



St Luke's Lutheran Church Newsletter

"Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus"

July | August 2021

Pastor's Corner

"Jesus would often slip away into the wilderness to pray." (Luke 5:16)

Throughout its narrative, Luke's Gospel is very purposeful in highlighting Jesus's practice of "retreating." Jesus's ministry often took him into cities and among great crowds of people. But the Gospel makes it clear that Jesus was not "at home" in these situations. Jesus was more "at home" in the wilderness where he had the quiet and peace to prayerfully focus on his Father in heaven. We are even told that when Jesus came to Jerusalem for that final Passover celebration that he and his disciples left every single night to camp on the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 21:37). Jesus wouldn't even sleep in the great city of Jerusalem that David had made as his home.

All throughout the Scriptures we see that humans were made to live immersed in and surrounded by the rest of God's creation. The cities, walls, and fortresses that we normally surround ourselves with are all unnatural things in God's eyes. The prophets repeatedly speak of God's coming judgment that will destroy all our cities, walls, and fortresses. However, on the other side of this destruction is the renewal of the mountains, trees, rivers, and fields that God himself has made.

So by "retreating" to the wilderness to pray, Jesus was leaving behind man-made cities in order to meet God in the place that God intended us to live. Just like Adam who "walked with God" in the garden, Jesus walked with God in the wilderness.

By practicing "retreat" during his ministry, Jesus leaves us an example to follow. In his final prayer for his disciples (including us), Jesus asked his Father not to take us out of the "world" (Civilization) but to protect us from its evil (John 17:9-21). Jesus intentionally sends us into the "world" (Civilization) as his witnesses, but he does not want us to "belong" to Civilization and be



consumed by its satanic spirit. Therefore, it is essential that we too regularly practice "retreat" like Jesus did.

This is one of the reasons that our church has developed the Disciple Garden. Jesus has called our church into ministry in the inner city of Kansas City, yet he does not want us to be swallowed up by its endless concrete or spiritual ways. The Disciple Garden can be a wilderness "retreat" that can help us sustain a life of prayer in the midst of the "world." Everytime I drive up the driveway onto the Disciple Garden I am still struck by how much it feels like I am entering into another world. Even though the Disciple Garden is still surrounded by the bustling city, its trees, sky, and animals create a buffer that turns its 32 acres into a wilderness oasis.

So let's use this space that God has given us. Let's "retreat" and make sure that we are taking intentional time to connect to our Father in prayer. Our ministry is indeed in the city and in the "world," but our true home is in the wilderness, surrounded, not by man's creation, but by God's creation.

Pastor Luke



Council Corner

As Wyandotte County has lifted its mask requirement, the Council has chosen to leave masking in worship up to each individual person. However, we are still asking that everyone mask during the “Sharing of the Peace” since this is the time in which we are closest together. The Council also wants to remind everyone that the CDC is still recommending masking for those who are unvaccinated and to be aware that Governor Kelly has issued a warning about the Delta Variant of the virus that is beginning to spread in the state. This strain of the virus is much more contagious and more serious, especially for those who are not vaccinated. The congregation will be meeting on July 11 for our annual congregational assembly, so please join us. We will have a 6 month update on our financial situation as well as ministry updates from Luke and Kevin. We continue to be incredibly grateful for all of your regular generosity that has helped us weather the ups and downs of the pandemic.



Disciple Garden Corner

We are so grateful to announce that we received temporary occupancy for the Disciple Garden on May 6 and Pastor Luke’s family has successfully moved out there. There is one outstanding item left before we receive permanent occupancy. We need to add a drainline from our detention pond so that it slowly drains down our driveway. This line is now in place and there is only some landscaping left to accomplish around it. We are hoping to have it approved by the city in early August. We have also acquired pullet chickens and are currently raising 42 of them toward egg laying maturity. Many of our members have also had a chance to see one of the bobcats that reside on the property. It is incredible the diversity of life that resides here in the inner city. Finally, we are excited to begin doing retreats at the Disciple Garden this fall. We will be offering day or overnight retreats for our members with agendas specifically tailored to times of rest, spiritual growth, and personal growth. Please be on the lookout for getting on the schedule, as we would love every member to strongly consider doing at least one retreat a year.



