



St. Luke Lutheran Church

Faith. Hope. Love.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

October 2016 Newsletter

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

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Ecclesiastes 3:1 *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...*

So begins the familiar passage from Ecclesiastes on which a well-known folk rock group from the 1960's based their hit song, "Turn! Turn! Turn!" I am writing this on September 22nd, the first official day of autumn, even if it surely does not feel much like fall outside! Come on: turn already! Turn! Turn! Turn!

Fall is my favorite season because the high humidity and hot weather (usually!) give way to crisp days and cool nights. I can open my windows again and enjoy the breeze. It is also a season with a distinct feeling of bittersweet about it. The vegetables stop coming in, flowers get frostbit and cut back, the trees turn delightful colors, but soon the leaves fall, as plants and trees drop into their bare winter sleep. The light comes at a noticeably different angle and intensity, and yes, there is just plain less of it. It gets light later and the sun goes down earlier.

Less light is a problem for those of us that are sensitive to it. Unfortunately, I am one of them, and getting through until spring brings back the sun is an exhausting struggle. So for me, there is a season of having even less energy and feeling rather flat. But yet in my gloom, I know that I am "under heaven" and that sustains me.

One antidote to depression is to change the scene, and I will be doing that shortly. It's been quite a while since I had any time off, and I am greatly looking forward to my vacation in Italy coming up soon. I will be gone from October 19th to November 10th and joining a great group of people in the Umbria region, south and east of Florence. The last five days of my trip I will be in Weiterstadt, Germany, visiting with my cousins there. It's an exciting trip and will do much to give me the positive memories I hope will power me through the gloomy Ohio (or Gray-hio as my family refers to it) winter.

I am also aware of being in the autumn season of my life, and need to remind myself that still this experience of aging, losing abilities, strength, and aches and pains remains "under heaven." Jesus is always with me no matter what season of the year or my life I am in. The scripture passage ends: "...a time for war, and a time for peace."

May this fall find you in a season of the peace of Christ!

Serving Christ with you,
Pastor Joan

COUNCIL'S CORNER

Council met once in September. We reviewed minutes from the previous month's meetings as well as the Treasurer's Report. Council discussed Chapter 10 in our book, *Real Good Church*. We discussed preparations for the upcoming God's Work, Our Hands event, Pet Blessing and Luther Rose Bazaar.

COUNCIL MEMEBRS

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

BIRTHDAYS

10/3	Janis Dill
10/12	Irvina Sandmann
10/16	Skip Sandmann
10/29	Kylie Gillespie
10/30	Sam Cantrell



ANNIVERSARIES

10/9	Lou & Sue Thompson
10/11	Bob & Jessica Talbott
10/20	Roy & Peggy Whitford

OFFERINGS/	8/21/16	\$1,292.00
RECEIPTS	8/28/16	\$1,154.00
	9/3/2016	\$1,859.50
	(Yard Sale)	
	9/4/16	\$1,030.00
	9/11/16	\$1,508.00
	9/18/16	\$2,017.66
	9/25/16	\$1,113.82

PRAYER EMPHASIS

Let us pray for calm and civility during these final weeks before our contentious Presidential election. Pray for both candidates that they would seek God's wisdom and guidance to guard their speech and inform their positions. Ask God to bring tolerance and patience to all of us in your daily dealings, remembering that each of us is created in God's image.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Blocking Negativity: We seem to be overwhelmed by bad news in local, national and international news. This can impact us spiritually. To counter that influence, consider this practice: Retrieve positive memories. Whenever you feel the tug of negativity starting to pull you down, recall something positive that you experienced in the past. Harvest these good times again and again. (Taken from Spirituality and Practice at <http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/practices/features/view/26447/coping-with-negativity> This website is a great resource written by the couple who do family movie reviews in Living Lutheran magazine.)

NEWS & EVENTS

Men of the Church will meet Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 PM for fellowship, Bible study, food, and lively discussions! All men of the church are invited to join.

