



St Luke's Lutheran Church Newsletter

"Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus"

January | February 2021

Pastor's Corner

"'Judgment is mine,' says the Lord." (Romans 12:19)

Overseeing the construction of the Disciple Garden over these last three years has been an incredible learning experience. Not only learning the dark underbelly of bureaucracies and all the little details that go into utility and building construction, but even more so spiritually. I have been faced with seeing my own inner darkness come out in my impatience and in anger at bureaucrats and contractors. Never before have I been faced with so many desires for vengeance and payback on people who have ignored us, stolen from us, or taken advantage of us.

For the first time in my life I feel like I have really understood the emotions of the so-called "imprecatory psalms." These are the psalms that call on the Lord's judgment and vengeance against our enemies. Take Psalm 59 for example and these words that speak many sentiments of my own heart, "Lord, angry people plan to harm me, even though I haven't hurt them in any way or sinned against them.... Punish them all. Don't show any mercy to those sinful people who have turned against me..... Destroy them. They have sinned with their mouths. Their lips have spoken evil words. They have cursed me and lied. Let them be caught in their pride. Burn them up in your anger. Burn them up until there isn't anything left of them." These have been my feelings, and I bet you can relate in your own darkest moments of life when you have felt most hurt by others.

I used to think these words and prayers had no place in the life of the Christian, but now I see how important it is to dump our darkest feelings upon the Lord with such prayers. These imprecatory prayers are ultimately a beautiful thing because they are an act of looking to the Lord in trust. As Psalm 59 says, "God, you are like a fort to me. You are my God, and I can depend on you."

By taking our desires for punishment, payback, and vengeance to the Lord, we are refusing vengeance ourselves, just as Jesus taught. Jesus told us it is not our place to judge or take vengeance on others. And Paul quotes Deuteronomy 32 by reminding us that all vengeance and judgment belong to God alone.



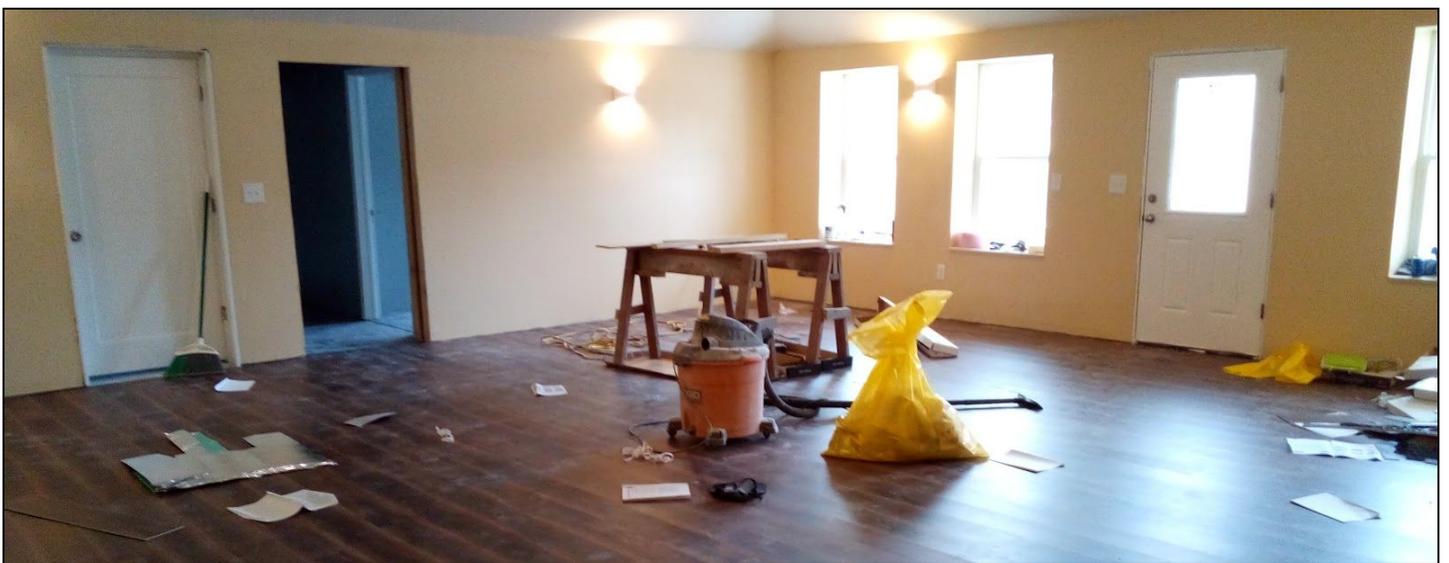
We are going to be hurt. We are going to be betrayed. We are going to be stolen from. We are going to be taken advantage of. We are going to be abused. We cannot stop all these things from coming upon us in this dark world. And these traumas are going to elicit powerful emotions and feelings within us. The question is, "What are we going to do with those feelings?" The answer must be the words of a favorite hymn, "Take it to the Lord in prayer." Ask the Lord for vengeance, payback, and judgment upon your enemies. That is his area and he will do it right. But leave those emotions and desires there in his hands. And then as you go forth into the world and face those enemies, give them exactly what you have received from the Lord's own good hands: Forgiveness. Mercy. Love.

