



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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 Editor: Jo Klein

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times October 2017

Sunday, October 15 is Stewardship Sunday!

On Stewardship Sunday we celebrate that we have been *blessed to be a blessing!* How have you been blessed through the days and years of your life? Stop and think and pray about that. You will find you have been blessed over and over again. Then think about how you have shared those blessings with other people. I am sure there are many ways that has happened. We also have a collective story about blessings called St. Luke Lutheran Church. Together, we have done some amazing things through the years as we gathered, were blessed and sent out to share those blessings. Come on Sunday, October 15 to share those stories, share the love of God and share in our blessings.

As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. I Peter 4:10

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:38

Pr. Dave



ALL SAINT'S DAY

On All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 5, we will be remembering loved ones who have passed away this year. Please let secretary Jo Klein know, in written form or by email, (jojklein@gmail.com) if you would like to remember a loved one during the All Saints service. We will ask families to bring a photo of their loved one that day, and to light a candle for them during the worship service. Let us remember with thanks those who have gone before us and rest in God's eternal love and salvation.



October Acolytes

- 1 Alek Landenberger
- 15 Victor Landenberger

Heartfelt thanks to our October **Bun Run** volunteers: Doug and Jo Klein, Larry Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl.



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for October: Alek Landenberger, Volker Landenberger, Doug Klein, Ben Pilgrim, Joan Wilson, Bruce Magnuson, Rob Herrmann, Ava Herrmann.

Announcing our annual Christmas poinsettia and greens fundraiser! We will take orders in the Social Hall on Oct. 1, Oct. 8 and Oct. 15. Orders will be available for pick-up on Dec. 3. You may bring your flowers/greens home that day, or choose to loan them to St. Luke to adorn our sanctuary for the holiday season. All proceeds will benefit St. Luke retreat at Camp Onomia. Thank you for your generosity!



Ladies Night Out in October will take place on Tuesday, October 17th at Outback Steakhouse - 2181 Snelling Ave. N. in Roseville at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in car-pooling, please meet at church at 5:00 p.m. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) if you are planning on attending by Sunday, October 8th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.

October WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Readers:

- 1 Wendy Bjorklund
- 8 Laurie Herrmann
- 15 Katy Eggert
- 22 Julie Ellingson
- 29 TBD

Communion:

- 1 Wendy Bjorklund
- 15 Katy Eggert



Fall Bazaar: Crafters or Vendors

Do you know any crafters or vendors who would be interested in renting out a table at our Fall Bazaar this year? The date is Saturday, October 28th from 9:00 to 3:00 and the fee for an 8-foot table is \$35.

If so, please have them contact either Judy Salaba 651-698-8572 or Joyce Bluel 651-690-4614 for a vendor registration form. Space will be considered reserved at the time of submission of registration form and payment.

congregational meeting



Be sure to attend our semi-annual congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 5 after the service. Please plan to take part in this important meeting on the current and long-term goals of our church family.



110 very hungry men, women and children enjoyed a delicious dinner at St. Matthew's Catholic church for Loaves and Fishes on August 28th. Workers from St. Luke were Pastor Dave Person, Larry Litzkow, Joyce Bluel, Jesse Vasquez and Roger and Dianne Diestler.



October Birthdays

- 5 Laurie Smith
- 7 Alek Landenberger
- 8 Edward Czech
- 9 Mike Hegdahl
- 10 Ava Herrmann
- 11 Julianna Czech
- 12 Amy Drier
- 17 Wanda Mathison
- 18 Kim Miller
- 21 Steven Brummund
Jack Holtz
Ben Pilgrim
- 22 Bev Eckstrom
- 23 Kyle Zvejnieks
- 24 Zachary Moore
- 26 Becky Pilgrim
- 27 Zachary Stadem
- 31 Ann Annala
Michael Hoffman
Margaret Vigdal



