



# St Luke's Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

**November | December 2021**

## **Pastor's Corner**

*"Come out of Babylon, my people!" (Rev 18:4)*

This is the singular calling of the Biblical narrative. From the Lord calling Abraham to leave Babylon behind (Gen 12) to Lot being called out of Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen 19) to Moses and the people being called out of Egypt (Exod 14) to the people being called out of Babylon again during their exile (Jer 51) to Revelation's final summary of this great calling. This calling is encapsulated in the simple words of our Lord Jesus, which are spoken to each and every one of us this day, "Come, follow me!"

"Babylon" is revealed in the images and narrative of Revelation to be something much more than a single historical nation in the ancient Middle East. We are told that "Babylon" is human Civilization itself. Babylon, Sodom & Gomorrah, Egypt, Assyria—they are all the same. And the real shocker is that Jerusalem is right there with them. The city and nation of God's own people we thought would be different. But it isn't. Jerusalem is of the same Satanic spirit. When Jesus comes to her, Jerusalem crucifies him. She is no different.

Every nation and city that we humans make for ourselves ends up being Babylon/Civilization. Even the most pious and well-intentioned nations and cities are a great evil in rebellion against the Creator. And so the Lord calls us out—out of the sin and selfishness that drives human Civilization—and therefore away from her "plagues" as Revelation puts it.

But this exodus out of Civilization is not something that we can accomplish by just packing our bags and leaving. We could walk out of Kansas City, we could walk out of America and find a corner of complete wilderness and it wouldn't be enough. Why? Because as we see with Israel's journey, we would be taking Civilization with us in our hearts and minds. When God's people came out of Egypt, they discovered that Egypt was still dwelling in their hearts. So they rebuilt Egypt in the wilderness as they



worshiped the golden calf. And they rebuilt Egypt as they came into the "promised land" and appointed their own rulers and made themselves into a nation.

As Jesus reveals, the true exodus from Civilization is one that begins in the heart and mind—it is first a spiritual exodus that leads to the physical liberation of our bodies from the addictions, habits, and patterns of Civilization. This is why Jesus's calling to follow him includes this word: Repent. "Repent" (μετανοεῖτε in Greek) means to change your heart and mind. Civilization has not primarily imprisoned our bodies, it has primarily imprisoned our minds and hearts. And it is only the Word of God that can set us free.

So let's "come out of Civilization" and follow Jesus by listening to his Word. His Word cannot be confined and imprisoned. It crosses all borders, boundaries, and walls. We don't have to go searching for his Word, it has come to us in our slavery to Civilization. It comes to us again this day and calls out of our selfishness and into love. If we daily open our hearts and minds to his Word, it will transform and save us from Civilization.

Pastor Luke





## Council Corner

Thankfully COVID-19 cases are plummeting in our county and are down to very low levels. The county's public, indoor mask mandate expires on Nov 18 and we are hopeful as some epidemiologists are suggesting that we have likely finished the last major COVID-19 wave in the USA. Of course, God only knows what lies ahead for us. And regardless of whether the pandemic is winding down or not, we are so grateful that God has been so faithful to our little church in the midst of it. He has taken care of every need during this difficult season and in many ways has strengthened us to be stronger and more mature than ever. When so many churches around the country are struggling and fearing the possibility of closing, we find ourselves in our strongest financial position in years. Thanks be to God, as we lean on him and not on financial security. Also, a big thank you to the group that volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and helped do painting and flooring in one of their houses in KCMO!



## Disciple Garden Corner

We have officially received our Certificate of Occupancy from the city for the Disciple Garden! This means all of the inspections and oversight from the city is completely behind us. It was an incredibly long journey of 5.5 years from the time of purchasing the land to getting final occupancy. But the journey was worth it and God was faithful every step of the way. We are also excited that our sand volleyball court is finished at the Garden as well (see above). Let us know if you want to play a game! We have also completed 50% of the fencing for our sheep pasture that will allow us to get three sheep next year as well as give our chickens a bigger grazing area. We also had a wonderful time worshipping, eating, and playing out at the Disciple Garden for our Fall Festival. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the day, especially to Marie for the delicious lunch she made for us! Finally, make sure you sign up for a personal retreat at the Disciple Garden. Contact Samantha Timpe at [samantha.timpe@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.timpe@gmail.com) or (219) 508-6194 to get on the calendar. Sam will guide our participants through a pre-meeting as well as a debriefing afterwards. We are currently offering Saturday day retreats and Saturday overnight retreats.