Pastor Luke



Council Corner

So many people, businesses, and churches have been struggling financially in 2020. We are so incredibly blessed that the Lord has provided for us so abundantly during these trying times. We as a congregation passed our 2021 budget in December and decided to do a \$2,000 reduction in order to be good stewards of what the Lord has provided. However, our giving in 2020 was even better than 2019 and we finished very strongly “in the black.” We will use some of these excess funds to repair the roofs on the parsonage and duplex next to our sanctuary. Thank you for all of your generosity and commitment to keeping our church a lively and passionate outpost of the Body of Christ. Finally, Kansas Gas Service has reached out to the Council and is requesting a temporary construction easement in the northeast corner of the Disciple Garden property. The Council is in the midst of negotiations to try to find a win-win scenario for both the church and KGS. Please pray that the Lord’s will is done as we look into this.



Disciple Garden Corner

The electrical fixtures are all in place, the flooring (both luxury vinyl and tile) is finished, the painting is done, the HVAC is installed, and many other little details have fallen into place. However, per the usual with this construction experience, we have run into some significant hurdles, but the Lord has repeatedly made a way forward for us and provided (at times seemingly miraculously) all that we need. We are “close” (only God knows what that means exactly) to getting the cabinets installed, the final interior doors in place, final trim and baseboards installed, and the wood stoves installed. We are hoping to do this all as soon as possible, while remembering that the Lord’s timing will always prevail regardless of our pushing and our eagerness.



Community Ministry Corner

Happy 2021. Welcome to another year of basic Christianity instruction and living. As promised I cut this acronym bit out of our Sesame Street Sermon Series in November highlighting the letter E, and apparently I was/am still stuck there with E in December if you were listening to our talk about Daniel. I print this letter poem rant here instead:

So the Christian alphabet life is a piece of cake—it's easy—you get an A in religion or confirmation as a 12 year old—you're aces man AND! man's ways blindly assure you and me!... evern as our deep inner spirit recognizes something is not quite right...

Acrostic alphabet poems (the first letter of the line is simply a word or a phrase of your choosing) of kids in classrooms are worthy of the letter grade judgement/evaluation (sing along the scale) A, B, C, D, E.... two samples for you:

A - alleluia apples
B - beilef bananas
C - communion cheerios
D - death, sin, the devil doritos
E - Everlasting life energy drinks

Sounds like we could have applied ourselves more in both religion acronym poems, but why? And careful, do you know if I am the teacher that I can't wait to take off points for capitalization, punctuation and spelling erros?

1st thing in your mind, quickly put in print your faith alphabet acronym poem/life that you would write today.

Ready...set... Give me an A, don't stress, who would dare not give a sweet kid, great kid, and good family anything but an A grade on the way of Christian education which is Awesome....or ... as Jesus kindly, harshly corrects?....No one is Good but the Father (Luke 18:19).

Here's mine that I am learning to live into with E's easily mistaken/misrepresented as EASE.

