

THE EPISTLE

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Luke's United Methodist Church

NET WORKING and NET MENDING

When Jesus extended the invitation to James and John to be fishers of people, they were mending their nets. This mending was a daily responsibility for all fishermen then and now to keep their nets in tip top order. Sound nets meant opportunity for best catches. They gave a close inspection to check the mesh for tears and wear. When spotted and often it was the case because of daily repeated use the torn and worn areas were immediately repaired.

When they left their fish trade to follow Jesus, they might have thought their mesh inspection days were over. "Oh contraire!" They became aware that this invitation to be fishers of people surely brought joy to many by way of Christ but the cost of the catch was high. In the midst of their networking with Jesus and alongside others of The Way before and after the ascension torn and worn-both literally and figuratively-daily visited them.

Sadly, throughout the life of Jesus and those who joined this Holy Band, there were those who despised the Fishers. The rejection and affliction based on grounds that none of them were truly "keepers." The likes of them? Never! Consequently, in response to this bitterness Net Mending to remain sound was an everyday must for them.

As essential as it is for sound Net Working, it seems to me that The Church down through the ages has not taken up this critical practice. I do not think it's been either intentional or dismissed as unimportant. Simply put, I think it's been quite innocently overlooked.

The mending is read but in my estimation the meaning of it has gone unnoticed. As the expression goes "off the radar."

Here at St. Luke's, we have an opportunity to reinstitute Net Mending. To be clear this invitation to see where we are torn and worn in no way suggests failure. Instead, it is quite the opposite as it is a sign of faithful mission. As I have repeatedly celebrated our Net Working is full of great catches.

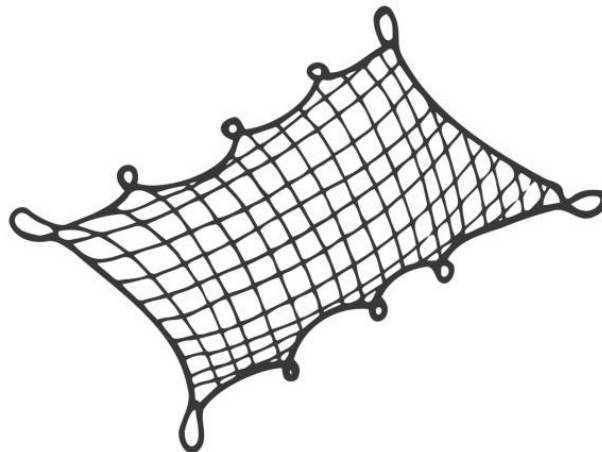
Our study will focus on:

- Where the net requires mending due to tear and wear and why.
- Plans of care to extend our networking by weaving others into our net mesh.
- Timelines to throw out our put in order nets for best catches.

The Net Mending ministry will commence this summer with myself initially leading the charge. It is open to whomsoever will come to study our nets as gathering of fishers. With few or many, we will meet as many times as possible necessary in pursuit of our objectives. In the fall, this committee will present a report to the St. Luke's family complete with findings and recommendations to strengthen our Net Working.

In regard to fishing, the Neenan's will be visiting the Outer Banks May 5 through May 28 for holiday. Fishing and fish are two of the many items on the menu. I will miss the daily rounding, but it is also time to refresh and rest. Along with this R and R, I will of course mix in some study and writing dedicated to benefiting St. Luke's a most excellent church family.

Kind regards,
Pastor Dennis Neenan



ST. LUKE'S AT THE REDBIRDS GAME!



**When: June 1st, 2024 at 6:30p,
What: Baseball Game & Fireworks**

How Much: \$18 a ticket

**Please contact the business
office to purchase
your tickets by May 5**



Youth News



- Sunday School continues to meet every week from 9-10 am in the Youth Room (Thank you, Susan!).
- Sunday, May 12 - 9:00- Senior Breakfast (Breakfast in the Youth Space honoring graduating Seniors. Families of graduates and ALL Youth and Youth Volunteers are encouraged to come!)
- Sunday, May 19 - 5-7 - Dinner and Youth Activities (Parents - if anyone can help with dinner or programming, please let me know!)
- Appalachia Service Project participants should be receiving info from Carson Blount about trip details! June 29-July 6 we will serve in Breathitt County, KY! Contact Carson if you have questions.



Get excited for Vacation Bible School
at St. Luke's UMC!

WHEN: June 10-13, 2024

TIME: 5:30-7:30 pm (light dinner served
nightly)

WHERE: 480 S. Highland, Memphis, TN
38111

WHO: JK-5th Grade

Parents you can REGISTER NOW on our
website at stlukesumc.org



Children's Ministry

As we enter May, we are nearing the end of the school year which means Summer Fun can soon begin! Summer will begin with the big kick-off of Vacation Bible School being the week of June 10-13 from 5:30 7:30! And the Sunday right before on June 9th, we will have worship in Nazareth to get everyone excited for VBS and the children will be our leaders! This will be a super special day you surely do not want to miss. VBS will be so much fun and full of excitement. Kids will get to make crafts, sing songs of Worship, play games, learn lessons, eat good food, and so much more every single night while they go back in time to Nazareth, when Jesus was a little boy! The link to sign up is on our website under the Children's Page, so sign up and tell your friends and neighbors too! Volunteers of all kinds are still needed too! Reach out to Mary Page Contreras to see how you can serve!

The fun will continue throughout the Summer with 4 Fun Friday Night events every other week in June and July! These events will be in the evening from 5:30-7:30 so parents can enjoy some time off and kids won't miss their camps! We will alternate between Movie Nights and Science Experiment Nights. Dates are June 7th and 21st and July 12th and 26th. More information to come so stay tuned!



SCOUT NEWS



- Troop 40 Scouts have been busy working on Advancement with Ziggy Goodman earning the rank of Scout, Johnathon Collins earning the rank of Tenderfoot and Brady St. Gelais earning the rank of First Class.
- The Troop and Pack will be camping at TO Fuller the weekend of April 26-28th.
- Pack 40 is planning our Blue and Gold Advancement Awards Ceremony / Potluck to take place on Friday May 17th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. Any and all church members are welcome to join in the celebration, please RSVP Lisa or Jonathan St. Gelais.



Join Us for Sweet Sunday on May 26th, 2023

The fourth Sunday of each month, we have a time of sweet treats and sweet fellowship between Sunday School and Church. Join us for our next Sweet Sunday in Hospitality Hall on May 26th, from 10 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. Treats and Coffee will be there. We just need you to come share a little sweetness.

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

Teacher Appreciation Week!

We LOVE to celebrate our incredible teachers! We will have a week of activities to show our love, May 6 - 10. If you would like to help us share the love, we would love some extra gift cards as drawings for teachers each day. You may drop them off at the front desk.

End of Year Activities:

- The students will enjoy "Field Day" on Thursday, May 16, followed by a Family Picnic and complimentary Jeremiah's Italian Ice. It will be a fun day for all.
- On Wednesday, May 22, we will have our End of Year Program at 9:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary. Members are welcome to attend and see the cutest program you will ever enjoy!
- Our last day of school will be Friday, May 24, will early dismissal at 11:30 a.m. Summer Camp will begin Tuesday, May 28.