



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times June 2015

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers: but their delight is in the teachings of the Lord and on his teachings they meditate day and night. Psalm 1:1-2



The word “meditate” in this Psalm also has the meaning of “growl” in Hebrew. It is used in Isaiah 31:4, which reads, “For thus the Lord said to me, as a lion or a young lion *grows* over its prey...” Same Hebrew word...Meditate...growl....how can they be the same? Have you ever seen a dog gnawing on a bone and enjoying it SO MUCH that it is literally growling as it chews? It is happily growling or meditating on that bone! Total concentration, total enjoyment! We will have an opportunity to do the same at our Bible Barbecue on Wednesdays, June 17 and 24 at 6:00 at church. Bring along food to cook on the church barbecue, then as we chew on our food we will also chew on the Word of God! We will growl and meditate, being fed in body and soul. Come meditate! Come growl and be fed by the Lord, for the word of the Lord is DELICIOUS! Sign up on the kiosk.

Pr. Dave



June Acolytes:

- 7 Evan Nelson
- 21 Alek Landenberger



Loaves and Fishes

89 men, women and children were served a delicious dinner at the Loaves and Fishes Program at St. Matthew’s Catholic Church on April 26. Workers were Pastor Dave Person, Larry Litzkow, Joyce Bluel and Roger and Dianne Destler.



Ladies Night Out – Ladies

Night Out in June will take place on Tuesday, June 16th at Outback Steakhouse – 1321 E. 78th St., Bloomington 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, June 7th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.

Church Canoe Trip

We will be going on a great adventurous canoe trip to the BWCA, leaving the afternoon of Thursday, August 20 and returning the early evening of Monday, August 24. The cost will be approximately \$75.00 per person (a total of nine people may go – we will figure out final costs after we know the final expenses). Please sign up on the kiosk. If you have any questions, ask Pr. Dave. We will be putting in on Sawbill Lake in the BWCA!



BYOMB

Set aside the dates of Wednesdays, June 17 and 24 at 6:00 for the first of its kind Bible Barbecue!! We will meet at the church and haul out the barbecue grill for some summer grilling goodness. This is a BYOMB (Bring Your Own Meat (food) and Bible) event. We will fire up the church barbecue so you can cook whatever you bring. As we eat and enjoy one another's company we will also enjoy the Word in the form of a short Bible study from the letter of I John. It will be an informal affair...you are responsible for your food...the Lord will provide the Word! Let's enjoy some good food, one another, SUMMER (yippee), and God's Word.



June Worship

Assistants:

Readers:

7 Sue McNeill

14 Julie Ellingson

21 Joyce Bluel

28 Laurie Herrmann

Communion:

7 Judy Salaba

21 Wendy Bjorklund



Vacation Bible School

VBS will take place on July 8-10 (Wednesday-Friday) from 5:30-8:00 pm. We will have a simple, but delicious dinner, Bible stories, crafts and games. All children from age 4 up to sixth grade are welcome! The cost is \$10.00 per child, which includes that delicious dinner. A sign up will be on the kiosk. If you can help by providing a simple meal, teaching, leading a craft or any other way, please talk with Pastor Dave.

Farmer's Market at St. Luke

We are in the midst of working hard to meet all the rules and regulations to open a Farmer's Market in our parking lot. Needless to say, we have piles of forms to fill out as well as calling and emailing various officials. Some of our church members are working extremely hard to make this a reality. If all works, the Farmer's Market will be on Saturday mornings from 8-noon, June 6-September 26. Please pray for our Farmer's Market, which would be a great service to this community!



Ian Walter and his Nana (Nancy Hegdahl) are collecting Box Tops for his school. The bright pink Box Tops logo is on hundreds of grocery products and is easy to spot when you are walking down the grocery aisle. Please place the clippings in the marked basket on the Welcome Table. Box Tops are each worth ten cents; it adds up quickly! More info at www.boxtops4education.com. THANK YOU!



Fun Fundraising Event For Our Youth! We will be holding a Meat Raffle at the South St. Paul VFW, 111 Concord Exchange South, on Friday, June 5, 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Stop on by, purchase a chance to win some high quality meat, and spend an enjoyable evening of fellowship with all your St. Luke friends...and support our summer youth mission trip! See YOU there!



