



St. Luke Lutheran Church

Faith. Hope. Love.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

May 2016 Newsletter

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

**A WORD
FROM OUR
PASTOR**

"Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God." Luke 24:50-53

Ascension of our Lord is on May 5th, a weekday when we will not be together in worship. I will not be preaching on this text the following Sunday, but Christ's Ascension is too important to pass without comment.

Jesus was carried up into heaven. Where is heaven? Our concept of heaven is shaped by the Bible, back at a time where understanding of the earth, sun and sky were very different from what we know now. The ancients believed that the highest level of the universe was heaven. We have sent plenty of astronauts out into space, but they have never run across the ascended Christ.

Even though we are much more scientifically sophisticated, we still cling to this notion of "up." Heaven is up there. How different it would be if we considered the direction of "up" to be less of a spatial thing and more of a theological one. Jesus is "up" there above the whole cosmos, the highest that can be.

Yet, we do not believe Jesus is far, far away. Jesus is present to us every time we gather—every time we lift our hearts in prayer. Christ is as close to us as our next breath.

And breath brings us to another festival we will celebrate in May, Pentecost. At Pentecost the promised Advocate, Spirit of God, arrived and blew through Jerusalem finally resting as tongues of fire on the heads of the disciples. They went from continually blessing God in the temple to testifying to the salvation offered through Jesus Christ, God's only Son, in the streets of Jerusalem and throughout the known world. They became Apostles, messengers and carriers of the good news of Jesus Christ. And that news is still being shared centuries and centuries later.

The Sunday immediately after Pentecost is the Holy Trinity. On that Sunday we will contemplate again the divine mystery of One God in Three Beings, formally acknowledging the newly arrived Spirit as an equal essence of the Trinity.

At St. Luke many are talking about how strongly we feel the Holy Spirit working among us, giving us hope, energy and new directions. Jesus is truly present in our worship, fellowship and work together. We, too, are to be regularly gathering to bless God for all that we have been given and all that we are called to do in service to God.

May you be richly blessed during this beautiful month of May!

Your sister in Christ,

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. We are preparing for the annual report, due on May 11 as well as the Bi-Annual Congregation Meeting at the end of June.

Council Members

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tuesday, May 3 - Men of the Church meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM for Bible study, food, and fellowship. All men of the community are invited to attend.
- Wednesday, May 4 - Young at Heart meeting at 11:00 AM. The theme will be Bible Derby! Last year we used our Bible quiz cards to play baseball. This year we are going to run the Bible Derby using the same cards. Marie Stevens will supply the horses and we will make a "table track". Jan and Roger Dill will bring fried chicken and those with last names beginning with H-P will bring sides and desserts. (Anyone else who wants to may bring dishes too.) Ladies, make and wear a Derby hat! The men will vote for a Derby hat winner by secret ballot! Please reserve your place with Peggy Whitford, 859-441-1617 or Erin, 859-441-4236. Come and bring friends!!
- Tuesday, May 10 - Church Council meeting at 6:30 PM
- Monday, May 16 - Transformation Ministry Team meeting at 6 PM
- Wednesday, May 24 - Ladies Meeting at 7:00 pm. Come and enjoy some good fellowship. If you would like, please bring a snack to share.

BIRTHDAYS

5/17	Kennedy Hay
5/19	Roy Whitford
5/21	Geneva Fry

A decorative graphic with the words "Let's Celebrate" written in a large, elegant, black cursive font.

ANNIVERSARIES

5/1	Roger & Jan Dill
5/17	Dennis & Micki Watson
5/29	Mitch & Lisa Talbott
5/31	Justin & Laura Helton

OFFERINGS	3/20/16	\$2,055.00
	3/27/16	\$1,896.00
	4/3/16	\$3,139.00
	4/10/16	\$1,297.00
	4/17/16	\$1,701.66

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Transformation Ministry Team

The Transformation Ministry Team (TMT) hosted a lunch in April and will continue to share and communicate with the congregation through ongoing quarterly potluck meetings. In the meantime, we also encourage ongoing conversations about growth and goals. The members of the TMT look forward to engaging with the congregation and working together as we journey together. At the potluck we introduced the TMT purpose statement that we believe will help us frame our goals as we move forward together. Also introduced were four areas of growth, which will serve as a guide as we all journey through this process together.

