

GOOD NEWS



from the Church of Saint Luke
SEPTEMBER 2010

Guest Columnist

One understanding of a tough lesson

“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:26

This gospel reading is tough, but a tough gospel lesson is the only kind that can really do what it is supposed to do – proclaim the release of captives from a particularly formidable prison, the prison of a destructive family system.

We, the human beings that we are, are a people who understand ourselves by the way we experienced and remember the support of, or betrayal of, our critically important relationships in the past. The late British psychoanalyst John Bowlby developed a theory that adult personalities are best understood by the quality of attachments they had in their childhoods. Bowlby believed that adults who, as children, experienced traumatic betrayal of their early attachments, needed healing in order to form the bonds of affection that are generally understood as necessary for healthy living in maturity.

Most of us were fed, clothed, and sheltered in the critical first decade of life by our families of origin. We owe our physical survival to the people who raised us.

With that affirmation, though, we must realistically acknowledge that no family of origin is without flaws. Even in the Bible, we see examples of these flawed family relationships: chemical abuse, obsessive-compulsive behavior, domestic violence, pathological behaviors stemming from the hopelessness of unresolved grief, and destructive sibling rivalries are all there, along with their confessions and redemptions.

These flawed relationships are a part of our spiritual histories. Many of us have been guilt-tripped and otherwise manipulated by our family members. We may also have done the same to them. To get relief or perspective, some of us have sought out therapy. Others may attend twelve-step meetings.

Others may prefer to seek support from friends or blow off steam with drinking buddies. Because we seek relief by such activities, we find a grain of truth in that impious remark, “Friends are God’s way of apologizing to us for our families.”

There are friends who, in some ways, act like the Good Samaritan, who bind up our wounds and leave us prepared to think a little more clearly. And by the grace of God, there are other friends who are even more fully like the Good Samaritan, who stay with the broken ones, so that their wholeness can be restored by discovering or recovering the baptismal way, the commitment to Christ’s way, and by understanding the true purpose of his or her existence.

We, as either the ministering, or the ministered to, as we travel our journeys through the wilderness of life’s challenges, come to know what is really meant by Jesus’ tough language. As we travel with him, we learn that the flaws and sins in our histories, along with the destructive patterns of behavior they generate, are the things we are called upon to hate, not the souls of the ones who were victimized by them.

In the compassion that comes to us in our mature lives, we come to understand the spiritual blindness that infected both our relatives and ourselves. That is a far better thing than to let them do what they may have once done: define who we are.

— The Rev. David Somerville
Retired U. S. Army Chaplain

Lay Eucharistic Visitors are commissioned

Three new Lay Eucharistic Visitors were commissioned on August 29. Judy Allen, Sue Hargreaves and Libeth Tempero are joining Teresa Kelman, Doris Lukens, and Shannon Morgan in taking communion to members who are home bound. Call Shannon at 637-3354 to arrange for a visitor.

Shannon Morgan is Minister of Pastoral Care

Shannon was officially commissioned in this role at the August 29 service. Call Shannon to ask for prayers, visits or other help.

Book Club

The next selection is "Stones Into Schools" by Greg Mortenson. It describes one man's mission to build schools for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The discussion will be Sunday, October 3 at 9 am. Notify Shannon if you want to buy or borrow a copy.

Garden, as a verb

There is plenty to do in the garden, to keep up the level of beauty and maintenance we've had the past few months. Here is a list from Judy and Carla if you have a few hours to give:

- Prune and reshape the bushes in the front of the church
- Remove all of the honeysuckle and other growth that surrounds the stairs and trees on the front of the church to the right, next to the Elms' Parking lot.
- Plant some fall annuals in the flowerbeds near the entry to the church (pansies, snap dragons, etc.)
- Remove any honeysuckle and other vines around the trees on the street side of the church.
- Dig up many of the naturalizing daylilies ('ditch' lilies) that are in the Memorial Garden and replant them toward the back of the garden. Replace these with additional peonies and perennials that will welcome the sun at that spot.
- Rake and clean out the area on the 'hill' in the garden that is under the pine trees. Prepare this area for planting

All-church Garage Sale Friday and Saturday

September 17 & 18 at Sylvia Eales' home
2317 Rhonda Road Excelsior Springs

As you are cleaning out your closets and cupboards, set aside your donations. Sylvia needs help with tagging and working the sale. All proceeds go to the church General Fund.

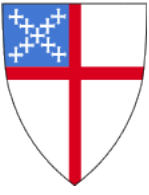
Service Survey

The church hospitality committee has prepared a list of service areas at St. Luke's. It will be distributed to the congregation in order that new members can check where they would like to serve. And everyone will have the opportunity to add responsibilities, or switch to new ones.

the hostas that will be moved there.

- All of the hostas that are presently in the garden that received too much sun this summer will need to be dug up, divided, and replanted under the pine trees where they will receive primarily shade in the seasons to come.
- Where the hostas are removed new plants need to be planted that enjoy the sun.
- When all of this is finished, we have more dark mulch that will be delivered and needs to be spread around the new areas.

All of these will take time and effort to accomplish. If you live in Excelsior Springs and can help take the bags of weeds and clippings to the recycle area that would be greatly appreciated. We are going to have a new fountain this fall, a new Memorial Plaque and many other beautiful changes to the garden. If you have questions, please let Judy or Carla know. Truly, many hands make light work.



Church of Saint Luke

PO Box 551

Excelsior Springs MO 64024

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IN TOUCH

* Josh Johnson, son of Nate and Jerrie, was married on July 16 to Emily Mersmann of Lawrence. A reception at The Eldridge Hotel followed the ceremony. The bride is employed as business manager at Pioneer Ridge Retirement Community. Josh is employed as a finance manager at Collective Brands Inc. The couple resides in Lawrence.

* Hannah Kinard has been selected for the Lawson High School Flag Corps. They perform at every football game, along with parades (Homecoming at Lawson on October 1) and Carrollton Band Day in Carrollton, MO on September 25 and Missouri Day in Trenton, MO in October.

FYI

◆ Tisha Mason (Wedding Coordinator) wants everyone to know that we have 3 more weddings booked at the church for this year (we have had 3 already this year). The upcoming dates are October 29th, November 5th and December 18th.

◆ Church Clean up, Saturday, September 18th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will be cleaning inside as well as outside.

◆ The regional Deanery meeting of approximately 40 people will be meeting at St. Luke's on Tuesday, September 21st. Cookies, and tea breads are needed for refreshments.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

9/5- PENTECOST 15 10 am- Holy Eucharist

9/12- PENTECOST 16 10 am- Holy Eucharist
Bishop's Committee meets

9/17 & 18- Church Garage Sale at Eales'

9/18- 9 am- Church Clean-up Day, Inside and Out

9/19- PENTECOST 17 10 am- Holy Eucharist
Book Club meets at 9

9/25- 8 am- Community Pride Clean Up

9/26- PENTECOST 18 10 am- Holy Eucharist

FYI

◆ The Annual PRIDE clean-up day in Excelsior Springs will be September 25. Last year St. Luke's had good representation, and hopefully we will again this year. Again this year volunteers will clean up and do minor repairs for homeowners who are disabled. Please call Roberta, 630-5679, and let her know if you can help. We meet at the Public Works building on Marietta at 8 am.

Good News

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BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Jimmy Kinard, Senior Warden; Cindy Roth, Junior Warden;
Judy Allen, Cheryl Galloway, Shawn Roney, Preston Tempero

Our mission is to know Christ's love
and share it with others