



St Luke's Lutheran Church Newsletter

"Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus"

September | October 2020

Pastor's Corner

"This is how my Father in heaven will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." (Matthew 18:35)

We had a setback at the Disciple Garden with a pretty serious theft at the end of July. Our mower, wood chipper, and chainsaw were stolen as well as the tractor and trailer we were borrowing from one of our contractors. These losses amount to \$7,000-10,000. It is hard not to feel violated by such actions. I personally have gone through a whole string of emotions about the event over the weeks since.

As strange as it seems, this theft episode has been really good for me spiritually and helped me to recenter on the teachings of Jesus. As my outrage and frustration were bubbling over, I was reminded that Jesus teaches us that we own nothing and God owns everything. These "things" that were taken, were never "mine" and never even "ours" in the first place. They were gifts from God and as Job reminds us, "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

But even once I got past that, I was still outraged because God was stolen from. I wanted justice on HIS behalf, not mine. But then again I was hit right between the eyes by more words from Jesus. Jesus says, "Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you." He also says, "Treat others in the way you want to be treated." But then I rationalized this and thought, "I would want someone to be hard on me if I had done something like this." But then yet again, Jesus's words hit me. This time his parable of the unforgiving servant.

In this parable, Jesus tells of a man who begs for mercy from his master because he has a gigantic and unpayable debt. The master in his great mercy forgives the man and sets him free. However, this man then goes out and



throws another person in jail because he owes him \$100. When the master hears about this, he then cancels his forgiveness toward the man and throws him in prison. Jesus concludes saying, "This is how my Father in heaven will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Ouch. Here I am wanting "justice" against these people who stole from the Disciple Garden. Yet how do I want God to treat me in the midst of my brokenness and failures and mistakes? Would I want him to get "justice" or would I want him to show me mercy? I don't know about you, but I want God to show me mercy and lots of it.

And so we will pray for those who stole from the Disciple Garden. We will offer them mercy and forgiveness because we know that Jesus has forgiven us a debt that is much bigger than a few thousand dollars. We love, because he first loved us. Let us never forget that. Let's forgive in the way we want to be forgiven.

Pastor Luke



Council Corner

Our Church Council appointed Christina Bridge to be our secretary and David Sasnett to be our president. Marie Sasnett will continue as our Financial Deacon (treasurer) and David Sasnett will also be our Property Deacon. We have also officially signed a three year agreement with Habitat for Humanity to lease part of our upstairs education wing starting on October 1. They have begun the process of getting the space ready for their move. The church is in the middle of transitioning into the old Riverview Health space and using that as our gathering space in the future. This lease with Habitat for Humanity will give us great financial stability and a wonderful ministry partner, all without losing any real functionality in our building. We are very grateful that the Lord brought this opportunity to us. This fall we will also continue to explore how to bring back as much of our ministries as we can without putting ourselves or others at risk of COVID-19. Please pray that we are given the wisdom of how to move forward in these strange times, especially with choir and Jesus Time.



Disciple Garden Corner

All the construction down along 10th Street is finished. The concrete driveway transition, as well as the repaving of 10th street where our utilities came across, is complete. The exterior insulation and stucco is finished on the building. The HVAC system has begun to be installed. The drywall is up throughout the building. Tile is in the process of going up on the shower walls. Once the drywall is finished being taped and mudded and the domed ceilings have been sprayed with a light texture, we will finish the painting (which has already started), get the flooring installed, and get all the cabinets and fixtures in. We continue to be incredibly grateful at how the Lord has provided for our every need along this crazy development journey. Thank you to all of you who have faithfully contributed to this effort over the last few years in both prayers and resources. We can definitely see the light at the end of the tunnel, but only God knows when that light will finally be here.



Community Ministry Corner

People—we want to please them and we want them to like us/worship us as we are. Yet we're clearly called to please the Heavenly Father alone, with our utmost. And ironically this is simple/simply what pleases God, and the godliness alive in each man. This is the sole needed focus for people each day.

