

St. Business Name

August, 2016

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

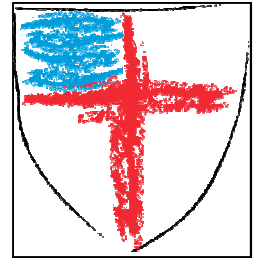
2016 Parish Theme:

**“Witness Wamego
Go Beyond!”**

Our Vestry Mem-
bers:

Jay Hildreth
(Senior Warden),
Doug Elcock
(Junior Warden
and Treasurer),
Cinnie Hill (Clerk),
Claudia McKinsey.
Levi Hannan, Ed
Dillinger, Thomas
Brown

St Luke's Newsletter



Rector's page:

Sabbath, Shabbat Shalom, Sabbatical

‘God made the sabbath for humanity, not humanity for the sabbath.’

At face value, this assertion of truth is quite innocuous, yet upon further reflection it begins to unveil the present spiritual disease that our society and indeed the global capitalist venture may be suffering from without really completely diagnosing it. Here is my diagnosis of the current age; the spiritual disease of the modern world is none other than EFFICIENCY.

One of the symptoms, and there are many, is the tyranny of time. Modern people tend to always get ahead of themselves, because an innate fear corrodes into feelings of inadequate and insufficient time. Sabbath obser-

vances can be a healing presence and holy remedy for the soul enslaved by the fear of being inefficient with life. According to popular belief, when we pass and come to the pearly gates of heaven and stand before the great judgment seat of God Almighty and Christ Jesus at His right hand there will be an accounting, yet aren't the tears of our anguish collected and set under the Throne of Glory. If the account is short and there is any wasted time and talent, that could be deleterious to the soul's next step, yet it could be a moment of total surrender to the Mercy of God's Glory (i.e., Nonviolent Atonement, Merciful Judgment).

Sabbath

My prescription as a physician of the soul and spiritual leader of this faith community is to take and receive

the old laws of the Torah and Talmud through the lens crafted by the fourth commandment on Moses' tablets: "Remember the sabbath day." Perhaps, by taking and receiving the Sabbath we may better understand what it means to cultivate a more contemplative attitude toward ourselves, neighbors and God. Isn't it directly correlated to Jesus' prime directive and only commandment: 'Love God and love your neighbor as yourself.'

Taking a long-loving look at the Ten Commandments, also known as the Decalogue, we discover that they are a set of commandments which the Holy Bible describes as having been given to the Israelites by God at Mount Sinai. The Ten Commandments are listed twice in the Hebrew Scriptures, first at Exodus 20:1-17,

and then at Deuteronomy 5:4–21. Sabbath is interpreted by most Jewish Rabbis and Scholars of Ancient Near Eastern sacred texts to be paramount to attaining long-life and essential for living the Good Life (Hebrew, L' Chaim).

Thus, the proposition that, 'God made the sabbath for humanity, not humanity for the sabbath,' comes into more revelatory light. In order to soften the deleterious effects of facing God's judgment in the hereafter and increase more joy, peace and gratitude in the here and now, we are asked to practice Sabbath. Moreover, do we really 'Got Sabbath' or does 'Sabbath Got Us?' Furthermore, the latter is God's purpose for all of space-time (i.e., forever) and the former is a total distortion of God's original instructions and perhaps even a denial of God's intent for Creation itself. To reiterate and belabor the point, it appears that obeying this commandment has a lot to do with whether we practice it regularly or not.

Shabbat Shalom

Keeping the Sabbath holy may be practiced simply by wishing someone peace on the Sabbath. "The Peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you." This Sunday morning exchange is well scripted within the liturgical traditions and we say it every Sunday. So, that is practicing Shabbat Shalom, which is how devout Jewish people

fulfill the same practice. If a faithful Jew or Christian were to extend this practice to the whole day, Friday sunset to Saturday sunset for Jews and Saturday sunset to Sunday sunset for Christians, it would inevitably be an enjoyable experiment. But, as it stands, there are too many preprogrammed activities that in my opinion are nonessential and not paramount to long life and the Good Life. These Saturday and Sunday programs may be instrumentally good and beautiful, yet they often distract us from reality and what the Sabbath may require of us.