October Anniversaries

- 3 Mike & Deb Wobig '09
- 7 Kent & Beth Peterson '89
- 10 Mike & Nancy Hegdahl '92
- 20 Sandi Gordon & Justin Long '12
- 21 Janell & Mike Walter '06
- 24 Doug and Jo Klein '81

Reformation

Five Hundred Years 1517-2017

Reformation Sunday Worship at St. Mark

On Reformation Sunday (Oct. 29) we will join together with the people of St. Mark in a joint worship at St. Mark. We will have a guest preacher who will help the Reformation come alive, so please be there! Remember, this is the 500 year anniversary of Martin Luther nailing the 95 theses to the Wittenberg Church door. It will be a very special worship. Following the worship, we will enjoy a celebratory lunch (pot luck). Please remember this date and plan to be at St. Mark Lutheran Church (550 7th Street) for worship (9:30), good food (please bring something to share) and fellowship. **Since we will be worshipping with St. Mark, there will be no worship service at St. Luke that day.**

CROP Walk

Join the confirmation students on Sunday, October 15 for the CROP Walk. We will walk for a couple of hours that day along Summit Avenue, leaving church at about 12:30. We walk to raise money and awareness for people who are suffering and dying from hunger, both in the U.S. and around the world. We walk so that people may simply live. We walk so others may walk. Join us, either by walking or by making a contribution. You will most likely save someone's life.



Introducing our new Music Director!

I'm Rebecca Ruiz, the new music director at St. Luke. I'm excited to have this opportunity to lead and grow musically with the wonderful people of this church. My family and I have been attending services for over a year - we're the ones with the child and tiger - and while my son might say it's the cookies made us return, I think my husband and I would say it's the welcoming atmosphere and great sermons. Since the age of four I've played piano, studying it as a performance major in college at Mankato State classically and McNally Smith with a latin and classic rock emphasis. A few musical influences (oldest to more modern): Beethoven, Wolf, Albeniz, Jelly Roll Morton, Frank Sinatra, Dave Brubeck, Chick Corea, Yann Tiersen, Wilco, Arcade Fire, Amanda Palmer and LCD Soundsystem. I love cooking, reading (cookbooks and children's being favorite genres), writing, anything music, puzzles and Nintendo video games.

I also love themes and parties, bringing me to my first music directorish thing: all October I will be sprinkling in Martin Luther music as we approach the 500th anniversary of the 95 Theses. As a way to join the fun, I will set up a spot for you to vote on your favorite Luther hymn (including a Top 20 of sorts for reference).

Finally I would like to invite anyone to contact me if you would like to offer your musical talents to a service - choir, bell choir, service music - or have an idea? Just contact me! I am happy to hear ideas. Even if you don't feel musically inclined but feel like you want to participate, let me know. There is no "musical gene." I can find some way for you to participate. Music speaks beyond words. As Martin Luther (!) says, "The riches of music are so excellent and so precious that words fail me whenever I attempt to discuss and describe them..."





Fall Bazaar Update

Joyce Bluel, Committee Chair

Just a reminder, the Fall Bazaar is just 4 weeks away; mark your calendars for Saturday, October 28th.

Bring all of those gently used or unneeded items you cleaned out this summer to the Rummage Sale. We will NOT be accepting clothing, furniture, exercise equipment, appliances or electronics. You may bring them to church until **noon on October 22nd**. If you have any questions, please call Jo Klein at (651) 343-9317.

Anyone willing to bake pies or other baked goods for the Bazaar please contact Joan Wilson (651) 253-6111 or Deb Vigdal (651) 681-086. It's a *delicious* way to support our bazaar! You will need to bring your baked goods to church on **Friday, October 27th between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm**.

This year we will be renting out tables to outside vendors, but we will also have a St. Luke table for crafts. We will be accepting your handmade craft items for sale at the bazaar starting on **Thursday, October 26th from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm and then Friday, October 27th from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm**. We ask that you bring your craft items **no later than noon on Friday** to allow enough time to prepare the displays. If you have any questions, please call Joyce Bluel at (651) 690-4614 or Judy Salaba (651) 698-8572

The raffle tickets have been distributed and will be available for sale the day of the bazaar. Top prizes include a flat screen TV, a Cub Foods and Target gift certificates, and much, much more! We will also accept any new prize donations from our members. The drawing will be held at 2:30 PM. If you are interested in helping with the raffle please contact Joyce Bluel (651) 690-4614 or Judy Salaba (651) 698-8572.

