



St Luke's Lutheran Church Newsletter

"Deeper Discipleship & Closer Communion With Jesus"

March | April 2020

Pastor's Corner

"God is true and every man is a liar." (Rom 3:4)

I really never understood this verse. It seemed harsh. Really? Every single person is a liar? Every one? I feel like I know some very honest people (myself included, so I thought), how can this be true? But then the Disciple Garden development happened. How many times have I lied in this newsletter space, claiming and predicting timelines for different aspects of the project? I have lost count. I have been shown to be a liar many times over, in this space alone.

I think this clearly demonstrates how we as humans can be liars even when we have fully honest and genuine intentions, motives, and words. We become liars because of our ignorance, because of our limited perspective and view, and especially because we cannot see into the future. It is only the Creator who is true and never false. He alone sees the whole picture and knows everything. The rest of us are left being liars in these things because we are limited.

But being limited isn't bad. It is what God has created us to be. In fact, there is great beauty, goodness, and honesty in our limitedness. The problem is not being limited. The problem is that we try to transcend and rise above it. Back to the Disciple Garden. Instead of humbly accepting my limited place and perspective and saying that I had no idea when things would unfold and how, I have continuously tried to peer into the future. I have continuously tried to predict the future. And because I have refused to embrace my limitedness in total humility, I have been revealed to be a liar, over and over.

So not only have I been learning patience on this journey with the Disciple Garden, I have been learning humility. I have been learning that I need to



fully accept my limitedness and not run from it. It is good that I am limited. It is good that I do not know. It is good that I do not feed my ego which wants to reach into God's realm.

Proverbs puts it so well, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's will that prevails." We have so many plans. We are constantly trying to orchestrate and bend the future to our wills. But God's plans and desires will...always...win...out. No matter how much we push and strive and fight, his way will be shown as true. Jesus himself experienced this. Jesus didn't want the cross. Jesus didn't want to be rejected, to suffer, and to die. But Jesus knew that he needed to surrender to his Father's will. The heart of all prayer is, "Father, your will be done." This is not a trite phrase to fly past, it is everything.

If we try to impose our wills, we will be shown to be liars. Let us simply embrace the will of God, for he alone is always true and in him we can be as well.

Pastor Luke



Council Corner

In February our church we had a chance to gather and talk about community life. We talked about how community for the church is a deeper and more true form than anything else the world tries to offer us. Christian community in the Body of Christ even has a special name, it is called “communion.” Our vision statement as a church right now calls us to focus on “Closer Communion with Jesus.” As our Disciple Garden site gets closer and closer to fully functional, pray about how you can be more committed to our growing communion together. Our hope is to use the Disciple Garden site for regular social gatherings, as well as more opportunities for vulnerable, spiritual connection. As Paul says, we are the very Body of Christ and each of us are members of that Body and we are part of each other. Let’s live that out, daily.



Disciple Garden Corner

We were one day away...and then winter happened. Just when the Disciple Garden construction was rolling ahead and we were about to get the concrete trucks up the driveway to pour the interior floor, we got hit with ice and snow. Then when it melted we got hit with more ice and snow. And then when it warmed up, we got hit with rain. Repeat. For two months. The driveway became inaccessible to the heavy concrete trucks and so everything stalled. However, we have now placed rock and gravel on the drive and down in the porch area (these have been the literal “sticking” areas). This will allow the concrete trucks and other equipment to get access to the areas they need. Hopefully this will remove the bottleneck and construction will be able to proceed at full speed once again. Speaking of bobcats, I (Pastor Luke) was blessed to spot a mating pair of bobcats hunting out at the Disciple Garden. The male was hunting some small game in the brush and the female was on the lookout, trailing behind. She and I stared at each other for a long time. She even at one point climbed up a small tree. They both were a very healthy size and seemed close to 30 lbs each. Finally, we are about \$45,000 away from completing what we need for the Disciple Garden initial development. We thought it would be less, but it seems the city may require us to put in 700 ft of sidewalk along 10th Street before we can get occupancy (this sidewalk may cost \$37,000 or more!). If you can help us close this gap, we would greatly appreciate it! The Lord has been nothing but faithful so far and we are 100% certain he will finish what he started.



