

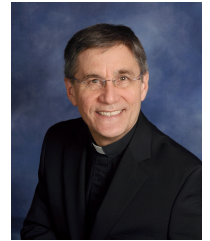


St. Luke Lutheran Church  
 1807 Field Avenue  
 St. Paul, MN 55116  
 Phone: 651-698-9443  
[www.saintlukechurch.org](http://www.saintlukechurch.org)  
 Editor: Jo Klein

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Open doors, open hearts, open minds.*

## Parish Times May 2016



*“Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:41-42*

What are you worried about right now? What is distracting you at this moment? What is stressing you out? Sometimes those things can take over our lives and make us miserable. I remember a person who was causing me a lot of grief. I can remember one day in particular feeling absolutely miserable. Right about then a book of devotions that I had ordered (The Art of Pastoring by William C. Martin) arrived in the mail. It is written for pastors, but these words are for each of you too. The devotion I read was entitled, “Temporary.” It reads, “Your role as a pastor and your congregation’s life as a church will both come to an end. Only the Word is without end. Therefore be aware of the temporary and never give it too much importance. If people gave less attention to the multitude of things temporary, and more attention to the One thing permanent, there would be room in their hearts for the writing of the Word and there would be no more need to teach, for all would know.” After this there was an observation, which read, “Whatever you are worried about right now, whatever is distracting you at this moment – it is temporary. Relax.” After I read this I laughed realizing he was absolutely right. The grief which had enveloped me evaporated like the morning mist. I was warmed once again by that which is eternal and will never let us go: the love of God. That blessed and everlasting love of God fill you all. It is the one thing that will last for all time, and it carries you.

Pr. Dave



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



**Ladies Night Out** – Ladies Night Out in May will take place on Tuesday, May 17th at Red Lobster – 2330 Prior Ave. in Roseville. 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, May 8th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.



Our final confirmation classes will be on May 3 and 10.



### Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for April: Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Volker Landenberger, Ben Pilgrim, Joan Wilson, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot and Rob Herrmann. Our ushers for May will be: Matthew Brummund, Sami Brummund, Gwen and Steve Brummund, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, and Michael Hoffman.



### LOAVES AND FISHES

93 people enjoyed a very tasty dinner at Loaves and Fishes at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on March 28th. Workers from St. Luke were Pastor Dave Person, Larry Litzkow, Joyce Bluel and Roger and Dianne Diestler.

**Mark the Date: Sunday, May 1st**  
 is our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting following worship. We need and value your input...please plan on participating.



**Congregational MEETING**

### FINANCIAL REPORT

	Budget 2016	Year to Date
Envelopes	138,424 - 143,424	37,203.99
Loose Offering	2,200.00	487.00
Thrivent	1,800.00	756.00
Use of Bldg/Other	3,000.00	1,025.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>39,471.99</b>
Finance Committee	14,288.00	3,269.11
Property Committee	18,429.00	5,203.84
Pastor's Package	79,305.56	19,789.01
Employee Salaries	35,245.00	8,578.27
Youth/Education	625.00	0.00
Stewardship	265.00	0.00
Worship Supplies	1,215.00	344.05
Social Concerns	0.00	0.00
Parish Life	320.00	75.00
Evangelism	<u>480.00</u>	<u>119.85</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>150,172.56</b>	<b>37,379.13</b>



**May Birthdays**

- 1 Jodi Landenberger
- 3 Alivia Mathis
- 4 Michael Amundson
- 6 Paula Siltberg
- 9 Kent Peterson, Sara Fabie
- 10 Maleah Mathis
- 11 Ian Holmly
- 12 Julie Ellingson
- 17 Helen Klein
- 18 Katy Eggert, Larry Litzkow
- 19 Steve Brummund
- 21 Dan Vigdal, MaryJo Brandt
- 22 Lucy Pilgrim
- 26 Kayla Stadem
- 28 Patricia Stadem, Sue Palm



