



St. Luke Lutheran Church

Faith. Hope. Love.

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

November Newsletter

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

"My heart is in anguish within me, the terrors of death have fallen upon me. Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me. And I say, "O that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest; truly, I would flee far away; I would lodge in the wilderness; I would hurry to find a shelter for myself from the raging wind and tempest." Psalm 55:4-8

Between scary Halloween and the upcoming elections, fear and terror has fallen upon me! As the psalmist says, get me **outta** here! Take me to a place without TV, radio, Internet, and junk snail mail. I'd say a sojourn in rural Italy would work just fine for that. Out there in the wilderness, I think I could actually find a refuge from the non-stop battering of negativity that this election cycle seems to have bred! No more tempest!

Like many others, I am unsure of what to make of all the information I am being barraged with in these days. Each candidate accuses the other of supporting unpopular positions. Yet on Election Day, regardless of whether or not we have received honest information about the candidates, as good citizens, we are all called to vote and make decisions about who will represent us nationally and locally. We are called to attend to the common good.

Luther had a theory about what he called the Two Kingdoms. One is the Kingdom of God and there, all people experience justice and everything that implies—fairness, sufficiency, harmony, and peace. We certainly aren't there yet.

The other kingdom is about life on earth—the real world. Luther believed that God placed government and government officials among us for the good purpose of maintaining order on earth. We are to accept earthly authority and be good citizens.

As we approach the election, we can celebrate that Luther saw a place for the Church in the Public Square. Our tradition demands our engagement with the world around us. One function of the Christian Church in the Public Square is to demand honesty, integrity, and accountability of our elections and elected officials. The issue of governance is important and not one we can ignore, leaving the decisions to others.

Please do not be overcome by fear and confusion, which is certainly an understandable state to be in. We are the **People of God**, and we have a witness to make in the world by our faithful behavior. Let your faith inform you as best it can, to interpret the facts and the issues.

Regardless of the outcomes of this super-charged election, we can depend on one thing: God will be with us as God as always been. Our future is in God's hands, and they are hands we can trust!

Finding refuge in God with you,
Pastor Joan

COUNCIL'S CORNER

We have refreshed our website! Please check out stlukey.weebly.com to see our great new site.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

11/3	Lou Burke
11/3	Jacob Weiner
11/11	Garrett Helton
11/14	Margaret Nance
11/20	Boots Bezanson

OFFERINGS/RECEIPTS

9/25/16 \$1113.82
10/2/16 \$3144.90
10/9/16 \$1262.00
10/16/16 \$1946.25

NEWS & EVENTS

St. Luke was privileged to be represented at Crossroads Elementary School on Thursday, October 20. A meal of hot dogs, mac & cheese, green beans, mixed fruit, and assorted cookies was served to 22 families as they attended parenting classes called "Born Learning". Childcare, which also included a member of St. Luke, is provided while the parents participate in the program. Thrivent provided the funds for the food. There are two more upcoming opportunities to participate, so don't hesitate to volunteer to help with this great program!

Once again the St. Luke Parable Players (or as some of the cast members have been known to describe as the "Terrible Players" – even though they aren't!) entertained the wonderful folks at Cold Spring Transitional Care. It has been a regular monthly occurrence for several months, but no press releases have been shared. Each third Monday of every month, the small group of very talented, very dedicated, and downright energetic people brings the Lord's messages to those that are not able to get out to church. This past Monday, we shared the Bible passages about Joy. Sam Cantrell and Jan Dill were readers of the Scripture while Roger Dill narrated the entire program. Todd Whitford is the wonderful musician, performer, and all-purpose man. Todd Weiner has been known to be pulled into this group of thespians, too. Peggy Whitford is the Director, Producer, sometimes Player, and miracle worker that brings this all together. She is the cheerful greeter of the wheelchair bound audience, as well as the gift giver at each and every performance. Yes – gifts! She creates wonderful keepsakes and goodies for all to enjoy. This dear lady always brings on smiles. The group's name could be changed to "Peggy's Parable Players"!! Lest we forget the little people.... Roy Whitford is anything but just a behind the scenes addition to the group. He is the chauffeur to the Director/Producer, the carrier of props, and the back row "Gabby Hays" impersonator.

So now that you know the lowdown on the infamous St. Luke Parable Players, we think it only proper to give credit where credit is due. God has blessed this little group of messengers way more than we believe we bless the residents of this home. Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity!! Interested performers may seek auditions with the Director..... no experience needed!!!

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

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