



St Luke's Lutheran Church Newsletter

"Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus"

July | August 2020

Pastor's Corner

"The Lord himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will never leave you. He will never abandon you. So do not be afraid. Do not lose hope." (Deut 31:8)

It was time for big changes. Moses's time as leader had come to an end and Joshua's time was ahead. The time in the wilderness was over and the occupation of the promised land was ahead. It was certainly a time of anxiety and fear for all involved. What would the future hold? How would things unfold in the midst of all the changes?

The time ahead would be full of failures and pitfalls for the people of Israel, but the one certain thing was the presence of the Lord. The Lord would lead the people. The Lord would go with them. The Lord would be at their side. Therefore, the people only needed to be about one thing: Listening to the Law of the Lord. Moses's final words before death were, "The Lord's teachings aren't just words. They are your very life."

As a church, we are also in a season of big changes. Our lives before COVID-19 are over and we will be living with this virus for the foreseeable future and its effects forever. The Disciple Garden development is almost completed and through it we are being called into new and unknown ways of doing ministry. Pastor Emeritus Michael May has fallen asleep in the Lord after 50 years of ministry among us and we will have to carry on the journey without him. Our church membership continues to shift, evolve, and go up and down. All these changes are certain to cause anxiety and fear within us. What will the future hold? How will things unfold in the midst of all these changes?



The time ahead for us will inevitably have failures and pitfalls. But we know one thing for certain: The Lord will go with us. He will never forsake us. He will be at our side. He will be ahead of us, leading the Way. Therefore, we must be about one thing in this time of great change and upheaval: Listening to the word of Jesus. His word is not just a "nice to have" convenience. His word is our very life. With his word we will find the promised land of resurrection. Without his word we will wander in the emptiness of our ego's pursuits until we destroy ourselves.

So let's lean into these changes with the hope that only the Lord can offer. We will learn humility and patience through the failures and pitfalls ahead. We will be picked up from our failures by the Lord. We will learn how to rely on the Lord more than ever. He will be with us. He will never forsake us. He will lead us to resurrection life and new creation. So let's focus on him. Let's listen to him. His word is our very life.

Pastor Luke



Council Corner

We have been extremely blessed by the Lord and your generosity during this season of COVID-19. At the half point of our budget year, we are solidly in the black and have been able to offer bonuses to all our staff members who took cuts at the end of last year. Thank you so much for allowing the Spirit to work such generous giving within you! At our annual church assembly we appointed six Stewards to sit on the Church Council for the next two years: Christina Bridge, Ralph Heiden, Dave Sasnett, Todd Deines, Cindy Howard, and Kathy Polzkill. We are extremely thankful to Ann Hauser and Carolyn Davis who so faithfully served the past two years. It is also looking very likely that the Lord has blessed us with another stable tenant to fill the space vacated by Riverview Health. The Council is looking to finalize an agreement with Habitat for Humanity to lease our upstairs education wing starting on October 1. Such an agreement will hopefully continue to make our small, urban church budget sustainable into the years ahead.



Disciple Garden Corner

Things are getting close. The asphalt driveway is finished and the concrete transition to 10th Street is set to be poured in early July. The retaining walls are finished and back-filled. The pond liner for the top of the building, which will help keep water away, is in place. A second buried drain line leading away from the porch is in place. The landscaping around the building which will help direct surface water is mostly done. The exterior insulation and stucco is mostly done and is set to be finished in early July. The rough-in inspections are done. The doors are on. The HVAC system is ordered. The water heater is installed. The dry wall is going up throughout the building. A sand volleyball pit is dug. A youth group from Ascension Lutheran in Wichita, KS, came for a few days and helped with all sorts of projects around the Disciple Garden. Only the Lord knows when all this will finally come together and when final inspections and occupancy will be granted, but we are incredibly thankful to be so close after such a long journey. Continue to pray for the development and please consider how you might be part of the Disciple Garden ministry in the days ahead.



Community Ministry Corner

Lisa, Morgan, and Grandma Sara, and maybe others in our family, have **really enjoyed** a series on NetFlix (PBS) titled **Call the Midwife**. The wholesomeness and realness of midwives, nuns, nurses and doctors in England in the 50's and 60's exposes a wide array of anything that can and will go wrong (or right)...will, with the wild and wooly life of pregnancy, human relationships/decisions, and child birth. It is wholesome and beautiful, yet in a better balanced way than most, delves into real relational and personal issues, weighing the right or wrong, good or evil, ethical or awry, hopefully avoiding agenda pushing or superiority complexes. This, in my naive, unstudied opinion, was an earlier time, when hospitals were created and served by the church and more raw, and the money and business monsters were far from the reach and agenda of people striving to dedicate their lives to God and healthcare for humanity.

