



# St. Luke Lutheran Church

Faith. Hope. Love.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## April 2016 Newsletter

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

### **A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR**

*"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. 9 For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. 10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 4:6-11*

These words were written by the Apostle Paul to the church at Corinth in response to conflict that had erupted there among the people of God. There were rival factions, claims of spiritual superiority by some and lack of hospitality by others. In other words, the church at Corinth was in normal mode.

This letter could be written to virtually any church at any time and be relevant. The churches that Paul planted in Greece and what is now Turkey were growing rapidly. Many started with a core group of Jewish followers of Jesus, and they resented the growing addition to their community of Gentiles unfamiliar with the way Jews did things. Sound familiar?

St. Luke Lutheran Church is going through such a growth transition. Very few of the people who have recently joined our church family have come with a Lutheran background, but that is not really a problem. Our new all-inclusive bulletin has really helped make our liturgy not only understandable but even enjoyable to some who do not come from such a background. They probably didn't come so much for the liturgy—they came to find friends who would welcome them. We do a good job at that.

But what comes after the welcome? What comes after the visitor stays becomes an addition to the family? It means that some things might have to change in order to accommodate new visions, ideas, and possibly—dare we consider it?—the ways we do things.

Change is sometimes a little frightening to contemplate, but growth is exciting. Let's not focus on the anxiety around the word "change" and instead concentrate on the joy of the word "growth."

The joy of growth is that we need to set more places at God's table for the Lord's Supper—more bread; more wine; more bulletins! The joy of growth also means we might have to step aside from something we considered “our job” to make room for new people to step up and feel a part of our worship, service and fellowship at St. Luke.

As Paul reminds us: God gives the growth. The Holy Spirit has brought us what we have all prayed and planned for over the last few years. Now it is up to us to remember that we have a common purpose and are all God's servants working together. With the challenges of growth we take heart in the knowledge that previous pastors and people at St. Luke have laid a strong foundation for the future by laying a foundation built on Jesus Christ!" To God be the glory!

Serving our Lord with You,  
Pastor Joan

### **COUNCIL'S CORNER**

Council continues to read and discuss the book, Real Good Church, and brainstormed some ideas to get St. Luke out in the community.

Property Guidelines and nursery policies are being reviewed and drafted. Council will share these guiding principals at the Bi-Annual Congregation Meeting at the end of June.

#### Council Members

President	Irvina Sandmann
Vice President	Todd Whitford
Secretary	Jan Dill
Treasurer	Hank Nienaber
Members	Kim Wood Laura Helton Sue Huff Pastor Joan Armstrong
Financial Secretary	Irvina Sandmann

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Tuesday, April 5 - Men of the Church meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM for fellowship, Bible study, food, and lively discussions! All men of the church are invited to join.
- Wednesday, April 6 - Young at Heart meeting at 11:00 AM. The speaker will be new St. Luke member Dr. Bill Landon, who leads the History Department at NKU. Everyone is invited to join. Please make reservations with Peg Whitford.
- Thursday, April 7 - Transformation Ministry Team meeting at 6 PM
- Sunday, April 10 - Spring Transformation Ministry Team Potluck Lunch after worship
- Tuesday, April 12 - Church Council meeting at 6:30 PM
- Monday, April 18 - Transformation Ministry Team meeting at 6 PM

- Saturday, April 23 - Ladies Tea, 11 AM - 1 PM. Thrivent will be sponsoring the food and Family Promise will give a short talk. We will take a free-will offering that will be donated 100% to Family Promise. We had lots of fun last year and would love to see you this year! Please RSVP if you would like to reserve a table or just a place or two. RSVP or questions: Cindy Weiner 859-801-3143
- Sunday, April 24 - Play, Breathe, Pray meets at 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM every 4th Sunday of the month. Everyone brings in their craft item to work on. You don't need to have any special talents to join. It's just a time to get out and intermingle with others. Share your talent with others who might want to learn. Did you notice all the adult coloring books out there? That's what we've been using for doodle prayer.
- Tuesday, April 26 - Ladies Meeting at 7:00 PM. Bring a snack and share in good fellowship!
- Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30 - Transformation Ministry Team Link II Workshop

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Transformation Ministry Team**

There is much stirring of effort within the Transformation Ministry Team (TMT) group, which consists of Laura Helton, Mitch Talbott, Ben Morris, Pastor Armstrong, Pastor Joyce Gerwing (IK synod coach) and Steve Delaney [Chair]. As you may recall, the task of the Transformation Ministry Team is to lead the congregation in how to gain a collective sense of what God wants us to do. First steps for the TMT have been to gain that sense for the team.

Through prayer and interaction, we've come to realize our purpose as:

***To listen, discern, guide and grow with our congregation as we seek to fulfill God's mission for St. Luke Lutheran Church.***

What does that mean? Awareness of God's want was affirmed through our Mission statement, that being:

***Living our Faith with Hope, we share God's unconditional love with all.***

The TMT group will be holding a Spring potluck dinner for the congregation on April 10th immediately after the service. At this gathering, we look forward to sharing a meal and fellowship with everyone. It is also our prayerful hope of joining in the congregation's conversation of our future - a future of Spiritual content, Service to St. Luke and the community, Discipleship of Jesus and Stewardship of our spiritual gifts.

