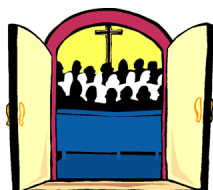


St. Luke's REPORTER

January 2016

Rev. Kristine Totzke, Pastor
Gail Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Dale Dietert, Music Ministry



Congregational
MEETING

Our 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31st. Following the worship service grab a cup of coffee and return to the sanctuary for the meeting. We will be electing council members and voting on a 2016 budget.

The following are the council positions that are open as of this writing. At this time we do not have anyone who has accepted the nomination for any of these positions. We are in need of people who would like to be on council to contact Ed Lysen. As you can see above, the election is coming up in a few weeks.

We need people in the following positions:

Vice President
Congregational Life
Christian Education
Evangelism

On Sunday, January 10th the various committees and groups will have tables set up in the Gathering Area to show/explain what they do and give you the opportunity to check out all that goes on at St. Luke's behind the scene and fill out a time and talent sheet for 2016.

Pastor Kris will have a new member orientation on January 24th following the worship service for anyone interested in joining St. Luke's or anyone interested in learning more about us. The new members will be received during worship on January 31st. Please let her know if you are interested in joining.

Our local neighborhood columnist, Chris Coats, recently sent me an email asking me about my holiday traditions and my wishes for the coming year. I don't know if my answers will make her column, but I thought I would share my wishes with you here in our own newsletter.



I wish that this would be the year that people actually return to being nice to each other, and showing respect for ALL of God's children and all of God's creation. I wish we would all learn to listen, instead of always needing to be right. I wish our focus would turn to taking care of each other, instead of all of the self-centered focus on individual "rights." And most of all, I wish that faith would be stronger than fear. So, I am clearly an idealist, but one can always hope for miracles, right?

My answer came after reflecting on the tone of so many voices in our society lately. Whether you listen to the politicians vying for popularity among potential voters, or the many anonymous voices on social media, you have no doubt heard the same things I have. We seem to live in a culture of fear, ignorance, and hate. It keeps getting harder and harder to hear the voices calling for compassion and compromise. I really do hope and pray that things change for the better in the coming year.

Can we change the overall tone of society? Maybe. Maybe not. But we can change the way we respond in our own community, and that may have ripple effects elsewhere. It's not easy sometimes. Negativity is contagious, and it is honestly hard sometimes to just be kind in the face of all that evil.

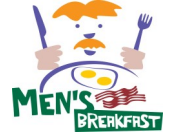
I also had a discussion recently with someone who asked for advice on how I manage to be nice to people when sometimes I may not really like them. While that may not always be easy to do either, I do think that's where we have to begin. What I always remind myself is that I may not like someone very much, but I still love them as one of God's children. I may not agree with another, but I still try to show respect for the person. Somehow, I have to separate the words and actions from the PERSON. Even the most hateful words usually come from a place of fear and ignorance, and not necessarily because the person is a bad person. That's the most difficult distinction to make in this whole process. There are times I have to bite my tongue so hard that it hurts, but in my role as pastor, that's a pretty important thing to remember.

Ultimately, I honestly try to find the positives about other people and focus on those positives instead of just seeing the things I dislike or with which I disagree. Do I always succeed? I'm sure I don't. But I try. I really, really try. That's all we can do if we try to live as Jesus teaches us. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves, and that includes even those we name as enemies. Love and like are two different things, but love has to be the strongest of the two.



The North Texas SeniorFest 2016 will be held on February 27, 2016 at Messiah Lutheran Church, 1801 West Plano Pkwy. There is information and brochures in the Social Seniors section of the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

The Men's Breakfast will be held on January 16th at 8:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn on 190 and Waterview. If you would like more information, contact Ralph Rizzo



Lumberjack Retreat - January 23-24

Gentlemen, It's time...

Every year, we invite all the men to come out to Briarwood and help clear out some of the dead trees we have, and restock our firewood pile, which is used all throughout the year! Once we fill that we will have a separate pile that you may take wood home with you, free of charge!

