

# St Luke's Lutheran Church Newsletter

*"Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus"*

**May | June 2021**

## **Pastor's Corner**

*"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have trusted." (John 20:29)*

In one of the final scenes of John's Gospel, the disciples encounter the resurrected Jesus but Thomas is not there with them. Later, the disciples tell Thomas about Jesus being raised from the dead but Thomas says that he will not trust and be faithful to the reality of the resurrection until he sees Jesus with his own eyes and touches him with his own hands.

At another time, Jesus then appears again to the disciples and this time Thomas is there. Jesus purposefully goes up to Thomas and invites him to touch and see that he is indeed bodily raised from the dead. After touching and seeing, Thomas then declares his trust in Jesus as Lord. Jesus then says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have trusted."

Thomas has gotten a bad reputation throughout church history because of this scene and has been labeled as "Doubting Thomas." But back in John 11, it was Thomas who led the charge urging the disciples to follow Jesus back into Judea, knowing that death was going to be their fate. Thomas clearly was trusting and faithful enough to be ready to carry his cross with Jesus. So what is going on here at the end of the Gospel?

Back in John 8, Jesus told his disciples, "If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples." What makes one a disciple of Jesus is not a flash in the pan, high moment of trust. What makes a disciple is "remaining" and patiently enduring in the word of Jesus.

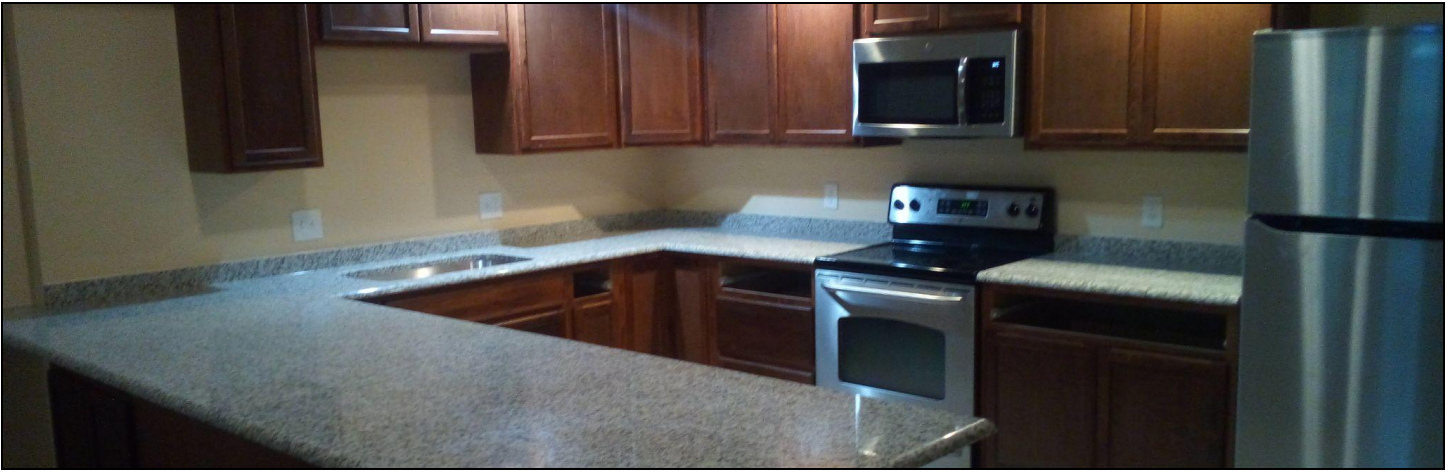


Thomas had a flash of courage and bravery and faith when the notion of dying with Jesus was just an abstract idea and concept. But the Gospel challenges us to see that true discipleship has staying power. It "remains." It remains when death becomes a concrete reality. It remains when our physical eyes can only see death and brokenness all around us. True discipleship has eyes of faith, eyes that can penetrate the "invisible" realm of God.

Hence Jesus says blessedness is found when we let faith be our eyes. If we insist on making physical sight our only means of seeing, then we will be blind. But if we allow the word of Jesus to remain in our hearts, then we will have eyes to see the truth of God's work among us.

Is your vision of reality limited to what your physical eyes can see? Or do you have the eyes of faith to see the resurrection of Jesus that is already present and at work among us?