Sabbatical

Finally, the practice of sabbatical is something more common in academic institutions. Occasionally, there are clerics who take sabbaticals, but for the most part it has become commonplace for professors within tenure to be the ones who can 'take a sabbatical.'

Throughout my tenure as your rector, almost nine years, I have taken one sabbatical, which lasted 50 days. During that sabbatical in October and November of 2011, I traveled to India alone and went on a 30 day spiritual retreat and visited various mission stations. It was my first opportunity to practice sabbatical in my 20 year career as a clergyman. Now, exactly five years later comes an opportunity for our parish family to grant another sabbatical, so that I may practice it again. But, this time Eri-

ca and Emily will be joining me on sabbatical.

The duration of the sabbatical is planned for 75 days. Normally, after four years of service in The Episcopal Church there is edibility for a two month sabbatical. Yet, some clerics opt to serve five years and be eligible for three months. So, this will be a 2.5 month sabbatical, again to India. But, this time my studies and prayer will be focused predominately on Tribal Culture and Indigenous Wisdom. The expenses incurred within the sabbatical will be self-financed as the previous one was, yet the continuation of the rector's salary is greatly appreciated.

In lieu of my presidency at Holy Eucharist on Sunday mornings from October 9 - December 4, Rev'd. David Hodges from St. Francis Community Services in Salina, KS will preside. Father Hodges will be present on October 9, 30 and November 6, 13, and 20. In addition, there will be four Sundays when licensed lay worship leaders will provide Morning Prayer and Homily October 16, 23, November 27 and December 4. Meanwhile, pastoral care will be predominately being shared among the Lay Eucharistic Visitors, who are well equipped to listen and pray. In the event that there is need of a clerical pastoral visit or a sacramental rite, a local retired priest will be available to respond.

Visiting Priest September 4, 11, and 18

Father David Hodges from St. Francis Community Services will be presiding for the first time at St. Luke's on September 4, 11, and 18. David is the Vice President and Chief Development Officer for one of the largest child welfare agencies in the state of Kansas. Prior to moving to Kansas he was rector of a corporate size parish in Charlotte, NC. His wife Lisa is a practicing attorney and they have three children Burton (24), Mary Catherine (20), and Philip (17). Kindly, welcome the Hodges' to Wamego and if you have any Planned Giving or Stewardship questions, please inquire with Father Hodges, as he is an expert in the field.

Father ~ Matt

Junior Warden:

Three roofing companies have been asked to bid on removing and replacing shingles and gutters. Further information will be given when a vendor is selected.

Wednesday Night Ministry: WE

The Wednesday Evening events will begin again on Wednesday August 10th in Guild Hall. Join us for potluck and a children's program.

Senior Warden's Message:

Senior Warden's Report July 2016

Our Summer Vestry Meeting is at 8 am next Sunday July 31. If there are any items of business that you would like to add to the agenda just let me know.

I would like to thank Doug for his hard work as Junior Warden. He will have a report on the roof, wind, storm damage and where the bidding process is concerning the repairs.

FYI, I have been following Claudia and Doug's lead and contacted Hoefer Stained Glass in Hutchinson. He will be looking at our main west window in the next couple of weeks and be getting back to me with a bid for its repair. He is working on a church project in Seneca and therefore will be through this area several times in the near future.

Thomas Brown expanded the "Sharing Table" to two Thursday mornings per week. I am proud of the service it provides for our community. My personal thanks goes out to all who help in this service project.

Emily Benson has been coordinating the "Children's Garden". I have enjoyed watching the children see the fruits of their labor. This has been one of the primary focuses on our Wednesday night pot lucks. However, we have suspended the pot luck during the summer due to conflicting ball game schedules, etc. She will be speaking to the vestry to determine whether 1) to seek a replacement for her or 2) discontinuing the "Children's Garden" portion of the program. Claudia McKinsey has been providing an activity hour after the meals during the school year. This has been well received by the children and the adults that have attended. Children's Garden/pot luck will resume August 10th.

Cinnie Hill has handled all the secretarial needs of the Vestry. I truly appreciate the hard work she has put into keeping us from forgetting anything. She also edits my writing; helping make this a more readable piece. Thanks.

