



St. Luke Lutheran Church

Faith. Hope. Love.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

September 2016 Newsletter

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

A WORD
FROM OUR
PASTOR

"Oh, if only I could pray the way this dog watches the meat! All his thoughts are concentrated on the piece of meat. Otherwise he has no thought, wish, or hope."

--Martin Luther

This has always been one of my favorites of Luther's many sayings. It's probably because it is something that I myself have observed the behavior many times with numerous dogs. Dogs really know how to concentrate on just one thing. I was never smart enough to compare that kind of focused attention to the way I approach prayer. It's something that I constantly have to remind myself to do in prayer—be present! How easy it is to let stray thoughts invade or worries of the future or hurts from the past to distract me from my efforts to be present to God in that moment.

Luther clearly had lots of things to say about God and about Christ and Christian faith. In just a little over a year, we will be celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, a momentous part of our Lutheran heritage. Luther changed the way worship was conducted, codified the German language, and inadvertently caused a 500 year long rift between the Church of Rome and the Protestant denominations that sprung up in the wake of his groundbreaking thoughts on faith.

It is not too early to think about how St. Luke Lutheran Church will commemorate this occasion. In honor of the work done over the last few decades to bring the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church together again, perhaps we should consider a way we might involve the Catholic Churches in our community together with the other Lutheran Churches in our part of Northern Kentucky. Wouldn't that be a wonderful display of the unity that Jesus longs to bring to his church on earth?

Prayerfully consider some ways we could bring our larger community to a greater understanding of all the things the Reformation brought. Check out the website of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA.org) to jumpstart your imagination. Let's begin to have brainstorming conversations about how we could come up with a really big event. It would be wonderful to take advantage of this as an opportunity to help our neighbor's learn about Luther's great contribution to Christian faith: rediscovering the truth that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and not through works.

Our essential understanding of God's grace and mercy as the heart of our faith is a liberating message of hope that all people need to hear. I pray we can come up with some great ideas on how to share that message at this special occasion.

Serving our Lord with you,
Pastor Joan

COUNCIL'S CORNER

Council met once in August. We reviewed minutes from the previous month's meetings as well as the Treasurer's Report. Council discussed Chapter 9 in our book, *Real Good Church*. Council finalized the Stewardship Campaign letter that has been sent to all members of the congregation.

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

9/4	Greg Henderson
9/10	Peggy Whitford
9/15	Dennis Watson
9/19	Roger Dill
9/27	Dick Weiner



ANNIVERSARIES

9/12	John & Mary Eicher
9/16	Steve & Martha Delaney
9/20	Fred & Janet Thiess

OFFERINGS/	7/24/16	\$1,116.00
RECEIPTS	7/31/16	\$1,232.00
	8/7/16	\$1,565.00
	8/14/16	\$2,793.66

PRAYER EMPHASIS

Please keep returning students, teachers and administrators in your prayers as they return to the routine of education. Bless students with eagerness to learn, resources to assist them in learning and safe and peaceful schools and campuses. Give teachers wisdom, compassion and patience as they face the task of preparing students of all ages to meet the challenges of the coming year of learning. Bless administrators with skills to lead and guide their colleagues, steward the communities' resources and give them vision to work toward a successful future.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

This month I challenge you to start a regular habit of electronic Sabbath. Put your gadgets down for a set number of hours, don't check your email or Facebook account and ignore your texts. Slow down your communication with those around you and concentrate on being in the present, mindful of your surroundings.

NEWS & EVENTS

Men of the Church will meet Tuesday, September 6 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, September 7 at 11:00 AM. This month we will have brunch. So far sausage links as well as biscuits and gravy have been volunteered. Everyone should bring a brunch dish or bakery goods. Additionally, September is our annual dues month, which will be discussed at the meeting.

God's Work, Our Hands will take place on Sunday, September 11. After service please join us in the fellowship hall to stuff goodie baskets full of the items we have collected for our local heroes. Immediately after, we will deliver the baskets to the four locations. Please consider purchasing the requested (new, unused) items. There will be a list on the bulletin board. Please sign up to donate items so we are certain to purchase everything.

Ladies Meeting will occur on Tuesday, September 20 at 6 PM at the church.

Congratulations to our 2016 Graduate **Aaron Weiner**. He will continue his education at NKU. Good Luck to a prosperous future! We are so proud of you!

Adult Bible Study Opportunity

Pastor Joan will offer a five-week series on foundational Bible stories from the Old Testament on Wednesday evenings at 7pm starting on September 14th. Each week we will look at an important story that shows us the nature of God's relationship to God's people. There will be a sign-up page on the hall bulletin board in early September. If driving after dark might stop you from attending, please indicate that on the sign-up and we will arrange car pools so that anyone who wants to come can attend. Look for more details in future bulletins and announcements.