**May Anniversaries**

- 11 Robert And Lois Porter: 1968
- 22 Dan And Deborah Vigdal: 1971
- 24 Jim And Jennifer Kroschel: 2003
- 30 Tom And Julie Gaarder: 1992



**Volunteer Opportunity  
for Fall Bazaar**

The Fall Bazaar Committee is looking for a volunteer or two to head up this year's raffle. The raffle is a popular part of the Bazaar and a great way to raise funds. This would be a great opportunity for a family to work together to support their church. Training is abundant in this area as many of our members have been involved in the raffle in the past. If you are interested or have any questions, please feel free to talk to Judy Salaba or Joyce Bluel. The 2016 Fall Bazaar will take place on Oct. 8.


**MAY  
WORSHIP  
ASSISTANTS**

**Readers:**

- 1 Joyce Bluel
- 8 Wendy Bjorklund
- 15 Laurie Herrmann
- 22 Katy Eggert
- 29 Al Fredrickson

**Communion:**

- 1 Joyce Bluel
- 15 Jen Fredrickson



**May Acolytes:**

- 1 Victor Landenberger
- 15 Zach Moore

## St. Luke's Farmers' Market

Get ready because we are gearing up for the second 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 some help throughout the summer, so please put it on your mental checklist to help out at least one Saturday this year. We begin on Saturday, June 18 and will run through Saturday, October 1. We will take July 2 off. The times are 8 a.m. – 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.



## Commentaries for the May Gospel Readings

In preparation for worship, please read the Bible text for the day as well as the commentary found below. Prepare your heart and mind for worship and you will find yourself enriched. Sources for these studies include Preaching Luke's Gospel by Richard Jensen, Working Preacher, The Shack by William Young, The Beatitudes by Simon Tugwell and my own notes.

### May 1, John 14:23-29

Our gospel reading for today is part of Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples on the night before his death. As Jesus talks, the disciples are filled with questions. First Peter (John 13:36), then Thomas (14:5), then Phillip (14:8) and finally Judas (not Iscariot) (14:22). Our gospel reading (John 14:23-29) is part of Jesus' answer to Judas' question. In John 14:19, Jesus said, "In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live." Judas asks "How is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" (John 14:22). Jesus tells the disciples that those who love him will keep his word. As Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore writes, "To keep the word of Jesus means to keep his commandments (cf. John 14:15, 21). It is to wash one another's feet, to love one another (John 13:24). As the disciples keep the word of Jesus, they will be a community characterized by mutual regard, love and service." For Jesus, love is a verb and it is through love that we keep his word. In fact, all throughout the Gospel of John, faith is characterized by various verbs, love being one of them. It is in this loving, serving faith that Jesus is known among his followers, for without Jesus, none of this is possible. Jesus tells them quite plainly that he and the Father will make their home with the disciples. They will live in and among the disciples. This word "home" in verse 23 is the same word (in the Greek) as in 14:2, when Jesus says to the disciples, "In my Father's house there are many "dwelling" places." We see the same word again in Revelation 21:3, "See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwelling with them; and they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them." In Jesus, we taste heaven, salvation right here and now. Jesus is "God with us" (Immanuel – Matthew 1:23). We can experience the dwelling place Jesus prepares for us in heaven through our relationship with Jesus right now as he makes his home in and around us. But there is more. Jesus promises the Father will send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. In the Greek, "Advocate" is the word, "paraclete." Paraclete means, "the one called to your side." In other words, the Holy Spirit is the one called to your side, the one who is with you, God with you (just like Immanuel)! Just as the Lord was with people in Jesus, so the Lord is with us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps guide us in knowing and keeping God's word, just as Jesus did. As Dr. Shore writes, "The Spirit helps disciples to understand Jesus and his word and to love Jesus by keeping his word on behalf of the world." So in these words of Jesus in our gospel lesson, we see the promise that God will make his home with the

disciples (us) and that the Holy Spirit will live in and among the disciples, and guide them (us). Jesus then bestows his peace upon the disciples. This isn't the kind of peace the world offers, peace which comes and goes. As Paul wrote in Philippians 14:1, this is the peace that passes all understanding. It is a peace that calms troubled hearts and gives courage where fear abounds. It is the peace that recognizes that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). This is a peace which casts out fear. This peace is for you through our Lord who walks with you in every way.

