

St. Luke's REPORTER

March 2016

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



LENT

The Lenten season continues this month with midweek evening prayer services, using music from the Iona community. The theme for our reflections is "Sensing the Gospel," and our March Wednesdays will cover taste, smell, and hearing.

Worship begins at 7:00 pm, but if you come between 6 and 6:30, you can also experience the taste and smell of our soup suppers. There's still time to make this a part of your Lenten practice this year!

Holy Week comes early with **Palm Sunday** worship on March 20th. On **Maundy Thursday**, we'll have a Noon worship service with Holy Communion again for those who cannot make the evening service. Then we'll have the traditional Maundy Thursday worship at 7:00 pm, which concludes with the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.



Holy Week

Good Friday worship at 7:00 pm will again be a tenebrae service (progressive darkness.) Our Lenten prayer cross will take on a new look this evening as well. Our theme this year will be a contemporary take on the Reproaches from the Cross. The Reproaches are a rarely used ancient tradition, but we will be using them for the basis of reflection as our light diminishes throughout the sanctuary. The Reproaches highlight the essential injustice of the Crucifixion, the culpability of humanity in this action, and the role of sin in those times and our times in bringing this about. We are given remarkable gifts by God, and yet we too often turn our backs on God and deny God due reverence in our lives and in our worship.



EASTER

Easter Sunday, we join our voices in praise and celebration of the resurrection! Remember to bring a flower from your home to help decorate our renewed and resurrected Easter cross. If you forget, we'll have some available for you as you enter the worship service.

Many of us have known people who have had Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, and know how hard it is to watch the loved one you know slowly disappear. But you also know that, every once in a while, you see glimpsers of that person still there. My experience has been that the faith rituals that are so deeply embedded never completely disappear.



For example, I will always remember Vic. When I met him on my first visit to him, his Alzheimer's was already advanced. For some reason, he was always fixated on "red beans and rice" - some of the few words he said. He didn't know his wife's name, but his love for her was clearly on his face he looked at her. And he still loved Holy Communion and the Words of Institution. He would say them along with me. Those words are embedded deep in one's soul.

The Lord's Prayer, words to favorite hymns, the Words of Institution, the benediction... so many rituals that bring peace to a soul when they have become such a strong part of someone's faith journey in life. That is a gift - not only to the person who remembers the words, but also to the family who sees glimpses of their loved ones responding with such deep faith.

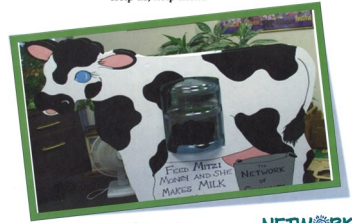
Yesterday, I heard a new story that speaks to such strong identity that never quite gets lost. I attended the annual prayer breakfast that Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson holds at Fair Park. The main speaker was Mayor Sylvester Turner from Houston. He shared stories about his mother, who had been the rock of his family growing up. His father, who worked several jobs, died of cancer when he was 13. His mother became a single mother to the nine children, and was a strong model of faith and hope for him. Her tag line was always "tomorrow will be better." She always encouraged and pushed her kids to achieve. Even though neither she nor her husband had finished high school, Sylvester himself was his high school valedictorian, went on to graduate from college and then Harvard Law School.

But my favorite part of his story was about his mother in her later progression of Alzheimer's. She got to the point where she didn't know her nine children's names, but he said she always knew her own name. "Who are you?" "I'm Ruby Mae Turner." It was never just Ruby, but always the full name. You see, her name was something that she said could never be taken from her. She instilled that in her kids too. Your name is your identity. It is who you are, and you protect that name. You make it proud and strong and true. Right up to the end. Just as important in her identity was Christian. That was what MADE her name strong and true.

