



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

Parish Times June 2016

You give them something to eat. Luke 9:13

This is what Jesus said to the disciples just before the feeding of the 5,000. As they looked at that vast mass of humanity, with just a few items of food between them, Jesus told the disciples, "You give them something to eat." They must have felt absolutely dumbfounded. But then Jesus provided the way, for Jesus IS The Way... and they fed the whole crowd, with baskets of food leftover. St. Luke has the privilege of starting our second year of the Farmers' Market. A strong emphasis of our market is to provide fresh food for those who are struggling financially. We are an EBT market. EBT is what used to be called "food stamps." It is an electronic version. For every dollar spent (up to \$10.00) with an EBT card, they will receive one Market Buck token (worth one dollar), which can be used at our market, doubling their buying power! In this way, people struggling financially will be able to buy more fresh, locally grown food thanks to our market and this program. This is a wonderful ministry of St. Luke and adds to our other ministries such as the Bun Run and Loaves and Fishes and micro lending in which we follow Jesus' command, "You give them something to eat." It is exciting, enriching and a life giving way to follow Jesus, love our neighbors, and create community. Join in. You will be blessed as well as be Jesus' agent of blessing.



Pr. Dave



Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out in June will take place on Tuesday, June 21 at Olive Garden – 1525 County Rd. C 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, June 12 so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.



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



Usher Notes

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



LOAVES AND FISHES

90 very hungry men, women and many children enjoyed a delicious meal at the Loaves and Fishes Program at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on April 25th. Workers from St. Luke were Pastor Dave Person, Joyce Bluel, Larry Litzkow, and Roger and Dianne Diestler.



Vacation Bible School

July 11, 12 and 13: those are the days we will have Vacation Bible School this year. We generally run from about 5:30 to 8:00 pm on those three nights with times for eating, study, playing games and crafts. I need help. Even if you can only help one night for a short time, I need you, as do the children. Can you cook one meal of, for example, hot dogs or hamburgers or pizza for about 10 people? Could you lead a craft or help with a game? Could you help me in a class as I try to teach the children? Maybe you could help lead a song or two. It is not a huge commitment, but it is a very important one. Please help. Sign up on the kiosk; thank you!

--Pastor Dave

Church Canoe Trip

We will be going on a great adventurous canoe trip to the BWCA, leaving the afternoon of Thursday, August 18 and returning the early evening of Monday, August 22. 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!



June Birthdays

- 2 Lynda Mathison
- 3 Arlene Drier
- 5 Betty Nelson
- 6 Luke Stadem, Mike Wobig
- 8 Phroah Mathis
- 10 Andrew Stadem, Florence Noha
- 16 Brian Spray, Evan Nelson
- 18 Alex Grzywinski
- 21 Pastor Dave, John Clinkenbeard
- 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 Kinglsey: 2014



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.

June WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Readers:

- 5 Mike Hegdahl
- 12 Beth Peterson
- 19 Wendy Bjorklund
- 26 Jill Burchill

Communion:

- 5 Joan Wilson
- 19 Wendy Bjorklund



June Acolytes:

- 5 Ava Herrmann
- 19 Evan Nelson



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.



Scholarships are available to any St. Luke member attending a Lutheran College. **The deadline for Fall Semester 2016 is July 1, 2016.** Please contact Ruth Carlson to get instructions and an application for qualification.



COFFEE HOUSE!

Announcing the return of our ever-popular St. Luke Coffee House on Friday, June 10! All are invited for refreshments, a live music jam (do bring an instrument and join us!), board games and whimsical banter at the St. Luke Coffee House, right here at church! Friday, June 10, 7 to 9...just drop in! Good times!

Commentaries for the June Gospel Readings

Below find the commentaries for the June gospel readings. I am grateful to “Preaching Luke’s Gospel” by Richard Jensen, “Luke” by David Tiede 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 about the gospel lesson, I would absolutely LOVE to hear them. Let’s grow in and through God’s Word!

