



# St. Luke Lutheran Church

Faith. Hope. Love.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## June 2016 Newsletter

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

### A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

*"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8*

In our May Church Council meeting, we discussed the chapter on Finance and Stewardship from the book we are currently reading together. We were challenged to consider the question: **Which guides us? The myth of scarcity or the theology of abundance?**

Our initial response was that we are more convinced that we don't have enough than we are that we have more than enough. But as we began to talk about the matter, it became clear that we really are living in a theology of abundance, and let me give you some evidence of that.

When I first came to you in February of 2014, the congregation had definitely been through some lean years. Giving to the wider church, Mission Support, had been greatly reduced for years. The Council decided that it was time to take a step of faith and model tithing to the congregation. Since that time, St. Luke Lutheran Church has been giving 10% of each month's offerings to Mission Support.

Tithing is often a scary notion. We are used to thinking of our financial resources as belonging strictly to us—not as gifts from God. Several on the Council are tithers and talked about how it does sometimes mean that you don't spend your money on things you might like because you are obedient to God's command to give ten percent.

However, these sacrifices seem to turn into blessings, as giving to God becomes a habit and a joy. St. Luke has been richly blessed since making that decision over two years ago. We have attracted new disciples and we have been able to do things we never thought we could do. The last yard sale brought in \$2,300 and we are tithing 20% of that, \$460, to Family Promise, the ministry to homeless families that is rebuilding itself. Not so long ago, the church desperately needed the yard sales just to stay above water.

I am also a tither. I didn't get to 10% over night but have been at that level now for years. I am tithing the salary you pay me back to St. Luke. Setting aside that money for God first is an act of obedience, faith, gratitude to God because I see myself as richly blessed.

In the coming months, the entire congregation is going to have to lean in and dig deep to get to the point where we can support a new full time pastor. Even with the generous grants we have been given by the ELCA and the IK Synod, there is still a shortfall we will have to fill.

I invite each of you to examine your hearts and consider the abundance God has given you. In response, consider the blessings you might bring with working toward a full 10% tithe. Pray about the good things that the extra giving might bring to others, to our church and to yourselves. Then take that same step of faith that your congregation has taken and prepare to be blessed.

Serving Christ with you,  
Pastor Joan

### **COUNCIL'S CORNER**

Council is looking for members to fill two vacant council seats. This is a most exciting time for St Luke. If you are interested please let Irvina know.

#### **COUNCIL MEMEBRS**

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**

- Thursday, June 2 - Men of the Church will meet at 6:30 PM for fellowship, Bible study, food, and lively discussions! All men of the church are invited to join.
- Friday, June 3 - Young at Heart meeting at 11:00 AM. The theme is Picnicing. Last names R-Z bring sides and desserts. Hot dogs will be provided.
- Sunday, June 5 - Outdoor Service and Picnic with guest speaker Nancy Nyland. A potluck will follow - so break out your favorite recipe and join us. If you have any inside/outside games that you like please bring these also.
- Sunday, June 12 - AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Lord's Prayer Study Part II
- Sunday, June 19 - Father's Day Potluck breakfast before service at 9:30. Bring your favorite breakfat item to share with our favorite guys!
- Saturday, June 25 - Cold Spring's 75th anniversary. We are looking for volunteers to pass out water and welcome other participation ideas. Please see Cindy Weiner.

UPCOMING - July 16 will be our One Fun Day, replacing Vaction Bible School. We are planning to have ponies, Kona Ice, and a jump house and water game! We need volunteers to help - please see Cindy Weiner.

## BIRTHDAYS

6/18	Laura Helton
6/19	Lisa Talbott
6/23	Todd Whitford

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

6/22	Skip & Irvina Sandmann
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<b>OFFERINGS/</b>	4/24/16	\$1,395.00
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	5/1/16	\$42,077.30
	5/8/16	\$1,552.40
	5/14/16	\$2,335.55 Yard Sale
	5/15/16	\$2,372.66

## PRAYER EMPHASIS

Please pray for all those graduating from high school, colleges, universities, and other types of training courses as they move out into the world to pursue the next steps in their lives. Pray that they might find a place to use their skills and training so that they might become happy and productive citizens. Pray that they would face their futures with hope and courage. Give thanks for the graduations in your life and all the teachers who worked to educate you for life.

## FAITH PRACTICE

### SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE: COMMITMENT

Summer time is often a time when giving is down because people are away on vacations, at family reunions and other fun and refreshing events. However, the expenses of paying our staff, lighting and cooling our building go on whether you are there to put your offering in the plate or not. Please remember to meet your giving commitments throughout the summer months so that our ministry can continue to serve others and grow.

## NEWS & UPDATES

### OUTDOOR WORSHIP and PICNIC ON JUNE 5TH

Join us for a special outdoor worship experience with a global flair on Sunday, June 5th. We will have a special preacher that day, Pastor Nancy Nyland, the Director for Evangelical Mission assigned to the IK Synod. Pastor Nyland has been instrumental in shepherding us through the grant application process and will be working closely with the new pastor to coach, mentor and support him or her in ministry. Let's show Pastor Nyland a warm welcome and a taste of St. Luke's hospitality as well as our gratitude for her help and support.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Lord's Prayer Study

Our next meeting to learn more about the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us will be on Sunday, June 12th after church. We will be ordering pizza from LaRosa's to share for lunch.