You know I like to soak in audio books. And what they hit on seems to line up with the one thing, among many beautiful and beautifully presented scenarios, progressions, and resolutions in the English child birthing industry of the 50's...and in each generation and iteration of why the world and people are beautiful and good and work.

Oh. The humanity... the solution? or the problem?... if you listen to my processings/rants, when I'm willing to share, you know I view you and me fairly critically. I have my deepest belief in faith in God....and humanity is part of that plan, but I just can't help thinking, believing, seeing, and hearing how we elevate ourselves a bit above our pay grade and place naively at best, intentionally, arrogantly, and ruthlessly at worst, in the role and hierarchy of God, creation, and His will being done rightly on earth. What doesn't quite jive for me are the smiley, happy people. Shocker I know...

The rantings and ravings of the great minds of the communities of 100's and 1000's of years ago speak to the overstep of humanism and sophism. And while I may be off, maybe completely off, and definitely need to look up

the definitions and examples of these words and movements, I sense they speak to what is off kilter with me for this TV series, and human processings in every iteration and generation and mix. While there is beauty and beautiful intent in man potentially, it is not man that makes things great, or great again—eh 'merica. It is not society, individually or collectively, that makes God's will be done on earth, unless God is directing it and we continue to serve and submit, and maybe study it. So as you've read in my posts the past year, an endearing gaze or a captivating smile does not make the world go round or make everything alright, to me, it clearly muddles the Master's message and mastery.

So I may not have the right words or detailed enough dissertation. And yet I'm willing to put myself out there, in moderation, for different discussions among our version of God's faithful humanity, as to what is right and wrong in the world of God's doing. He ALWAYS trumps do-gooding (and anything less), and ALWAYS prevails, even through and in spite of humanity's constant spin on **our** goodness, greatness, innocence, or blessedness (which does terrible distraction, misdirection, and damage to clarity and the momentum of what God's will could be accomplishing, if we minded our place and mouths, minds and hearts, as the most powerful part of creation). To God be the glory as we live like the nuns, nurses, and doctors of **Call the Midwife**, as following the will of God and giving the **glory** rightly, **to Him alone**. Let us serve and contribute passionately, while humbly, as a small piece of his beautifully intertwining creation. If we will allow it. But remember, don't be deceived or deceiving—His will is accomplished whether we get on board or not.

Do watch and enjoy this more wholesome of the Netflix brand. The woman and nurses in the Kammrath family raved over it, were really spellbound. There are depths in characters and storylines that pull you in and leave a tear in your eye and heart in the right kinds of ways.

Kevin Dierks

Scripture Study: Peter & Philippians

Join us from 6:00-7:30 pm on Wednesdays in July as we go through Peter's second letter to the church. Peter will challenge us with how to endure in hope while human Civilization collapses around us. Then in August will look at Paul's letter to the Philippians and the hope and encouragement he offers even while he sits in prison for the Way of Jesus.

VBS & Golf Tournament Changes

Due to COVID-19 the golf tournament has been moved to Friday, September 11. Talk to Kevin if you have any questions. Also due to the virus VBS will likely get pushed back to the middle of September. We are trying to navigate what it means to connect with the neighborhood kids but not propagate the spread of COVID-19 in our city.

St Luke's Schedule

Sunday

- 9:30 am Holy Communion
- 10:30 am Food & Fellowship
- 11:15 am Text of the Week Study

Monday

- 6:00 pm Table Talk

Tuesday

- 5:30 pm St Luke's Council — July 7, Aug 4

Wednesday

- 6:00 pm Scripture Study: 2 Peter (July), Philippians (August)

🎂 Birthdays 🎂

- Janice Zugelder — 1 Jul
- Chrissy May — 2 Jul
- John Espino — 10 Jul
- Kathy Polzkill — 20 Jul
- Cindy Ford — 25 Jul
- Mason Frazell-Hoover — 26 Jul
- Morgan Dierks — 1 Aug
- Daniel Gibson — 10 Aug
- Marie Sasnett — 17 Aug
- Dean Bridge — 21 Aug
- David Sasnett — 24 Aug
- Ralph Heiden — 27 Aug

♥ Marriages ♥

- Chuck & Donna Payne
11 Jul 1970 — 50 yrs
- Dean & Tina Bridge
3 Aug 1991 — 29 yrs
- Tom & Rose Tiszka
4 Aug 1984 — 36 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