



# Saint Luke Lutheran Church

1807 Field Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55116 | 651-698-9443 | [saintlukechurch.org](http://saintlukechurch.org)

## May 2023 Newsletter



### *The Pastor's Perspective*

#### **A colorful church**

What *is* the church? What does the church do? What is it for? Is it a building? Is it a group of people? Is it an event that happens at 9:30 am on Sunday morning? Defining “church” seems easy at first, but turns out to be surprisingly complicated.

Martin Luther described the church as something hidden in the world. According to Luther, church is the result of God’s mysterious spirit coming among us. It’s not something we do; it’s something *God* makes possible for us. Humans can’t control it or pin it down to one place or time, but they can spot signs of it happening here and there. Luther said these signs were like marks or colors of the church. Wherever you saw them pop up, even if it was somewhere unexpected, you could say, “God’s at work there!”



For Luther, you could spot church happening any time an assembly of faithful people was gathered around word and sacrament, that is: scripture, baptism, and communion. Public worship and prayer were also signs of church. Luther emphasized, too, a regular practice of confession as a reminder of God’s forgiveness. Luther also thought it was important to live the way of the cross, so he considered endurance in the midst of suffering for your faith to be a sign of the church as well. Luther said that it is through these practices that the Holy Spirit sanctifies us (makes us holy) and vivifies us (brings us to life).

What do you think are the signs or colors of the church? What would you look for if you wanted to see where God was at work in the world around you? What spiritual practices bring you to life? Would you add anything to Luther’s list?

*May  
Worship Volunteers  
We are grateful for  
your participation!*

#### **USHERS**

##### **In Person:**

First and Second Sundays:

Doug Klein

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Kay Reich and Carol Hornung

##### **Online:**

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David NedreLOW

#### **OFFERING COUNTERS**

7 Katy Eggert

14 Joyce Bluel

21 Wendy Bjorklund

28 Sue McNeill

#### **SUNDAY READERS**

7 Kay Reich

14 Christine Olson

21 Wendy Bjorklund

28 Sue McNeill

#### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

7 Kay Reich

14 Wendy Bjorklund

21 Wendy Bjorklund

28 Joyce Bluel

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

Kay Reich

(Luther himself changed the list from time to time, so he'd probably be open to your suggestions!)

Some of these signs of the church might sound familiar because I've been preaching about them throughout the Easter season. We've been reading from the book of Acts, which tells the story of the early church in the first years after Jesus' resurrection and ascension. Acts is a great foundation for asking questions like: "What does it mean to be church?" "How is God forming us as Christian people?" "How should we live out our faith?"

Here are two "colors" that Luther didn't specifically mention that I'd add. First, telling the story of what God has done for you and inviting others into new life in Christ, which is how I would describe evangelism. And second, embodying the love of God through service to our neighbor. When I see those things happening, I see signs of church coming to life!

There are a lot of signs that mark the church, a lot of colorful ways the church can reflect God's love and mercy. Thanks be to God for the ways the spirit works through us at St. Luke Lutheran Church!

Pr. Bristol

*A prayer for this mysterious thing called church:*

O God, you have promised through your Son to be present with your church forever. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love. Strengthen our fellowship. Equip us to serve. Make us holy and bring us to new life in you. Amen.

Want to revisit some recent sermons reflecting on what it means to be church?

They're posted on our website: <https://www.saintlukechurch.org/blog>

- April 16, "Overflowing Mercy" focused on the practice of forgiveness.
- April 23, "What Should We Do?" focused on the sacrament of communion.
- April 30, "Day by Day" focused on gathering together for worship.

And stay tuned: May 7 will be about hope in the face of suffering, May 14 will be about evangelism, May 21 will be about prayer, and May 28 will be about service.

Pastor Bristol



As the camera guy for most of our online broadcasts on Sunday, I literally have a front-row seat for our worship services. So I have learned how many people it takes to make our worship possible. There's Pastor Bristol and Becca, our music director, of course, but there's also the members of the choir and bell choir, the altar guild, and the ushers.

Behind the scenes, there's Jo Klein, who puts the order of service together and sends out email reminders, and Doug Klein who makes sure the building is ready to go. After worship, there are the many hosts for coffee fellowship. And let's not



### **Loaves and Fishes**

Our heartfelt thanks to our April Loaves and Fishes volunteers: Herrmann Family, David Tews and Larry Litzkow.



