



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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St. Luke Lutheran Church

Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times January 2019



The Pastor's Perspective...

Prayer Habits and Practices

The New Year can be a good time to start a new habit or to deepen a current one. One powerful habit is daily prayer. In this article I share some basic prayer practices that can enhance your prayer life.

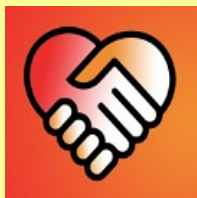
Intentional: most habits are formed when we make it a priority and intentionally schedule time and energy for it. If we want our prayer life to deepen we need to schedule an intentional time and place to pray. Many people find the first thing in the morning best; others prefer the evening. I know one person who made sure to leave for work early so he could have fifteen minutes to pray in his office parking lot. I pray just after my morning stretching routine. I have my daily devotional and prayer app on my phone near my prayer kneeler which is placed in a quiet room.

Written, Spontaneous and Silence. Through most of my life my prayers have been spontaneous with a basic mental framework to guide me. I use **confession** (of sin), **gratitude** (thanksgiving) and **intercession** (praying for others). In recent years my daily prayers have added written prayers and silence. Having all three allows me to stay focused and keeps my mind from wandering as much. I also change some of the written prayers on an annual basis so as to give it some variety and freshness. This past year I have been using the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr, which starts: *God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the different.*

Relaxed: My goal in prayer is not to finish my prayers as quickly as possible but rather to spend time with God. *Be still and know that I am God! Psalm 46:10.* During the twenty minute of Centering Prayer, I simply imagine God being close to me, His breath matching mine own. If my mind wanders I acknowledge the wandering thought and bring my mind back to my sacred word that reorients my heart's intention to be with God. After my centering prayer I pray for the needs of others.

Consistent: We certainly can pray at any time. Paul calls us to pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17). People often practice "bullet prayers", asking for God's guidance, strength, or intervention in quick snippets of prayer throughout the day. Such prayers are not wrong, but should not be confused with developing a deeper intentional prayer life. As an analogy, bullet prayers are like calling yourself a runner, when the only running you do is to sprint from the parking lot to the office door during rain storm. To become an honest runner you need to consistently take time to lace up your running shoes and run. To become a disciple of prayer you consistently need to take time to step off the daily treadmill and be in prayer. Fifteen minutes on a daily basis will do wonders for your soul.

Lord Jesus Christ, my desire and intention is to stay close to you. Stir your Holy Spirit within me and guide me to develop and deepen my prayer life with you this coming year. Amen.



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for January: Alek Landenberger, Volker Landenberger, Ben Pilgrim, Doug Klein, Joan Wilson, Bruce Magnuson, Ava Herrmann, Rob Herrmann.



LOAVES AND FISHES

102 very hungry men, women and children enjoyed a delicious meal at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on November 26th. Workers from St. Luke were Joyce Bluel, Larry Litzkow, Verdel Humburg, Sandy Berger and Christine Olson along with Pastor John and the confirmation students from both St Mark and St Luke.

January WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Readers

6 Kay Reich
13 Wendy Bjorklund
20 Katy Eggert
27 Dick Plagens

Communion

6 Joan Wilson
20 Judy Salaba

SAVE THE DATE!

Come one, come all to our ever-popular ALL MEMBER WINTER CHURCH RETREAT at Camp Onomia, Feb. 15-17. Young and old, parents or singles, all are welcome! Want to get away from your busy life, and just relax and have fun? Or do you want to have some great family time with your kids? There is something of everyone! To RSVP, please sign up on the kiosk asap.



January Birthdays

1 Linda Funkhouser
Dusty Jensen
Kayla Padden
5 Dawn Peterson
9 Laurie Herrmann
13 Judy Johnson
Kimberly Loewen
15 Madalynn Padden
16 Nancy Hegdahl
17 Kathy Spray
27 Kevin Arndt
29 Norma Alexander
30 Sue McNeill
31 Kim McNamara



Ladies Night Out

is still on hiatus. We look forward to resuming this event on Tuesday, February 19th, when we will be going to Obb's Sports Bar and Grill at 5:15 pm. Please watch your bulletin and the February newsletter for more details. All are welcome.