June Birthdays:

- 2 Lynda Mathison
- 3 Arlene Drier
- 5 Betty Nelson
- 6 Luke Stadem, Mike Wobig
- 10 Andrew Stadem, Florence Noha
- 16 Brian Spray, Evan Nelson
- 18 Alex Grzywinski
- 21 Pastor Dave
- 22 George Heriot, Diane Nelson
- 24 Christine Olson, Allan Amlee
- 25 Jenifer Drier
- 27 Sandi Gordon
- 30 Karl And Charles Gaarder



June Anniversaries:

- 4 Larry And Carol Vigdal: 1961
- 8 Roger And Dianne Diestler: 1963
- 15 Jane And Ken McGrew: 1991
- 18 Allan And Phillis Amlee: 1955
- 19 Steve And Gwen Brummund: 1999,
Donald And Ann Annala: 1948
- 23 Patricia And Mark Stadem: 1990
- 27 Jeff and Chris Kingsey: 2014



Treats, fellowship, community outreach and books, books, books...our May 17 Book/Bake sale was a big success...many thanks to coordinator Sue McNeill, and ALL who made it happen!

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."
John Steinbeck

- Finance Update for April:
- General Fund Receipts \$12,267.00 Year to Date \$49,650.00
- General Fund Expenses \$10,783.40 Year to Date \$49,448.37



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for May: Matthew Brummund, Gwen Brummund, Steve Brummund, Lisa Vandrovec, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser. Our ushers for June will be: Eva Mac Niven, Jim Kroschel, Doug Nelson, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Pam Ballis, Katy Eggert.



Our heartfelt thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for May: Ken McGrew, Doug and Jo Klein, Julie Ellingson, Larry Litzkow and Mike Hegdahl.

Commentaries on June Gospel Readings

Below please find four short commentaries on the gospel readings for each of the Sundays in June. They are all from the Gospel of Mark (this is the year of Mark). I used material by Rev. Richard Jensen, a commentary by D. E. Nineham, Working Preacher and my own notes. Please open your Bibles, sit back, and take quality time to meditate on the gospel readings and the commentaries. God bless you as you dive deeper into the Lord's Word of Life! -Pr. Dave

June 7: Mark 3:20-35

The gospel reading begins by stating that Jesus went home. Where is home? In Matthew 4:19 it says, "He (Jesus) left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea..." Perhaps Jesus was at Capernaum, but his family was also present in this scene trying to restrain him....so maybe he was back at his family home in Nazareth. Whichever the case may be, in today's reading we see an overall theme of the rejection and misunderstanding of Jesus and his message. Jesus was popular enough, it seems, so many people crowded around that he didn't even have time to eat! What drew them to Jesus? Healing? Curiosity? God's Word? Some among the crowd said Jesus has gone out of his mind! Another possible reading for this Greek (the original language of the New Testament), is that Jesus had a demon. Hearing this, his family went out to restrain him. Even his family had trouble believing him. We see rejection and misunderstanding of Jesus in the crowd and even his family members (although after the resurrection his brother James (who was not one of his original disciples) became a leader of the church)! As his family tried to restrain him, the Scribes (a class of professional teachers of the law) accused Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebul (chief of the demons - Satan) and casting out demons by the power of the ruler of demons. Once again, we see Jesus and his message misunderstood and rejected, even among the religious leaders! Jesus responds by saying that Satan cannot cast out Satan. He would be a house divided and that house would surely fall. Jesus then refers to the fact that if you wish to enter and plunder a strong man's house, you first must tie him up. In fact, that is what Jesus was doing to Satan. It began when Jesus overcame Satan's temptations in the wilderness (Mark 1:12-13) and continued as Jesus "robbed" Satan through exorcisms, healings, and preaching the Kingdom of God. Then Jesus warns of the eternal sin of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. If someone says that Jesus has an unclean spirit, when in fact Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit, that person has sinned against the Holy Spirit and closed him/herself off to the one (Jesus) who grants forgiveness of sins. After this someone tells Jesus that his mother and siblings are outside asking for him. Jesus contrasts his family with those who do the will of God saying, "Who are my mother and my brothers? Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." How and in what ways can we do the will of God in our daily lives and at St. Luke?