Levi Hannan has provided a presentation of a reading with comments on a piece of Scripture at our meetings. They have been inspirational and I enjoy his insight.

Yours in Christ,
Jay Hildreth

BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE:

Aug 26 – Mike McConkey

ANNIVERSARIES:

Aug. 3 – Matt & Erica Cobb

Aug. 6 – Cliff & Ebba Robb

Aug 21 – Doug & Cele Benson

Vestry

St. Luke's is contributing \$25 for refreshments at the United Methodist Church August 21st Wamego 150th Celebration they are sponsoring.

The outdoor lights have been left on all night several times which detract from the lighting of the church window and the church sign. It was decided to tape the light switches for these lights to remind everyone to turn them off when they leave the building.

Approval given for the Father Matt's six week sabbatical including a salary reduction to cover the associated expenses with the leave.

Emily Benson is stepping down from doing the gardens. Please talk to Emily by the 14th of August if you are interested in managing the garden area. If no interest is shown, the area will be returned to grass in the fall.

There will be a potluck and wagon ride to see the buffalo at Dillinger's after church in October. Date to be announced.

Children's Garden Update:

The garden is doing well, given the many hot, dry spells we've had this summer. Tomatoes are slowly ripening, and a few handfuls of green beans have been picked by eager children. They are great raw! There were some onions available for the last Sharing Table breakfast. , and the potatoes would be ready to dig if we hadn't planted flowers over them. We even have a patch of volunteer purslane--it looks just like a patch of weeds, but it tastes like lettuce. Ask me (or the kids) for a sample, if you want to try something new. Speaking of new, the strawberries had a very small second crop this year. I didn't know they would do that.

We've started beating back the weeds up closer to the church in the flowerbeds. There are a lot of saplings growing there. If you have any low-labor ideas for how to prevent these, please let me know.

Emily Benson

Treasurer's Report:

The following summary reflects the results of the operating fund, income and expense for the month of July 2016, with a budget comparison. (The Year-to-date includes the beginning balance on January 1st)

| Current month | Year-to-date | Budget | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$ 6,444.13 | \$ 36,870.45 | \$ 62,870.65 |
| Expense | \$ <u>4,146.32</u> | \$ <u>34,572.29</u> | \$ <u>65,270.65</u> |
| Difference | \$ 2,297.81 | \$ 2,297.81 | \$ (2,400.00) |

Discretionary Fund Sundays in June: Rector's is the first Sunday, August 7. Any loose money in the offertory goes to support this fund so please help as you are able to.

TTEM Breakfast:

The Sharing Table breakfast continues to grow with attendance averaging 30-35 people even through the summer. The July 21st breakfast served 33 people!

Due to VBS the first week of August there will be no Sharing Table breakfast on August 4th.

The next breakfast will be on August 18th. A signup sheet for items needed is on the table in the Guild Hall. Please remember to have your items at the church by Sunday, August, 14th so that any items still needed can be picked up prior to the morning of the breakfast.

With the start of school, the community members served will likely increase. Please volunteer if you are able to help out!

Thank you!

Jac Brown

Sunday School:

Myrline will teach the younger students and Emily will be teaching the older students.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with Sunday School this past year. We are getting ready to begin a new school year. We have great teachers and kids! We have a new curriculum from Episcopal Digital Network:

Lesson Plans that Work!

If you would like to join the Sunday School team, please let me know.

Myrline

Outreach - Council of Churches:

September is our month to deliver **Meals on Wheels**. A calendar will be posted in Guild Hall for you to sign up to be one of the deliverers. Please put your cell phone number by your name. Be at the Senior Center by 10:55. In most cases you will be done in 30-45 minutes. **We need to complete the calendar by August 15th as that is their deadline for us to ask them to help with finding volunteers .**

Thank you to everyone who helped with the school supply distribution. On a Sunday morning I collected \$80 from some of you to help meet the demand. This is a story of God's help and grace. I had a list of items that were still need so went about gathering a basketful. I was hopinh and praying that I didn't go over the \$80 I had to spend. But I took comfort in knowing my parish family would help out if I did. So when I checked out my total was 27 cents less that the \$80. God's little aha moments.

Thank you Sherry Paar for you help with the distribution.

