

St. Luke's Visitor

*But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations. Psalm 33:11*

From The Pastor's Pen

Did you notice the candle that is next to the altar? That is called a Pascal (pass'-kul) Candle.

The Paschal Candle is a symbol of our Lord's resurrection and His visible presence here on earth during the following 40 days.

The word "paschal" means *the passing over*. In the Old Testament it refers to the night the Israelites left Egypt for the Promised Land, when God struck the houses of the Egyptians but left the Israelites untouched, thus "passing over" or sparing them.

With Christianity the word "paschal" took on a new meaning, referring to Our Lord's passion, death, resurrection, and glorification. These events stand at the center of our faith. God's saving plan for us was accomplished by the redemptive suffering and death of Jesus. His resurrection and glorification are our assurance of eternal life.

On our Paschal candle and on the stand is a cross, reminding us that our Lord suffered on the cross to win our salvation. On the stand, above and below the cross, is an "A" (Alpha) and "W" (Omega), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. These symbolize that Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

If the current year is on the candle, it may be inscribed between the arms of the cross to signify that the risen Christ shall be a "pillar of fire" also in this year to lead us to the heavenly promised land. (St. Luke's does not have the year on the candle.)

The candle is lit at the beginning of the Easter Vigil service and is placed near the Gospel horn of the altar (the right-hand side of the altar as viewed by the congregation from the nave).

It remains there and is lighted for all liturgical services until Ascension Day. If an Ascension Day service is held, the candle is extinguished by an acolyte when the words of the Gospel are proclaimed: "He was received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God." (Mark 16:19)

After Ascension Day, the candle is placed next to the baptismal font.

The candle is lit during all baptisms throughout the year, passing the light of Christ to each person baptized.

The candle may be used at funeral services, being placed next to the casket. At funeral services it is a reminder that the sacrament of Baptism is itself a death and resurrection in Christ, and testifies to Christian certainty in the resurrection of the dead and life with Christ in the world to come.

When you next see the Paschal candle in our church, you are encouraged to think of the death and resurrection of Our Lord, and that He did it for you!

Sources

Lang, Paul H. D., *What an Altar Guild Should Know*
Concordia Publishing House (1964, slightly revised 1968), p. 99

Ruoss, G. Martin, *Altar Guild Workbook*
Fortress Press (1953 revised edition 1955), p. 36

[The Paschal Candle: Everything You Need To Know - F.C. Ziegler Company \(ziegler.com\)](http://ziegler.com)

Happenings in May

Walk for Life – Saturday, May 3 @ 9:00 a.m. at Long's Park

Mission Festival – Sunday, May 4 (Worship at 10:00 a.m.; Potluck at 11:30 a.m.; Voters' Meeting at 1:00 p.m.)

Spring Concert – Wednesday, May 7 @ 6:30 p.m.

Trail Life USA Troop KS-0057 **Fund Raiser** at Pizza Ranch – Wednesday, May 14, 5-8 p.m.

Ascension Day Service – May 29 @ 6:30 p.m.

If you can't join us in worship in *person*, please join us via YouTube.



It is truly a joy and honor to serve as your pastor.

“Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.”



March 2025 OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms

James Logan Winter

Transferred to the Kingdom of God

Dixie Bergmeier

Amy Riggs

Erna Hass

St Luke's Lutheran May DCE Newsletter Article

He has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!!

I hope your celebration of Easter leaves you with a desire to cry this out every morning.

Life on this side of heaven is hard and we all face daily struggles. However, the work of Christ CAN NOT be overcome by any struggle on this side of heaven.

God LOVES you and has a plan for your life. YOU have value and God will fight for you every day. Satan's greatest desire is to separate you from God and he works daily and has nothing better to do than give you struggles.

If you want to see a picture of how Satan works check out Job 1:1-2:10 and then Job 42. God does not change and I doubt Satan has changed either. I often wonder if this is exactly what still goes on.

Obviously, this is all WAY above my understanding, but I believe God allows these struggles to refine us and give us an opportunity to 1) cry out to God, 2) to trust Him, and then 3) to watch Him work in mighty and amazing ways around us in the midst of our struggles to sustain and restore us.

