walk through it and assess its state and whether we still have a desire for purchase. Please keep this in your prayers.



Community Ministry Corner

This is a tribute to my boy Micah as he starts year two at the University of Nebraska. He sent this link to us last summer and it was mesmerizing. I have been meaning to write this article reflection since.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAqOnXHd7qk>

David Kwong is a New York Times crossword puzzle creator—also known as a Cruciverbalist?! His 10 minute YouTube video breaks down the art of creating crossword puzzles. Micah loves them. I do not. I don't like the struggle. I don't like the dead ends or the exposure of my lack of knowledge and understanding. I have never completed a crossword puzzle in my lifetime. When the going gets tough, I move on to something else.

I have had much more success with Word Finds with my dad and grandfathers' regular extended stays at hospitals in Rochester, MN (wonder why it's never the women on these extended recovery experiences?). These hospital recovery stays followed heart valve surgeries (was it four for Dad?), tree acrobatics (Grandpa Peterson cut an oak down that slid backwards on an icy hill. It landed uphill, back on top of him?! He looked like the McDonald's character Grimace—whole body purple—and spent a month on an oscillating bed. He lived to tell about it, only to fall asleep in a deer stand a few decades later and create another unbelievable story and experience that he lived to tell about.), and cancer (Grandpa Dierks who also survived). The waiting room times ticked by, hour after slow and boring hour. While most of the family gravitated toward jigsaw puzzles to pass the time (shockingly, I'm a quick quitter on these too), the Word Find provided words hidden and a successful strategy to attack, conquer, and win much more quickly and simply than a crossword or jigsaw puzzle. In Word Finds, you can't phase me with the reversals or the diagonals, I am eager and willing to go on this word hunt with a strong belief I will be guaranteed to know the answer and eliminate decoys and race to guaranteed victory while reinforcing my fragile ego.

But the land of my nemesis, the Crossword Puzzle, is much more in depth and requires having and taking on broad and deep swaths of general and detailed knowledge. It requires the rigor, persistence, patience, and desire to look up and research, to eliminate close calls, willing to give think-time, to have stick-to-it-iveness, and even to ask for help (gasp!). These puzzles invigorate, challenge and calm Micah the way Word Finds do for me. And now I have watched this video of David Kwong explaining the art, creativity, and methodical and devious plotting of not only words from clues, but also their reality of a deeper theme and word play. They have words hidden within the answers to the hard fought for clues that riddle the mind and the page. It is fascinating. And now with technology assistance and "cheats" (which Micah resorts to rarely if at all, after exhausting himself, and what he considers more credible options), I may be drawn into the hard row of the horizontal and vertical clue wizardry of Crossword Puzzles. There is so much energy and creativity in this short presentation on the life of a game maker.

After watching Kwong's presentation, and Micah's persistence and passion for these puzzles, I may now have new eyes to see Crossword Puzzles as I have always viewed Word Finds. Fun, challenging, creative, and mind-boggling. As the fuzziness starts to uncloud, keeping you tuned in, keeping you coming back, keeping you digging deeper, constantly thinking about it, and wondering if there is more. Kwong doesn't disappoint in his video, even layering another clue within his video on choosing a theme, creating the puzzle, then answers, then clues—which I have not figured out to-date.

Have a great sophomore year, Micah. I'm enjoying watching your collection of, and execution of, daily Crossword Puzzles.

Kevin Dierks

Scripture Study: James & Thessalonians

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. This will challenge us on how to daily live out our faith. Then on Oct 17, 24, Nov 7, 14, 21, Dec 5, 12, & 19 we will dive into Paul's two letters to the church in Thessalonica. We will wrestle with Paul's pastoral advice and his expectation of God's judgment upon the whole world.

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 featuring "The Sparrow." We will read about 50 pages in advance each week and then gather to discuss as a group. Each book will have a faith focus that we will connect to our own lives of discipleship. If you want to be the lead on a book in the future, let Pastor Luke know. Then on Nov 4, before we start our next book, we will gather for "Table Talk," to have a roundtable discussion on whatever issues are on our hearts. Start thinking of issues you want to chat about!

St Luke's 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 Book Club: The Sparrow — Sep & Oct
Table Talk — Nov 4

Tuesday

- 5:30 pm St Luke's Council — Sep 3, Oct 1, & Nov 5

Wednesday

- 4:15 pm Jesus Time
- 5:00 pm Fall Festival — Oct 23
- 5:30 pm Hand Bells
- 6:15 pm Choir

Thursday

- 6:00 pm Scripture Study: James — Sep 5, 12, 19, 26, Oct 3
Scripture Study: 1 & 2 Thessalonians — Oct 17, 24,
Nov 7, 14, 21, Dec 5, 12, 19



Birthdays



- Micah Dierks — 12 Sep
- Donna Payne — 20 Sep
- Hubert Brown — 21 Sep
- Jamey Story — 4 Oct
- Kati Glynn — 9 Oct
- Yeshua Kammrath — 9 Oct
- Judy May — 28 Oct
- Stanley Loftiss — 31 Oct



Marriages



- Jack & Debbie Wagner
28 Sep 1968 — 51 yrs
- Chuck & Cindy Ford
1 Oct 1994 — 25 yrs
- Luke & Julie Kammrath
5 Oct 2012 — 7 yrs



Check out our website and find access to great resources like the church calendar, sermons, newsletters, online-giving, updates on the Disciple Garden, and more!

www.stlukeskck.org