Pastor Luke



## **Council Corner**

The Council is so grateful that we were able to get the roofs replaced on both the parsonage and duplex in April. We are thankful for your generosity and for the diligent work of Ralph Heiden which made it possible. The Council has agreed to terms with Kansas Gas Service on a temporary construction easement and a much smaller permanent right-of-way easement at the Disciple Garden. The congregation will be meeting to give its approval for the permanent easement since it involves a permanent change to the church's real estate. The Council is also very grateful for five years of incredible work that Hubert Brown has put in as our property manager. He has accomplished so many little and big things over these five years that have helped our property in so many ways. We will miss him, but we are glad he will now have some more time for relaxation in his schedule. We are also thankful that Stan Loftiss is willing to take over as property manager in Hubert's stead.



## **Disciple Garden Corner**

Things are really coming together at the Disciple Garden. Despite a long national delay with countertops, the custom granite countertops have been installed after a six plus week wait and the kitchen sink is now in place as the final required piece before final inspections. Final inspections will begin the first week of May as there will be StormWater, Planning, Building, Public Works, and Fire inspections. We are hoping to secure at least temporary occupancy in May, if not permanent occupancy if all goes well and smoothly. A maintenance bond still needs to be secured for the public sewer extension that we built down on 10th Street, which could lead to a delay in permanent occupancy. But as soon as occupancy is given, Pastor Luke's family will move out to the Disciple Garden and we will move our studies on Mondays and Wednesdays to that space. We will then begin an exciting new chapter of exploring together as a church what that space can be for our life moving forward.





## Community Ministry Corner

As the option of vaccination has allowed you and me to take a shot or two, here is my summer's seasonal plan for us.

### 1) Extended Bible/Book Nights

On Mondays and Wednesdays we'll extend our gathering times for some informal, come-if-you-can fellowship. We will gather before our focused study times (from 5-6 pm) and stay a little later (from 7:15-8 pm) to "commune" with bring-your-own food, conversation, music, and/or games. The goal is to begin these extended times once the church has been given occupancy at the Disciple Garden, for that is where those Monday and Wednesday gatherings will move. We hope to use this time to get to know each other more in an informal setting.

### 2a) Pickleball Tuesdays

Reserve a half hour slot with me from 6 - 10 am on Tuesdays by emailing me at [kgdierks@gmail.com](mailto:kgdierks@gmail.com). I'm up early and tennis courts are in most of our neighborhoods. I've got the equipment and the time before the heat of the day hits to meet you (and a few others if you want) at a tennis court near you. I'll introduce you to a fun socially spaced, social sport.

### 2b) Take-a-Hike, Take-a-Shovel Saturdays

Reserve a half hour slot from 6 - 10 am on Saturdays by emailing me at [kgdierks@gmail.com](mailto:kgdierks@gmail.com). We will focus on being outdoors, whether enjoying or working at the Disciple Garden or walking at a place of your choosing. All you need to bring is a bit of ponderings (it can be a book or book of the Bible that's resonating, challenging, inspiring or confusing you) to chat on for 5 minutes before, during, or after some low stress outdoor exercise. The default ponderings will be any of the four texts pastor preaches on or emails as devotional hits during our week.

### 3) Give You a Ring

I'll be giving you a ring to catch up on life and things. I'll survey and dig a bit as to what is going well in your life/family currently, ask you to wax nostalgic of better days gone by, and also with our church, today and yesterday. I'll also look for ways you like being connected, miss being connected, and ways we can reincorporate any ways you miss that have fallen by the wayside. After a phone chat or two this summer and year, as agreed on by you (feel free to pass), I'll schedule an easy dinner to bring your way (for one, two, four or eight) and visit in the yard, on the porch or in your house. This can also be reversed, you can do this with Lisa (maybe) and me at church, at the Disciple Garden, or at my house on 17th St. The idea is light fun like card games, yard games, or just visiting and eating, with a taste of faith processings.

### 4) Monthly Gatherings

I'll try to schedule on Saturday evenings or Sundays afternoons, with the heart of Ann Hauser, a monthly, one to three hour outing/gathering and publicize it for our St. Luke's members. Ideas include (and please weigh in with other ideas): camping on a saturday night at the Disciple Garden, sunday bowling day, sunday pool day, sunday afternoon outdoor game day (bean bag toss, frisbee, or afternoon at a park). And as cold weather sets in, maybe more of a bunco, bingo, movie night indoor venue. Again, no stress, take it or leave it, if it works in your schedule.