Purpose Statement:

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

Guides for Growth:

SPIRITUAL – inviting the Holy Spirit into everything we do

SERVICE – Outreach, in-reach, Family Promise, homeless shelter dinners, and more

DISCIPLESHIP –Equipping us to follow Jesus through Bible study, prayer groups, and devotions before meetings

STEWARDSHIP – Time/Talent: putting our spiritual gifts to use, managing and developing the resources God has given us personally and communally

Pastor Joan spoke about the transition between a Family Style church to a Pastoral Style Church. It was shared that St. Luke is already in the midst of this transition and in many ways we share characteristics of both categories. As we call our full time pastor we will continue to grow into a Pastoral Style church.

**NEWS
&
UPDATES**

Affirmation of Faith

Many of us went through a faith formation process called Confirmation when we were in 7th and 8th grade. At its conclusion, we had a special liturgy, wore white robes, corsages and boutonnieres, and were acknowledged to be adult, voting members of the congregation. For some of us, it's been decades since we studied those faith basics, and for others, a formal look at these things has never occurred. Pastor Joan would like to offer everyone, youth and adult, the opportunity to attend Confirmation and to be recognized at a special liturgy, Affirmation of Baptism, at the end of the study.

The plan is to offer a series of Confirmation Modules over a period of years: The Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, Understanding Worship, Old Testament, and New Testament. Anyone who completes all the modules can participate in the Affirmation of Baptism liturgy offered each year as needed.

The first module, the Lord's Prayer, will be offered this May and June. We will meet after church and share a simple lunch. Then we will dig in to Luther's understanding of this beloved prayer given to us by our Lord Jesus. The sessions will be on May 15th, May 22nd, and June 12th. We will be done by 1:30pm each Sunday.

Pastor Joan will need to know who will be attending by May 8th to give her time to order a copy of the Small Catechism for everyone. Please contact her by phone (513-330-6633) or email (armstrongj5202@yahoo.com) if you want to attend.

Yard Sale

Our annual yard sale is Saturday, May 14 starting at 8:00 am and clean up is at 3:00 pm. All week prior to the sale is used to unload boxes and every one is needed to stop by to help. If you donate an item and want a certain price for it, attach a note with the May 14 date on it so we know.

Sunday on May 8 after service, we will move everything from the back room. We will have 2 cashiers and 2 baggers at each table. If interested in being a cashier, let Lisa Talbott or Linda Reller know. Critical times are 7:00 the morning of the sale to move items outside. We have customers waiting in the parking lot. 3:00 is clean up time to get church back in order. We also have a bake sale table, which is our BIG seller. Swing by. Trash to Treasures is a fun time.

Help is always welcomed and is needed throughout the week as well as the day of the yard sale.

Mother's Day Breakfast

Join us for a Mother's Day Breakfast on May 8th at 9:30 am, hosted by the Men's Group. The men will be serving a pancake breakfast to all of the ladies of the church.

The Parable Players continue their monthly service at Carespring Transitional Center. Last month we did a choral reading on "The Good Samaritan". If you are interested in joining the group, please see Peggy Whitford. The Parable Players perform skits, readings, and Bible monologues on the third Monday of each month. Rev. Roger Dill gives an inspirational talk and we have a prayer.

**PRAYER
EMPHASIS**

Please note that attached to your newsletter is a resource from the ELCA that offers a prayer topic for each day of the month. Every day you can join your prayers to all the others being offered on that topic across the ELCA. This can help keep your prayer life fresh and meaningful.

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
May 1	Lorie Scott	Jan & Roger Dill	Irvina Sandmann	Mitch Talbott
May 8	Jan Dill	Ben & Amy Morris	Mitch Talbott	Aaron Weiner
May 15	Amy Morris	Laura & Garrett Helton	Diana Henderson	Steve Delaney
May 22	Todd Weiner	Linda Denolfi & Sue Huff	Todd Weiner	Mitch Talbott
May 29	Lorie Scott	Jan & Roger Dill	Irvina Sandmann	Mitch Talbott

MAY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Men's Meeting 6:30 PM	Young at Heart 11:00 AM			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Mother's Day Breakfast 9:30 AM		Council Meeting 6:30 PM				Yard Sale 8 AM - 3 PM
			Yard Sale Preparations - See Linda Reller			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Confirmation: The Lord's Prayer after service - 1:30 pm	TMT Meeting 6 PM The Parable Players, time TBD					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Confirmation: The Lord's Prayer after service - 1:30 pm		Ladies Meeting 7 PM				
29	30	31				
	Memorial Day					



26 The destructive turmoil in regions of the Middle East is a persistent problem. We earnestly pray for peace in these areas and that communities will rebuild and heal for the sake of the people who yearn for the calm and sanctuary of safe homes a return to thriving neighborhoods.

