



St. Luke Lutheran Church

Faith. Hope. Love.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Living our faith with hope, we share God's
unconditional love with all.

February, 2017 Newsletter

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:

*To the Disciples in Christ of St. Luke Lutheran Church,
This is an article I'd like to share written by the Director of Evangelical
Mission from the SW Pennsylvania Synod about evangelism. In order to
grow the Kingdom of Heaven, we must spread the Good News of Christ.
Please consider the offering below and try to incorporate these practices
into your daily life.*

BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WITNESS! *Fact: Lutherans are afraid of
evangelism.*

*In the Lutheran Church, we don't talk much about how to witness our faith
person to person. We tend to be quiet and shy. But all of us who are
Christians are already witnesses to the faith. It is not an option; it is a fact.
The only question is whether or not we are helpful or not helpful witnesses!
Here are some key things that helpful witnesses are doing faithfully:
PRAY Pray regularly for people in your circle of friends, relatives and
acquaintances who are unchurched or even de-churched. A few of
those people could be a part of your daily prayer life. When you are with
them, be in prayer for them in the midst of your interaction.*

LISTEN *It is a powerful, loving gift to listen to someone. This is particularly
important in witnessing. Bringing Jesus to others is not about your
dumping your statement of belief on them or sending them on a guilt trip
about missing church. This is about listening to see how God is leading
you to care about the needs, challenges, and hopes in life of one of God's
other children.*

LOVE *This goes hand and hand with listening. As you listen, you will have
opportunities to respond in care for them. You carry the loving presence*

of God to them. Look for ways to provide caring support. Pray that God will give you the wisdom to see how your gifts can be helpful in meeting their needs.

SHARE Pray for insight into how you can best share the good news of Jesus with them. Your life has been graced by Christ, and at the proper moment, share how what has happened in your life through Jesus might overlap with their situation. This might happen quickly or may take some time. Don't manipulate the conversation so that you can tell your story. Instead, think of witnessing as journeying with someone and finding out that how God has touched your life has meaning for someone else's life experience.

We ARE witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is essential that we continue to grown in our ability to be better at the central commission that comes from our Lord. It will change your life as well as someone else's! Excerpted from an article by Blair Morgan, ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission

**I hope you have found this helpful as a guide to evangelism!
Serving with you for Christ's sake,**

Pastor Joan

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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	Dana Bradley
	Pastor Joan Armstrong

BIRTHDAYS:

Joan Armstrong	February 9
Hank Nienaber	February 14
Valerie Vanarsdall	February 14

OFFERINGS/RECEIPTS:

12/24/16	\$2214.00
1/ 1/17	\$2433.00
1/ 8/17	\$2170.76
1/15/17	\$2124.66

PRAYER EMPHASIS:

Pray for those who do not have shelter during this winter month. There are homeless people in our own metropolitan area, and countless refugees across the globe. Pray that God would help us to find solutions to homelessness and to send aid to those who are fleeing violence and economic insecurity. Ask God to protect them from the elements and to guard them from crime and exploitation.

NEWS & EVENTS:

Belly and Soul!

*On Sundays after church beginning on February 26th, we will meet, make some kind of lunch decision, and explore the Resurrection with videos featuring theologian N.T. Wright talking about his book, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. We will have six sessions and will end promptly at 1:30pm. Each person will need to have a Participant's Guide, and a sign-up sheet will be posted by mid-January. If you have questions, please see Pastor Joan.*

PARABLE PLAYERS:

The January "performance" was small in number but mighty in power. Even though the full cast was deterred for health reasons, but as the saying goes, "the show must go on"! Anyone interested in joining this group, please contact Peggy Whitford or Jan Dill. You have no idea how much joy it brings to those residents at the Crossroads Transitional Care.....and to the players. Scripts are prepared by Peggy and are performed every third Monday of the month. (Hollywood contracts may be in your future, so give it a try!)

YOUNG AT HEART:

January's gathering at LaRosa's was small in number, but a little birdie told me that a good time was had by all. As stated in the past, this group of active (as they want to be), joyful (ditto) group are a fun group. Games (not the real Jeopardy) are fun and easy....food is good, no matter what....guests are always welcome! Interesting and informative speakers often bless us with their presence and knowledge, so it is always great to have a nice number to show the appreciation for their time and expertise. Come and join this fun group every first Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. (Roller skates and skateboards must be checked at the door, however)....and Roy Whitford is one tough bouncer!

p.s. The winner of the Jet Ski did not claim his or her prize from December's meeting, so it will go back to the dealer. Sorry.

FAMILY PROMISE:

Our Rotations 2017 are:

- March 5th thru March 11th*
- May 28th thru June 3rd*
- July 16th thru July 22nd*
- October 1st thru October 7th*
- December 10th thru December 16th*

St. Luke is responsible for Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. We are in need of van drivers, dinner to be cooked and served and two people to spend the night. This is a great way to serve Our Lord! Please pray about helping out and if you have any questions contact Cindy Weiner at cindyweiner@fuse.net or 859-801-3143.

BULLETIN:

Kim Wood prepares the worship service bulletin. If you need to have information placed in the bulletin, or would like to add someone to the prayer list, please make sure she has your information by 2:00 PM each Wednesday. Her email address is wood.ks@icloud.com.

NEWSLETTER: Please forgive the creator of this newsletter for not including a calendar. She is technologically challenged and was unable to figure out how to do it. Stay tuned! Thank you for your patience.

Jan Dill prepares the monthly newsletter. If you have information or insertions to be placed in the newsletter, please provide this information to Jan by the 20th of every month. Her email address is reimanjd@gmail.com.