We set a huge bar last year with how much wood we cut and split, so we let's try to beat that record!

After the chainsaws have been "holstered", we will have a steak dinner available prepared by our amazing kitchen staff, Carlos and Hilario, followed by some relaxing activities. And as always, we will have our annual poker tournament, complete with prizes for the winners!

If you choose to stay overnight, you will have a breakfast provided the following morning, and a custom worship designed for Lumberjacks! It's easily the best deal we have, so we highly encourage you to take advantage of it!

Price: Lunch Only - FREE!

Lunch & Dinner - \$25

Overnight - \$35

Register today at briarwoodretreat.org

Women of St. Luke's

HAPPY 2016!!!

The January Bible study for Mary Ruth and Rebekah circles begins with the first lesson of four exploring the book of Philippians (Christian Citizenship 101 – Paul's Letter to the Philippians) by Rev. Phyllis N. Kersten and E. Louise Williams.

“Confidence in God's Beginnings and Endings” is the title and the theme verses are Philippians 1:1-26. This month's lesson may be found on page 30 of the Gather magazine or may be downloaded at gathermagazine.org. The Leader's guide is on page 38.

*Note – February's lesson is also found in this issue.

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

January 6: Activity Day, 9:00am in the Gathering Area.

Come join in as we work on Quilts, layettes, school and health kits for Lutheran World Relief. There is work for women able to stand, and work for those who need to sit.

January 9: 9:00am - Sarah Circle meets in the Church Conference Room. Hostess and Study Leader: Carol Brant. Their lesson will be from the *Thoughtful Christian*.

January 12:

10:00am - Mary Ruth Circle will meet at church in the adult classroom. Hostess: Carol Lysen, Study Leader: Martha Eastwood.

7:30pm - Rebekah Circle members meet in the home of the hostess. Hostess: Carol Rizzo, Study Leader: Betty Miner.

**These two Circles use the Bible study found in the Gather magazine.

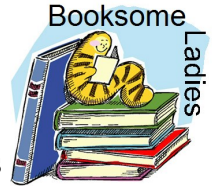
January 23: Leadership Team Meeting, 9:00am in the adult classroom. Hostess: Barbara Tate, Devotions: Corrine Perkins.

All women of St. Luke's are invited and encouraged to come.

Please feel free to join any of the circles at any time.

Booksome Ladies

On Wednesday, January 20th, the Booksome Ladies will meet in the Conrad Library at 9:30 a.m. Our book for discussion is Putting Away Childish Things by Marcus J. Borg who is a teacher, writer, Bible scholar and theologian. In his first novel, Borg uses his core teachings on faith and the Bible to show their power in changing the lives of people. This book is the moving and personal story of Kate Riley, a Professor of Religious Studies at Wells College in a small town in central Wisconsin and her interaction with faculty and students. Kate, who is Episcopalian, is also an author of non-fiction works on religious subjects and is quite well-known. She receives an invitation from Scudder Theological Seminary to come for an interview and a possible offer of a year-long position there. Her probable tenure at Wells becomes a large factor. As a Professor, Kate is very involved with her students and is influential in their faith lives. In Putting Away Childish Things, Borg recounts Professor Riley's vocational and spiritual journey in a thought-provoking way. It is an exploration of the kind of religious and social issues that Christians face today.



ALL ARE WELCOME to come and learn from this “teaching novel.”

Peace,
Martha Eastwood

Our donations to Network's Angel Tree Christmas program was a huge success. Thanks to all who picked an angel and purchased a child's gift. 104 gift items were delivered to the Network Christmas store. With this program, parents were first interviewed and required to show documentation for each child. Then they were able to shop for 4 gifts for each child.

Your continued support of Network of Community Ministries through your food donations and yearly Christmas gifts is much appreciated. Thank you!

St. Luke's Prayer Chain

The members of St. Luke's and their families that are being prayed for during the month are listed below.