The TMT group will continue finding energy, purpose, and direction using God's work, prayer, conversation, and faith practices in the second Indiana-Kentucky Transformation Ministry Process training event. The training, Connect Link II, will be held in Indianapolis on April 29th and 30th. The TMT group will continue their journey through the second of four of our Synod's transformation ministry sessions.

## BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Sarah Weiner  
4/20 Martha Delaney

## ANNIVERSARIES

4/23 Todd & Cindy Weiner  
4/27 Dick & Betty Weiner



<b>OFFERINGS</b>	2/21/16	\$1,448.00
	2/28/16	\$1,445.00
	3/6/16	\$3,119.00
	3/13/16	\$1,503.66
	3/20/16	\$2,055.00

## PRAYER EMPHASIS

We are now officially in the season of spring. Let us pray for the farmers and workers who will be preparing soil and planting crops so that we can enjoy the fruits of their labor in the coming months. Pray for favorable weather for planting and working that the harvest would be abundant with plenty to share for all.

## FAITH PRACTICE

### SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE FOR APRIL:

In keeping with the role of farmers in our lives and also the celebration of Earth Day this month, practice mindful eating. Take time to smell the aromas of the food you eat. Consider the source of the food and thank God for the animals who provide us with meat and the workers who bring it to our tables. Be grateful to God for farmers who work hard to bring flavorful, healthful and aromatic food to our plates. Say Grace at every meal!

## NEWS & UPDATES

Our heartfelt thanks go to **Lorie Scott** for leading the Lenten services on Wednesday evenings. Delicious soups and her inspiring messages made it a time of good fellowship and prayerful worship.

**Parable Players** did their monthly program at CareSpring. A skit about Jesus Mary, and Marha was performed, along with a reading "Jesus Loves Me". We took stuffed rabbits and candy bars for each of the attendees. If you would like to be part of this ministry we would welcome you. See Peg Whitford.

## HAPPY EASTER!

We greet each other with the words: Christ is risen! And respond with: He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! With these words we share the amazing joy of the resurrection of our Lord. But the greeting extends beyond just Easter Sunday. Easter is a season seven Sundays long and the celebration goes on. Hallelujah for that!

**SPRING FLOWER PLANTING** – Join us on Saturday, April 30th from 10AM-2PM as we spruce up the outside of the church. Help us plant some flowers, spread some mulch and get things ready for spring. If you would like to donate money to help the church purchase mulch and flowers this year please write 'Landscaping' on your check and place it in the offering plate during worship. If you have a green thumb and would like to help the landscaping team throughout the year please see Linda Reller to find out more. Lunch will be provided. Sign up to help on the bulletin board in the foyer.

**HELP HOMELESS FAMILIES** – St. Luke is partnering with 35 other churches and organizations in Northern Kentucky through Family Promise to help homeless and low-income families. This awesome program provides temporary housing, job training and life skills education with the goal of creating a sustainable situation for children and their families. Each year over 2.5 million children are homeless in America. We are doing our part to make sure that homeless children and their families in Northern Kentucky have a safe place to go and break out of poverty.

We are looking for volunteers to cook and serve meals, provide transportation, and to chaperone overnight. The commitment is 1 evening every 10 weeks or 5 times a year. If you would, or someone you know would like to help out with this effort please contact Ben Morris (859) 814-4289 or Todd Weiner (859) 445-7180. Make plans to join us on April 17th after worship to tour the convent at St. Joseph, Cold Spring. St. Joe's has graciously offered us the use of their former convent for this program and we will be touring the facility with other volunteers. A sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the foyer.

**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**.

**SCHEDULES**

Date	Readers	Greeters	Communion	Acolytes
April 3	Lorie Scott	Jan & Roger Dill	Irvina Sandmann	Mitch Talbott
April 10	Jan Dill	Ben & Amy Morris	Mitch Talbott	Aaron Weiner
April 17	Amy Morris	Laura & Garrett Helton	Diana Henderson	Steve Delaney
April 24	Todd Weiner	Linda Denolfi & Sue Huff	Todd Weiner	Mitch Talbott

# APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Men's Meeting 6:30 PM	6 Young at Heart 11:00 AM	7 Transformation Ministry Team Meeting 6 PM	8	9
10 Spring Transformation Ministry Team Potluck	11	12 Council Meeting 6:30 PM	13	14	15	16
17 Family Promise: Tour at St. Joseph	18 Transformation Ministry Team Meeting 6 PM	19	20	21	22	23 Ladies Tea 11 AM - 1 PM
24 Play, Breathe, Pray 2 PM	25	26 Ladies Meeting 7 PM	27	28	29	30 Spring Flower Planting 10 AM - 2 PM
					Transformation Ministry Team Link II	