### **Bun Run**

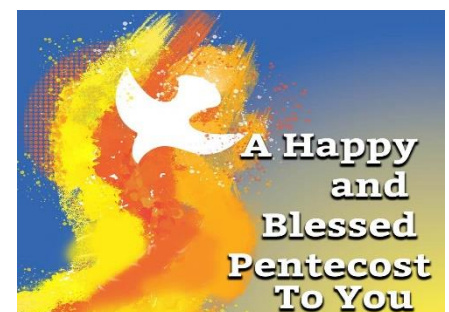
Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for May: Julie Ellingson, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew.

### **May Birthdays**

- 1 Jodi Landenberger
- 4 Michael Amundson
- 5 Michael Reading
- 6 Reginald Czech
- 7 Emily Elfritz
- 7 Casey Sivanich
- 9 Kent Peterson
- 11 Ian Holmly
- 12 Julie Ellingson
- 18 Katy Eggert  
Larry Litzkow
- 21 Dan Vigdal,  
MaryJo Brandt
- 28 Patricia Stadem  
Sue Palm

### **May Anniversaries**

- 11 Robert and Lois Porter
- 22 Dan and Deborah Vigdal
- 30 Tom and Julie Gaarder



forget the generous people who provided the flowers that have brought extra color to the altar this Easter season.

Thank you all for making our services a fuller experience!

Speaking of ushers, I just want to give a special thank-you to our newest ushers—Laurie and Ava Herrmann, who are taking over the worship services that Judy Salaba used to cover; Nancy Hegdahl, who is now buddying up with her husband Mike; and Carol Hornung, who will be ushering with Kay Reich, third and fourth Sundays in May. Thank you all! Our goal is to have two ushers for every service, but we're not quite there yet, so if you are interested in helping usher, let me know.

Here's what else is going on at St. Luke:

> We are sad to report that the Baby Café will no longer be held at St. Luke. Baby Cafés provide support for breastfeeding mothers. The local Baby Café sponsored by United Hospital was held at St. Luke for many years, but United decided to move the group to the hospital. We are sad to see them go!

> Thanks to your generosity during Minnesota Foodshare Month in March, St. Luke donated close to \$400 in cash and 178 pounds of food to the local Francis Basket Food Market. They are very grateful for your support.

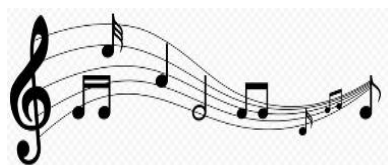
> We are currently planning a one-day retreat for Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Mount Olivet Retreat Center near Farmington. Preliminary plans call for a program for spiritual development with plenty of time for fellowship and exploring the woods and prairies of the 150-acre site. We will share details as they become available.

> Pastor Bristol, Joyce Bluel, and I will be attending the Synod Assembly on May 12 and 13 at St. Andrew's in Mahtomedi. This assembly is when representatives from the 107 congregations in the St. Paul Area Synod of the ELCA come together to conduct the business of the synod, including approving a budget, electing officials, and discussing and voting on resolutions.

> Jar donations during April and May will help support Loaves and Fishes. On the fourth Monday of every month, volunteers from St. Luke and St. Mark prepare a free meal for those in need at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on St. Paul's West Side.

God bless the good people of St. Luke!

Yours in Christ,  
David Tews



### *Notes from the Music Director*

Do you ever wonder why we sing the hymns we sing on Sunday? Feel like everything's too new or feel like it's all on repeat? This month I want to share a little behind-the-scenes of planning our worship music – and I have a special invitation if you'd like to know more.

There are so many pieces to music planning! I like to start by reading the scriptures for the day and noticing any keywords or themes. Augsburg also provides essays and suggestions that I look through while making my own list. The season, festival or smaller celebration day are also big influences. Or maybe, like this past Lent, we have a theme we're trying to include in our music, worship space and spoken



*All are invited to  
Game Day at St. Luke*, the first and third Fridays of the month, May 5 and 19, at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

*Ladies, are you looking for a  
quiet weekend away?*  
Announcing a Quilt Auction/Silent Auction Weekend at Camp Onomia, September 16th (Friday night thru Sunday morning), 14202 Shakopee Lake Road, Onamia. Two nights, 4 meals adult rate is \$112 per person. There is also a one-night Auction Weekend special rate of \$40 for one night and 2 meals. Call 320-532-3767 to reserve your room space for the Auction Weekend; they fill up fast. Relax with long walks on the beautiful trails, reading, crafts that have been waiting to be finished, sitting in the sun in their gazebo or deck, playing games, shopping, much laughter, and lots of napping if that is what you desire! Join us!

