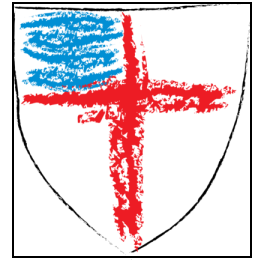


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St Luke's Newsletter



April, 2016

**“To Know Christ and
Make Christ Known”**

2016 Parish Theme:

**“Witness Wamego
Go Beyond!”**

Our Vestry Mem-
bers:

Jay Hildreth (Senior
Warden), Doug El-
cock (Junior War-
den and Treasurer),
Cinnie Hill (Clerk),
Cliff Robb, Claudia
McKinsey. Levi
Hannan With Ed
Dillinger as his
mentor and proxy,
Thomas Brown

Rector's page:

A Third Millen- nium Christianity

**Part I, A Story of Dis-
covering God in me**
*A Spiritual Formation
as an Emerging
Adult (1987-1998)*

High School
When I made adult
affirmation of faith,
just after turning 18
years old, there was
an understanding of
God's presence. I
had spiritual emo-
tions like empathy
and compassion for
Christ Jesus, the
Nazarene carpenter
born in a barn and
only Son of God, yet
there was a gnawing
skepticism too. My
skeptical side wanted
to know how salva-
tion could not be
shared by all peo-
ples. I felt saved, but
I could not resolve
how souls, who do
not have the feeling
of God's presence
and do not know
Christ Jesus, were
not in God's saving
grace.

College
My healthy skepti-
cism was nurtured by
the Jesuit fathers of
Rockhurst College
after high school
from 1990-1993, until
I graduated with a
degree in Continental
Philosophy. The
Jesuits encouraged
me to question con-
texts and reflect on
systemic situations
that holy scriptures
were written in and
early church doctrine
was developed.
Then, on my 21st
birthday weekend, I
made a 4-day silent
retreat to Assumption
Abbey in Ava, Mis-
souri where I met
several Trappist
monks. I had not ex-
perienced silence
and contemplative
prayer like that be-
fore. It made a great
impression that I
think has remained
as an imprint on my
soul.

Healing Presence/
Memories
Since that weekend,
when most of my
friends wanted to buy

me a shot at the pub
and help me cele-
brate with different
spirits, there has
been an evolution of
consciousness. A
journey of selfless
service wrapped in
the grace of contem-
plative prayer has
been the way of be-
ing I know to end in
beauty. It is also the
lens by which I can
see the same Christ
Jesus who appeared
to me at age 18.
These three years of
my life (18-21 years)
were turbulent and
sometimes traumatic,
yet hindsight has re-
vealed a personal
Lord Jesus Who
guided every step
through a dark night
of spiritual despair.

*An Adult Transforma-
tion and Integration
of Grace in the 21st
Century (1999-2015)*

Married with Chil-
dren/Parish/
Mortgage/Small
Business
Once I emerged as
an adult with two
wonderful kids and a

beautiful spouse, life sped by in the blink of an eye. Fast forward through the 30's and early 40's and here I am 47 with more joy and fulfillment than ever before. Sure, there were many obstacles and detours over the past 17 years, but God was there through it all. Specifically, during another dark night when I did not know for certain whether I could make it out of the caravan of despair that enveloped my entire way of being.

It was a period of darkness as I remember, not knowing whether the spark of the soul would be sustained through it all. Now I can see that the darkness was necessary, as the transformation of a traumatic injury compounded by secondary traumas along the way of ministry, was being integrated into the fabric of my whole being. Without disclosing too much information, since I believe the content is not as relevant as the gift of forgiveness received in the healing presence of God, the outcome was a profound and lasting encounter of God's Spirit touching my soul wound. I like to say that this transformation and integration of a soul wound happened for me not to me, during the first three years after being ordained a priest and thereby a cleric in the economy of God's saving grace.

To be continued... **Part II, A Story of Unfolding me in God.**

Father ~ Matt

Senior Warden's Message:

Easter Sunday was especially meaningful to me. I enjoyed seeing the church full to capacity. My thanks go out to all those who helped make it all possible. It takes a lot of cooperation to decorate the Church Sanctuary, clean up the church grounds, clean the kitchen, prepare the Easter Brunch, gather Easter Eggs, prepare to deliver the Sermon plus getting dressed up for the day! The addition of Baptisms has made this an Easter to remember. I am proud of the enthusiasm that was in evidence among us in celebration of Christ's Rising again.