Next up **BIG EVENT**, is the **Thanksgiving Community meal**. It is held on Thanksgiving Day and noon. St Luke's is in charge. All members are need to pull this off. Much of the side dish food is donated by C of C churches. I hope you will plan you Thanksgiving feast so you can help out. If you have family coming home, give them and apron and bring them along. There will also be things that will need to be done the night before and the day of. Please, please, please help.

This is a lot coming up but St. Luke's has a habit of coming through.

Thank you, Joyce Elcock

Outlet Club:

Regular meetings with Jana have been recommended to deal with the cleanliness and supervision of the club activities between Fr Matt and our junior warden.

AUGUST SCHEDULE:

Monday, August 1 – Friday, August 5 : Vacation Bible School
 Thursday, August 4th – **No** Community Breakfast
 Sunday, August 7: Vacation Bible School at Church
 Wednesday, August 10: 6:00 WE begins – potluck and children’s program
 Sunday, August 14th – 11:00 am Shower for the Pugh twins.
 Thursday, August 18: TTEM Breakfast

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
 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.

Editor Comments:

“God will always give you exactly what you truly want and desire. So make sure you desire, desire deeply, desire yourself, desire God, desire everything good, true, and beautiful.” In Falling Upward by Richard Rohr.

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

Community Health Ministry

Food Pantry needs: peanut butter, tuna, canned fruit, cereal and baking (biscuit) mix. Please contribute in St. Luke’s name during the month of August as we didn’t collect during our assigned month of June.

Altar Guild:

Altar guild needs at least one or more kind souls, male or female to join the team of 7. Typically we have groupings of two who are responsible for setting up and taking down the altar each Sunday for the 9:30 Holy Eucharist. Setup can be done on Saturday but could be before the service on Sunday if you are not in town on Sat. Take down involves removing the Holy Vessels and washing them and returning them to the Sacristy cabinet at the end of the Service. Training is usually done by the assigned partner or Altar Guild chairman. Please prayerfully consider participating in the holy ministry. We work as a team and cover for each other when you are unavailable so the job is light and low stress. The more teams we have, the fewer times each team is assigned each month, hence lightening the load for all.

Joyce Elcock, Altar Guild Chairman

Prayers:

We pray for: Anna Lea, Cinnie, David, Doreen, Jerry, Martha, Alice, Angela, Bernie, Kay, Lynn, Bill, Courtney, Dick, Gloria, KoKo, Mickey and Tina, Orla Hazra, Sara, Gloria, Sherry and family.

Our Military personnel: Ben, Ian, Luke, Mike, Molly Lynn, and Scott

We offer prayers for those suffering grief or loss: Families of Jerry W and of Diane.

We pray for our ministries: Episcopal Community Services/Kansas City.

Party invitation to all from the Guild:

Remember that there will be a shower for the Pugh twins, Clementine Pearl and Jacob Oliver following the service on August 14th. This is a belated 1st birthday event. Presents for one year olds are welcome. Come celebrate these two young ones and all our children. This party is being organized by the guild. Birthday cake will be provided by the Guild.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

St. Luke's completed a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School and our children will be off to school soon. The week involve a large number of St. Luke's members and is a wonderful week for our children. We had a number of neighborhood children participate as well. Thanks to the people who helped in any way. Thanks to Susan Dillinger who was the leader this year. This week requires teachers, helpers, donated snacks and food, and your church space. It is a joyful time to really play with our beloved children. Thanks you to all who provide the space and support. That includes all of us in some capacity. Congratulations to all for another year of VBS.

August 2016

| | Aug. 7 | Aug. 14 | Aug. 21 | Aug. 28 | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Altar Guild | Cinnie Hill, Linda Chmiel | Joyce Elcock, Emily Benson | Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler | Pat Frey, Cinnie Hill | |
| Lay Reader | Doug Elcock | Myrline Winkler | Ed Dillinger | Larry Hannan | |
| Chalice Bearer | Joyce Elcock | Ed Dillinger | Myrline Winkler | Larry Hannan | |
| Greeter/ Usher | Doug Elcock | Larry Hannan | Erica Cobb | John Chmiel | |
| Coffee Host | Chmiels | Guild, Shower for Pugh twins | Claudia McKinsey | Freys | |