I've finally lived enough, as I've shared, and finally started to dig into/peel back the layers of cataracts blinding me to the ways of man and the ways of me as a man that aren't quite right, or are down right wrong.

Another occasional awareness and pondering that surfaces from within as I observe what goes on around me and within me, is how interesting it is to observe how we like things our way—and of course this is obvious... but it's complicated.

I've noticed in myself and those I spend time with, in my prior way of living, or now, how we offer/take these unspoken contracts to each other. It feels really good and calming and comfortable (and also at times not) to be welcomed into a conversation or group.

From little on, I've been in small settings. I am very thankful for this. I spent countless years being in the country with few souls around. Spending my days playing with my Dukes of Hazzard cars, watching TV, or bouncing around outside hitting balls, walking and viewing deer, casting a fishing pole. I grew up in small class settings, sometimes 3-5, sometimes 10-15, a small college, and worked in church elementary schools that were 100-200 students in size. I attribute this separateness as a huge benefit to not being as soaked into/soaked up in the mass flow/go of man's ways regularly (Lisa's lense notes

she felt able to separate from mass movements in healthier ways because she was in larger school settings).

I note that I have craved that energy of being accepted and have lived in that, and can continue to desire/delve into that at times. And yet the separateness, small group reality has offered me a chance for more of my own thoughts/questions, yet still find myself joining in with the latest trends or rants. My quirkiness or cluelessness seemed never to be socially conscious enough to, most of the time, have kept up with the clothing trends, haircut trends, music trends, whatever trends that man mass consumes and is drawn to.

And yet, I was/am drawn to go/get a feeling of belonging, acceptance, approval, attention, when someone notices me or my ways or my thoughts. I not only like this when it's given, I also am offended, hurt, etc when it is not given. When less than full approval is given, I don't process it and learn from it as I could/should. I resist. I (and I'm not alone) offer up the same failed offering again and again to the audience who has clearly voted "no, no thanks, not cool", or I offer the same pattern as a trial in a future group and gathering audience. I do this so that they can declare a comment, or action, or lifestyle is approved, and I don't need to take the hard look in the mirror as to why something about me is not ruled acceptable, or awesome, or good enough, or most importantly right. Next letter I'll delve into one or two of the poor examples of this in me, of when man is directing me back to godlier ways and I can't hear or won't listen.

Kevin Dierks

Scripture Study: Titus & Timothy

Join us from 6:00-7:30 pm on Wednesdays in September and October as we go through Paul's "pastoral epistles" of Titus and 1 & 2 Timothy. Paul will offer guidance for church leaders and how to stay faithful in a dark world. He will also offer his final words of advice and self-reflection before his execution at the hands of the Roman Empire.

Golf Tournament Changes

Sadly, due to COVID-19 our 20th annual golf tournament has been cancelled for 2020. We believed that it was the most responsible course of action in this climate. In place of the tournament we are asking our partners in this annual fundraiser and our members to give a special \$40 gift to our ministry efforts this fall. This \$40 represents our profit from the normal \$85 registration. Talk to Kevin if you any have questions.

St Luke's Schedule

Sunday

- 9:30 am Holy Communion
- 10:30 am Food & Fellowship
- 11:15 am Text of the Week Study
- 5:00 pm St Luke's Council — Sep 13, Oct 11

Monday

- 6:00 pm Table Talk

Wednesday

- 6:00 pm Scripture Study: Titus & Timothy (Sep & Oct)

🎂 Birthdays 🎂

- Immanuela Kammrath — 11 Sep
- Micah Dierks — 12 Sep
- Donna Payne — 20 Sep
- Hubert Brown — 21 Sep
- Samantha Timpe — 8 Oct
- Yeshua Kammrath — 9 Oct
- Judy May — 28 Oct
- Stan Loftiss — 31 Oct

♥ Marriages ♥

- Jack & Deborah Wagner
28 Sep 1968 — 52 yrs
- Cindy & Chuck Ford
1 Oct 1994 — 26 yrs
- Luke & Julie Kammrath
5 Oct 2012 — 8 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