27 We remember in our prayers the Southeastern Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide its leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

28 We pray for the Presbyterian Church (USA), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997 and for the continuing growth of our relationship as we share the gospel and do God's work in the world—together.

29 We remember before God the needs and infirmities of all people, especially people we have ignored, rejected, passed by or treated as outsiders.

30 On this Memorial Day we remember, recognize and give thanks for the men and women who have served in the armed forces and have lost their lives in the pursuit of justice, peace and freedom for our country and all nations.

31 *Visit of Mary to Elizabeth* The pregnancies of Mary and Elizabeth remind us that with God all things are possible. We give thanks and praise to God for bringing good news and redemption to the world through Elizabeth and Mary, and we pray for the wellbeing and health of all expectant mothers as well as those who are trying to conceive.

PRAYER VENTURES

MAY 2016

These petitions are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA. Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 There are more than 100 Asian congregations and ministries in the ELCA. We give thanks to God for the diverse cultures, languages and heritages of our Asian and Pacific Islander brothers and sisters in Christ and pray for the growth and vitality of their ministries.

2 We give thanks to God for the days growing longer and for the warmth and light of the sun that stir the growth of food crops, plants and trees and draw us outdoors for the enjoyment of nature—the handiwork of our Creator.

3 We pray that people living with mental illness find understanding, care and affordable treatment and that our congregations serve as welcoming faith communities of hope and healing—in the name of Jesus Christ.

4 “Called Forward Together in Christ” is the process of involving our church—both clergy and lay—in discerning our future directions and priorities. We pray that we will be attentive to one another and guided by God's Word and purpose in our deliberations and decisions.

5 *Ascension of Our Lord* Our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, demonstrates God's power and glory over the universe. We give thanks and praise for Jesus' clear witness of love and redemption and pray that we serve as living, faithful witnesses of God's love for all people, everywhere.

6 We remember in our prayers the Southeastern Iowa, Pacifica and Minneapolis Area synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

This resource may be copied and shared among members and friends of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact info@elca.org for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.

7 We remember in our prayers the New Jersey, Southeastern Minnesota and Southeastern Pennsylvania synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

8 In our unity with God through Jesus Christ, we ask the Spirit to heal our divisions and stir us as Christians to encourage one another in our faith, service and witness.

9 We give thanks to God for musicians who write and compose music and hymns, and for the creative ways in which they enliven us and help us worship and praise God.

10 We remember in our prayers Savannah Schneider and Pastor Sarah and Adam Erickson, ELCA missionaries serving in Cambodia, and ask God to bless their work and sustain their energy and enthusiasm for sharing the gospel.

11 In our prayers we recognize and praise God's majesty, creative power, eternal presence and immeasurable mercy.

12 We pray for God's presence, healing and hope to be known and felt in communities affected by severe weather, flooding and drought.

13 We remember in our prayers the Southeast Michigan, Northern Great Lakes and Northeastern Ohio synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

14 May our understanding of justice be guided and informed by God's Word and by Jesus' examples of compassion, fairness, concern for the poor and humble service.

15 *Day of Pentecost* In a world of diverse languages, cultures and traditions, we give thanks to God that we are drawn together by the Holy Spirit as one community in Jesus Christ, called to live in one faith and one baptism.

16 We remember in our prayers the North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide its leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

17 Eight young adults are working in ministries of education, women's ministry, farming, nursing and a school for the blind in Madagascar through the Young Adults in Global Mission program. We give thanks for their work and ask God to bless the communities in which they serve.

18 We remember Jesus' steadfast concern for the poor, sick and suffering and ask God to stir in us the same commitment to be agents of healing and wholeness in our local communities and the world.

19 We remember in our prayers the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide its leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

20 We remember in our prayers the Northwest Washington, Northwestern Ohio, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast and Northwestern Minnesota synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

21 We remember in our prayers the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Saint Paul Area and East-Central Synod of Wisconsin assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

22 *Trinity Sunday* In our wondering about the mystery of our triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—we pray for God's patience, mercy and forgiveness and ask that we continue to grow in faith that is certain of God's love through Jesus Christ.

23 We remember in our prayers ELCA missionaries serving in Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Suriname, Argentina and Uruguay and ask God to bless their work and witness with our partner churches and ministries in Latin America.

24 Scientists and researchers explore the mysteries of the universe and daily expand our knowledge and wisdom. We pray their contributions and curiosity will deepen our appreciation for God, our boundless Creator.

25 We ask God to bless the plans of parents, step parents and foster parents with their children for meaningful summer experiences, safe daily care, healthy recreation and the simple joys of playing with friends.