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# St. Luke's Newsletter



May, 2015

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

***2015 Parish  
Theme:***

***“Who is  
Your Per-  
sonal  
Lord?”***

**Our Vestry  
members** are Jay  
Hildreth (Senior  
Warden), Doug  
Elcock (Junior  
Warden), Cliff  
Robb (Treasurer),  
Cinnie Hill (Clerk),  
Claudia McKin-  
sey, Levi Hannan,  
John Desper

## Rector's page

### Who is your personal Lord?

Our parish theme for 2015 has led us to begin to contemplate at the depth of the soul one question, “Who is my personal Lord?”

Here is my best response to the question: First and foremost, I am insufficient in any response to my personal Lord. Yes, I can respond, but only in a very limited capacity. I am both limited in capacity and insufficient in energy, because I am created, a human creature. In a nutshell, I am not God. God Alone is at the center of creation and there reigns supreme, All Sufficient One. Believe it or not, this is crucial for me, because I have so many shortcomings and fail to remember who I really am.

In a nutshell, I feel the touch of my personal Lord and that changes who I am in my being, my soul. From that felt sense and soul shift I can share what I know to be beautiful. The touch of my Beloved Lord Who calls me by name discharges all fearing within my heart. So, I respond by reaching out with my heart wide open to touch my Beloved Lord by invoking the Holy Name. I say on my lips, in my mind, on my heart, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus...”

Moreover, without a felt shift from believing that, “I can do anything” into a belief that, “I am very limited,” my Beloved Lord's ‘personal touch’ remains highly improbable. Without a felt shift from believing that, “my goals and objectives are good enough” into a belief that, “I am insufficient to accomplish any goal or objective,” a personal touch is impossible. Only the Lord is sufficient. Therefore, for me to know who my personal Lord is in the first place, I have three prerequisites to receive, as gifts; humility, patience and forbearance.

These gifts are latent potential in all of us that can turn the wayward heart around and fully recover the soul. In other words, to begin to know who I really am in the eyes of my Beloved Lord. I exist and know my true self, only because my Lord first knows me and then bids me to come closer, nearer to Thee. They make what the New Testament is all a-bout feasible.

Repent. To know thyself means to be seen, known by thine Lord. Called by name to be atoned.

Re-pent, which means to re-turn to the Lord. Re-member, which means do not forget the touch, felt sense and feeling of the Beloved Lord's touch. Then, in an act of soulful surrender into the arms of the Beloved Lord Who calls all of us by name to come home, we come home in the One Heart of Jesus. Redemption. Salvation. Atonement.

Within the framework or context of humility, patience and forbearance, I am painfully aware of the sacrificial beauty and loving Presence of my personal Lord in the depth of my own heart. Not necessarily in the depth of my physical heart, but more so in the cave of my subtle and spiritual heart, which is located just behind and beneath the physical heart. Many times I have felt this sharp pain of sorrow in my physical heart only to point deeper and beyond my reach. Often alone, I cry out for my personal Lord and want to feel the touch that dispels darkness and reveals light within my soul.

May all of us be more trusting and respond both inwardly and outwardly to our parish question, Who is your personal Lord? Really, who is my personal Lord?

~ Father Matt

**Senior Warden's Message:**

Since my last report I have been in China for two weeks plus one week in Arizona.

During the week that I have been here progress is being made on communication with the Outlet Group. An electrical outlet problem is being researched and the contractor for the basement bathroom is being contacted to see if the disconnection happened on his watch.

Claudia is making more in depth communication with Dillon's for donations to our church specifically based upon dollars spent on food purchased in their east store by individuals that sign up with them. She will have more info coming to us on that. Peggy Smith, Judy Hildreth, and Doug Elcock will be doing an overview of the transfer of the treasurer duties in the very near future. Father Matt will be helping at White Memorial Camp in Council Grove. He has invited other youth to join him. The age group they service is 12 to 16. His hope is that several in the outlet group will come. Levi has been appointed as youth liaison to the vestry.

Our Third Thursday Breakfast served over 50 this last month. John Desper was under the weather and we are lucky that Tom did excellent work keeping up with the orders. Regrettably a major problem was that my order taking was unreadable sometimes even by myself. Jana from the Outlet bailed us out by making an egg run to keep us going. Linda, Laura, Father Matt helped including some of the patrons were drafted into service.

Father Matt, Erica, and Emily have returned from India and I am looking forward to hearing about their trip.

