



St Luke's Lutheran Church Newsletter

"Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus"

November | December 2020

Pastor's Corner

"...led away into exile." (2 Kings 25:21)

The entire Biblical story and narrative is a story of exile. This exile starts as humanity severs its relationship with the Creator, by wanting to protect and provide for themselves. It continues as humanity is removed and exiled from the garden Paradise. It continues as Abraham's family leaves Babylon and is exiled from Civilization to rejoin the Creator in the wilderness. It continues as Abraham's family severs its relationship with the Creator to return to Egyptian Civilization in a time of famine. It continues as the Creator rescues his people from exile in Egypt and brings them back to himself in the wilderness. It continues as the Lord gives his people a promised land. It continues as the people refuse to live with the Creator as their king and ask for their own Civilization and temple in Jerusalem. It continues as the people refuse to live in harmony with the land and get vomited out, being taken away as slaves into the Civilizations of Babylon and Assyria. It continues as Jerusalem and the temple are destroyed. It continues as the people rebuild Jerusalem and the temple in defiance of the Lord. It continues as they are oppressed and exiled in the Civilizations of Persia, Greece, and Rome. It continues as Jesus calls the people to follow him out of exile in Civilization and back to the Lord's garden Paradise. It continues as Jesus is rejected by Civilization, exiled from Jerusalem, and crucified. It continues as Jesus is raised from the dead, opening the Lord's garden Paradise to all who follow. It continues as the people don't listen to Jesus, leading to Jerusalem and the temple being destroyed once again.

And the story of the Bible and exile continues and does not stop there. It continues as we hear the call of Jesus today and either follow him or reject him. We cannot avoid exile. In this life, we will live as exiles one way or another. If we are "friends of this world" (Civilization), then we will live in exile from the Creator. But if we

hear the call of Jesus and follow, then we will be exiled from Civilization and its way of life. We can either find a home in the world of Civilization and be destroyed and cut off from the Creator. Or we can find a home following Jesus and become rejected and disowned by Civilization.



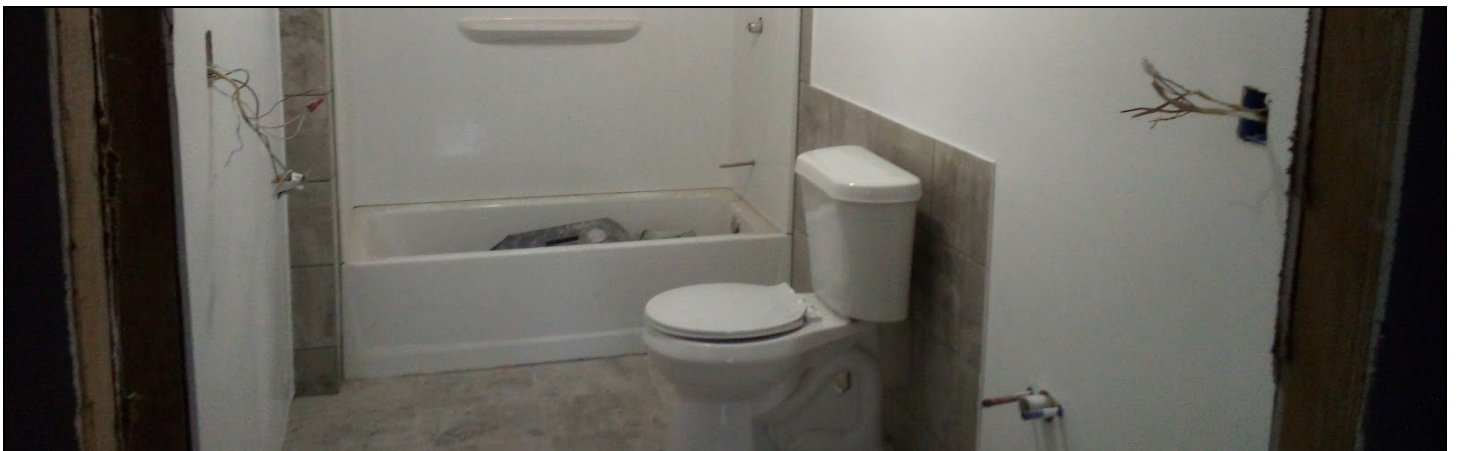
This time of COVID-19 is also a time of exile. So many of us have been cut off and removed from so many things that were once part of our lives. But this exile isn't necessarily bad, it can also be good. Has COVID-19 exiled you from the church and the Word of God? Such an exile will destroy you. Has COVID-19 exiled you from the rat race of Civilization? Such an exile will save you. We cannot escape COVID-19 and we cannot escape exile. But if we follow Jesus and attach ourselves closer to him everyday, then even COVID-19 and its exile will be for our good. If we stick to Jesus, then all things are for our good. But if we wander from Jesus, then everything, even what was once good for us, will destroy us. Stick to Jesus, it's the only thing that matters.