So look/listen for my phone contact, hopefully without dread. Glad to be focusing on faith and faith family, food and fun, along with you, in the eternal learning of living faithfulness, as the world starts to possibly open up safely post initial waves of a year of Covid isolation.

Kevin Dierks

## **“Patient Ferment” Book Study**

Join us on Mondays at 6 pm as we continue to go through Alan Kreider’s landmark book, “The Patient Ferment of the Early Church.” We are learning about the early church’s practices and way of life and how we can apply it to our own evolving life as a church. These are important conversations for the current life-stage of our church, so please join us to learn and offer your insights and wisdom.

## **Revelation Scripture Study**

Join us on Wednesdays at 6 pm as we continue to go through the strange, challenging, and often misinterpreted book of Revelation. We will see that behind all the metaphors, the message of Revelation is quite simple and powerful. It is a message that brings together the whole Biblical story and helps us to see the truth of the reality that is unfolding all around us.

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### **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 — May 16, Jun 13

#### **Monday**

6:00 pm Table Talk: “Patient Ferment of the Early Church”

#### **Wednesday**

6:00 pm Scripture Study: Revelation

### **🎂 Birthdays 🎂**

Todd Deines — 2 May  
Sondra Loftiss — 3 May  
Sarah Martin — 23 May  
Kevin Dierks — 26 May  
Charlene Sargent — 9 Jun  
Rose Tiszka — 12 Jun  
Luke Kammrath — 23 Jun

### **♥ Marriages ♥**

Steve & Chrissy May  
3 Jun 1989 — 32 yrs  
Todd & Roxanne Deines  
10 Jun 2000 — 21 yrs  
Stan & Sondra Loftiss  
15 Jun 2013 — 8 yrs  
Kevin & Lisa Dierks  
17 Jun 1995 — 26 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](http://www.stlukeskck.org)

<i>St. Luke's Lutheran Church</i>		<i>"Love the Creator &amp; His Creation Like Jesus"</i>				<i>May 2021</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>2</b>  <b>Easter V</b> <b>"It Is the Lord!"</b> <b>John 21:1-14</b>  Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	<b>3</b>    Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	<b>4</b>      	<b>5</b>    Scripture Study: Revelation (6:00 pm)	<b>6</b>      	<b>7</b>      	<b>8</b>    MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
<b>9</b>  <b>Easter VI</b> <b>"Follow Me"</b> <b>John 21:15-25</b>  Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	<b>10</b>    Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	<b>11</b>      	<b>12</b>    Scripture Study: Revelation (6:00 pm)	<b>13</b>      	<b>14</b>      	<b>15</b>    MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
<b>16</b>  <b>Ascension of Our Lord</b> <b>"The Dead Will Wake Up"</b> <b>Daniel 12:1-4</b>  Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	<b>17</b>    Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	<b>18</b>      	<b>19</b>    Scripture Study: Revelation (6:00 pm)	<b>20</b>      	<b>21</b>      	<b>22</b>    MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
<b>23</b>  <b>Pentecost Festival</b> <b>"I Will Pour Out My Spirit"</b> <b>Joel 2:28-32</b>  Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	<b>24</b>    Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	<b>25</b>      	<b>26</b>    Scripture Study: Revelation (6:00 pm)	<b>27</b>      	<b>28</b>      	<b>29</b>    MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
<b>30</b>  <b>Holy Trinity</b> <b>"Must Live Like Jesus"</b> <b>1 John 1:1--2:6</b>  Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	<b>31</b>    Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"					

<i>St. Luke's Lutheran Church</i>		<i>"Love the Creator &amp; His Creation Like Jesus"</i>				<i>June 2021</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1	2  Scripture Study: Revelation (6:00 pm)	3	4	5  MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
6  <b>Pentecost III</b> <b>"Do Not Love Civilization"</b> <b>1 John 2:7-27</b>  Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	7  Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	8	9  Scripture Study: Revelation (6:00 pm)	10	11	12  MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
13  <b>Pentecost IV</b> <b>"God's Children"</b> <b>1 John 2:28--3:10</b>  Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	14  Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	15	16  Scripture Study: Revelation (6:00 pm)	17	18	19  MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
20  <b>Pentecost V</b> <b>"Anyone Who Hates Is a Killer"</b> <b>1 John 3:11-24</b>  Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	21	22	23	24	25	26  MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
27  <b>Pentecost VI</b> <b>"We Love Because He Loved Us"</b> <b>1 John 4:1-21</b>  Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	28  Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	29	30  Scripture Study: Revelation (6:00 pm)			