**BILL PERKINS
BARBARA MILLER
DAVE SALLEE
ROSEMARIE HAM
RITA HUMPHREY
BERNIE HUMPHREY
IRMA YOUNG
JOHN ABBOTT
DIANE THORPE
JULIE COOK
EMILY EASTWOOD
TRACY GOLDEN
RUTHIE GROOM
MAGGIE HORNER
LISA SANDIDGE
RONDA MEIVES
PAULINE GLENN
DAVID REED
GLEE BAKER
JANE CARLSON
DICK MINER
CARLA BENDER**

Our appreciation to the members of St. Luke's Prayer Chain for their constant and faithful prayers.

*"Preserve me, O God: for in Thee
do I put my trust."*

Psalm 16:1

Betty Kennedy, Prayer Chain Chairperson
972-235-6309
972-774-2002



January Anniversaries

Darrell & Barbara Hollowell	1-02-1988
James & Joy Dukowitz	1-11-1972
Seth & Anne Eckholm	1-11-1992
Gary & Elizabeth Bakken	1-26-1985

January Birthdays

Ann Moss	1-03
Drew Hollowell	1-04
Carol Lysen	1-04
Michael Packer	1-07
Frieda Chyn	1-09
Corinne Perkins	1-10
Berry Evans	1-11

Ann Weesler	1-14
Brent Sonntag	1-22
Amy Dunn	1-23
Rosemarie Ham	1-24
Dee Johnson	1-25
Ed Alesch	1-30
Courtney Sigler	1-30

NOTE: If you have an anniversary or birthday this month and your name is not on our list, please call the church office and give us the information for our records. Thank you.



Dear St. Luke's

I am overwhelmed by the concern, caring thoughts, cards, flowers, and prayers I received these past 3 months from the members of St. Luke's. I send to Pastor Kris a special thank you for all of her visits with Ollie and me. Her uplifting prayers were so meaningful and gave me hope and strength. I am truly blessed to have the love and continuing support of my St. Luke's brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you so very much,

Barb Miller

NETWORK OF COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Ingathering days are the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Items always needed are: Jell-O, Peanut Butter, jelly, canned meats and vegetables, soups, paper products, personal hygiene products, baby diapers and baby food. Please place items in the box marked Network in the Gathering Area.

The Reporter
Published for and by
St. Luke's Lutheran
Church

Next deadline—Jan. 15
gail@stlukeslutheranchurch.org

All members of St. Luke's are invited to submit articles of interest for publication in **THE REPORTER**.

Articles may be submitted in written form using WORD format or electronic form. Please include your name and phone number. Articles should be no longer than 250 words. Those over 250 may need to be edited.



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

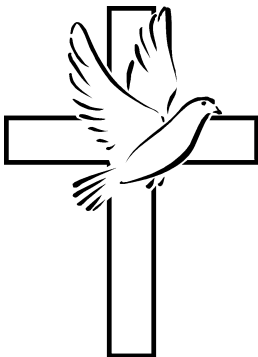
Pastor..... Rev. Kristine Totzke
 Administrative Assistant..... Gail Johnson
 Director of Music Ministries..... Dale Dietert

Council Members

President, Ed Lysen..... 9/233-6585
 Vice President, Carol Herrman 9/669-8936
 Secretary, Anne Eckholm 9/231-6121
 Treasurer, Tom Petersen 9/866-0619
 Financial Sec., Shameka Young..... 2/478-5832
 Christian Ed., open
 Evangelism, Barbara Tate 9/437-5009
 Congregational Life, open.....
 Congregational Resources, Gail Johnson..... 9/231-3361
 Indoor Property, Jerry Zimmerman..... 2-207-0771
 Outdoor Property, Ralph Rizzo..... 9/231-3269
 Worship & Music, Frieda Chyn - 2/514/8426
 Service Outreach, Emily Hoffman..... 9/669-0125
 Youth, Kara Herrman... .. 9/669-8936

Contact Us:

pastorkris@stlukeslutheranchurch.org, Ph.414-416-8660
gail@stlukeslutheranchurch.org
ddietert@smu.edu
www.stlukeslutheranchurch.org



Sunday Schedule

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 8:45 a.m.

Phone number: 972-234-8804

www.stlukeslutheranchurch.org