Community Ministry Corner

“Blessed Be the Tie that Binds Our Hearts in Christian Love” - a hymn that reverberates for me as I reflected on Marcus's confirmation weekend. This also includes the hard work of recognizing and patiently, kindly, lovingly breaking bonds that are not forged rightly in the LORD's workshop. I want to support Marc's confirmation and those who joined in celebrating his entry into the challenges of a fully committed Christian adult life with some reflections.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/beyond-the-elements-reactions/>

PBS has a Nova series about science and technology that is too much to absorb in one viewing. It's fascinating hearing the process of using 3x the amount of hydrogen as nitrogen to create ammonia with the Haber-Bosch process—of those chemicals interacting with pressure over extremely high heat with steel wool as a conductor in tubes (refinement) to separate the nitrogen triple bond between these fused, nearly inseparable bonds of N₂. I rewatched it primarily to understand the process of separating the tight bond of Nitrogen to create fuel/fertilizer that has allowed the planet to feed the mass of the human race. Separating nitrogen has also been used to do unbelievable damage as we've seen through war choices. And I wonder if either the harm, or the help, when handled by the minds and hearts of man are truly the plan the Creator desires for His creation. Are we recognizing our dependence on Him in simple communal living as one part of creation?

I'm intrigued by our ability to focus on the wrongs of the Holocaust since it was done by “them over there,” more than Hiroshima, that was done by “us over there.” I'm saddened by my ability to notice this discrepancy in story and historic presentation, but my own slowness to

identify and address thoughts, words and ways, not by them there, but by me here, that also do not align with the Father's depths of divine love. It is an interesting challenge and invitation to allow the Father to rightly create healthy ties to himself and all aspects of his healthy creation. This is a true unlearning process as we mature in recognizing healthy inner and outer processings and true spiritual growth as an individual who is intentional and humble in all interactions with the rest of the Father's creation throughout space and time. It's easy to be distracted.

I am thankful for the invitation and command to be learning and unlearning patterns and relationships during every breath of my life. It's hard and humbling to experience Truth and what we are called to be in each moment. I'm thankful and challenged to watch each of us learning to live again rightly in the Father's heavenly kingdom on earth in small and significant ways—learning to be a harmonious piece of creation that can honor the LORD's ways through the help and guidance of the TRINITY alone.

Marc has learned some solid lessons, can listen to teachings, can pull out key thoughts, truths, and insights. The confirmation process is the beginning of a long, hard journey into the simple ways Jesus has provided. We are called to live humbly and simply in his holy creation, present for each breath of reliance on Him, as He alone provides full truth, justice and healing. So as a member of the church of the Father—here, there or anywhere—may we be seeking with the spiritual eyes and ears he gives us while living simply on earth as it is in heaven.

Kevin Dierks

“Patient Ferment” & Revelation 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.” Also join us at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays as we continue to go through Revelation. We are meeting at the Disciple Garden. Feel free to come early (5:00 pm) and stay late (8:00 pm) for fellowship.

Fall Start-Up: Jesus Time, Bells, & Choir

On Wednesdays at 4:30 pm in the fall (starting on Sep 1) we will bring back Jesus Time at the Disciple Garden as we reconnect with our neighborhood kids after a long hiatus during the pandemic. We will also be bringing back Bell Choir (5:15 pm) and Choir (6:00 pm) on Thursdays, starting Aug 26 in the sanctuary.

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 — Jul 11, Aug 8

Monday

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

Wednesday

4:30 pm Jesus Time (starts Sep 1)
6:00 pm Scripture Study: Revelation

Thursday

5:15 pm Bell Choir (starts Aug 26)
6:00 pm Choir (starts Aug 26)

🎂 Birthdays 🎂

Jan Zugelder — 1 July
John Espino — 10 July
Kathy Polzkill — 20 July
Cindy Ford — 25 July
Mason Frazell — 26 July
Morgan Dierks — 1 Aug
Daniel Gibson — 10 Aug
Debbie Wagner — 14 Aug
Marie Sasnett — 17 Aug
Dean Bridge — 21 Aug
Dave Sasnett — 24 Aug
Ralph Heiden — 27 Aug

♥ Marriages ♥

Chuck & Donna Payne
11 Jul 1970 — 51 yrs
Dean & Tina Bridge
3 Aug 1991 — 30 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

<i>St. Luke's Lutheran Church</i>		<i>"Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus"</i>				<i>July 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	3 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
4 Pentecost VII "His Commands Aren't Hard" 1 John 5:1-21 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	5 Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	6	7 Scripture Study: Revelation (6:00 pm)	8	9	10 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
11 Pentecost VIII "Through Faithfulness" 1 Peter 1:1-12 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)
18 Pentecost IX "Be Holy" 1 Peter 1:13--2:10 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	21 Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	22	23 Scripture Study: Revelation (6:00 pm)	24	25	26 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)
25 Pentecost X "An Example to Follow" 1 Peter 2:11-25 Worship (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	26	27	28	29	30	31 MLM Breakfast Ministry (7:30-9:00 am)