Young at Heart will meet Wednesday, October 5 at 11:00 AM. This will be an informational meeting with speakers who will discuss senior concerns, including changes in Medicare, laws affecting the senior age group, and how to make transitions when necessary. We will order chicken tenders for our meal. Last names A-H should bring sides and desserts. Annual dues will be collected from those who did not pay last month. It's time to start inviting others to join Young at Heart. We need to spread the word and invite friends and neighbors to join us on the first Wednesday of every month for information, good food, inspiration, service to others, and FUN and FELLOWSHIP! See you October 5th!

Ladies Meeting will occur on Tuesday, October 25 at 6 PM. Location is TBD.

Adult Bible Study

Pastor Joan will continue the five-week Bible study series on foundational Bible stories from the Old Testament on Wednesday evenings at 7pm through October 12. Each week we will look at an important story that shows us the nature of God's relationship to God's people.

Luther Rose Bazaar

It is hard to believe that October is here - which means The Luther Rose Bazaar! This is a large undertaking for our congregation, and we hope for continued success. There is still a need for additional assistance to support the event. LRB is Saturday, October 8 and we hope to see everyone there! If you have any questions or ideas, please see Linda Reller or Dana Bradley.

Haunted Trail

Our annual Haunted Trail event will be October 21 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm! This is a much loved event for our congregation and our community. **We will need volunteers** so if you would like to assist, please see Linda Reller or Cindy Weiner.

Service Opportunity at Crossroads Elementary School: Born Learning

Born Learning is a program for parents of kids from birth to 5 which provides educational sessions on parenting. St. Luke will need volunteers to arrive at 5 pm to prepare the meal and then to stay to help watch the kids until 7:30pm on Thursday, October 20, 2016. If you would like to volunteer, please see Pastor Joan.

Is the newsletter important to you? We've heard rumors that no one reads it! Let Pastor Joan know if you want us to continue to publish this newsletter.

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

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

October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Men's Meeting 6:30 pm	5 Young at Heart 11 am Bible Study 7 pm	6	7	8 Luther Rose Bazaar 9 am - 3 pm
9	10 Columbus Day	11 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	12 Bible Study 7 pm	13	14	15
16	17	18 TMT Meeting 6 pm	19	20	21 Haunted Trail 6:30 - 8:30 pm	22
23	24	25 Ladies Meeting 6 pm	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					

[Prayer Ventures for October 2016]

1 On this International Day of Older Persons we remember in prayers our elders and how they have cared for us, shared their faith, and continue to bring special wisdom and experience to our lives and faith communities.

2 Just as we pray for God to refresh our own faith, we ask God to deepen the faith and strengthen the witness of our family, friends, congregation members and all our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the world.

3 We pray that God will guide and equip our leaders, congregations, synods, members and affiliated organizations to implement and bring to life the actions of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, actions that support ministries, build relationships, pursue justice and peace, advocate compassion and affirm leaders throughout the church.

4 *Francis of Assisi* We give thanks and praise to God for the wonders and diversity of creation and nature and for all the ways in which it sustains and inspires us. We pray for wisdom and diligence in caring for all that God has entrusted to us.

5 We remember in our prayers families, individuals and communities healing and recovering from the trauma and destruction of recent flooding, wildfires and severe weather, especially in Louisiana, the western states, Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and West Virginia.

6 We ask God to grant us boldness and compassion in denouncing and preventing violence that threatens the lives and safety of women, children and families. We pray our congregations are always safe places of healing and hope, especially for those experiencing, fleeing or recovering from domestic violence.

7 We give thanks in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ who live with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We pray that all people experience full participation in the church and the world and that we all know the blessings of living and worshiping in faith communities of diverse abilities and mutual care.

8 We remember in our prayers the faithful leaders, bishops, pastors, synod staff and volunteers who have been called to serve God's people and the mission of the church in the 65 synods of the ELCA.

9 We pray that we never take for granted or forget to express our thanks and praise to God for the healing and wholeness we experience in Jesus Christ.

