



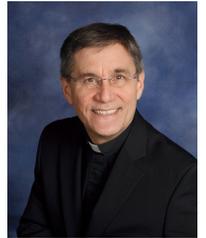
St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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 Editor: Jo Klein

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Open doors, open hearts, open minds.*

## Parish Times February 2016

*Jesus came to the disciples and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age. Matthew 28:18-20*



February 10 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, leading us to the cross and the resurrection. Traditionally in the church, Lent was the time when people prepared for baptism, which took place on Easter Sunday. For we who are already baptized, it is a good time to remember our baptism and all that baptism means. We do that as we follow our Savior Jesus on his journey to the cross. We follow while listening to his words of life as well as his commands to follow him. We are commanded to make disciples in his name. We are commanded to baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We are commanded to teach all that he taught us. And we receive the promise that he will be with us *always*. During our Wednesday night Lenten worship services, we will use the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service. As we do that, we will be meditating on what it means to live out our baptism by following Christ as his disciple. Come join us from 6:40-7:15 for this worship as we meditate on what it means to live out this promise of baptism as followers of our Savior Jesus.

See you in worship,

Pr. Dave



Our heartfelt thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for January: Joan Wilson, Ken McGrew, Doug and Jo Klein.



**February Acolytes:**  
**7 Alek Landenberger**  
**21 Ava Herrmann**

### AUDIT

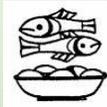
There will be an audit of the church financials on Sunday, Feb. 21 after worship. This is an open meeting; your participation will be welcomed and appreciated.



mvtech



**Ladies' Night Out** in March will take place on Tuesday, March 15th at O'Gara's – 164 N. Snelling Ave. at 5:30 p.m. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) if you are planning on attending by Sunday, March 6th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.



### Loaves and Fishes

95 Hungry people had a delicious dinner at the Loaves and Fishes Program at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on Dec. 28. Workers from St. Luke were Pastor Dave and Nahoko Person, John Person, Volker and Jodi Landenberger, Alex and Victor Landenberger, Larry Litzkow, Roger and Dianne Diestler.



### Usher Notes

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



St. Luke is in need of more drivers to transport parishioners to and from church for Sunday service. The majority of them live in the St. Luke neighborhood. If you can help, please sign up on the kiosk in the Social Hall asap. Your help is greatly needed and will be truly appreciated. Thank you.

**Attention, Current and Past Council Members:** We need volunteers to help count the offering on March 6 and March 13. If you are interested, please email the church office at [secretary@saintlukechurch.org](mailto:secretary@saintlukechurch.org). Please respond asap. Your help is greatly needed and will be greatly appreciated.



### Onomia Family Camp

Our family camp retreat is scheduled for February 5, 6, 7. This is for EVERYONE in the FAMILY of St. Luke. Young, old, short, tall, all of you are included. Sign up and plan to go. There is a sign up on the kiosk. Come for a restful, fun, and enriching time together with your family of St. Luke.



### FINANCE UPDATE:

December Receipts: \$17,528.90  
Expenses: \$14,903.36  
A copy of the Treasurer's Report is available from Ruth Carlson or in the church office.



We will meet every Tuesday evening for class as usual. Because the Camp Onomia Family Camp is the weekend of the Super Bowl, we will not be making Souper Bowl Sunday soup. If you are able, please come to Family Camp instead.  
-Pr. Dave



### February Birthdays

- 1 Ellen Schultz
- 4 Maggie Erickson
- 5 Kurt Schultz
- 7 Samantha Smith
- 9 Kirby Peterson
- 10 Junella Litzkow
- 11 Sue Grzywinski
- 12 Alec Schultz
- 14 Dianne Diestler
- 16 Ann Verschoyle
- 23 Mary Dybvig,  
Volker Landenberger
- 24 Jeff Kingsley
- 26 Karen Wasko
- 28 Sadie Pilgrim

### FEBRUARY

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

#### Readers:

- 7** Mike Hegdahl
- 14** Laurie Herrmann
- 21** Barb Jensen
- 28** Wendy Bjorklund

#### Communion:

- 7** Joan Wilson
- 21** Beth Peterson

### First Communion Classes

We will have first communion classes on Sunday, February 28 and Sunday March 6 during Sunday School time for anyone interested. First communion will then be received on Easter Sunday, March 27. Please talk with Pastor Dave if interested.





## Master's Recital

We are proud and pleased to announce a Master's Recital for Katie Kohler on Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 3:45. All are welcome! It takes place in Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall in the University of Minnesota School of Music, 100 Ferguson Hall, 2106 4th St. S., Minneapolis, 55455. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Katie as she achieves her Masters Degree in Flute Performance!