Luther Rose Bazaar

It is hard to believe that October is right around the corner - which means The Luther Rose Bazaar! This is a very large undertaking for our congregation, and we will be needing lots of help as usual. This event is Saturday Oct. 8th. There are many ways to contribute and help make this a success. Below are some of these.

1) We will need help with set up and clean up. Set up is Thursday, October 6th from 6 – 8 pm and clean up is Saturday, October 8th at 3:00 pm.

2) Need volunteers to work shifts during the bazaar in many areas. There is the kitchen, Bake sale table, St Luke craft table, and raffle area. Please let us know if you can work the day of the bazaar.

3) Items are needed for the church craft table. If you are not crafty, how about baking some goodies for the Bake Sale table?

4) We will be making gift baskets for the raffle, so if anyone has baskets they want to get rid of, please let me know. To help with cost and so no one person is over taxed, we could also use people to either sponsor a basket, or help purchase items for them. I have posted a list of the baskets and ideas for specific items within. Please sign up if you are taking this on. We can always use gift cards, or if you want to donate money we will shop for you. If you have anything to donate, please let Linda Reller or Dana Bradley know. Items can be brought in after the yard sale and placed in one of the classrooms.

5) In addition, with us being a small congregation and having no real budget, we are asking everyone and anyone who can help us promote and advertise the bazaar. If you can post and share it on face book, and ask others to share, that will help, but also if you could take some flyers and wherever you go, library, craft store, restaurant, market, if they have a community or advertisement board – ask if we can post the flyer. We will also place an ad in the paper and on the community calendar for the Campbell County Recorder.

As you can see, there is a lot that is needed to make the event a success. Please consider helping in some way. We hope to see everyone at the Bazaar, it really is a good time! If you have any questions or ideas, please let us know!

Family Promise

Thanks to all who volunteered to help with Family Promise. Our first rotation was a success. We had four churches helping us and we did three nights! The families were so sweet and we pray that they will get out on their own soon! Our next rotation is September 25th to October 1st! If anyone would like to volunteer please give me a call/text or email! We will need dinner on Monday September 26th and Saturday September 30th, we also need two people to spend the night for the same dates! Please see Cindy Weiner.

Service Opportunity at Crossroads Elementary School: Born Learning

Born Learning is a program for parents of kids from birth to 5. The program starts with a simple meal from 6:00 to 6:20pm, and then child care is provided to the kids (older siblings might also be present) while the parents attend sessions on parenting. This year a large chunk of the grant that funds the program will go to provide passes to entertainment venues (zoo, etc.) to any family that attends 4 out of 6 sessions. The opportunity for St. Luke would be to provide a few of the meals to free up the money for the incentives. Then volunteers are needed to stay to help watch the kids for an hour until 7:30pm.

We are planning to get a \$250 Thrivent Action Team to go towards purchasing the food, but will need a few people each time to assemble the meal, serve and watch the kids. The nights we have volunteered to help are Thursdays, October 20th, November 3rd and November 17th. Please save the dates and look for signups in early October. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve in our neighborhood as parents strive to build strong families for their children. See Pastor Joan for more information.

Pet Blessing

Last year we had great success with our Pet Blessing. On 9/25/16 we have a Pet Blessing service scheduled for 10:30 AM. In order for this to happen we need someone to coordinate this. Involved in putting this service together would be set-up on Sunday morning the patio outside the fellowship hall, someone to welcome any guests,

pet treats, water bowls, talking to Mitch regarding the PA system, set-up altar outside (this involves a table and hurricane lanterns, etc.). Additionally, we would need to create and post flyers in veterinary clinics, at the animal shelter and at local restaurants that will allow it. Publicity is important! Pastor will take care of the service. In coordinating this service, you do not have to do everything - you will have volunteers to help! We just need a volunteer to organize the details, using the service last year as the model. If you can coordinate this function please speak to Irvina Sandmann or Cindy Weiner.

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**.

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 Men's Meeting 6:30 PM	7 Young at Heart 11:00 AM	8	9	10
11 God's Work. Our Hands. After worship	12 Vision Team 7 PM	13 Council Meeting 6:30 PM	14 Bible Study 7 PM	15	16	17
18	19	20 TMT Meeting 6 PM	21 Bible Study 7 PM	22	23	24
25 Pet Blessing 10:30 AM (during service)	26	27 Ladies Meeting 6 PM	28 Bible Study 7 PM	29	30	

24 We pray for the Moravian Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA, and for the continuing growth of our relationship as together we share the gospel and do God's work in the world.

25 We remember in our prayers grandparents who surround their grandchildren with love, care, attention, and words and actions that witness to God's gift of love through Jesus Christ.

26 We ask God to teach us the differences between want and need, between greed and generosity, between self-interest and mutual care.

27 We give thanks for our partners in doing God's work in the world, especially companion churches in other countries, The Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches and other ecumenical and inter-religious organizations.

28 We pray that we will—in the name of Jesus Christ—stand for justice for the oppressed, work to feed the hungry, welcome strangers as friends and demonstrate unwavering concern for all in need.

