



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

Parish Times June 2018

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.
 Ecclesiastes 3:1

This is my last newsletter article to you all. It is hard to believe over ten years have passed since you called me as your pastor. It has gone by very quickly. Those times have been full of great joy as well as extreme sorrow. But no matter what the particular days, months or years brought, they were all times when I gave thanks to God for the privilege of walking through them with you. I move on now to retirement, a new “time” for me. I have no particular plans; in fact I have been very intentional about not making any plans for my first six months of retirement. I will see what the times bring and do some projects around the house, as well as enjoy my family. I will also be doing something that I wrote to you about in my very first newsletter article here at St. Luke. In that article I said I would be sending you prayer cards and praying for you every week. After I retire, I won’t be sending prayer cards, but you can be sure I will remember you in my prayers. God is good and will be with you through all the various times and seasons of life. It is the promise God makes to each of us. We can count on it. For that we give our Lord thanks and praise. God bless you all.

Pr. Dave



Micro-lending meeting and dinner

We will have a micro-lending dinner and time for making additional loans on Monday, June 11 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will cost a mere \$5.00 for a delicious meal. After that we will make our loans all around the world. Come join us for delicious fellowship and to help make loans that truly do change lives.



June Acolytes

3 Alek Landenberger
 17 Evan Nelson

Heartfelt thanks to our June **Bun Run** volunteers: Sandy and Dave Grzywinski, Ken McGrew, Doug and Jo Klein, Larry Litzkow, Julie Ellingson.



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for June: Jill Burchill, Doug Nelson, David NedreLOW, Carol Vigdal, Pam Ballis and Katy Eggert.



Ladies' Night Out in June will take place on Tuesday, June 19th at Chili's, 1840 County Rd B2 in Roseville at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in carpooling, please meet at church at 5:00 p.m. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) by Sunday, June 17th if you are planning on attending so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.

June WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Readers:

- 3 Laurie Herrmann
- 10 Beth Peterson
- 17 Joyce Bluel
- 24 Wendy Bjorklund

Communion:

- 3 Kay Reich
- 17 Joyce Bluel



June Birthdays

- 2 Lynda Mathison
- 3 Arlene Drier
- 5 Betty Nelson
- 8 Phroah Mathis
- 10 Andrew Stadem
- 16 Brian Spray, Evan Nelson
- 18 Alex Grzywinski
- 21 Pastor Dave
- 22 George Heriot, Diane Nelson
- 24 Christine Olson, Allan Amlee
- 25 Jenifer Drier, Carter Alcenot
- 27 Sandi Gordon
- 30 Karl and Charles Gaarder



June Anniversaries

- 4 Larry and Carol Vigdal: '61
- 8 Roger and Dianne Diestler: '63
- 15 Jane and Ken McGrew: '91
- 18 Allan and Phillis Amlee: '55
- 19 Donald and Ann Annala: '48
- 23 Patricia and Mark Stadem: '90
- 27 Jeff and Chris Kinglsey: '14



LOAVES AND FISHES

100 very hungry men, women and children enjoyed a delicious dinner at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on April 23rd. Workers from St. Luke were Verdel Humburg, David Tews, Larry Litzkow, Joyce Bluel, Roger and Dianne Diestler and Pastor Dave Person.

SAVE THE DATE for Pr. Dave's retirement party which will be Sunday, June 10th right after our service. Come one, come all!

Summer afternoon...the two most beautiful words in the English language.
Henry James



St. Luke's Farmers' Market

Get ready because we are gearing up for the fourth year of our farmers market. We are already working hard to make it even better than last year through more vendors and greater publicity. We will need help throughout the summer, so please put it on your checklist to help out at least one Saturday this year. Sign-up sheet is on kiosk; we need 2 volunteers every Saturday, **PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY**. We begin on Saturday, June 16 and will run through Saturday, October 6. The times are 8 a.m. to noon. Please help get out the word and plan on serving at the market. It is a beautiful way to serve our neighborhood and welcome people to our church.



Wednesday Morning Bible study

We are studying a variety of books of the Bible every Wednesday morning from 10-11 a.m. We began by diving into The Book of Hebrews and I John, with wide-open discussions. We are now (as of this writing) swimming around in I Timothy and have already had some good, deep discussions in just the first few verses. Come join us to share and learn.



Musings from the Music Director

When I'm looking at the scriptures for each Sunday, I like to boil it down to a few keywords or maybe a couple phrases. In May, each week at least one reading came down to: Love. Love each other as God loves us; If we obey God, we are in His love; and the recent Gospels with Jesus' love for us to fulfill his role. It made for easy and fun hymn selecting, truthfully. Boiling down June week by week at first seemed so dire compared to a month of love. Phrases and keywords popping out were "keep Sabbath holy; serpent condemned, shame, blame/out of the depths I cry/house divided cannot stand/let the wicked fall to their traps/Messenger will purify & refine us/who can stand before him?"

I know life isn't all happy-go-lucky and it is inherent that we will trudge through some dark spots. But every Sunday, we need to hear that light, that hope, and the good side of The Story. So I took a step back and noticed a little thread coming from the love of May: "light out of darkness/not fixed on seen but unseen/my soul waits/seeds flourish/sending messenger"

This month there is an undercurrent of faith, hope and staying in God to be God's family. And it feels apt, doesn't it? This month is a bittersweet month with Pastor's retirement. But here we have these reminders buried in the scripture reminding us about faith and hope in the grand story that God would send Jesus, but He also works in little moments and the reminder that we are all part of a much larger family. It's a reminder that we can have faith and hope now, and be willing to listen and God will guide us.

Rebecca

Commentaries on June Gospel Readings

Below please find four 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!

June 3: Mark 2:23-3:6

There are a series of four controversy stories in a row in these first chapters of Mark. Our gospel reading for today contains the final two of those controversy stories. Both stories have to do with the proper keeping of the Sabbath. In the first story Jesus' disciples are plucking heads of wheat to eat as they walked. This happened on the Sabbath. The Pharisees who were watching accused the disciples of reaping the grain, which was clearly forbidden by law on the Sabbath. In reply to their accusation, Jesus tells a story of King David who was running from Saul. Saul was the first king of Israel, but did a number of things which displeased God. Saul was then rejected as the king of God's people. David was chosen ("anointed" is a more proper word) as the new king. Saul was pursuing David in order to kill him. David came to the "house of God" famished and exhausted as Saul pursued him. He asked the priest for some food, but the only food available was the bread of the Presence (Exodus 25:30), which could only lawfully be eaten by the priests. Nevertheless, out of dire need, David and his companions ate this holy bread of the Presence. After telling the Pharisees this story, in effect, Jesus tells them, "If David can do it, I can do it. David was God's anointed. I am God's anointed (meaning the Messiah)." In fact, Jesus is Lord of all things, which includes the Sabbath. It can also be said that human need takes precedent over religious law. From here, Jesus now moves on to a synagogue, a holy place on a holy day. There, once again, Jesus demonstrates that human need takes precedent

over religious law. Jesus asks the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they gave no answer and Jesus was grieved because of their hardness of heart. Jesus then cures the man with the withered hand and the Pharisees immediately conspired on how to destroy him. Jesus stresses love over religious law again and again. Jesus said that to love God and love your neighbor as yourself cover all of the commandments. Love is central, for love comes from God (1 John 4:7).

June 10: 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 17: 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 24: 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.

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