I would like to share a recommendation for you to visit Assumption Abbey if you are ever in the Ava Missouri area. Father Matt recommended it to me during one of the bible study sessions he gave a few years back. It is on Bryant Creek close to an old mill site where you have to cross over the old dam if you come in from the North. Father Matt was there soon after the start of his ministry. The Monks there have a vow of silence, rise early in the morning, have mostly communal meals, and have several services a day. I was given a small tour by the lady that runs the gift shop there. They do have rooms and one or two houses that may be rented. I believe the meals are available to be shared with the monks with prior notice. The original abbey is on the river and is in disrepair. The area is very beautiful and will be very vibrant when the dogwood comes into bloom. The Monastery was begun in the early 50's with the Monks supporting themselves by making concrete block; they do

not do that anymore as the work became too much as they got older. Now they make a very delicious rum fruit cake and have quite a reputation making it. It costs about \$35 per cake via mail order or can be purchased on site for about \$27. I would call ahead if you are going there and have one saved for you as they do run out. That happened to me one time and instead I purchased a coffee cup as a souvenir. I am sad to report that last week that cup broke. I can only hope that the loss of the cup; which led to my thoughts about spring time in the Ozarks and to this piece in this Newsletter will lead to some of you visiting so we can share our memories. It is a place of peace, solitude, and beauty.

With Christ's Love,

Jay Hildreth

Prayers:

We pray for those who are ill or are caregivers: David, Doreen, Aileen, Alberta, Alice, Bernie, Claudia, JP, Kay, Kent, KoKo, Lynn, Mickey and Lisa, Outlet Club, Yasche

We pray for: Lucas, Hannah, Kayleigh, Christian, Mike, Paul, and Sherry

We pray for our Military personnel: Ben, Ian, Luke, Mike, Molly, and Scott

We pray for our ministries: Bishop Kemper School of Ministry.

Vestry

The Vestry approved the change to internet banking from Kaw Valley for our statements to avoid service charges on several accounts.

There is now a recycle trash container for our recyclables. A list of allowed items is available on the refrigerator.

We have been approved by Dillons community support program. The procedure will be a second attachment with this email for our church members. It will also be posted on the church bulletin board, with copies on the information table.

Our 150th year as a church will occur in five years. If you are interested in helping with the planning, please talk to Doug.

There are plans to expand TTEM to the first Thursdays of each month with volunteers coming from the community. If you have an idea of a group to help, let Thomas know as he is the chairperson of the expansion.

Guild:

We are continuing the kitchen supply shower to supply beverages of your choice.

April 9th we are supporting the Walk for Warmth and Wellness. Please contribute your time or your money to this worthwhile fund-raiser in our community.

April 16th the NW Convocation will meet in Guild Hall. Please supply chips or cookies and volunteer to help during the noon hour.

Friday, April 22 – Saturday April 23: 2016 Women's Summit at St. Michaels and All Angels in Mission, Kansas. See registration brochure on the Guild Hall table.

VBS is August 1-5. The theme is Surf Shack: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love.

Community Health Ministry

The Second Annual Walk for Warmth and Wellness will be Saturday, April 9th. Please support this endeavor by either walking/running or donating money. The Council of Churches also is a sponsor. See the flyer in Guild Hall.

The following items are needed in the CMH food pantry: mac & cheese, cheerio-type cereal, spaghetti sauce, jelly, pancake/baking mix, and dry meals (Hamburger Helper)
Also personal hygiene items, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies.

They have fresh potatoes if you want some or know someone who could use them.

CHM can't function without volunteers and they need YOUR help! Contact Angel Hecht at angel@heartforhim.org or (785) 294-1129 to volunteer.

Children's Garden Update:

Isn't the weather interesting? We have had spring since January, and even our early Easter celebration had plenty of flowering shrubs to contribute to the flowering of the cross, my personal favorite part of Easter at St. Luke's. Soon it will be time to get the garden prepared for a new round of vegetables, and the first step was moving the compost to a more discreet location. It is now by the back kitchen steps, ready for all the garden waste and vegetable trimmings the chickens don't claim. As a reminder, please refrain from putting trash in the bin, and sticks should be piled to the side, since they don't break down well. Stay tuned for planting updates! As always, any and all suggestions and help are welcome.

Emily Benson

TTEM Breakfast:

In March approximately 20 community members came for breakfast and fellowship. Our group was a little smaller as this was "Spring Break" week. We anticipate that on our next TTEM date, Thursday April 21st, we will have a larger group joining us!

Everyone is welcome to stop by share breakfast and fellowship with friends and neighbors in our community. Volunteers are always welcome!