The 2019 offering envelopes are now available in the Social Hall. Please pick up your box as soon as possible to defray postage expenses. Thank you.



Winter Retreat Pancake Breakfast

All are invited to a delicious breakfast after worship on Sunday, January 27. Come hungry! You will be served with smiles and mouth-watering food. All money raised will be used for the Winter Retreat at Camp Onomia. This is for ALL St. Luke members and the money raised will help supplement the costs for people. So make plans to go to the Winter Retreat on February 15-17 and come hungry on January 27.

A big thank you to our January Bun Volunteers: Ken McGrew, Doug Klein, Larry Litzkow.



UnDec The Halls!

We will be packing up the Christmas decorations on Sunday, Jan. 13, after worship. Many hands make light work...please join us!



January Acolytes

6 Evan Nelson
20 Ava Herrmann

What happens if a congregation votes NO to shared pastor?

Interim Pastor John Keller, December 2018

Each congregation needs to determine what is best for their future ministry, but the reality is if one congregation votes NO then the shared pastoral ministry between St. Mark and St. Luke will end. Both congregations need to vote YES in order to move forward with shared pastor.

So what happens if one or both congregations vote NO?

Interim: The current Interim Shared Ministry Agreement states that after December 31st, the shared interim pastor can continue on a month-to-month basis as long as both councils and interim pastor agree to continue, with thirty days notice for termination. It is my intention to continue to serve as your interim as long as needed and desired by both councils, but a council may choose to consider a part-time interim (if available) rather than continue the shared interim arrangement.

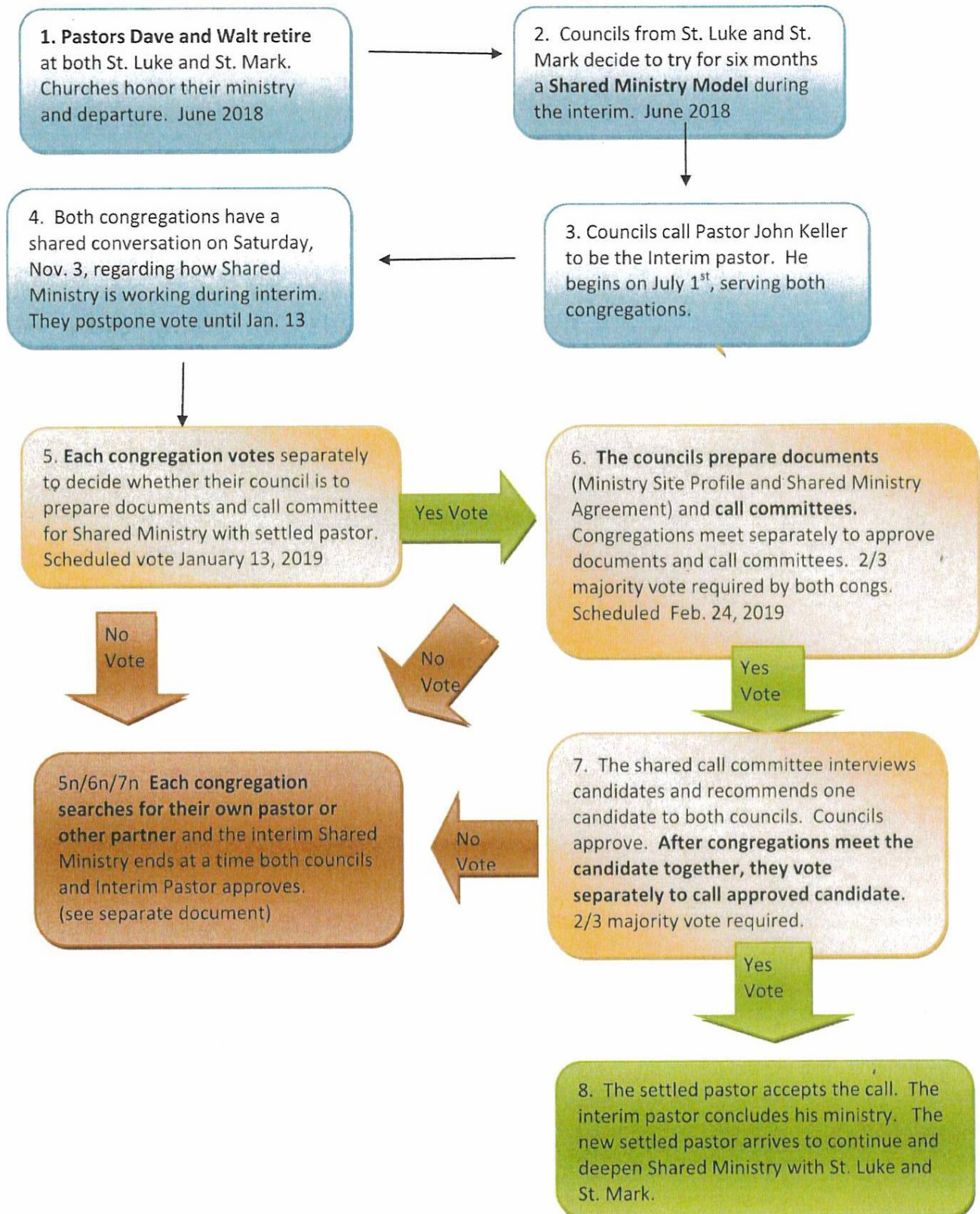
Calling a new pastor: Each congregation would need to determine whether they want to proceed with either a) calling their own pastor, based on their present budget restrictions or b) whether they want to seek some other shared ministry arrangement with another congregation. In either case, they would consult with the Synod office as to potential resources for their desired direction.