29 *Conference of Bishops* We remember in our prayers our 65 synod bishops gathered in Chicago to discuss our mission in the world and advise our church. We pray the Spirit will guide their efforts and God will grant them strength and wisdom in their work back home with their congregations, leaders and communities.

30 *Jerome, translator, teacher (died 420)* We give thanks to God for people who have gifts of speaking, writing and translating languages for the sake of serving others and sharing God's word in our diverse world.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

PRAYER VENTURES

SEPTEMBER 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 We remember in our prayers college and university students, seminarians and leaders studying through the ELCA International Leaders and International Women Leaders programs. We pray the Spirit will guide their studies and discernment and prepare them for lives of service and enriching communities.

2 We turn to God in prayer as we face daily experiences and threats of violence and terror in the world and ask that we not be discouraged or seek vengeance but that God will renew our hope and faith and guide us to solutions that lead to peace, healing and justice rather than deepening hatred and division.

3 We give thanks to God for the season of fall and the ways in which it reminds us of new beginnings, abundant harvests that feed the hungry, anticipation of change and hope.

4 Being a disciple and follower of Jesus is not an easy endeavor. We ask God to strengthen our resolve to follow, no matter the cost, and grant us courageous faith alongside the challenges, doubts and questions we experience.

5 We ask God to bless the labors of those who work to sustain their families and contribute to their communities, and we pray for new opportunities, fair wages and a sense of value for people who are seeking employment.

6 We remember in our prayers, especially during National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, those who live with the darkness of loneliness, isolation of mental illness and question the value of their life. We pray the healing love of God displaces the darkness and

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.

that we learn to better recognize the pain of people around us and respond with skillful care and the embrace of community.

7 God knows us and knows our ways and yet shows us mercy and love. We pray that our actions, words and ventures speak clearly of God's love and presence that others may also know this good news.

8 We remember in our prayers the Rev. Michael Fonner, Leslie Weed-Fonner and Elizabeth Hendrickson, ELCA missionaries serving in Nairobi, Kenya, and ask God to bless their work in parish ministry and communications.

9 ELCA Campus Ministry serves students, faculty and staff at more than 180 colleges and universities and partners with congregations serving 400 campuses nationwide. We pray God will bless their ministries of bearing witness to God's grace and promoting community, discipleship and service.

10 We pray God will grant those pastors seeking or awaiting new calls or who are discerning their ministry and vocation a special measure of patience, clarity and alertness to the Spirit's guidance.

11 It is God that seeks us, gathers us in and gives us the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. We give thanks and praise in our prayers for God's undeserved attentiveness and mercy in our lives.

12 We give thanks for the special work of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association and for their support of Lutheran educators, ELCA schools and early childhood centers.

13 We remember in our prayers rostered and lay leaders who preach and teach the gospel and pray the Spirit fill them with a love of Scripture, wisdom, an enduring desire to learn and enthusiasm for sharing what God reveals for the world's sake.

14 Our congregations are blessed with Sunday school teachers and Bible study leaders committed to faith formation, witness and connecting God's word with daily life. We ask God to help us affirm their faithful service and cultivate their skills.

15 *National Hispanic Heritage Month* We give thanks for and honor the gifts and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans, and we pray

for the growth of ELCA Latino ministries as they share the gospel and serve their neighbors in many different community contexts.

16 We give thanks for God's abundant love and patience with us and for creating in us faith and abilities that enable us—even with our personal flaws, weaknesses and appalling histories—to serve as leaders, workers and witnesses sharing the good news.

17 *Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen* (died 1179) We remember in our prayers women throughout history who have influenced the church, served as leaders and spiritual guides, and witnessed to the gospel through their faith, service and vision.

18 We ask God, in the midst of our wealth and abundance, to remind us of our neighbors living in poverty, hunger and illness and to not turn from their needs but to love, serve and respect them as our brothers and sisters in Christ, created in God's image.

19 We remember in our prayers civil servants, legislators and politicians and pray their work, deliberations and decisions consider the diversity of humanity, factors that contribute to communities flourishing and the well-being of people with critical needs.

20 We persist in bringing to God our concerns for peace and reconciliation in the world, especially where wars and violent conflicts continue to cause suffering, destruction and loss of life.

21 *Matthew, apostle and evangelist* Matthew grew from being a distrusted tax collector to being a fervent believer in Jesus Christ, follower and public witness. We pray our lives will also be transformed through faith to make us spirited witnesses to God's powerful love and presence in the world.

22 We remember in our prayers ELCA missionaries serving in Madagascar—Kirsten Laderach, Hannah Kaitschuk, the Rev. Lancelot Themba and Kwena Mkhabela. We pray God will encourage and further their work in theological education, evangelism, interfaith dialogues and the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

23 By grace we have been saved through faith. We praise God for this gift of salvation through Jesus Christ and for welcoming us into the body of all believers through our baptism.