### **May 8, John 17:20-26**

In this section of the Gospel of John, Jesus has been instructing his disciples and answering question after question just before he is to be arrested and killed. And then, starting in chapter 17, Jesus begins to pray for his disciples who were with him, as well as for future disciples – “those who believe in me through their (the disciples) word” (this includes you and me). The prayer focuses on unity, our becoming one with one another and with God. Our reading for today is the end of that prayer. After Jesus is done praying, they will leave for the Garden of Gethsemane and... the cross. That is the background for this prayer. As Jesus is praying for the disciples they are within earshot. They can hear him pray. Have you ever had someone pray for you out loud? If so, how did that make you feel? Jesus does the same for his disciples, including you and me. Jesus is praying for you. In fact the Holy Trinity, God the Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus are all praying for you as they remember you amongst themselves. The Holy Trinity, God the three in one, remembers YOU! They are praying and working so that you become one with them just as they are one with one another! That is what this prayer is all about. You are never alone. You are held in the prayers of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! That prayer of our Lord is that we all become one....we, as a world-wide church (and as individuals) have not been very good at that. I wonder though if we could try to remember that just as the Lord prays for ME, the Lord is also praying for that person I don't necessarily agree with...and that in the Lord, we are indeed one. What would happen if we trusted and placed our hopes and dreams in our oneness in the Lord over against the petty things that often divide us? Our true unity is found through the Lord. That is the one true way we can all become one.

### **May 15, John 14:8-17, 25-27**

Whenever I read this passage I think of Bill Klotz. He loved to quote Philip's question and Jesus' answer. In Jesus, we see God the Father. In Jesus, we see that the Father and Jesus are one. If you want to know what God is like, look to Jesus and you will see. Jesus and God the Father are one. A beautiful passage that says this in a different way is John 1:1-5, 10-14, 18. This speaks of God the Father and Jesus being one from the beginning of time, and of Jesus becoming flesh and living among us. Jesus is God made flesh for us to see and know, because God loves us so (John 3:16). What does Jesus mean when he says, “The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.” If you read Philippians 2:5-11, you will see that Jesus did not count equality with God as something to be exploited, but I *emptied* himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.” Jesus *emptied* himself. Some say this means that Jesus could not perform a miracle on his own. He received all of his power from God the Father. It was only because Jesus is in perfect harmony, oneness with God the Father, that he is able to perform miracles through the Father. He receives all of his power from God. As he says in John, “The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.” After this Jesus calls on us three times to believe in verses 11 and 12. Believe that he and the Father are one. If you cannot believe this through the *words* of Jesus, believe because of the works he does. Then Jesus tells us that we will do even greater works than he has done. To tell the truth, I always stumble over those words...how can we do greater works than the Son of God?! As one commentator put it, it seems a little blasphemous to think such a thing, yet it was Jesus himself who said this! In fact, we do not do these works on our own, but through the power of the Holy Spirit (the Advocate) whom God the Father sends us. I have traveled the world and seen the church in many different countries. I must say, there have been some ministries that have seemed just plain miraculous to me. I think especially of India and the work of Dr. Arole, a Indian Christian doctor or of some of the missionaries in Japan whose work help change the thinking of whole nations! You can SEE and FEEL the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in their work. More than once the word “miraculous” came to my mind and lips when observing their work. Finally, for more on the sending and meaning of the Holy Spirit (Advocate) see the first commentary in May.