June 5, Luke 7:11-17

Our reading starts with “soon afterwards.” Soon afterwards what? This was soon after Jesus healed the centurion’s servant. Remember the story of the Gentile centurion who displayed such great faith? If you don’t, please read it again, it is right before today’s gospel lesson. It took place in Capernaum where Jesus lived. Soon after that Jesus walked to the town of Nain, about 25 miles from Capernaum. Can you imagine walking 25 miles through the desert heat? Jesus and his group must have been tired. As they approached the gated entrance of the town of Nain they were met by a funeral procession carrying a man’s body out through the gate. No burials were allowed within the walls of a Jewish city or town. The man was the only son of a widow. This meant that the widow would now be without support and could possibly fall into utter poverty; reduced to begging or prostitution just to live. The tears she cried were due to the loss of her son as well as additional burdens we can hardly imagine. When the Lord saw her, he had “compassion.” This is the same word used in Mark 6:34 when Jesus saw the large crowd at the feeding of the 5,000, who were like sheep without a shepherd. In the Greek, this word “compassion” is about sympathy, pity, love and mercy. It is deep, heart-felt feeling that emanates from one’s very guts, soul, or heart. It comes from deep

within a person. Here we see the heart of Jesus. It is a heart of deep compassion. Jesus then does three things that completely shocked everyone. First he tells the widow not to cry. Can you imagine suffering such loss and then having some stranger come up to you and tell you not to cry?! I would be tempted to punch him in the nose! As a pastor, if I told people not to cry at funerals, I would probably soon be fired. After telling the widow not to cry, Jesus went up and touched the funeral bier. That is something you DID NOT DO in that society. You were instantly made unclean. It was unthinkable. The bearers stopped. Who IS this guy?? Then Jesus tells the dead man to rise....and he DOES! The dead man begins to speak and it says, "Jesus gave him to his mother." These are the same words used in I Kings 17:23 when the prophet Elijah brought a widow's son back to life and "gave him to his mother." Jesus does what the great prophet once did and even surpasses their deeds! It then says that fear SEIZED the people. It is like some great outside force grabbed hold of them. They had NEVER seen or experienced anything like this before. After the initial shock, they began to praise God saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" Perhaps this is Elijah come back or certainly someone like Elijah, a great and powerful prophet! Then needless to say, the word about Jesus and what he had done spread throughout the region like wild fire. And it all took place because Jesus had compassion on a devastated widow... That compassion of Jesus is active today also and holds you in loving arms.

June 12, Luke 7:36-8:3

This wonderful story is connected to one of the great themes of Luke, which is "the great reversal." Mary sings about it in the Magnificat in Luke 1:52-53, "He (God) has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty." We see this played out from the beginning of Luke to the end. In the beginning of Luke, Zechariah the priest is found doubting, then struck mute by the angel Gabriel, while Elizabeth and Mary (women had no status at the time) believed and played a central role in the births of John and Jesus. At the end of Luke, once again the women lead while the male disciples cower in fear and disbelief. In fact, Mary Magdalene brought the news of the resurrection to the disciples, thus becoming an apostle to the apostles. These are examples of the great reversal, which are found over and over in Luke. We find it once again in today's gospel in which a sinful woman shows greater faith and repentance than a Pharisee, a religious leader of the Jews. This is an odd story in a way. Jesus is invited to eat at a Pharisee's house. He was eating with a group of people when this sinful woman enters the scene. It seems that everyone knew she was a sinner, though we don't know what she had done. Why did she come? What gave her the courage to enter this Pharisee's house? I think the answer to both questions is "Jesus". Can you imagine being a guest at that table and watching as she comes in, anoints Jesus' feet with her tears and ointment, then wipes and kisses them? I imagine the conversation instantly died as everyone looked on, speechless. The tension in the room must have gone up exponentially. Everyone knew who she was. Why was she doing this? Why did Jesus even let her touch him? He was supposed to be a great prophet, a holy man of God. This is when Jesus spoke up, asking his host Simon about debts and which debtor would be most grateful if his debt was forgiven, one who owed much or one who owed little? Of course, the one who owed much, Simon replied. In those days, in such a hot, dusty place, it was a sign of good hospitality to provide water to wash and cool a guest's tired, hot, dusty feet. Simon had not done this, but the woman had, through tears and ointment. Simon had not given a kiss in greeting, but the woman had not stopped kissing Jesus' feet. Simon had not provided aromatic oil, but the woman had. Why had she done that? Because her sins had been forgiven. Jesus says, "Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; HENCE she has shown much love." Did you get that? Did you understand the order of events here? "Hence she has shown much love." In other words, BECAUSE her sins were forgiven, she showed much love....not the other way around. She was NOT doing this as a precondition for the forgiveness of sins; she was doing this out of gratitude for the forgiveness of sins received. We do not EARN forgiveness of sins. Paul states this very plainly in Romans 5:8, "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Jesus then pronounces her forgiveness publically, "Your sins are forgiven." This caused a big stir. Who can do such a thing? The great prophet Jesus, the Son of God! Jesus then says to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." In Jesus, the woman has seen her help, peace and salvation, whereas the leaders are only filled with questions and disbelief. "He (God) has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty."