Christian. Follower of Christ. Child of God. Loved one. Those words all define who we are and are part of our identity right to the very end. When I am with someone who is near death, I leave them with a blessing. I make the sign of the cross on their forehead, reminding them of their identity in baptism. I bless them with the words of the benediction. I call them "Child of God." Those words do not leave us. They are embedded deep in our souls. With them, you can see more than a glimpse of God's love.

MITZI, a huge success. St. Luke's Souper Bowl collection for Network's milk program was a big success. Mitzi, the cow, was picked up Tuesday, February 16th, and she contained \$588.95. St. Lukers, you did it again! Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions.

\$2,160.00 can provide milk for families for an entire month!
Help us, help them.



Thank you for Your Support

NETWORK
We engaged lives



Spring Play. On Friday, March 11, we will meet at the church at 12:15 to go on the bus to the Bath House Cultural Center near White Rock Lake to attend their play, “The Outgoing Tide.” The play is described:

Set in a summer cottage on Chesapeake Bay, Gunner has hatched an unorthodox plan to secure the family’s future, but meets with resistance from his wife and son, who have plans of their own. As winter approaches, the three must quickly find common ground and come to an understanding—before the tide goes out.

The cost is \$12 for the play. The cost of the bus ride is \$5 extra. Sign up on the bulletin board and pay Frieda for your ticket to reserve your seat by March 6. For questions call Frieda Chyn 214-514-8426.

The Social Seniors will also have a Game Day on Friday, March 18th, 12:15 p.m. at the home of Louise Rambadt, 13731 Goldmark Dr. #4103, Dallas. Since she is in a gated community we will meet at the church to carpool to her apartment. Snacks will be provided. Sign up if you plan to attend.



The pot luck supper for March will be held on Saturday, the 26th at the home of Dick and Betty Miner, 6317 Palomino Dr., Plano. The festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. **It is very important that you sign up if you plan to attend** so they will know how many people to expect! The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

The Men’s Breakfast will be held on March 26 at 8:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn on 190 and Waterview. If you would like more information, contact Ralph Rizzo



Women of St. Luke's

The March Bible study for Mary Ruth and Rebekah circles continues with the third 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.

"Being of one mind" is the title and the theme verses are Philippians 2:19 –4:3. This lesson may be found on page 26 of the March Gather magazine or may be downloaded at gathermagazine.org. The Leader's guide is on page 32.

MARCH ACTIVITIES

March 2 (Wednesday): 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.

March 5 (Saturday): Quilting Bee, 9:00am in the Gathering Area. Please bring a salad to share for the luncheon. All women are invited for great fun and fellowship as work is done on items for Lutheran World Relief. A quilt dedication will be held on Sunday, March 6th.

March 8 (Tuesday):

10:00am - Mary Ruth Circle will meet at church in the adult classroom. Hostess: Eileen Bottolfson, Study Leader: Suzie Habegger.

7:30pm - Rebekah Circle members meet in the home of the hostess. Hostess: Rita Humphrey, Study Leader: TBA.

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

March 12 (Saturday):

9:00am - Sarah Circle meets in the Church Conference Room. Their lesson will be session one of "*Angels: God's Messengers*" from The Thoughtful Christian. Hostess: Carol Brant, Study Leader: Brenda Milner.

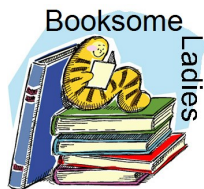
March 30 (Wednesday): Lutheran World Relief Packing Day, 9:00am

Many hands make for light work. Join others in packing quilts, layettes, school and health kits.

**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, March 16th, at 9:30 a.m., the Booksome Ladies will meet in the Conrad Library. We will discuss Kristin von Kreisler's novel, An Unexpected Grace. It is the story of Lila Elliot who was wounded in a senseless shooting rampage at her office. Her injuries will heal in time, but she can't move past her fear and anger. Lila is drafted into caring for Grace—a shaggy, formerly abused golden retriever—and that adds to her stress. Grace, like Lila, needs time and space to recover, and she only perks up for Adam, the neighbor who rescued her. Though struggling to make sense of her recent tragedy, Lila, an accomplished artist, begins to see beauty in Grace's wisps of fur and haunted eyes. In helping Grace to trust, Lila is gently nudged toward the courage she needs to do the same. Poignant and uplifting, this book is a beautifully written story of compassion, healing, and true soul mates, in all their guises.