Community Ministry Corner

Bowen Theory representative Dan Papero, in the last presentation of his I attended, shared along with some other Bowen Theory representatives local to the area, the learnings they're having about family. These are tough learnings about rehearsing, rehashing, and riffing off of personalities. There was a keen insight shared by Papero about the human machine... let's be real... each human *beast*. He says that when you are working out the tough face-to-face conflicts, tensions, and rifts, why in the hell (yes, he speaks frankly which I appreciate—including his non-belief in a God) would you look into each other's eyes?! When animals look into each other's eyes it is to intimidate, attack, or show dominance. And we (at least I) have some untamed, untenable beasts and demons, not fully confronted or released from contract in inner dwelling places. The eyes are a powerful and dangerous weapon, to be used with rare occasion. The use of eyes should require the hard background work of deepest sincerity and salve, humility and study. They should be carefully used, just like our rudderless and careless tongues which Christ admonishes.

This has helped (a little) with the inner dwelling debates in the marriage I'm a part of. It's not easy to enter into these discussions, memories, rehearsing, rehashing, riffing, and raging. As we, way too late in the game, have barely started figuring out by establishing a weekly debriefing meeting where we listen, think, and learn as we try and temper the deep, defensive, offended, offending package that is every single human being (at least me). We are trying to learn the ability to be present and not escalate, intimidate, manipulate, discount, demean, or be mean

with the flick of the heart or tongue or eye. This is a sound practice worth consideration for becoming part of a healthier dynamic and interaction with those you are in authentic communion, relationship, and incarnation with. As you learn to define Who is reigning in or reining in, your inner sanctuary yesterday, today, and forever.

So we've all heard windshield time (being in a car) has been promoted as good one-on-one God-and-you prayer time. I've promoted it also being good one-on-one time with an established icon of the past, maybe the present, through audiobooks, whether bio, auto-bio, or better, a spiritual bio/autobiography. And today I burden you with and invite you into, a third drive time, or anytime, intentionality, a one-on-one life connection and recalibration concerning the agitations, routines, assumptions, and missteps with spouse, child, parent, friend, or whomever. While the side-by-side sing along is tough to match, I'd say the more soul salving and needed songs are the tough talks shoulder-to-shoulder, with limited eye contact or eye rolls. Sure some favorite rhythms and rhymes flowing in the background (along with the subconscious pacifying white noise of tires on asphalt and scenery flipping past in the background) can't hurt the cause of being real about what's real and in constant need of recalibration, recollection, and reconsideration in each heart and relationship. This is a good time to practice finding the right in each word, answer, and glance that proceeds from our Christ inhabited hearts.

Kevin Dierks

Scripture Study: Romans

Join us from 6:00-7:30 pm on Thursdays in March, April, and May we will go through Paul's most epic letter, Romans. We will explore Paul's theology in depth and his understanding of God's righteousness. Righteousness is about being in a right relationship with the Creator and his creation. Paul will teach us this is done through faithfulness to the Creator that is expressed in a life of love.

Lent: "40 Days of Walking the Way"

Join us at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays (Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr 1) as we continue our Lenten journey. On Mar 18 we will begin with a potluck at 5:30 pm. Our theme for the six weeks will be "40 Days of Walking the Way." During this time we will focus on our sacramental life of Baptism, Repentance, and Communion and see how God faithfully walks with us and how we in turn walk with him and each other.

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 Scripture Study: Romans
Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Apr 6, 13, 20, 27

Tuesday

- 5:30 pm St Luke's Council — Mar 3, Apr 14

Wednesday

- 4:15 pm Jesus Time
- 6:30 pm "40 Days of Walking the Way"
Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr 1

Holy Week

- 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday (Apr 9)
- 7:00 pm Good Friday (Apr 10)
- 7:00 pm Holy Saturday (Apr 11)
- 7:00 am Easter Sunrise (Apr 12)

🎂 Birthdays 🎂

Gavin Frazell-Nelson — 5 Mar
Roxanne Deines — 6 Mar
Makayla Deines — 18 Mar
Ann Hauser — 21 Mar
Lucy Mellott — 29 Mar
Michael May — 6 Apr
Marcus Dierks — 8 Apr
Yvonne Brown — 12 Apr
Joanne Leive — 13 Apr
Lisa Dierks — 24 Apr

♥ Marriages ♥

John & Karen Wagner
15 Mar 1980 — 40 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