June 19, Luke 8:26-39

Jesus and his disciples traveled by boat across the Sea of Galilee (actually a lake about the size of Mille Lacs). If you pay attention, you will notice that Jesus and his disciples do a lot of travel on the Sea of Galilee. This time it takes them to Gentile country, the country of the Gerasenes. As soon as Jesus stepped onto dry land he was met by a demon possessed man. Once again we see the Lukan theme of “reversal” as the demon possessed man knows exactly who Jesus is while the religious leaders don’t have a clue. We also see another main theme of Luke, which is found in Jesus’ “inaugural address,” when he reads from the Book of Isaiah in the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. Jesus reads, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19). Jesus gives release to this man who was captive to the demons. He set this oppressed man free. He can do the same for each of us no matter what holds us in captivity; no matter what oppresses us. We begin our journey to freedom by calling on the name of Jesus, Son of the Most High God. The demons know the power of Jesus and they ask that Jesus not cast them back into the abyss, but instead, into the herd of swine (a sign this was Gentile country, Jews would have nothing to do with swine. Jews thought that swine were dirty animals and an appropriate place for demons). Jesus agrees, the demons enter the herd and they promptly stampede over a cliff and into the sea. Here, the demons met their end too. It was generally thought at that time that demons had an aversion to water. Thus in Luke 11:24 we see a reference of demons wandering through “waterless places.” As Dr. David Tiede writes, “This story is filled with terror for those whose world is filled with demons, but it also has a delightful twist. Jesus sends the demons into the pigs, at their request, and then the pigs head straight for the water! The humor would not have been lost on those who would fear that the demons had merely hidden out in a “waterless place” soon to return. Not a chance. Jesus has again proved to be more than a match for the powers of evil, and his command may be trusted to be saving.” I imagine the swineherds were not only astonished, but more than a little angry too. Their source of income had vanished. They run back to tell everyone in the city and in the country (in other words, everywhere). All the people came to see what had happened and found the man in his right mind. Just like our first reading in June, the people were SEIZED with fear. Fear grabbed hold of them. This was something beyond their understanding and it filled them with fear. Who was this man who could do such a thing? They didn’t understand and they just wanted him gone. It seems that fear may have greater power than the demons in blinding our eyes to God! The man who was freed from the demons asked to follow Jesus, but Jesus sent him home. Not all of us are called in the same way. This man was sent back to share the good news of Jesus with his friends and family. How is Jesus calling you?

June 26, Luke 9:51-62

In the Gospel of Luke, this is the point from which Jesus begins his journey to Jerusalem and the cross. We see that in the opening line, “When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” “Taken up” can also have the meaning of “received up, death and exaltation”. From this time forward in the Gospel of Luke (less than halfway through the Gospel), Jesus is journeying to Jerusalem and the cross...that is always in the background from this time forth. Some refer to this section of Luke as “the travel narrative.” As Jesus and the disciples begin their journey, Jesus sends messengers ahead of him to prepare the way. They came to a Samaritan village that rejected them because they were going to Jerusalem. Jews and Samaritans were often at odds with one another, and would even kill each other. That is why the story of the “Good Samaritan” was so shocking to Jesus’ Jewish audience. They could not imagine anything being “good” about Samaritans. Because the Samaritans had rejected them, and perhaps because of the bad blood between Jews and Samaritans, the disciples ask Jesus whether or not they should command fire to come down from heaven and consume the Samaritans. Jesus rebuked them and they went on in their journey. Perhaps the disciples had forgotten Jesus’ teaching to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Too often we forget that too, don’t we...We then come to a section of people who say they will follow Jesus, followed by an excuse. His determination to carry out his mission is resolute. Jesus does not accept any excuse as he sets his face to Jerusalem and the cross. All those who follow him are not to be consumed with excuses; rather they are those who are ready to give up home, family and possessions in order to follow Jesus. There is nothing more precious than following our Lord.

The Lord bless thee, and keep