**CAN YOU HELP?** Do you need a ride to church? Are you someone who is available to give a person a ride to church? How do we connect you? St. Luke needs to identify a person who could coordinate riders and drivers. We have both, and right now ... most are aligned. But, when someone can't drive, or someone doesn't need a ride, there is no easy way to negotiate that change. So, we need a "St. Luke Rides Coordinator." Could that be you? It will mean a few phone calls a week. Please contact Mike Hegdahl or Wendy Bjorklund if you are interested in performing this service. All that is required is a working phone!



## Commentaries for the February Gospel Readings

In preparation for worship, please read the Bible text for the day as well as the commentaries found below. Prepare your heart and mind for worship and you will find yourself enriched. Sources for these studies include Working Preacher, Preaching Luke's Gospel by Rev. Richard Jensen, Luke by Dr. David Tiede, and my own notes.

### February 7: Luke 9:28-43a

There is so much here that I can only touch on a few things. First of all, this took place 8 days after Jesus first tells the disciples about his death and resurrection. Jesus took Peter, James and John with him up a mountain to pray. While Jesus was praying his face changed and his clothes became dazzling white. It reminds one of what happened to Moses after he met God on Mt. Sinai, his face was shining (Exodus 34:29). The light of God is contagious! After this Moses and Elijah show up talking with Jesus. Both of these men met God on a mountain, Moses on Sinai (Exodus 20:1-17) and Elijah on Mt. Horeb when he heard the sound of sheer silence (I Kings 19:11-12). Another meaning of Moses and Elijah is that Moses represents the law and Elijah the prophets. These two were speaking to Jesus about his *departure* which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. The word "departure" in Greek is *exodus*. In other words, they were talking about the exodus Jesus was to accomplish in Jerusalem...on the cross! This word "exodus" is jam-packed with meaning! Immediately it causes us to remember Moses leading the Hebrew people out of slavery to the promised land. In the same way, the exodus Jesus was to accomplish in Jerusalem on the cross would lead his people out of slavery to sin, to new life in salvation! Beautiful. All of this excitement causes the three disciples to shake off their sleepiness. Peter (not knowing what he said) babbled about making some booths to commemorate this great event. Just then, a cloud overshadowed them and a voice (God) said, "This is my Son, my chosen; listen to him!" We are reminded of the day Jesus was baptized, heaven was opened and a voice said, "You are my Son, the beloved; with you I am well pleased." Just like that time, Jesus had been praying. Just like that time, heaven was opened to reveal the Son of God. Just like that time, God spoke about his son, only this time the Lord added, "LISTEN TO HIM!" The disciples needed to quit making all of their assumptions. They needed to quit jumping to CONFUSION and LISTEN TO JESUS! LISTEN FOR ONCE!! Needless to say, that is an important word for us too. After this Jesus was alone and they did not say anything about this to anyone until after the resurrection (II Peter 1:16-18). Jesus then leads the disciples down the mountain and they are met by a crowd. A man comes out of the crowd and begs Jesus to heal his son. The son is struck by a demon, convulsing him and throwing him to the ground. Jesus heals the boy. It is important to note that Jesus does not stay up on the mountain basking in glory. He comes down into our valleys, into our depths and hurts to bring healing and life. In this regard, one of my favorite authors, Simon Tugwell wrote the following in his book on the Beatitudes, "Christ had to suffer and die because suffering and death were where mankind was. If he was to redeem mankind, he had to go, like the good shepherd, to where the lost sheep was." Tugwell, p. 61 That is precisely what our loving Savior did and does.

## February 14: Luke 4:1-13 First Sunday in Lent

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River the Holy Spirit descended upon him. Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit. This brings back memories of the Hebrews being led out of Egypt into the wilderness by the cloud and pillar of fire of God. The Hebrews were in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days, where he was tempted by the devil. The Hebrews wandered in the desert/wilderness crying for food and were fed by manna...bread from heaven. They were faced with many temptations in the wilderness and failed. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and did not fail. The devil's first temptation was, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." The devil knew Jesus was the Son of God. He didn't dispute that. But the devil had his own distorted interpretation of how the Son of God should act. He wanted acts of POWER. He wanted Jesus to DO something. He wanted Jesus to dance to his tune and put on a show. It is like in the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" when Jesus is commanded to show his stuff by walking across a swimming pool. "Let me see your stuff!" the devil tempts. Jesus responds with the first of three quotes from Deuteronomy. The context of Deuteronomy is that of the time the Hebrews wandered in the wilderness, when they succumbed to temptation. Isn't it fitting that he draws from that book of the Bible. Jesus' first response is from Deut. 8:3 saying, "One does not live by bread alone." Then the devil showed Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world and said, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Quite a temptation, but false! In Matthew 28:18 Jesus says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Jesus has the true authority, not the devil. Concerning the offer of glory from the devil, we listen to what Jesus said to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, right after his resurrection in Luke 24:26: "Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" For Jesus, the way to glory was through obedience to God the Father, through the cross. THIS is their way of his glory. Paul understood this well and wrote about it beautifully in Philippians 2:5-11. Check it out. It is gorgeous. Jesus responds to the devil's second temptation with a reference to Deut. 6:13. The devil then takes Jesus to the temple and misuses (to his own liking) Psalm 91 in his temptation. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16 to send the devil on his way until "an opportune time"... We read about that in Luke 22:3-6, "then Satan entered into Judas...he agreed and sought an *opportunity* to betray him". One more temptation story connection that can be made with this is the temptation of Adam and Eve by the devil. They too succumbed and sin entered the world. It is through Jesus that sin and the devil has been defeated! Paul understood this well, writing, "Therefore just as one man's trespass (Adam) led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness (Jesus) leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous." Romans 5:18-19. Finally a quote from Hebrews 4:14-16, "Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