June 14: Mark 4:26-34

In today's gospel reading we find two short parables about the kingdom of God. That is something to meditate on in itself! The kingdom of God!!...what are these two short parables saying about the kingdom of God and what does that mean to you? What is the kingdom of God all about? Let's see what kind of glimpse Jesus gives us through these parables. In today's first parable the sower scatters the seed. After that the sower simply sleeps and rises every day and night. He/she doesn't do anything for the seed. It says the sower does not know how the seed sprouts and grows. The earth produces of itself without any help from the sower. One way to interpret this is that it is God who gives the growth, ushering in the Kingdom of God. We are called to scatter the seed, preach the word, live out the Word, and it is God who gives the growth. In the time of Jesus there was a group called the Zealots, who wished to drive the Romans out by the sword and reestablish a strong Israel. There are people here too who pile up guns and supplies waiting for the end, perhaps thinking they will help bring about the end times. But in the end, it is God and God alone who will usher in the kingdom of God. As we saw last week with the Scribes and even Jesus' family misunderstanding Jesus and his message,

Jesus encountered many hindrances and difficulties (to say the least) as he preached, taught and lived out the kingdom of God. He called on his disciples (us included) not to be anxious, for it is God who produces the growth. We are called to be faithful to that word, faithful in our witness and faithfully believing that God will bring about the growth. The second parable concerning the kingdom of God is about the mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds that grows into a great bush. This is a contrast between what seems to be a small, even insignificant beginning, with results that grow into something great, even magnificent. Jesus traveled a dusty land by foot with a small number of uneducated followers, doubted even by his family (3:21) and mocked, tortured and killed by religious and Roman leaders. What could possibly come from that? Yet from that small beginning, grew a church in which believers number in the billions, covering the entire earth. Again, it is God who gives the growth. We may not notice it, but the Holy Spirit is at work in ways we cannot always see or understand. Never think that an act done or words spoken in the name of the Lord are insignificant. They may be the beginning of something that goes beyond your wildest dreams! Keep scattering those seeds in the name of the Lord!

June 21: Mark 4:35-41

This comes right after the two parables of the kingdom of God which we read last week. First the disciples *heard* about the kingdom of God and now they will get a living *taste* of it! The disciples and Jesus get into a boat and begin traveling to the other side. A GREAT windstorm arises, the wind and waves beating against the boat, so that it begins to fill with water. All this time Jesus was asleep in the stern of the boat! How could he possibly sleep through all of that?! Perhaps we can better understand when we read some Old Testament passages which teach that the ability to sleep peacefully is a sign of perfect trust in the sustaining and protective power of God (read Proverbs 3:23-24; Psalm 3:5; 4:8; Job 11:18-19). Jesus put his full trust in God the Father, the Lord of all creation, which allowed him to sleep in total peace. The disciples on the other hand were scared out of their wits! Who could blame them? They were sinking in a terrible (GREAT) storm!! To top it off, the Hebrew people were generally DEATHLY afraid of the sea. They believed it represented chaos, total opposition to God. And so for the disciples, being engulfed in this storm was like looking into the jaws of hell! To get a feel of that dread, read the following: (Jonah 2:3-5; Psalm 18:16-17; 69:1-2,14-15). Full of this dread, the disciples woke Jesus shouting, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Do you ever feel like that? Are there times in your life when it feels like all chaos breaks out and you wonder where is God? Is God asleep? Doesn't the Lord care? Where is my help? We see that kind of question quite often in the Bible. Read Psalm 44:23-24; 35:23; 59:4. Jesus woke up, rebuked the wind and commanded the sea, "Peace! Be still." The word "rebuked" is the same word in the original Greek (and English) that Jesus uses to cast out demons...that which stands in opposition to God! Jesus does the same with the sea. With this in mind, read Revelation 21:1-2 about the new heaven and earth. It says the first earth had passed away and *the sea was no more!* Chaos, that which stands against God has been defeated! The Lord, the Creator, has the final word over Satan and the creation. Jesus, the Son of God demonstrates this fact. Jesus demonstrates that the kingdom of God is here in Jesus! No wonder the disciples were in total awe of Jesus! As soon as Jesus speaks, there is "dead calm." Actually, the word "dead" is the same word used in describing the storm, "great." Through Jesus the GREAT storm became a GREAT calm! Jesus then asks the disciples, "Why are you afraid? Have you STILL no faith?" The number one command Jesus constantly repeats to the disciples is, "Do not be afraid." Fear robs us of much... in fact to the very end of Mark, the disciples were afraid (Mark 16:8). It wasn't until they met the resurrected Jesus that the disciples finally realized, "If Jesus can overcome death, he can overcome anything!" As Paul wrote in the Letter to the Philippians, we can do all things through him who strengthens us, Christ our Lord. The disciples came to fully understand this and when they did, we see them preaching fearlessly, even when threatened with death. Jesus turned the GREAT storms in their lives into GREAT calm.