I hope we never face a Job level challenge but if we do I know God is there and He has given us His Word, His Spirit, and each other to sustain our faith and trust in Him.

Make sure you are watching for those in need of a word of encouragement or even an opportunity to walk with someone through their moments of challenge. God has brought us all together at St Luke's for a reason. It's for our benefit and ultimately to His glory!

He has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Grace & Peace,

William Prann, Director of Christian Education

Please continue your partnership with me as I pray for our Pastor, our leaders, our volunteers, for all the families at St Luke's. God is working in, around, and through us for His glory and for the benefit of the community around us. In situations like these Satan takes immense pleasure in causing discord and unrest. Please pray that each of us will "Fix our eyes on Christ" and that we would not be distracted by Satan's efforts.



May 1: Cory Dieball, Maddi Lohse

May 2: Donna Kroenlein

May 3: Barry Fickbohm, David Cederberg, Dorothy Burtness

May 4: Derek Winter

May 7: Kaden Lemaster

May 8: Pat Oberhelman, Seth Wagner, Jeff Sturdy, Sue Jenkins

May 9: Bill Moore

May 11: Kelly Burris

May 15: Joshua Abitz, Tracie Hudson

May 17: Bryce Burris, Patsy Havenstein

May 18: Christine Hanson

May 20: Teagen Thiele

May 22: Gavin Hudson

May 23: Howard Beikmann

May 26: Gretchen Hartsook

May 27: Sarah Larson

May 29: Nancy Kopp, Alyssa Juracek

May 31: Nancy Woodford, Bowen Winter

May 3: Doug & LaRae Kraemer

May 10: Jared & Megan Hanson

May 19: Scott & Bev Winter, Michael & Patsy Havenstein

May 22: Paul & Nancy Zidek

May 23: Jim & Sue Jenkins, Logan & Tristen Redding

May 25: Steve & Ann Williams

May 27: Melanie & Byron Jones, Duane & Jeanette Campbell, Walt & Marilyn Fick, Lyn & Connie Thomas

May 28: Del & Maxine Ganske

May 30: Jon & Heidi brott

CONNECT GROUPS

Sunday Adult Bible Class, Pastor Schmidt

Lutheran Layman's League, David & Julie Hatesohl, 785-845-8124 or 785-236-0493 or phoebehath@gmail.com.

Table Talk, Sundays at Noon during the school year. Meal for college students here at the church

Women's Bible Study, 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, Diane Mosier, sdmosier_2000@yahoo.com

Card Making, Janet Beach and Ann Williams

Campus Ministry Bible Study, Mondays @ 9:00 PM, during the school year; meets at the Blue House

Men's Bible Breakfast, 7:00 AM Tuesdays, Vista Drive In, Walt Fick, 785-776-0879 or fick.walter@att.net

Mission of Love (working on quilts), 2nd Tuesday of the month, 9:00 AM, Dorothy Burtness, 785-341-5530.

Cancer Companions, Jamie Spikes, 785-313-1587; Judy Boye, 785-320-6355

Theology on Tap, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM, Rockin K's, 1880 Kimball Avenue, Manhattan

TRAIL LIFE USA AND AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

St. Luke’s owns and operates **KS0057 Troop**, Trail Life and American Heritage Girls. **These groups meet during the school year.** For TLUSA, boys Kindergarten through 12th grade meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM.
For AHG, girls Kindergarten through 12th grade meet the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month from 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM.



Date	Saturday 6:00 PM	Sunday 8:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
May 4	Mission Festival - 10:00 AM Anna Larson & Wyatt Barber		
May 10/11		Samuel Lyons	Hunter Fong
May 17/18		Archer Manning	Sarah Oelke
May 24/25		Taryn Thiele	Macsen Wells

BUILDING PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Building Planning Committee has nearly completed meeting with 24 groups and individuals who utilize the church facilities. St. Luke’s is an active church and we desire future spaces that facilitate an active and growing congregation of believers. The desires from the interviews are being compiled along with space request to being some preliminary room and sanctuary lay outs. There was interest from the congregational meetings to pave all the gravel areas of the parking lot as part of the future plans. One budget estimate was solicited and the price in in the range of \$180,000 for six inch thick asphalt and paint striping for parking spots. Paving the parking lot is one example of a portion of the overall project which could be done as a standalone project.