## May 22, John 16:12-15

There are some “Christian” sects who claim there is no such thing as the Trinity. Reading Jesus’ words today (and in other passages) I do not see how they can make such a claim. Here we have the Son of God very plainly and openly talking about God the Father and God the Holy Spirit (we see all three of the Persons of the Trinity at the baptism of Jesus also, as well as in other places). Although it is a difficult thing to understand, we believe in one God made up of three Persons (not human persons). They are three distinct Persons in one....three in one and one in three. This is the Trinity. One of the things at the heart of the Trinity is a deep, abiding relationship - love. They are in perfect, loving relationship with one another. Related to this, there are those who say that God can only be God in giving. Isn’t that what love is all about? “For God so love the world that he gave his only Son...” This originates in the Trinity itself. God the Father pours himself out wholly for the Son. The Son pours himself out wholly for the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit gives of itself wholly to God the Father. There is a constant giving and receiving. This is the source of love itself. Father Simon Tugwell writes, “God is himself only in pouring himself out...If it is a law of all created being that everything flows, that nothing can strictly be held fixed in possession, that is because it is a law of uncreated being that everything flows. The divine life itself comes to be defined as a life of *perichoresis* (community of being, co-indwelling), and however dead the metaphor becomes in the jargon of the theologians, the image of circular *movement* is always latent within it. God possesses himself only in the continual exchange between the three Persons.” With this in mind, we can begin to understand what Jesus means when he states that in order to gain our life we must lose it. In the novel, *The Shack* by William P. Young (a beautiful book), Jesus says it this way, “To force my will on you,” Jesus replied, “is exactly what love does not do. Genuine relationships are marked by submission even when your choices are not helpful or healthy.” “That’s the beauty you see in my relationship with Abba (God the Father) and Sarayu (Holy Spirit). We are indeed submitted to one another and have always been so and always will be. Papa (God the Father) is as much submitted to me as I to him, or Sarayu to me, or Papa to her. Submission is not about authority and it is not obedience; it is all about relationships of love and respect. In fact, we are submitted to you in the same way.” Mack was surprised. “How can that be? Why would the God of the universe want to be submitted to me?” “Because we want you to join us in our circle of relationship. I don’t want slaves to my will; I want brothers and sisters who will share life with me.”

## May 29, Luke 7:1-10

Jesus taught people and then he entered Capernaum. Capernaum was the place where Jesus made his home, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee (actually a lake). There was a Roman centurion there whose slave was close to death. The centurion was a Gentile, non-Jew, yet he had helped the Jewish people in Capernaum to build a synagogue where they could worship. Some of these Jewish people who knew the centurion came to Jesus to ask his help in healing the centurion’s slave. Jesus begins to walk to the centurion’s home, but on the way is met by some friends of the centurion with a message. The centurion’s message was, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.’ When Jesus hears this he marvels at the centurion’s faith. This Gentile had a deep faith, much like Mary’s faith. The centurion says, “Only speak the word, and let my servant be healed.” In a similar way, Mary says, “Let it be with me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38). Faith is created by God’s authoritative word and is also a response to this word of authority. In this centurion story we also see the power and authority of Jesus’ word. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” Jesus has ALL power and authority in heaven and on earth! As a man under authority, the centurion understood and trusted this completely. The centurion was also a Gentile. God’s word reaching out to Gentiles is a theme that runs throughout Luke. In Luke 2:29-32 Simeon sings his beautiful song while holding the baby Jesus. Part of that song sings about Jesus saying, “a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” This baby Jesus was to be a light to the Gentiles, like the centurion, who saw it burning brightly! In Luke 24:44-49 Jesus tells the disciples that his word must be preached to ALL nations, which includes the Gentiles. Jesus’ ministry and words are for all people and this centurion demonstrated a deep and rich faith. His slave was healed. Is there anyone who is not loved by God? No, God loves all. “For God so loved the world...” (John 3:16).

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