



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Connect, Grow and Serve.*

## Parish Times June 2019



### *The Pastor's Perspective...*

#### The Serenity of the Serenity Prayer | Pr. John Keller

The Serenity Prayer begins with three requests: 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 difference. When I first prayed this prayer, I wondered if the order should not be changed. I wanted the courage to act, to move, to change things. I sought the power to DO God's will and to ACT in God's name. Should not courage come first?

Instead the prayer starts with the serenity to accept things that cannot be change, to be at peace with the way things are before any changes come. One thing we cannot change is the day-to-day weather. I might complain about the frequent rain this spring, but my complaining will not change it. Rather I pray that I might see the beauty and wonder in the clouds and rain drops, and be at peace.

The weather is not the only thing I cannot change. On a more profound level – and where I think AA and Al-Anon see the prayers connection to their program – I cannot change other people's behavior or attitudes. Oh, I can love and care for, cajole and advise other people. But I cannot change them. A spouse or parent is unable to change the addictive behavior of a loved one. A family intervention might help a spouse or child seek rehab but ultimately alcoholics or addicts must seek healing for themselves.

But it does not need to be as dramatic as alcoholism. In marriage, husbands and wives need to be able to love, accept and support each other as they are. When I first married Carolyn, I thought I could change her to share my love of backpacking. I thought that I simply had to get her in the right setting and she would see the light. I was wrong. Though we both have enjoyed day hikes and the beauty of God's creation, she does not share my fascination with sleeping on the ground in sweaty clothes after eating dehydrated gruel. At the same time, she has come to accept that she will not expunge my fascination with carrying a thirty pound pack up and down trails for days on end. Instead we accept each other as we are while enjoying the passions we share, like our love of our grandchildren.

The prayer uses the word serenity as the heart of this acceptance. Serenity is NOT the grit-your-teeth-and-bear-it attitude, but rather the calm, internal state of mind that sees reality for what it is: reality. I remember experiencing such serenity when my father died twenty-four years ago. He had contracted pancreatic cancer and then had a debilitating stroke. When I sat by his bedside during his final hours, I felt sadness that the father I loved was dying, but also serenity that this was his reality. I could not change it.

To develop such serenity takes practice. We may have moments of instant serenity, but to have consistent serenity takes the practice of prayer and meditation. Saint Paul connected prayer and peace. *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:6-7)*

How do you experience or cultivate Serenity?



### **Ladies Night Out**

June will take place on Tuesday, June 18th at Shamrock's, 995 West 7<sup>th</sup> St. at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in car pooling, please meet at church at 5:00 p.m. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) by Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> if you are planning on attending so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.

**We need YOU!** Saturday, June 15, 9am to 12pm, St. Luke will have a "Spring Clean Up Day." We need volunteers willing to put a little elbow grease into sprucing up our church building and grounds. Our suggestion for you as volunteers? Walk around the church (inside and out), decide what's bugging you and come prepared to deal with that (bring tools). We'll have some buckets, rags and cleanings supplies as well. One major task we'd like to accomplish is to do a "deep clean" of the floors in Social Hall.

Questions? Please talk to Joyce Bluel or Wendy Bjorklund. Thanks in advance for pitching in! Your efforts are needed and will be greatly appreciated!



### **June Birthdays**

- 2 Lynda Mathison
- 3 Arlene Drier
- 8 Phroah Mathis
- 10 Andrew Stadem
- 16 Brian Spray, Evan Nelson
- 18 David Tews, Alex Grzywinski
- 21 Pastor Dave Person
- 22 George Heriot, Diane Nelson
- 24 Christine Olson, Allan Amlee
- 25 Jenifer Drier, Carter Alcenot
- 27 Sandi Gordon
- 30 Karl and Charles Gaarder



### **June Anniversaries**

- 4 Larry and Carol Vigdal: '61
- 8 Roger and Dianne Diestler: '63
- 15 Jane and Ken McGrew: '91
- 18 Allan and Phillis Amlee: '55
- 23 Patricia and Mark Stadem: '90
- 27 Jeff and Chris Kinglsey: '14

### **Our heartfelt thanks to the Farmers' Market volunteers for June:**

- 15 Jodi and Victor Landenberger, Larry Litzkow, Laurie Smith
- 22 Jo and Doug Klein
- 29 Jill Burchill, Julie Ellingson



A big thank you to our June Bun Run volunteers: Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl, David Tews, Ken McGrew, Doug and Jo Klein.

### **June WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

#### **Readers**

- 2 Wendy Bjorklund
- 9 Jen Fredrickson
- 16 Katy Eggert
- 23 Sue McNeill
- 30 Kay Reich

#### **Communion**

- 2 Wendy Bjorklund
- 16 Katy Eggert
- 30 Jen Fredrickson

### **Food Pantry**

After delivering the food to the Neighborhood House from our March Foodshare Drive, our Food Pantry is in need of restocking. Please, if you are able, bring a few non-perishable food items for our pantry located at the back door of the social hall. Thank you very much.



### **June Acolytes**

- 2 Alek Landenberger
- 16 Evan Nelson

## Fall Bazaar 2019



Do you know any crafters or vendors who would be interested in renting out a table at our Fall Bazaar this year? The date is Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 3:00 and the fee for an 8-foot table is \$40.