NOTE FROM THE OUTREACH/MISSIONS CHAIR

The free will offering for Rev. Dr. Tom Park at the Mission Fest Potluck will take the place of the May Door Offering.

Also FYI the June Door Offering will take place on Pentecost Sunday, which is June 8th.

We will return to 4th Sunday door offerings in July.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Garrett Lister

FLINT HILLS LUTHERANS *FOR* LIFE

This Mother's Day and Father's Day, Flint Hills Lutherans *For* Life would like to give thanks for moms and dads. They love and guide their children.

At Life Choice Ministries, participants (women and men) can take parenting classes, where they learn valuable and practical information to assist them in being the best parents they can possibly be. Childbirth education prepares the clients for labor and delivery. In addition, the clients earn new baby items from the Parents Room for their active participation in class.

Some of these items are: **new baby clothes and shoes.** (The Friendship room that all clients have access to has used baby clothes and shoes.)

Life Choice is running low on new clothing and shoes. Flint Hills Lutherans *For* Life is asking YOU to help by purchasing new baby clothes and shoes between Mother's Day, May 11th and Father's Day, June 15th.

So shop those cute baby clothes – boys and girls! Bring them to church and place them in a container marked baby clothes! Sizes newborn to 4T. Newborn clothes are so cute!! However, please don't forget about the other sizes!

ESTATE PLANNING THOUGHTS

We can face competing priorities when we think about planning our estates someday. We must consider the balance of future needs with present needs. Sometimes it is difficult to plan future gifts to family or ministry through your estate because you have many pressing current priorities. An estate plan however is put in place asking, "If the Lord were to call you home today, how would you direct your gifts?" An LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you begin thinking about the future. Contact Susan Brunkow for more information.

Stewardship in the Body of Christ

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: *“For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”* This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”* In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.

Verses 6–8: *“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”* Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

St. Luke's American Heritage Girls/Trail Life USA Troop #0057 News

This has been a busy spring for both troops who are winding up their troop year with many activities.

St. Luke's American Heritage Girls went on a troop hike at Fancy Creek State Park on Saturday, March 22nd.

On April 9th, some of the girls worked on their Life Skills badge requirements by volunteering to bus tables at Pizza Ranch. A big thank you to St. Luke members by supporting this troop fundraiser.

On Friday, April 11, troop girls met at St. Luke's to work on Social/Emotional skills. They learned how to treat, talk with and play with children with disabilities.

On May 2-4th the AHG girls will join St. Luke's Trail Life troop on an end of the year joint camping experience at Whitetail Ranch in Sycamore Springs, KS.

May 19th, the AHG will celebrate the end of the year with an Awards Ceremony.

St. Luke's Trail Life USA troop have also been working toward earning badges, camping out and completing projects.

On April 7th, the boys cleaned and organized the church campground, cut and stacked firewood, and cleaned and organized the camping equipment trailer.

April 11-13th, the boys went to the Marysville Railroad Camp Out and were joined by other Trail Life troops from around the area.

Monday, April 14th, the Trail Life boys visited Wellsprings Nursing Facility in Westmoreland to play bingo with the residents as part of their service project.

The troop will also be having an end of the year Award Ceremony in May.

Each end of the troop year brings changes within the troop board members and leadership positions. We are asking for your prayers and support in these areas for both St. Luke's troops. AHG will need to fill several troop leader positions as well as the position of Treasurer on the AHG board. If you are willing to serve in one of these open positions or know of someone who might be interested, please contact Pastor Schmidt. Without these volunteers we can not have a charter and there would be no Trail Life USA or American Heritage Girls.

Dave & Kate McNeal, Troop #0057 Charter Representatives



TRAVELING BULLETIN

Christ the King Lutheran Church, , Memphis, TN
John Johnson

Ascension Lutheran Church Wichita, KS
Hamlin & Dorothy Burtness

Mount Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church, San Antonio, TX
Jill Newland

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool, Ottawa, KS
King & Sinok Crawford

(When you worship at another church, please bring the worship folder and bulletin to the church office with your name on. We will post your name and where you've worshipped, hopefully stimulating conversation of where you've visited. And, our staff will get the chance to see what other churches are doing. Thanks!)