The proceeds from this event have been used to make some substantial changes both to our church building and to people's lives through donations to charities. This is also a way for us to reach out and give our neighbors a chance to get to know us better. There is something for everyone to get involved with, just contact one of the following chairs:

Rummage Sale Chair:	Jo Klein
Bake Sale Co-chairs:	Joan Wilson and Deb Vigdal
Kitchen Chair:	Beth Peterson
Raffle Co-chairs:	Joyce Bluel & Judy Salaba
Publicity Chair:	Pam Ballis
Crafts Co-chairs:	Judy Salaba & Joyce Bluel

Commentaries for the October Gospel Readings

Below please find the commentaries for the October gospel readings. For resources I used "Preaching Matthew's Gospel" by Richard Jensen, "Matthew" by Robert H. Smith, Working Preacher and my own notes. Please read the gospel as well as the notes found below, and then take time for prayer as you prepare for worship each Sunday. If you have any questions or comments about the gospel reading, I would LOVE to hear them. Let's grow in and through God's Word!

October 1, Matthew 21:23-32

To understand our gospel reading for today, it is best to begin reading from Matthew 21:12. There we see that Jesus entered the temple and cleansed it (driving out a number of people and animals). As he did this he quoted from Isaiah 56:7 (check out Isaiah 56:5-7) and Jeremiah 7:11 (read Jeremiah 7:1-11 for clearer context). Jesus quoted Scripture letting it be known that he cleansed the temple to fulfill Scripture. If you read Matthew carefully, you will see that fulfillment of Scripture is an important theme in Matthew. This is Jesus' calling. He is fulfilling the will of his heavenly Father. The next day (Matthew 21:18), our reading begins and we see Jesus entering the temple again. The religious leaders ask Jesus, "By what authority are you doing these things (cleansing the temple, etc.), and who gave you this authority?" This is but one of five combative controversies between Jesus and the religious leaders, that begin with Matthew 21:23 and end with Matthew 22:4 when Jesus leaves the leaders speechless. That will be one of the final straws leading to the crucifixion of Jesus. The subject of the controversy in our gospel reading is *authority*. The chief priest and other religious leaders, the highest religious authorities of that time, ask Jesus where he receives his authority. Needless to say, this is a trap, so Jesus turns the tables on the leaders saying he will answer their question if they answer his. Jesus then asked them, "Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" The leaders knew that either way they answered the question; they would be in hot water, so they did not answer. Concerning Jesus' authority, check out Matthew 28:18, and you will find the answer in Jesus' own words. Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." There is no higher authority than Jesus. After the religious authorities refuse to answer Jesus' question about John, Jesus tells them a parable about two sons who were told to go work in their father's vineyard (Israel is often referred to as the vineyard of the Lord). One refuses, then changes his mind and works. The other son says he will work, but never does. Jesus asks who did the will of his father. Of course it was the one who did the work. Faith, religion, is about showing up and putting that faith into action. It is about doing, not just talking. Jesus then tells the religious leaders that the tax collectors and prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of them (the first will be last and the last will be first). Then Jesus refers to John the Baptist who preached about bearing the fruit of *repentance*. The tax collectors and prostitutes recognized John's authority, repented of their sins and lived lives bearing the good fruit of repentance. The religious leaders, however, did not recognize John's (or Jesus') authority and so did not bear the fruit of repentance. We too, are called to recognize the authority of Jesus, repent (look to Jesus for direction in this life) bear that fruit, living out our faith as disciples of Jesus.