10 More than 250,000 people died and more than 11 million people have been displaced from their homes during the five-year civil war in Syria. We fervently pray for a peaceful, lasting end to the war, and for the healing and rebuilding of the lives of Syrians and their communities.

11 We remember in our prayers the ELCA missionaries serving in Tanzania as teachers, physicians, counselors, program coordinators and theology instructors supporting the ministry and outreach of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and its 21 hospitals.

12 In our daily prayers we praise God for God's good works, mercy, grace and trustworthiness for the world's sake.

13 We remember in our prayers the United Methodist Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA, and pray that our relationship will grow and our work together will thrive as we share the gospel and do God's work in the world.

14 God's word is our source of wisdom, direction and assurance. We pray that we are open and attentive to God's word in the course of our daily routines and relationships and throughout life.

15 We pray for those who are in treatment, live in fear of, or are in remission from breast cancer. We ask God to place people of hope, faith and medical skill in their lives and to further the work of people dedicated to prevention, effective treatment and cures.

16 Our human needs are many and sometimes urgent. We ask God to be patient with us and to teach us persistence in our personal prayers and our prayers on behalf of our neighbor.

17 As the ELCA continues to discern how we will faithfully serve God's mission in the years to come, we pray that God will shape and clarify our vision through prayerful conversations, Scripture, reflection and further revealing the needs of the world to us.

18 *Luke, Evangelist* We pray that we give witness to and speak daily of God's love and presence through Jesus Christ, just as the disciple Luke did so freely and widely.

19 We praise and recognize God for the boundless ways in which God cares for, sustains and helps us day and night throughout life in the face of every uncertainty and threat.

20 Young adults serve in educational ministries in Jerusalem/West Bank through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program. We pray for the ministries and people they work alongside and that their witness reflects hope for reconciliation and peace – in the name of Jesus Christ.

21 In the course of conflicts, conversations and debate in our society, we pray the Spirit will instill in us the will and ability to listen to each other, be thoughtful, not lose sight of justice and compassion, and be guided by our faith.

22 We remember in our prayers people serving in Christian education and youth and family ministry in congregations that they may serve as faithful leaders, mentors, teachers and nurturers of lifelong faith formation.

23 We ask God to surround us with people who encourage our faith, accompany us through life's twists and turns, and care about us and that we in turn are mindful of the ways we can care for others in our midst.

24 We give thanks for the progress made toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans and pray that we continue, with the help of the Spirit, to work through our differences and discover our shared identity as the body of Christ and brothers and sisters in Christ.

25 Living in the human reality of our capacity to do good and be just and to also turn our backs to each other and inflict pain and injury, we pray for God's forgiveness and mercy and cling to the newness we have in Jesus Christ and experience in our baptism as children of God.

26 We remember in our prayers musicians, composers and hymn writers who are blessed with creative gifts and abilities that help us express our praise, faith, needs and emotions to God.

27 We pray for first responders – firefighters, paramedics, police and others – who respond to emergencies in spite of the personal risks. We pray for their physical, spiritual and emotional well-being and that they receive the care, comfort and affirmation they need.

28 *Simon and Jude, Apostles* Being a student and follower of Jesus is always lively and dynamic. We pray that we remain curious, faithful and active as disciples and that we enjoy the diverse gifts and company of disciples who serve together with us.

29 We remember in our prayers ELCA missionaries serving in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea and Thailand, and we ask God to bless their work in theological education, health programs and teaching English with our partner churches and institutions.

30 Jesus Christ has set us free from sin and the despair of a life without hope. We pray that we use our gift of freedom to do God's work in the world and to share the hope and good news of Jesus Christ with all people.

31 *Reformation Day* We give thanks for how God has shaped and guided the church throughout history, especially as a result of the Reformation movement and Martin Luther's faith and teachings. We pray that we continue to reflect, learn and change with the guidance of the Spirit and God's word, for the sake of our neighbor, to be faithful to God's mission in the world.