

# St. Luke's REPORTER

# May 2016

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

**Coffee with the council.** Join your church council following worship on May 15th for a brief meeting to discuss issues of interest to our church. If you have any specific concerns or questions you would like discussed, this is your opportunity to get them addressed.



Coffee with  
the Council



Pentecost is a day of promises fulfilled. The promised Spirit of God is poured out. The baptized have become children of God and joint heirs with Christ. Join the celebration on May 15th.

**There will be** a congregational luncheon hosted by the Congregational Life team on Sunday, May 22, following worship. Bring your appetites to church that day!.



## Bishop-elect Erik Gronberg

Elected at the 2016  
NT-NL Mission Area  
Assembly  
April 22-24

See pastor's column inside  
for more information on our  
new bishop.

We have a new Bishop-elect for the Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana Mission Area. The Rev. Erik Gronberg was elected at the Mission Assembly in April, on the fifth ballot. I've been through many bishop elections, and this was the most intense election process I've ever experienced. Maybe that was because of the high quality of so many candidates. Maybe it was because of the many malfunctions of voting equipment and revote after revote. But I must say, I'm thrilled with the results.



Our new incoming Bishop is a native Texan. He grew up in Austin, where his dad is an ELCA pastor. His wife is also a pastor (the Rev. Kendra Mohn.) They are both currently called to Trinity Lutheran in Fort Worth, where Kendra will continue to serve. This is their second call, after serving in the Greater Milwaukee Synod for their first call. Yes, I knew them before I came here. Kendra was at a neighboring congregation to mine, and we shared Thanksgiving worship for years. So I consider them both good friends. But that is not why I'm thrilled that Erik will be our new Bishop. I'm happy because I think he is extremely qualified and has exhibited excellent leadership for our synod already.

The election process was well thought out. Several pastors were identified ahead of the assembly, and participated in a series of forums. On the first ballot every voting member wrote down a nomination. There were 35 names submitted (mine included.) Those who were willing to be considered were asked to officially step forward to accept the nomination. Eight candidates did so (I did not.) The next ballot narrowed the field to seven, then three, then two (the Rev. Jane Mar and the Rev. Erik Gronberg), then one. In the process, there were speeches and Q&A sessions. And there was lots and lots of prayer. Any of the top three candidates would have been a strong and excellent bishop, but the Holy Spirit led us to this final choice.

I am very excited for the future of the NTNL Mission Area. I'm looking forward to the coming years under the leadership of our new Bishop. While the Bishop doesn't directly affect what happens at our congregation, his leadership does help to inspire and guide us. Bishop Kanouse will be in position until the end of June and will spend much of the coming two months working with Erik to help in the transition process, but then in July, it will be all Bishop Gronberg.

Here at St. Luke's, we have much to look forward to in the coming year, besides our new Bishop. 2017 will be a year filled with celebrations for us. It's the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which will be a celebration for the whole church. 2017 will also be the 60th anniversary year for St. Luke's. We will soon be putting together a team to plan for a combined celebration of those two events. For me personally, it will also be a celebration year as I hit my 25th anniversary of ordination on Oct. 18. I expect us to just have one big year-long celebration! If anyone is interested in serving on the planning team for the anniversary celebration, please let me know. I'll also be connecting with Bishop-elect Gronberg to make sure we get our celebration on his calendar.

Let's see how big we can make 2017!

**Want to attract** more young people and young families to St. Luke's? A front page article in the April 12th Dallas Morning News gives us a clue to something that may help. The article talked about Texas business executives concerned with attracting younger workers and customers. Over 750 companies including 33 Fortune 500 companies have signed the Texas Competes pledge which states the need for workplaces and communities that are diverse and welcoming for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The practical business case that these companies give for signing the Texas Competes pledge is that businesses have long recognized the power of fair treatment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) workers and their families. The positive impacts on company culture, and on the bottom line are well documented. And those impacts go beyond gay and transgender employees: inclusive policies and culture are important to the vast majority of the population as a whole. As stated in the article, "If companies want to attract millennials as employees and customers, they have to embrace an inclusive ethic - and do it publicly."

What's available to St. Luke's that is similar to the Texas Competes pledge? Becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation by adopting a statement that all are welcome and fully included at St. Luke's regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Similar to what businesses have found, the experience of most RIC congregations is that they have become more attractive to young families who want to be part of a congregation with inclusive values. Since we already are a welcoming and inclusive Christian community all we have to do is proudly embrace our inclusive ethic by formally becoming an RIC congregation. Thus we not only get to do the right thing, we become a more attractive congregation by doing so. Isn't trusting God great! *(from the RIC Team)*

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**The Men's Breakfast** will be held on May 21st at 8:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn on 190 and Waterview.

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**Spring Play:** On Friday, May 20, 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, "Alone Together Again." The play is described: Laughed-filled comedy about a couple who look forward to the peace and quiet and the privacy of an empty nest after thirty years of raising three sons. But all too soon, the doorbell rings and the empty nest is filled once again by the sudden, unexpected arrival of their parents, each with a problem. How do they empty the nest once again so Mom and Dad can be alone together?

The cost is \$12 for the play. The cost of the bus ride is \$5 extra. Sign up on the bulletin board by May 15 and pay Frieda for your ticket. For questions call Frieda Chyn 214-514-8426.