- a. **Own Pastor:** Both congregations have limited financial resources with which to call a settled pastor. This limitation would probably mean calling a part-time settled pastor. What “part-time” would mean is something that would need to be negotiated with any pastoral candidate. It could be from 15 hours a week to 38 hours or more. The Synod Office has informed the councils that there are fewer candidates for part-time calls than full time calls and that a part-time pastor typically does not stay as long in a congregation as a fully compensated pastor. It is not impossible to find part-time settled pastors, but it is challenging.
- b. **Other partnerships:** It is possible that other congregations in the Synod might be willing to share a pastor. This could a larger congregation that might be willing to “adopt” either congregation to support their ministry, but such financial support would also bring expectations and limitations. There could be other similar size congregations that would be willing to experiment with shared ministry. It is doubtful that there is a congregation that would be as close in proximity and culture to the present arrangement shared by St. Luke and St. Mark.

Decision Path for Shared Ministry and Calling New Pastor

Blue boxes completed / Orange boxes are future steps on Dec 6, 2018

ALL votes are by separate congregations and both congregations need to vote YES to move forward.





Last April St. Luke cancelled Sunday worship due to major snow storm. If that happens again on a Sunday and leaving your home is treacherous, a danger to yourself, please stay home! I would rather see your smiling face in worship the next week than visit you in the hospital! Secondly, if the weather is horrific, forcing a cancellation of worship, Jo will put a message on the church phone stating that fact. We will also send an email out to all people who have email access, so please check email or call the church during inclement weather for worship related information.
Interim Pastor John Keller

Here is a great recipe to enjoy on a cold winter's night, from the 2005 St. Luke cookbook. You may also add 1.5 cups cooked cubed chicken or ham.

Cream of Wild Rice Soup

½ c. wild rice
2 ½ c. water
2 T. butter
1 T. minced onion
¼ c. flour
4 c. chicken broth
½ T salt, or to taste
1/3 c. grated carrots
3 T. silver almonds
1 pint half-and-half
2 T. dry cooking sherry

Cook wild rice in water. (Can also follow directions on package of wild rice. You will want 2 cups of prepared wild rice for soup.) Heat chicken broth and set aside. Melt butter in saucepan; sauté onion until tender. Blend in flour; gradually add broth, stirring constantly with wire whisk until mixture thickens slightly. Stir in cooked rice and salt; add carrots and almonds; simmer about 5 minutes. Blend in half-and-half and sherry; heat to serving temperature, Garnish with minced parsley or chives. Serves 6 to 7 Can easily be doubled.

-Holly Schultz



The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. ~Numbers 6:24