I can say that the Chinese people were friendly to my son, Jim, and me on our trip. They tend to be religious, mostly Buddhist; however, afraid to relay their faith. Their temples were part of our tour and have survived the communist revolution and I even saw a large Christian Synagogue. It was not a part of our tour however. Our tour guide was cautious as he described his religious belief and referenced the "cultural evolution". This was a time in the 1980's where other thought was encouraged for a short time; then as people's thoughts were discovered those that were perceived as being counter revolutionary were rounded up and then purged. I could feel in his voice his concern about being totally candid with us. He did not want to be caught in that trap. It is amazing to me that their faith continues after such pressure being applied since 1949. There are 1.3 billion people in China. It seems that they are mostly happy with their lives as their standard of living has been steadily increasing. They are afraid to rock the boat as that will lead to social disorder which will lead to government crackdown. After that their standard of living will diminish even if they did not participate in the disorder.

It was an amazing trip and well worth the effort it takes to get there. I am glad to see open spaces and clean air. Most cities were over 5 million and the smog was always there. It was never possible to see over three blocks.

Your Senior Warden,

*Jay Hildreth J*

**BIRTHDAYS IN MAY:**

May 2 – James O’Konski	May 20-Martha Miller
May 3 - Linda Chmiel	May 20-Levi Hannan
May 8 - Dave Hill	May 23-Sande Gipson
May 9 - Isabella Geraci	May 23- Laura Benson
May 9 – Hall Robb	May 24-Larry Hannan
May 14 - Scott Balderson	May 28-Ruth Neumann
May 15 - Cheri Pugh	May 29-Kathryn Ryder
May 16 - Malcolm Smith	May 31-Linda Cobb

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

May 31 – Joe & Sande Gipson

**Sunday School:** In May, our Sunday School teachers will be Pat and Ebba.

*Myrline*

**Wednesday Night Ministry:** Wednesday evenings at the Guild Hall continue to consist of fun, food, and faith. It was fun decorating the tables for Easter. It also was fun taking the decorations off the tables. It is fun to sing and dance. The food is always fantastic.

Using pictures Claudia's brother, Dennis, drew we looked at the city of Jerusalem and talked about Jesus' journey from the Garden of Gethsemane down through the city and to the cross. With the use of another picture, we talked about the various stories in the Holy Bible concerning Jesus' death and resurrection. The last picture helped us with a conversation about why we go to church. Some had fun coloring the detailed pictures.

We recognized Earth Day on April 22nd with a discussion about how we could reduce, reuse, and recycle even better at our gatherings. We decided to use "real" dishes, cups, and silverware and wash them. Also, we will use cloth napkins. A lot of energy is used in recycling, so we are reducing disposable items and reusing items.

The Children's Garden had the addition of numerous asparagus roots, compliments of Joyce Elcock. The children and adults who planted the roots have faith that in about 3 years we will have a big bowl of asparagus on a Wednesday evening gathering. All are welcome to join us. We will continue to learn to play the color coded bells and hope to perform during a worship service in May.  
Claudia

**Youth:** Vacation Bible School will be the first full week of August. (August 3-7) Ebba Robb will be our chairperson. Watch for more information in the coming months.

Father Matt is inviting all the youth in grades 8-12 to join him at White Memorial Camp June 7-12. Visit the camp website at [www.WhiteMemorialCamp.com](http://www.WhiteMemorialCamp.com) for more information and fees about the Senior Adventure Camp.

**Junior Warden:**

St. Luke's needs support for cleaning the interior of the church and guild hall. The student group currently cleaning the church on Thursdays will end on May 14<sup>th</sup> when the school year ends. I will be addressing the issue with the Vestry at May's meeting and hope to have a plan to recommend the parish. We will need assistance with weekly cleaning of the church, guild hall, kitchen, bathrooms and outside areas. If you can participate with cleaning duties, have ideas or recommendations please let me know prior to the May 10<sup>th</sup> Vestry meeting, or come to the meeting to discuss. Thank you.

*Doug Elcock*

**TTEM Breakfast:**

In April we were blessed with a gathering of 50 people eating breakfast. A small crew of 4 people cooked, waited tables, and completed the clean-up. Our next TTEM Breakfast will be on Thursday, May 21 from 7:30 to 9 am. Please volunteer at the breakfast with food, funds and/ or work, whenever able.

**Altar Guild:**

Thanks to all who helped with Easter altar guild activities. Welcome all new members. Thanks for all who polished brass Easter Saturday. Special thanks to Martha who takes care of the linen each week.

**Monthly Prayer List:** Any one can provide names (for themselves, family members, friends, relatives) for the prayer list, please notify Cinnie

*We pray for those who are ill:* John, Jillian and Jenny, Mickey with Lisa and family

*We pray for the repose of the blessed soul:* Ed; along with prayers of peace for his wife, Karen and family.

*Please pray for those needing continuiong prayers:* David, Doreen, Jerry; Alice, Bill, Bob, Brandon, Gerlinda, Jillian and Jenny, Lynn B-J, Lynn C, Kay

*Please pray for our Military personnel:* Scott, Ben, Ian, and Mike.