# Women of St. Luke's

The May Bible study for Mary Ruth and Rebekah circles is by Norma Cook Everist, professor of Church and Ministry at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. She shares an intergenerational Bible study session on "Mary and Elizabeth: Sisters across the generations." Norma is a deaconess and an ordained ELCA pastor.

This lesson and leader's guide may be found in the May Gather magazine or may be downloaded at [gathermagazine.org](http://gathermagazine.org).

## MAY ACTIVITIES

**May 4 (Wednesday): Activity Day, 9:00am in the Gathering Area.**

Work continues on quilts, layettes, school and health kits for Lutheran World Relief.

**May 10 (Tuesday):**

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

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

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

**May 14 (Saturday):**

**11:30am - Spring Luncheon**

All women of St Luke's are invited to a spring potluck luncheon. Please bring a non-dessert dish. Sarah Circle is the hostess and will provide dessert. Sign up for the luncheon on Sunday, May 1 & 8 so we will have a head count for tables/chairs. When you sign up, let us know if you need a nursery.

Following the potluck lunch, the program "Legendary Ladies" will be presented by Rhonda Medina. This will be an entertaining and fun program. Rhonda is an actress, singer and comedienne who performs impersonations of celebrity women.

Offering – It has been decided that our offering will stay at home and be given to the St. Luke's Music Scholars Fund. **Plan to attend!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**June 8 (Wednesday):**

**7:00pm** - Summer Combined Circle Meeting; Hostess – Rebekah Circle

The first of three lessons on "The heart of the matter: Treasure in clay jars"

(2 Corinthians 4:7) by Angela Shannon, pastor at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Dallas, Texas.

**August 10 (Wednesday):**

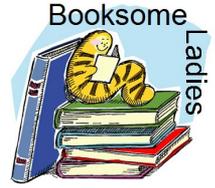
**7:00pm** - Summer Combined Circle Meeting; Hostess – Sarah Circle

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

**Please feel free to join any of the circles and other activities at any time.**

# Booksome Ladies

**On Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**, the Booksome Ladies will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Conrad Library, to discuss Julie Kibler's fascinating novel Calling Me Home. In this story, eighty-nine year old Isabelle McAllister asks her black hairdresser, Dorrie Curtis, to drop everything and drive her from her home in Texas to a funeral near Cincinnati – tomorrow. No explanation is given for the journey, but through the long hours of driving, Isabelle confesses her longest-kept secret. As a teen in 1930s Kentucky, Isabelle fell deeply in love with Robert Prewitt, a would-be doctor and the black son of her family's housekeeper. In a town where blacks were not allowed after dark, this was a forbidden relationship with tragic consequences. As Isabelle relates her story, Dorrie realizes that the unknown event in Cincinnati must be very important and that Isabelle's first and greatest love just might help Dorrie find her own way in a difficult family situation. This is a well-told tale of an unlikely friendship and a journey that will change two lives forever. Reading this book will give you new insights, and a great deal of pleasure too.



ALL ARE WELCOME !

Springtime Joy,  
Martha Eastwood

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## New Members

On April 17th we welcomed the following new members to St. Luke's:  
Please add to your directory.

Alyx Comacho,  
6740 Davidson St. #453  
The Colony, Texas 75056

Trenton Becker  
4315 Rosemeade Parkway #912  
Dallas TX 75287

Teri and Alexandria Kennedy and Tony Smith  
5504 Flowerwood Lane  
McKinney TX 75070

# 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 TRACY GOLDEN  
(DAUGHTER OF CAROL DIMICK)  
FAMILY OF CAROLYN HALTER  
(MOTHER OF DIANNE PLUMB)  
BILL PERKINS  
BOB NICOLAYSEN  
LINDA REED  
DORIS HOUSTON  
CARLA BENDER  
SUSAN & HOWARD SCHEIB  
SHIRLEY SIGLER  
JULIE COOK  
DORIS AUTREY  
DAVE SALLEE  
ROSEMARIE HAM  
RITA HUMPHREY  
BERNIE HUMPHREY  
IRMA YOUNG  
BARB MILLER  
EMILY EASTWOOD  
RUTHIE GROOM  
DONNIE GROOM  
MAGGIE HORNER  
RONDA MEIVES  
PAULINE GLENN  
DAVID REED  
CHARLIE HAMMETT  
JEAN HAMMETT  
CAROL RIZZO**

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

*"O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you."*

*Psalm 84:12*

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



# May Anniversaries

Bob & Martha Eastwood	5-01
Ralph & Carol Rizzo	5-14
Dick & Betty Miner	5-21

# May Birthdays

Anusha Vimal-Prabakar	5-02
Gail Johnson	5-05
Tana Rutledge	5-06
Carolyn Nicolaysen	5-09
Bailee Slye-Nelson	5-12
Ron Treber	5-13
Phil Houston	5-16

Jerry Zimmerman	5-16
Madysen Ezerosky	5-22
Jacob Terpstra	5-22
Kara Herrman	5-28
Ed Sobey	5-28
Caroline Plumb	5-30

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

To my fellow St Luker's

I wish to thank everyone for the prayers, calls, cards, flowers and delicious meals we received during my recovery from the fall. Also thanks to Pastor Kris for her visit. It's great to have the support of a wonderful church family.

Gods blessing to each of you.

Bob Nicolaysen

## 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—May. 15  
[gail@stlukeslutheranchurch.org](mailto: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:**

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[ddietert@smu.edu](mailto:ddietert@smu.edu)  
[www.stlukeslutheranchurch.org](http://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](http://www.stlukeslutheranchurch.org)**