Pastor Luke



Council Corner

It is very strange to have such a slow autumn season in the church. Many of our activities with the children of the neighborhood and things like choir or the golf tournament have been paused and put on hold for COVID-19. Thankfully we are still able to do the most important thing for being the church of Jesus Christ: gather together to listen to his Word. If you haven't already, this strange time is an incredible opportunity to take a step back from normal, busy routines and evaluate what is the most essential for your life of walking with Jesus. We pray that everyone in our church will take this time with COVID-19 to connect more closely to the Word of Jesus in worship, studies, and devotions. This is a time for everything else in life to slow down or pause, while going deeper in the one thing that matters: listening to Jesus. Never forget the story of Mary and Martha. Martha was busy with the tasks of life while Mary chose to stop and listen to Jesus. Jesus said Mary chooses the better thing. Make sure you are stopping to listen, every week, every day.



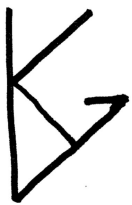
Disciple Garden Corner

We believe, Lord willing, that all of our fundraising for the Disciple Garden is complete. This is a **massive** milestone and we are so incredibly grateful for all of your faithful and generous gifts to this project. Construction continues to go slower than anticipated for various reasons and I am shocked at how many people have horror stories from construction processes in their own lives. But nevertheless, we continue to inch closer and closer to finishing the building and getting full occupancy. All that is left is some final flooring and painting, as well as final fixtures, HVAC, wood stoves, and cabinet installation. This process could be done in November, but as we have learned all too well during this journey: only the Lord knows and it will be on HIS timing, not ours. Regardless we have been grateful to be able to meet out at the Disciple Garden already for worship this past spring and also for some fires and birthday parties this fall.



Community Ministry Corner

I spent a portion of my fifth grade year creating my monogram, between assignments, lectures, and lessons. There is a lot of downtime in school as long as you are quiet and compliant. What to do in this endless compliant, seated state of silence and boredom? Here's what a lot of dabbling resulted in the KGD initials for Kevin Gene Dierks produced in final draft...



And I've been thinking about the truth of the complexity of our stamp, our identifiers, our print, our mark as individuals, which is in reality the compilation and consolidation of a lot of history and procreating and covenant marriage formulations between many and varied people, families and cultures. Morgan's college friend from Cancun, Mexico asked sincerely, why is Morgan's name only Dierks. Better than Morgan's boyfriend's sincere question: Tell me how you all ended up together again. The name of Morgan's friend from Cancun honors the maternal and paternal birth parents' names. It is very bizarre to her that Morgan is claimed/proclaimed as Dierks alone.

Why are my progeny labelled Dierks? It is a much more varied genetic and behavioral mix between four family line branches grafted together. And for many reasons, both good and bad for me, I believe a practice implemented by cultures outside of America include the last names of both marriage partners for their kiddies/offspring/their most creative and valued productions. Why have I absorbed the name of Lisa's heritage and my mother's heritage under the sole paternal name of Dierks? Rae, my mom, is a Peterson (dad) and Sigurdson (mom) production. My Dad was

a Dierks/Schipper offspring. I am Dierks (pops) and Peterson (mumsy) image unveiled. Lisa is a Kammrath (father) and Kuehnert (mother) unique replication.

And if you've listened to me a minute, you know I love to think about family-systems at our best and our worst. My best merging and meshing of our 3 offspring, I this day declare, as no longer Dierks (not that there's anything wrong with that) but better recognized as KuehnDieRathSon or DieKuehnRathSon. This is from Dierks, Kuehnert (pronounced keen), Kammrath, and Peterson. I think this could preach on a few levels.

So I am intrigued by this concept of sharing the credit and blame of all, even though we are and are to be simply sons and daughters adopted into the family of the heavenly Father and a very human mother church, brothers and sisters in Christ and His Spirit still being revealed and revealing.

I have yet to share with my children their new last name identifier, marker. I'm not sure it will catch, but I invite them to own it and expand their mark to include each branch of our current wild, wooly bloodlines each attempting faithfulness, each with lots to learn and grow into.

Hope to hear some of your dabbling with your 4 branch grafts of family lines merged and mushed together to see if anything catchy comes together that rings true for your last name compilation to honor a bit of each heritage that formed you for better or for worse.

Kevin Dierks

Scripture Study: Hebrews

Join us from 6:00-7:30 pm on Wednesdays in November, December, and January as we go through the Epistle to the Hebrews. This strange and sometimes difficult letter will explore how Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament priesthood and temple as well as the truest voice of God. It will challenge us to repent and listen TODAY because we never know when it will be too late. Now is the time to change and grow, do not delay.

2020 Fundraiser Success!

In place of our 20th Annual Golf Tournament, we asked our partners in this annual fundraiser to give a special \$40 gift to our ministry efforts this fall. This \$40 represents our profit from the normal \$85 golf registration. We have had a great response and have received over \$3,200! And an anonymous matching gift will be given in November. If you want to give and haven't, you still have time. We praise the Lord for his generosity through so many of you!

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 — Nov 8, Dec 6

Monday

6:00 pm Table Talk

Wednesday

6:00 pm Scripture Study: Hebrews (Nov, Dec, Jan)

🎂 Birthdays 🎂

Cameron Williams — 1 Nov
Bill Mellott — 18 Nov
Chuck Payne — 20 Nov
Sonia Gardner — 22 Nov
Carolyn Davis — 26 Nov
Cindy Howard — 21 Dec
Jack Wagner — 28 Dec

♥ Marriages ♥

Bill & Lucy Mellott
22 Dec 1964 — 56 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