### **MAY SCHEDULE:**

Sunday, May 3: Guild meeting  
5 pm: Ultreya at St. Luke's with potluck following  
Sunday, May 10: Happy Mother's Day to mothers, grandmothers, and aunts  
8:15 am: Vestry meeting  
Sunday, May 17: Graduation reception after church for Emily Cobb  
Thursday, May 21: 7:30-9 am: - TTEM Community Breakfast  
1-4 pm: Methodist church meeting  
Sunday, May 31: Trinity Sunday and two baptisms

### **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  
8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. AA  
Wednesdays: 6 - 7:30 p.m. Potluck Supper and Ministry  
Thursdays: 10:45-11:25 a.m. High School Service Group cleaning time  
7:30 p.m. Cursillo Reunion Group

Father Matt Office Hours are by appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

**Guild:** Guild planned a reception for our senior, Emily Cobb on May 17<sup>th</sup> and for the baptisms on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Margaret Benson submitted a letter for a camp scholarship and the Guild will provide the funds for both Levi Hannan and her. Bible school will be August 3-7<sup>th</sup> this year.

**Treasurer's Report:** The following summary reflects the results of the operating fund, income and expense for the month of March 2015, with a budget comparison. (The Year-to-date includes the beginning balance on January 1st)

	Current month	Year-to-date	Budget
Income	\$ 7,156.26	\$ 21,676.17	\$ 63,645.24
Expense	\$ <u>4,954.75</u>	\$ <u>19,119.90</u>	\$ <u>70,864.01</u>
Difference	\$ 2,201.51	\$ 2,201.51	\$ - 7,218.77

Discretionary Fund Sundays in May: Rector's is the first Sunday, May 3. Any loose money in the offertory goes to support this fund on that day, please help with the funds. Thank you.

**Children's Garden Update:** 28 April 2015

There has been a lot of activity in the garden in the past few weeks! The Outlet has joined with the Wednesday night group in caring for the garden. They have planted the middle two plots with all kinds of interesting things, from cauliflower to watermelon. Thanks to generous donations of materials and labor, we are converting the strawberry bed to a strawberry field and adding more asparagus to the mix. The hope is that the strawberries and asparagus will cohabit well, and lead to less maintenance as they get established; the strawberries choking out weeds, and both producing delicious early-season edibles. Potatoes and onions have been sunk in the neighboring box, and the one to the far East is on its way to becoming a "pizza garden," with tomatoes (planted) and peppers and basil on the way. Be on the lookout for a display of some kind, coming soon to the Guild Hall, with a plot map, suggestion box and a list of things to donate as you spring clean your garage or outbuildings. We could use a few more garden tools, and that would be a perfect way to "recycle" extra or old tools that you no longer use. As always, those of you who are so inclined are welcome to weed, water, or harvest at any time, and for those of you NOT inclined, we could still very much use your moral support and prayers, particularly for timely rainfall and wisdom in engaging the kids in a more active role as the season progresses. Thank you!

*Emily Benson*

**Diocesan News:**

**Youth news**

**Episcopal summer MegaCamp** registration is now open. Camp is May 31-June 6 at Camp Wood YMCA and is open to those currently in grades 3-12 and their friends. The cost is \$420 for the week, and the deadline to register is May 8. Registration forms and more information are online at <http://edokiyouth.wordpress.com/camp/>

**Space is still available for youth and college students to attend General Convention.** we will be taking a delegation of 33 youth, college students and adults as guests to the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. Open to students who have finished grades 9-12 and college-age students. June 22-29; cost is \$400 per person, plus food expenses.

es. See <http://edokiyouth.wordpress.com/general-convention/> for more information.

**EFM mentor** training scheduled for June 4-6 at Bethany Place and Grace Cathedral in Topeka. Both basic/in-service and formation training will be offered. To register or for more information, contact Mike Morrow at (316) 258-4834 or [mmorrow4@cox.net](mailto:mmorrow4@cox.net)

**Welsh composer** Paul Mealor – known worldwide for special music composed for the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton – will be performed at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 21 at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, 415 West 13th Street in Kansas City, Mo. The cost to attend is \$10 per person, and tickets are online <http://paulmealorconcert.brownpapertickets.com/>

**May, 2015**

	<b>May 3</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>May 31</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler	Pat Frey, Cinnie Hill	Linda Chmeil, Joyce Elcock	Martha Miller, Emily Benson	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Judy Hildreth	Ebba Robb	Malcolm Smith	Cliff Robb	Doug Elcock
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	John Desper	Joyce Elcock	Malcolm Smith	Ed Dillinger	Larry Hannan
<b>Greeter/ Usher</b>	Doug Elcock	Larry Hannan	Erica Cobb	Judy Hildreth	John Chmiel
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Winklers	Martha Miller	McConkeys	Hildreths	Cobbs