



St. Luke Lutheran Church

Faith. Hope. Love.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January Newsletter

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Happy New Year!

I give thanks for all the blessings that we received in 2016 and look forward to seeing how the Spirit will bless us to be a blessing to others in this coming year.

One way we were blessed last year was in the work of Connect and the Transformational Ministry Team of Steve Delaney, Mitch Talbott, Laura Helton, and our newest member, Bill Landon. We have been able to reach out to Crossroad Elementary School to help them with a project that will improve parenting skills in at risk families. This ministry was a result of one of the projects the TMT was given as “homework” last year.

In October, Pastor Nancy Nyland, the Director for Evangelical Mission for the IK Synod, lead the TMT along with other congregational leaders, in an exercise to discern the **Guiding Principles** of St. Luke Lutheran Church. At our Annual Congregational Meeting at the end of January, you will be asked to approve the guidelines we created with help from the Holy Spirit. **After approval, the Guiding Principles will be used to shape our actions and our outreach.**

You'll be hearing more about them in the coming weeks, but I would like to introduce you to them now:

At St. Luke we...

- welcome all (and we really mean it!)
- love one another as Jesus first loves us.
- celebrate our relationships with God and each other.
- show compassion for all, inside and outside our doors.
- practice radical hospitality.
- listen for the Holy Spirit.
- respect others and their ideas.
- praise God in song.
- are centered, as Lutherans, in grace and hope.
- embrace God's boundless and unconditional love.

Please take some time to think about these statements, as they will be what moves us in ministry over the coming year, and will be instrumental in helping us to bless others with our service. We know the Holy Spirit is moving among us here at St. Luke Lutheran Church. I look forward to seeing where we are led in the coming year!

Serving our Lord with you,

Pastor Joan

COUNCIL'S CORNER

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Laura Helton
Vice President	Todd Whitford
Secretary	Jan Dill
Treasurer	Hank Nienaber
Financial Secretary	Irvina Sandmann
Members	Micki Watson
	Mitch Talbott
	Dana Bradley
	Pastor Joan Armstrong

Minutes of the December 2016 meeting are available from any Council member upon request.

BIRTHDAYS

Betty Weiner	1/11
Jim Wood	1/17
Lou Thompson	1/18
Diana Henderson	1/29

OFFERINGS/RECEIPTS

Receipts

11/27/16	\$1020.00
12/4/16	\$2355.00
12/11/16	\$2297.00
12/18/16	\$1182.66

PRAYER EMPHASIS

As our new President takes office, let us pray for Mr. Trump and all those nominated and appointed to serve in our government with him. Pray that they would be guided by wisdom, the need for justice, and compassion to make decisions that will serve the common good. Please pray also for all the government workers who will be adjusting to a new administration. Pray that all together, our country would begin to feel less divided and more united, and that conversations would lead to understanding and not confusion or fear.

Spiritual Discipline

The short days and long nights of January tend to cause us to cocoon at home. During this month, consider wrapping yourself in an afghan and curl up with some of the stories of the Old Testament from Kings and Samuel. Let these stories of God in action so long ago, working through both righteous and flawed people, remind you that God can use you, too.

Coming in February.....Belly and Soul!

On Sundays after church 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 Participants Guide, and a sign-up sheet will be posted by mid-January. If you have questions, please see Pastor Joan.

Sam Cantrell would like to thank all of those that brought in Nativity displays and shared with the church family and those that attended the Christmas Eve service. It was not only beautiful and varied in style and media, but truly depicted the Story. If you happen to acquire a Nativity scene this coming year or would like to share yours next year, please be prepared to retrieve it from that "special place" storage place. We may be sharing them during the entire season of Advent!

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

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**.