**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
June 5	Lorie Scott	Jan & Roger Dill	Irvina Sandmann	Mitch Talbott
June 12	Jan Dill	Ben & Amy Morris	Mitch Talbott	Aaron Weiner
June 19	Amy Morris	Laura & Garrett Helton	Diana Henderson	Steve Delaney
June 26	Todd Weiner	Linda Denolfi & Sue Huff	Todd Weiner	Mitch Talbott

# JUNE 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Men's Meeting 6:30 PM	3 Young at Heart 11:00 AM	4
5 Outdoor Service & Picnic	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Confirmation: The Lord's Prayer after service - 1:30 pm	13	14 Council Meeting 6:30 PM	15	16	17	18
19 Father's Day Potluck 9:30 am	20 TMT Meeting 6:00 PM	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

people in prison or living with a record of imprisonment, those without adequate health care, communities in economic crisis and people living in poverty.

**25** *Presentation of the Augsburg Confession (1530)* We give thanks and recognition in our prayers for all who have, throughout history and in the present, thoughtfully and prayerfully helped us understand Scripture, our faith and God's mission for us in the world.

**26** Jesus keeps us focused on God's purpose and work in the world. We ask God to forgive us and center us in the gospel when we wander, are distracted by our own needs or interpret God's Word for our own advantage.

**27** We are grateful and relieved for the freedom we have in Christ and pray that we use it responsibly in daily service to others and God's will.

**28** Planning has begun for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. We ask the Spirit to inspire the work of Gathering volunteers, leaders and churchwide staff who seek to encourage the faith, lives and service of young people and to support the ministries of adults who work with youth.

**29** *Saints Peter and Paul* As Peter and Paul gave their lives in witness to the truth of Jesus Christ, we pray that we too will reply to God's call to share the good news by committing ourselves to lives of faithful witness and self-sacrificing compassion in the world.

**30** Six young adults are serving in Hungary through the Young Adults in Global Mission Program. We pray that God will bless their work with local congregations and organizations in areas of elder care, Roma ministry, music, education, homeless ministry and parish ministry.

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*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](mailto:info@elca.org) for additional information. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631. Telephone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2458.*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## PRAYER VENTURES

JUNE 2016

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*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 pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the Caribbean region and for the faithful work and witness of the ELCA congregations, ministries and leaders serving in diverse contexts of culture, language and geography.

**2** We remember in our prayers the Nebraska, Central States, Allegheny and Central/Southern Illinois synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**3** We remember in our prayers the Southwest California, Sierra Pacific, Southern Ohio, Delaware-Maryland, North Carolina and Montana synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**4** We remember in our prayers the Eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, Greater Milwaukee, Lower Susquehanna and West Virginia-Western Maryland synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**5** For God's attentiveness to our prayers of joy, praise, sorrow and desperation, we give thanks and welcome with humility God's constant, undeserved love and concern.

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

**7** Christian churches and organizations play a growing role in peacemaking in Israel-Palestine. We ask God to strengthen the Christian presence in the Holy Land and to guide and sustain all endeavors for peace and reconciliation.

**8** Thousands of young adults are serving campers of all ages and abilities in Lutheran outdoor ministry programs across the country. We ask God to bless their witness, inspire their leadership and sustain their faith and energy throughout the summer.

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

**10** We remember in our prayers the Western North Dakota, Southwestern Minnesota, Indiana-Kentucky and Metropolitan Chicago synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**11** We remember in our prayers the Western Iowa, Northeastern Iowa, La Crosse Area, New England, Florida-Bahamas and Virginia synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**12** Through our faith and baptism, we have a new identity in Jesus Christ. We pray that God's Spirit will help us live into our new identity and purpose of unrestrained love, mercy and forgiveness.

**13** We pray for families and individuals traveling and vacationing this summer, that they will travel safely and be receptive to the surprises and blessings of new experiences, people and cultures.

**14** We remember in our prayers the 14 ELCA missionaries serving in education and parish ministries in Slovakia. May God bless and sustain their service and the work of the church in Slovakia.

**15** Seasonal workers provide hospitality and care for travelers, tourists, guests and strangers. We give thanks for everything they do on behalf of others and pray that we respond with care, respect, gratitude and generosity for their service and work.

**16** We remember in our prayers the Grand Canyon, Northern Illinois and Northwestern Pennsylvania synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**17** We remember in our prayers the Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania and Upper Susquehanna synod assemblies, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide their leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**18** We remember in our prayers the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen and guide its leaders and members in God's work and witness in the world.

**19** We ask God to bless all fathers and stepfathers with wisdom, patience and love for their children, that their children will grow up strong in faith, secure in knowing they are loved, cared for and prepared for life.

**20** For the wonders, beauty and life-stirring energy of summer, we give thanks and praise to God, the source of nature, all living things and the universe.

**21** Thirteen people serve as ELCA missionaries in Japan, teaching, working in parishes and equipping new leaders for the church. We pray that God will bless their witness and the work of local ministries and churches in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

**22** We continue to pray for the efforts to bring about peace, healing, rebuilding and new life for Syria and its people, and we remember in our prayers all who work unceasingly and in situations of personal risk to help create hope and lasting change.

**23** We ask God to guide and energize the work of those who are planning this summer's Churchwide Assembly and the Grace Gathering in New Orleans, that participants will be united in Jesus Christ, encouraged in faith and strengthened for service and mission.

**24** During this time of polarization and conflict in our nation, we remember in our prayers the people whose daily realities and needs we often forget, including those who are homeless, immigrants,

# CHURCH ON THE LAWN

SUNDAY, JUNE 5th @ 10:30 A.M.

**HE HAS  
MADE  
EVERYTHING  
BEAUTIFUL**

**St. Luke is heading outside.**

Join with us as we gather for morning worship in the gardens and celebrate the beauty of spring.

**Community Picnic.**

At Noon the celebration continues with games and free hot dogs, burgers and other picnic favorites.

4800 Alexandria Pike  
Cold Spring, KY 41076  
(Across from LaRosa's)

[StLukeKY.com](http://StLukeKY.com)



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