Even if you haven't read the book, everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this friendly group.

Pleasant reading,
Martha Eastwood



Believe it or not....It's time to order flowers to decorate the chancel area for Easter. We will again use a variety of flowers like we did last year. If you want to help purchase them, they are \$8.50 each and you may give them in honor or in memory of someone. You may put the money in your offering envelope with the designation for Easter flowers or pick up a special envelope on the table in the narthex. The deadline for ordering is March 15th.

Pastor Kris will have new member class for anyone wishing to join St. Luke's on Sunday, April 10 following the worship service. If you are interested in joining, please let her know.

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.

**FAMILY OF JOHN ABBOTT
BILL PERKINS
BARBARA MILLER
DAVE SALLEE
ROSEMARIE HAM
RITA HUMPHREY
BERNIE HUMPHREY
IRMA YOUNG
DIANE THORPE
JULIE COOK
EMILY EASTWOOD
TRACY GOLDEN
RUTHIE GROOM
MAGGIE HORNER
LISA SANDIDGE
RONDA MEIVES
PAULINE GLENN
DAVID REED
JEREMY TOTZKE
DORIS AUTREY
DOROTHY MERRITT
CHARLIE HAMMETT
THE FAMILY OF ELMA VES**

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

*"For nothing is impossible with God."
Luke 1:37*

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



March Anniversaries

Ed & Carol Lysen

3-20-1960

March Birthdays

Chris Clausen	3-01
Trudy Schmidt	3-01
Steven Spangler	3-01
Milyon Pope	3-02
Alyssa Wolverton	3-03
Julaine Cook	3-05
Marge Alesch	3-08
Rita Humphrey	3-09
Emily Hoffman	3-10
Joy Uhler	3-11
Suzie Habegger	3-16
Kaitlyn Bottolfson	3-17

Zachary Young	3-18
Marlin Pope	3-22
Jean Sloan	3-23
Nicholas Ezerosky	3-24
Margaret Freeman	3-24
Ann McMullin	3-24
Sandy Nelson	3-25
Doris Autrey	3-27
Elizabeth Bakken	3-28
Megan Wimer	3-28
Anne Eckholm	3-29



Michael James Kirby, son of Tom and Natalie Kirby and great-grandson of Gail Johnson was baptized into the family of God on February 21, 2016.



Dear St. Luke's

Thank you to everyone for their prayers, cards and messages during the time of John's illness and death. Thank you especially to those who prepared the wonderful reception following the memorial service. It is greatly appreciated by our whole family.
Jan Abbott.

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—Mar. 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

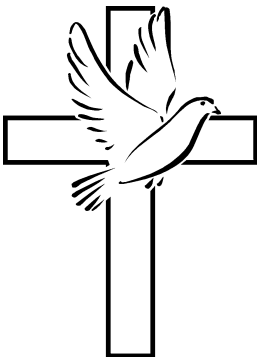
Pastor..... Rev. Kristine Totzke
 Administrative Assistant..... Gail Johnson
 Director of Music Ministries..... Dale Dietert

Council Members

President, Ed Lysen..... 9/233-6585
 Vice President, Shirley Sigler 2/272-7458
 Secretary, Anne Eckholm 9/231-6121
 Treasurer, Tom Petersen 9/866-0619
 Financial Sec., Shameka Young..... 2/478-5832
 Christian Ed., open
 Evangelism, Carol Rizzo..... 9/231-3269
 Congregational Life, Jerold Plumb..... 9/231-4214
 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

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