June 28: Mark 5:21-43

Like last week, we begin with Jesus taking a boat ride across a body of water. He was coming back after healing the Gerasene demoniac (Mark 5:1-20). When he landed, a large crowd gathered around him. It was then that Jairus, one of the leaders of the synagogue, a socially and religiously prominent person, fell down at Jesus' feet in utter humility, and begged Jesus *repeatedly* to heal his daughter who was near death. Jesus agreed to go with him. As they were walking, the huge crowd pressed in on Jesus. In the crowd there was a woman who had suffered from hemorrhages for twelve years! Because of her bleeding, she was considered unclean. Also, in those days, it was forbidden for a woman (especially an unclean woman) to touch a man, especially a rabbi or teacher, such as Jesus. But like Jairus, she was at the point of total desperation. She was beyond the point of caring about rules or restrictions. She just wanted to be healed, so in an act of faith (like Jairus) she reached out to Jesus, did what was STRICTLY forbidden, and touched him. Unthinkable!!! According to one commentator, the Greek (the original language of the New Testament) in this passage builds up to this point in a very dramatic way. In English, it would go something like, "And a woman--having been bleeding for twelve years, and having suffered greatly from many physicians, and having spent all she had, and having benefited not one bit but rather having gone from bad to worse, having heard about Jesus, having come in the crowd from behind--touched his cloak." At this point, Mark (who loves the word "immediately" and uses it all the time) wrote, "*Immediately* her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease." Right after this another "immediately" follows when Mark continues writing, "*Immediately* aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" The disciples, obviously thought this was a silly question because of all the people. They said something like, "What do you mean, "Who touched me?" Who *isn't* touching you with this many people pressing in?" Upon hearing Jesus, the woman came forward *fearfully* (she could be stoned for doing such a thing) and told *the whole truth*. What do you think she said? It isn't written here. She probably told Jesus about how terribly she had suffered those twelve years and how desperate she was, so she touched him. What are the consequences of this woman telling Jesus the truth? I count four: 1. Jesus calls her "daughter," a word of endearment. This is the only place Jesus calls a woman, "daughter." It is like he is claiming her as a beloved member of his family. She is loved. 2. He tells her, her faith has saved/healed (the Greek word has this double meaning) her. She has been changed from a woman of fear to a woman of faith! She could live life freely now! 3. She receives the peace of the Lord. 4. She is cured of her disease. The truth, it seems, set her free. What can the truth do for you? Since the Lord knows the secrets of our hearts (Psalm 139:4), why not fully share all that is in our hearts, the truth, with our Lord? Perhaps, like this woman, we will find ourselves blessed. After this, some people came from Jairus' home to tell him that his daughter was dead. "Why trouble the teacher any further," they say. But what does Jesus say? Remember the command he uses the most? He uses it here, "Do not fear, only believe." Jairus does as commanded and continues to follow Jesus. What would have happened if he had caved into fear and not followed? What happens when we cave into fear? They enter the house. Jesus took the girl by the hand and told her, "Little girl, get up!" She did as the Lord of life commanded. In fact we see Mark's favorite word again, "*Immediately* the girl got up and began to walk about." Jesus told them to tell no one and then told them to give her something to eat. She was probably hungry...and like her, as one commentator said, "this gives us all something to chew on!" Finally, Jesus strictly orders them to tell no one. Over and over again in Mark, Jesus gives this order. He also orders people not to tell anyone he is the Messiah. This is referred to as the Messianic secret. Why does Jesus do that? Read Mark and think about that.

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