October 8, Matthew 21:33-46

Our gospel reading for today follows right after last week's reading. It is the second of five combative controversies that take place between Jesus and the religious leaders. As it says, Jesus is talking with all the people who are gathered in the temple, including the religious authorities. This is the second parable he tells them. It is quite straightforward and the religious leaders realized that he was referring to them with this parable. It wasn't flattering, to say the least. It continues along the lines of the first parable. In that parable and explanation, we see the religious leaders rejecting God's prophet, John the Baptist. In today's reading, they not only reject the prophets (slaves), they also reject the son - Jesus! The vineyard is a reference to Israel (check out Isaiah 5:1-7). The landowner is God. The tenants are the religious leaders (Jews). The slaves, as mentioned, are God's prophets and of course the son is Jesus. In the parable the tenants beat and kill the slaves (prophets) and also kill the son (Jesus). Therefore, the landowner put the tenants to death and leased the vineyard to another tenant (Gentiles). The original

tenants were not producing fruit – which is the fruit of righteousness – the fruit of following the Lord (note John the Baptist’s words in Matthew 3:7-10). Rev. Dr. Robert Smith warns us not to just see this as addressed to people of that time, because it is also addressed to each of us. He writes, “Matthew is really addressing not Jews but Christians, especially Christian leaders. They feel secure as members of the new community which has inherited the kingdom (v. 43) and they pride themselves on being teachers and guides (23:8-10) in that community. Matthew thinks they need stern warning. It is not sufficient to hold membership in the correct people or community. Nor does it suffice to be counted as a leader or teacher. The Lord in fact scrutinizes leaders with particular care, seeking more than labels or slogans. The Lord desires fruit in their seasons (see 21:19 and 7:16-23).... Matthew uses the narratives about Jesus’ past conflicts with Jewish religious authorities to press contemporary Christian leaders to critical reflection and self-examination. That is even clearer in the opening parable of chapter 22 (vv.1-14).”

October 15, Matthew 22:1-14

Today’s reading is the third parable Jesus tells in which a person or people reject the command, authority, or gift of God. The first (Matthew 21:23-32) was about the two sons who were told to work in the vineyard, one said yes, then didn’t work and the other said no and then did work. The second (Matthew 21:33-46) is about a household who plants a vineyard (AKA Israel), but could not get the tenants (AKA Jewish religious leaders) to produce fruit. He sent his son (AKA Jesus), but they killed him. So the householder gives the vineyard to other tenants (AKA Gentiles) so that they could bear fruit. In today’s parable, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves out to tell those who had been invited to come. But for whatever reason, they wouldn’t come! We are talking about a ROYAL banquet...the *best food, best wine, fantastic* entertainment, the top of the line in *everything*, yet they refused to come. It seems kind of strange...yet they refused. The king sends his slaves to the invited guests once again, but they made light of it and some even killed the slaves. The king is God and the invitation God sends is to the banquet in the kingdom of heaven! Some refuse and even kill his slaves (prophets). Remember, when Jesus lamented over Jerusalem, he spoke of Jerusalem killing the prophets, and even killing him! This is the gift beyond compare that is rejected. The king then sends his troops to destroy these people and burn their city (The temple in Jerusalem was totally destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Romans). After this the king sends out the slaves to invite everyone they can find. The wedding hall was filled with guests: street people, beggars, tax collectors, prostitutes, and others. They eat the finest food and drink the finest wine. However, the king notices one who isn’t wearing a wedding robe. When the king asks why, the person was speechless and he was thrown out. It seems strange. I have read two interpretations about this. One points to what was said in the gospel reading from October 1 (Matthew 21:23-32), about bearing fruits of repentance. All are invited, but all are expected to bear fruits of repentance when they receive such overwhelming grace! Rev. Dr. Robert Smith wrote, “It is not sufficient to hold membership, to sit at table as invited guest, to have said yes instead of no. What is being promoted here is doing the Father’s will, bearing fruit, being properly garbed.” The other explanation is that the king not only invited these people in, he supplied them with wedding garments. But this man would have none of that; he would not allow the garment to be put on him. Isaiah 61:10 refers to this. It reads: “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; *for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*” Similarly, in Galatians 3 Paul writes, “...for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” God in his love and grace clothes us with garments of salvation. He gives them to us freely, every one of us, good and bad, rich and poor. “Here it is, put it on,” God says, “Know my salvation and peace, it is freely given for you.” But there are those who won’t accept this, just as they will not accept God’s invitation to the wedding reception. And so in the midst of total grace we also find judgment, as in the man who was kicked out of the party. As Rev. Dr. William Willimon says, “Judgment falls down like a thundering gavel upon our rejection of the invitation. Hell is where we are when we will not accept our acceptance, we with our moth ridden