Please remember, if you are able, to sign up to supply food items for the breakfast and have them at the church by the Sunday prior to the breakfast.

Jac Brown

NW Convocation

St. Luke's will host the members of the Northwest Convocation churches on April 16. We have invited them to Wamego in conjunction with the Tulip Festival. The day will go like this:

10:00 Convocation meeting.

Those not participating in the meeting are invited to the Wamego City Park to enjoy the Tulip Festival.

12:00 Noonday Prayers

12:30 Lunch (sub sandwiches... chips...cookies)

1:30 Tulip Festival

It is nice to have these activities from time to time so we can get to know folks for the other parishes in the Convocation!

Please join in! Laura and Myrline

Sunday School:

Pat will teach the younger students and Claudia or Emily will be teaching the older students.

Outlet Club:

Volunteers are still needed from 3 to 6:30. Come for an hour or more to help with activities and kitchen work. There needs to be two adults every day to help with the club. We need volunteers on Monday, Tuesday and Fridays.

Editor Comments:

Cinnie is looking for a volunteer to help with the newsletter at times when she is out-of-town. Please contact her if you are interested.

All new church attendees are being asked to complete a membership directory form. Please take one from the clerk box (on the top row of mailboxes) in the Sacristy, if you haven't completed one. A new directory will be emailed / published after all the forms are received. Please place them back in the clerk's box when they are completed.

To receive the Diocesan News twice a month, send an email with the subject "Diolog" to the Diocese Publications. mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org

Treasurer's Report:

Discretionary Fund Sundays in April: Rector's is the first Sunday, April 6. Any loose money in the offertory goes to support this fund so please help as you are able to. If there is a fifth Sunday a second smaller alms basin will be passed for those pursuing seminary education.

APRIL SCHEDULE:

Sunday, April 3: 11 am - Guild meeting
 Saturday, April 9: Walk for Warmth and Wellness
 Sunday, April 10: 8:15 am – Vestry meeting
 Saturday, April 16: NW Convocation Meeting - see Guild notes
 Friday, April 22 – Saturday April 23: 2016 Women's Summit at St. Michaels and All Angels in Mission, Kansas

Upcoming Events:**St. Luke's Weekly Schedule:**

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist
 Mondays: 6:30 a.m. Spiritual Development Book Group – McDonalds
 Tuesdays: 9 am – 10am; Sign Language
 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Bible Study
 11 am – 1:30 pm 1st and 3rd Tuesdays - Quilting
 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. AA
 Wednesdays: 6 - 7:30 p.m. WE - Potluck Supper and Children's Ministry
 Thursdays: 7:30 p.m. Cursillo Reunion Group
 Father Matt Office Hours are by appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL:

April 24-Susan Burgess
 April 28-John Geraci

ANNIVERSARIES:

April 6-Larry & Laura Hannan

Altar Guild:

Thank you to all who helped with Holy Week activities. This includes all altar guild members and many others. Thanks to Father Matt especially. Happy Easter to all. Please make attendance at St. Luke's part of your week. You are loved and missed when you are absence.

Council of Churches:

Both Ed Dillinger and Joyce Elcock have been your representatives to the Council for many, many years. It is time for a change of representation. This change won't take place until the next annual meeting but please start thinking about volunteering. There is not a better group of individuals to work with. Questions? Just ask.

Junior Warden:

A reminder: Spring is arriving and this includes lawn mowing and other outside duties. Please volunteer as you are able to help keep St. Luke's beautiful.

Thanks you to the individuals who cleaned up the front flower beds.

Doug Elcock

Wamego Council of Churches Run for Warmth and Wellness

5K Run or 1 mile Walk

To benefit the Wamego Community Health Ministry.

Saturday, April 9, 8:00 a.m.

Sign up to walk or run.

Offer to help.

Find out Sunday who is participating and become their sponsor.

(Questions, ask Ed or Joyce)

April 2016

	April 3	April 9	April 17	April 24	May 1
Altar Guild	Linda Chmiel, Joyce Elcock	Martha Miller, Emily Benson	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler	Pat Frey, Cinnie Hill	Linda Chmiel, Joyce Elcock
Lay Reader	Judy Hildreth	Eric Benson	Doug Elcock	Myrline Winkler	Ed Dillinger
Chalice Bearer	Ebba Robb	Joyce Elcock	Ed Dillinger	Larry Hannan	Myrline Winkler
Greeter/ Usher	Larry Hannan	Erica Cobb	Judy Hildreth	John Chmiel	Martha Miller
Coffee Host	Elcocks	Pat Frey	Hannans	Winklers	Kally McConkey