### *To Everything There Is a Season*

The St. Luke's Farmers' Market ninth season begins Saturday, **June 10**, and extends through Saturday, October 7, 8am to 1pm. Aside from Papa Bears Jams (Barbara Jo has returned to work full time and cannot participate in the market this year), all our vendors will be returning to the market this season. Green Acres Beef should be with us at least at the beginning of the market, longer if they can find a processor. We will continue to have a handwashing station and

words. Once I've considered that, I look over my list and make sure I include at least one hymn I know people like to sing, from hymn requests I have received, and from a list I found in the organ area, date unknown.

And then there's the consideration of all the people in the congregation. Depending on what worship style you've experienced, the generation you grew up in, or if you haven't always been Lutheran – these all affect the hymns and liturgies that feel familiar to us.

All this plays a part in the last piece of planning: "new" music. I put "new" in quotes because a hymn unfamiliar to me has been a St. Luke favorite and the opposite is true, too. Sometimes a "new" hymn we sing is an old favorite from someone else. Some people like to sing new hymns and try new things, other people want to stick more to what they know. It's all part of the balance of worship planning.

Which brings me to the invitation – Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 11:10am we'll have a Summer Preview! Hear the new setting we'll be using this summer, find out what hymns we've got planned and I'll save time to sing a few requests. Whether you just can't get enough singing during the service or you're curious what we're up to this summer, I hope you'll join me. And if you can't join us that Sunday, look for the next preview as the summer winds down.

### ***Fall Bazaar***

The Annual Church Bazaar, a 35-year tradition, will be held at St. Luke on Saturday, October 14, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. We shall once more extend a warm invitation to our church home to our friends, family, and neighbors. Our congregation continues to have a great reputation for coming together as a group to provide the best crafts and delectable treats available. So remember to mark your calendars and make plans to go!

This year, we'll again be renting out booths to neighborhood crafters and artisans so they can sell their products. If you know of any vendors, please give them our contact information or send us their email and we will email them the vendor registration form. We'll also have a bake sale, rummage sale, and a kitchen with favorite foods to enjoy. We desperately need volunteers because this event wouldn't be possible without them! If you are interested in helping, please contact one of the bazaar organizers: Susan Grzywinski (651-343-1453) or Nancy Hegdahl (651-600-8179). **GREAT NEWS:** two people have stepped up to help: Beth Peterson will organize the kitchen, and Deb Vigdal will oversee the bake sale. Thank you, Beth and Deb! **We are still in need of an individual to organize the rummage sale.**

Once more, the Fall Bazaar will enable St. Luke Church to provide fellowship in our church home to both new friends and possible new members, as well as to our current members, friends, and neighbors. So kindly assist us in organizing an occasion that we can all be proud of, enjoy together, and use to foster a sense of community.

hand sanitizer at the east entrance of the market, along with an entrance tent and market greeters. If you would like to volunteer at the market, you may sign up to work an early shift (7:30am to 10:30am), a late shift (10:30am to 1:30pm), or a double shift (7:30am to 1:30pm). In addition to the market co-managers, **4 volunteers are needed during market hours** to cover our bread table and entrance tent, along with helping to set up and take down the market. Watch for an emailed sign-up sheet that will be sent the beginning of May. Without your help, this important ministry to our community cannot continue. **Which Saturday(s) can you "work the market"?** For more information, please contact Wendy Bjorklund at [wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu) or 651-357-5742.

### ***Gerten's Fundraisers***

Our Gerten's Easter Flowers sales raised \$84.99. Thank you for your generosity! These proceeds, along with the 2022 proceeds of Easter and Spring bedding plant sales of \$392.82, plus the funds we raise from this year's bedding plant sales, will be used to support the St Luke Farmer's Market.