suits clutching our little goodness, our miserable little virtues, pathetically standing in the darkness as the party goes on."

October 22, Matthew 22:15-22

Today's gospel reading follows directly after the reading from last week. The Pharisees were angry as hornets, stung by Jesus' words. They went to regroup and hatched a plan to entrap Jesus in his own words....in public. They begin with insincere flattery saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not." Remember, the ones who asked him were the disciples of the Pharisees and the Herodians. The Herodians were Jews aligned with Rome and strongly advocated paying taxes. The Pharisees' disciples strongly opposed paying taxes to Rome. Either way Jesus answered would be wrong! But Jesus was well aware of their evil scheme. He asked for a coin used for the tax. They reach into their purses and pull out the offensive coin. Good Jews were not even supposed to carry the coin because it displayed the likeness of the emperor. As Rev. Dr. Robert Smith writes, "The silver denarii of Tiberius Caesar (A.D. 14-37) portray his profile and are inscribed with high political and religious claims. Coins were not only legal tender but were deliberately designed to serve as pieces of official propaganda. Tiberius's coins bear the graven image of his face, and they carry legends boasting that he is, for example, "son of the divine Augustus" or "highest priest" of the Roman Empire. Those small coins were loaded with material offensive to any sensitive conscious." Looking at the coin, Jesus asks them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" You can see them sheepishly answer, "The emperor's." It is then that Jesus gives his famous reply, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they had no reply and went away. What is the emperor's and what is the Lord's? A great debate could and has been made about these questions. My own thought is that even the emperor is the Lord's. The Lord is the Creator of all, *everything*. What isn't the Lord's?

October 31, John 8:31-36 – Reformation Day

The context of this short verse is Jesus speaking to people during the Festival of the Booths. It begins in chapter 7 and runs through chapter 8. The Festival of the Booths is the Jewish harvest celebration that commemorates God's protection and accompaniment of the Jewish people as they escaped from slavery in Egypt, through their 40 year wanderings in wilderness, leading them to the promised land. During this celebration, Jesus tells the people that he offers anyone who is thirsty rivers of water (7:37-39). Recall how during the wilderness wanderings, God, through Moses made bitter water sweet (Exodus 15:22-25) and how Moses struck a rock with his staff so that water came from the rock (Exodus 17:1-7). You might also remember Jesus declaring to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well that he is able to give her living water that will become a spring gushing to eternal life (John 4:10-15). Jesus also declared himself to be the light of the world (John 8:12). He says in today's reading that those who continue (in Greek the word can also mean "abide, dwell") in Jesus' word will be made free. In other words, in John chapters 7-8 Jesus is saying that he is now the embodiment of the festival and mediates God's sheltering presence to the people. Needless to say, this caused quite a stir. The people said, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone." It seems they forgot about their time of slavery in Egypt. But Jesus is not talking about physical slavery here. He is talking about slavery to sin. As Dr. David Lose writes, (Jesus) "is not talking about physical slavery but spiritual, even existential state of being enslaved to sin. Further one is not delivered from such slavery by either history or birth rite, but rather by a present and ongoing relationship – relationship to the Son, the one who is in the bosom of the Father and makes the Father known (1:18). Only those who abide with, dwell in, and are in intimate relationship with the Son, the living Word, the *logos* (Greek word for "word") of God, are free indeed."

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. -Numbers 6:24