## Community Ministry Corner

“Shtisel” is an intriguing Netflix series a friend mentioned that follows the life of a Ultra-Orthodox Jewish family dealing with loss and adult issues, as people faithful to the Father and Torah and faith and community. There's a bit of romance and drama for the youngest son (3 seasons and 2 relationships worth), the four older siblings and the newly widowed father. At this point in life I fully believe and process, and a bit too late, that each word, action, and moment is prophetic and has spiritual meaning regardless of our daily context. It takes focus, as they speak their native Yiddish tongue, and the viewers have to track the English on the screen. Lisa and I can get through half an episode before we drowsily hit pause and call it a night. So we've stayed the course to finish Season One.

The show's background has faithful, constant efforts and energy of faithfulness and representing faith and God in their interactions, and within their every move. A prayer is uttered at every small snack or full meal, at every cup of water, tea or coffee. There is also a healthy greeting response to "How are you?" — "Praise God" (this is for when things aren't ideal, as well as when fortune seems to be leaning their way). Every entrance and exit of the home takes a touch of the fixture on the door frame and a hand to the lips in kiss and prayer. Another prayer offered from the core comes out as, "Dear God in heaven what do you want from your Jews," after hearing of bad news or death. . Another, "I shall wait on the Lord, I shall entreat his favor." There is a communal sense of honor and respect and making a difference in the relationships you are born into, of family and religious community. It is honorable to study Scripture and teach Scripture. The hair style, the hair coverings for men and women, the tassles front and back on the men and boys, everything is intentional and has meaning, respect, impact. Episode eight has endless lines that speak of God and His faithfulness and ours empowered by him, again focused in each breath and thought and action.

And it's also worth experiencing the heresies in the little things and distractions daily, too much focus on one aspect of our humanity or preferences. One example being the money transfer side-business of the grandmother's friend, that one daughter takes on to help pay bills. And the thread of the youngest son's passion for art and bizarre romances. There are intriguing, confusing, and chilly conversations around food that have real characters from their life hauntingly, yet soothingly, present for the viewer's eyes. For the characters this is so real in their minds, memories and hearts it is as if these characters are still always present and a part of the physical life. I enjoy and am challenged to ponder the meaning of the ancestors and saints who have gone before us, being present in the eternal realm for us of faith with this artistic representation.

As I circle back to this series and finish the 3 seasons, and this draft of reflections, I still appreciate the God focus in every word, action and interaction. I also wonder about the modern writer and actors spin and twist when striving to represent an ultra-urthodox community. Are the representations a fair construct? Are the underlying messages about the ultra-orthodox fair and respectful criticisms?

There is something about the way of those outside the norm (whatever that is or means) that is intriguing and garners respect and reflection for me as I try to understand and be faithful. I believe it is worth pondering for you and me in our lives of living faith today. Another prayer recitation utterance from one offers, "I shall ask him, to grant my tongue eloquence." May this be the prayer in our lives and ways each day also.

Kevin Dierks

## **“The Chosen” & Genesis Study**

Join us on Mondays at 6 pm at the Disciple Garden starting in December as we will watch and discuss the TV series, “The Chosen.” It is a beautiful and creative depiction of the ministry of Jesus. Also join us at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays starting in November as we go through Genesis. We will be at the Disciple Garden in November, but our Wednesday study will move to our main campus for the winter months of December, January, and February.

## **Jesus Time, Bells, Choir, & Christmas Eve**

Jesus Time continues on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm. We will be at the Disciple Garden through Nov, then we will move to our main campus for Dec, Jan, and Feb. Bell Choir (5:15 pm) and Choir (6:00 pm) will continue on Thursdays in the sanctuary, with choir following the mask mandate which ends Nov 18. Finally, join us for worship at 6:30 pm on Friday, December 24 as we celebrate Christmas with our traditional candle-light service!