A - always, above

B - BEYOND, beneath, below be holy as the LORD
God is holy

C - Covenant, crucifixion, circumcision, canonical
.... those words are easy, piece of cake, nothing to learn/hear here, to inwardly digest or to live into right...

D - Denying your natural self and ways surrounding, that have saturated/swamped you and your loved ones from your day of Natural man/woman conception, Schweitzer says Paul's teachings unite the mix/match, mismatched attempts of man to map out laws or traditions to salvation because death/resurrection is both a today and a for eternity proposition and reality—easy peasy.....lemon squeezy... we "knew" that.... we know! Each of us little Christian know-it-all's brag...

E - everyday every breath eternity

Next letter I may share my sample acrostic poem I need to get in print from Socks Kierkegaard's internet archive audio book Training in Christianity and The Edifying Discourse as I listen to it this holiday season.

Kevin Dierks

“40 Days of Walking the Way”

Join us at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays starting on Ash Wednesday (Feb 17) as we spend six weeks in Lent further immersing ourselves in the Way of Jesus. We will once again dive into the sacraments of Baptism, Repentance, and Communion while (re)learning how to daily walk the Way of Faith, Hope, and Love. We will do this alongside Jesus as he walks to the cross, trusting in his Father to raise him from the dead.

Table Talk: “The Patient Ferment of the Early Church”

Join us on Mondays starting on Feb 1 as we go through Alan Kreider’s landmark book, “The Patient Ferment of the Early Church.” As we learn about the early church’s practices and way of life, we will purposefully connect it to how we can apply it to our own evolving life as a church. Please join us in these important conversations concerning our possible future directions as a church.

St Luke’s Schedule

Sunday

- 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
- 10:30 am Food & Fellowship
- 11:15 am Text of the Week Study
- 5:00 pm St Luke’s Council — Jan 10, Feb 7

Monday

- 6:00 pm Table Talk (“Patient Ferment” starts Feb 1)

Wednesday

- 6:00 pm Scripture Study: Hebrews (Jan, Feb)
- 6:30 pm “40 Days of Walking the Way” (starts Feb 17)

🎂 Birthdays 🎂

- Christina Bridge — 3 Jan
- Marsha Oyer — 7 Jan
- Jennie Nichols — 10 Jan
- Julie Kammrath — 14 Jan
- Chuck Ford — 16 Jan
- Kathy Tharp — 19 Jan
- Steve May — 25 Jan
- Jennifer Wagner — 3 Feb
- Kimberly Padgett — 8 Feb

♥ Marriages ♥

- Dave & Marie Sasnett
27 Jan 2007 — 14 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

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January 2021

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
3 Christmas II "In Spirit & Truth" John 4 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	4 Table Talk (6:00 pm)	5	6 Scripture Study: Hebrews (6:00 pm)	7	8	9 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
10 The Epiphany of Our Lord "Those Who Listen Will Live" John 5 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	11 Table Talk (6:00 pm)	12	13 Scripture Study: Hebrews (6:00 pm)	14	15	16 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
17 Epiphany II "Bread of Life" John 6 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	18 Table Talk (6:00 pm)	19	20 Scripture Study: Hebrews (6:00 pm)	21	22	23 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
24 Epiphany III "Don't Judge Appearances" John 7-8 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	25 Table Talk (6:00 pm)	26	27 Scripture Study: Hebrews (6:00 pm)	28	29	30 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
31 Epiphany IV "The Blind" John 9--10 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)						

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	1 Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	2	3 Scripture Study: Hebrews (6:00 pm)	4	5	6 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
7 Epiphany V "Come Out!" John 11 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	8 Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	9	10 Scripture Study: Hebrews (6:00 pm)	11	12	13 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
14 Transfiguration of Our Lord "If it Dies, it Produces Fruit" John 12 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	15 Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	16	17 Ash Wednesday (6:30 pm) "40 Days of Walking the Way" Way of Faith: Surrendering	18	19	20 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
21 Lent I "Love Each Other" John 13 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	22 Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	23	24 Worship (6:30 pm) "40 Days of Walking the Way" Way of Faith: Listening	25	26	27 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
28 Lent II "I Am the Way" John 14 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)						