## February 21: Luke 13:31-35 Second Sunday in Lent

My Luke professor at Luther Seminary, Dr. David Tiede wrote about our gospel reading for today saying, "This scene is a display of the complex struggle of wills which characterizes the entire story: the intention of Jesus' adversaries, the determination of the Messiah, the unwillingness of Jerusalem, and the fulfillment of the will of God. The pathos of the lament (34-39) is caught up in God's passion to save, which is pitted against human determination to resist, even when the results will be tragically destructive."

Our reading for today is set in the middle of what scholars call Luke's "travel narrative." It is particular to Luke. It is Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and the cross. It is found in Luke 9:51-19:27. Luke 9:51 states, "When the days drew near for him (Jesus) to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem." Jesus has set his face to journey to Jerusalem and the cross. Nothing will stop him until he accomplishes his mission. On his way in this journey Jesus both taught people and healed the sick. Our reading for today takes place in the midst of that journey. It begins, "At that very hour..." This is referring to Jesus teaching about the kingdom of God. As Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees came to warn him that Herod wanted to kill him. Whether these Pharisees were sincere or not, we do not know. But the Pharisees often get a bum rap. Too often we lump them all into a group opposing Jesus, but that isn't the case. Some followed Jesus. Perhaps these Pharisees were sincere and came to warn Jesus about Herod who was out to kill Jesus (he had already beheaded John the Baptist). Jesus tells the Pharisees to go tell that "fox" (an insult - like calling Herod a varmint) that he is on a mission to cast out demons and perform cures while on his way to Jerusalem. Jesus then states that it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem. There are some Old Testament stories to support this (Jeremiah 26:20-23; 2 Chronicles 24:20-22). Jerusalem has not always been cast in such a dark light. In fact, in Luke 2:36-38 we hear the prophetic words of Anna saying that the baby Jesus had

come for the redemption of Jerusalem. Redemption will indeed come, but it will be preceded by judgment against those who first judged Jesus. As Rev. Richard Jensen writes, "Jesus must finish his course. He is the prophet. Jerusalem lies just ahead. Jerusalem, therefore, becomes the city where great evil takes place. On the other hand, it is the place where God is to do marvelous things. Human sin and divine intervention meet up in Jerusalem. Prophetic history will be fulfilled." Jesus laments over Jerusalem. It breaks his heart. His words speak about what has happened in the past as well as what will happen to him. How he wishes to love and protect the people, like a hen gathers its chicks under its wings, but they were not willing! And yet, as we know, even though sin stood so strong and intransigent, in the end the grace of God won the day. Sin was left hanging on the cross as Jesus rose to new life for you and me.

### February 28, 2016: Luke 13:1-9

Like the reading from last week, this week too we find Jesus in the "travel narrative" on his way to Jerusalem and the cross (check out last week's commentary for more on this). He had just been telling the crowd about judgment in 12:49-59 when they ask why some Galileans were killed by Pilate and their blood mixed with sacrifices. Was this some kind of judgment on them by God because their sins were so terrible? Jesus didn't answer their question. He wasn't about to put God on trial. Humans don't call God into question. God calls us into question! But still they ask, why did these people suffer? Unless you repent, Jesus says, you will die just as they did. In fact, as Dr. David Tiede writes, we can see a pattern here in 13:1-9. Jesus gives a three-part answer, each concluding with a call to repentance.

"2-3 – Jesus' word on the Galileans:

**"Unless you repent you will all likewise perish."**

4-5 – Jesus' word on the casualties in Jerusalem:

**"Unless you repent you will all likewise perish."**

6-9 – Jesus' parable of the fig tree:

**"If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you cut it down."**

Jesus' third answer revolves around a tree, the need to bear fruit and giving it some extra fertilizer so it does just that. Repentance is all about bearing fruit. Remember John the Baptist calling on everyone to "Bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Luke 3:8)? Jesus is calling for the same, repentance, turning to God and leading "fruit-bearing" lives. As Rev. Richard Jensen writes, "And he (Jesus) is gracious in his call to repentance. He is willing to give us time. The vinedresser serves as a kind of Christ figure who argues our case before God! "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it." The repentance theme in Luke is almost always coupled with the reality of forgiveness of sin." This is the beginning of new life.



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