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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 — Nov 14, Dec 5

#### **Monday**

- 6:00 pm Table Talk: “The Chosen” TV Series (starts in Dec)

#### **Wednesday**

- 4:30 pm Jesus Time
- 6:00 pm Scripture Study: Genesis (starts in Nov)

#### **Thursday**

- 5:15 pm Bell Choir
- 6:00 pm Choir

### **🎂 Birthdays 🎂**

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

### **♥ Marriages ♥**

Bill & Lucy Mellott  
22 Dec 1963 — 58 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>November 2021</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1  Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	2	3  Jesus Time (4:30 pm)  Scripture Study: Genesis (6:00 pm)	4  Bells (5:15 pm) Choir (6:00 pm)	5	6  Breakfast & Devotion (7:00-9:00 am)
7  <b>All Saints</b> <b>"Christ &amp; the Church"</b> <b>Ephesians 5:21--6:9</b>  Liturgy (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  Jesus Time (4:30 pm)  Scripture Study: Genesis (6:00 pm)	11  Bells (5:15 pm) Choir (6:00 pm)	12	13  Breakfast & Devotion (7:00-9:00 am)
14  <b>Pentecost XXVI</b> <b>"The Armor of God"</b> <b>Ephesians 6:10-24</b>  Liturgy (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  Jesus Time (4:30 pm)  Scripture Study: Genesis (6:00 pm)	18  Bells (5:15 pm) Choir (6:00 pm)	19	20  Breakfast & Devotion (7:00-9:00 am)
21  <b>Christ the King</b> <b>"The Gospel"</b> <b>Gospel of Mark</b>  Liturgy (9:30-11:45 am)	22  Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	23	24	25  <b>THANKSGIVING</b>	26	27  Breakfast & Devotion (7:00-9:00 am)
28  <b>Advent I</b> <b>"Return to Me"</b> <b>Malachi 1--4</b>  Liturgy (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	29  Table Talk (6:00 pm): "Patient Ferment of the Early Church"	30				

<i>St. Luke's Lutheran Church</i>		<i>"Love the Creator &amp; His Creation Like Jesus"</i>				<i>December 2021</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1  Jesus Time (4:30 pm)  Scripture Study: Genesis (6:00 pm)	2  Bells (5:15 pm) Choir (6:00 pm)	3	4  Breakfast & Devotion (7:00-9:00 am)
5  <b>Advent II</b> <b>"You Will Be Silent"</b> <b>Luke 1:1-25</b>  Liturgy (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	6  Table Talk (6:00 pm): "The Chosen" TV Series	7	8  Jesus Time (4:30 pm)  Scripture Study: Genesis (6:00 pm)	9  Bells (5:15 pm) Choir (6:00 pm)	10	11  Breakfast & Devotion (7:00-9:00 am)
12  <b>Advent III</b> <b>"Let It Happen As You Said"</b> <b>Luke 1:26-56</b>  Liturgy (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	13  Table Talk (6:00 pm): "The Chosen" TV Series	14	15  Jesus Time (4:30 pm)  Scripture Study: Genesis (6:00 pm)	16  Bells (5:15 pm) Choir (6:00 pm)	17	18  Breakfast & Devotion (7:00-9:00 am)
19  <b>Advent IV</b> <b>"What Will This Child Be?"</b> <b>Luke 1:57-80</b>  Liturgy (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	20  Table Talk (6:00 pm): "The Chosen" TV Series	21	22  Jesus Time (4:30 pm)  Scripture Study: Genesis (6:00 pm)	23  Bells (5:15 pm) Choir (6:00 pm)	24  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>  <b>Worship (6:30 pm)</b> <b>"Peace On Earth"</b> <b>Luke 2:1-52</b>	25  <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
26  <b>Christmas I</b> <b>"What Should We Do?"</b> <b>Luke 3:1-38</b>  Liturgy (9:30 am) Food & Fellowship (10:30 am) Jesus Time & Text Study (11:15 am)	27	28	29	30	31	