If so, please have them contact either Judy Salaba (651)698-8572 or Joyce Bluel (651)690-4614 for a vendor registration form. Space will be considered reserved at the time of submission of registration form and payment.



### LOAVES AND FISHES

85 Hungry men, women and children were served a warm dinner on April 22nd at the Loaves and Fishes program at St. Matthew's Church. Workers were Katy Eggert, Susan Lorenz, David Elliott, Pastor Keller and Joyce Bluel.



### Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for June: Jill Burchill, Doug Nelson, David NedreLOW, MaryJo Brandt, Carol Vigdal, Pam Ballis, Katy Eggert.



Ah, warm weather is finally here! Thank you, Christine Olson, for all your hard work on our lovely gardens...watch for new blooms week by week!



## Care of Creation

The next shared worship service for St. Luke and St. Mark is Sunday, June 30 at 9:30. The service will be outside (weather permitting) at St. Luke so bring a lawn chair. The theme will be Care of Creation. Together we will celebrate the gift of God's creation and God's call for humanity to be good stewards/caregivers of the earth. After worship we will serve together, picking up trash from local parks, streets and parking lots, so bring gloves. Then we will share a potluck meal at 11:20, so bring something tasty to share. Below is the June 30 schedule:

9:30	Worship at St. Luke (Bring Lawn Chair)
10:30	Trash pickup (Bring Gloves)
11:20	Potluck Meal (Bring Tasty Food)



## Musings from the Music Director

A big hearty round of applause for all the work my ringers and singers put in this year! I have a lot of favorite musical memories and it would not have happened without all your hard work and dedication! Thank you many times over. You all are a wonderful blessing to this congregation.

And don't forget - I'm taking requests this summer! So put your requests in the music bank at the welcome table in the fellowship hall.

-Becca Ruiz

### **Parish Board Update**

We met on May 6<sup>th</sup> and agreed that we need to put some additional structure to our group and allow for rotational roles on the Parish Board (formerly referred to as the Shared Ministry Team)

We discussed the possibility of sharing a custodian with Saint Luke. The councils will decide.

Our next Shared Service will be held on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30 in the Side Yard at Saint Luke. The Theme for the service will be “Care of Creation”; following the service we will work together in service for the community by cleaning up the surrounding neighborhood and conclude with a potluck meal around 11:15.

Becca Ruiz shared a document and an explanation on the idea of a Makerspace. The first one will be held on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Saint Luke and then the fourth Saturdays of July and August. More details to come.

Pastor Keller suggested that we begin to think proactively regarding future technology needs for a shared pastor. We talked about the need to purchase a laptop and to research a similar e-mail tool along with a shared electronic calendar.

We talked about considering VBS two evenings in August again, as we did last summer and perhaps continue with our theme of Care of Creation.

Our next meeting will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Saint Mark.

-Jackie Brueggemann, Saint Mark

### **Synod Assembly Update**

On Friday May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Saint Paul Area Synod held their annual Synod Assembly at Saint Andrew’s in Mahtomedi. Pastor Keller, Wendy Bjorklund from Saint Luke and Jackie Brueggemann from Saint Mark attended. The theme was Both/And. We spent the day with 400 others from around the Synod, representing close to 70 of the 125 churches in our Synod. We worshiped together, received updates from a number of synod committees, participated in a mission fair and studied a gospel lesson from Matthew.

At the mission fair we had the opportunity to not only pick up materials and ideas from other churches and organizations, we also attended breakout sessions on the “Redevelopment of Congregations”, “Living out Our Call through Advocacy” and “Caring for Creation”.

During the Plenary Session we also viewed video updates from: Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities; Local and Global Mission Projects (including Christ the Servant in Vadnais Heights ;) The African National Ministry; ongoing work in Guatemala and in Tanzania.

Words of wisdom I heard included: *Carry the Church with you, wherever you go; Know Your Neighbors; Speak out and stand with the vulnerable; Listen to each other, our community and to God.*

If you have the opportunity to attend this in the future, I highly recommend it! Feel free to talk to me or Wendy for any additional details and insights.

-Jackie Brueggemann, Saint Mark

## Announcing MAKERSPACE!

St. Luke and St. Mark are hosting a Makerspace at St. Luke on the 4th Saturdays of June through August - a space open to the community to come and be creative! The first session will be June 22, 10am to 1pm. June's theme is Fabric Crafts and our Featured Makers will be Micky and Diane Ruiz. Various sewing projects of theirs will be on display plus a short presentation at 11:00 with Q&A to follow. We will also be collectively creating a project for donation! So come and be creative on your own, learn basic sewing and get some sewing tips from our featured makers, help in our service project or all of the above! The Makerspace is open from 10:00 until 1:00 - so you can make your art and get your veggies too!

Info and sign-up sheets are posted at each church - let us know you're interested by signing up or replying on Facebook. We are also looking for donations for the Makerspace - so if you've done your spring cleaning and have creative supplies, empty plastic containers, fabric, paper, flattened cardboard, staplers, beads, twine - feel free to donate to our Makerspace! Ideas for supplies are posted next to the sign-up sheets. Further questions can be sent to Rebecca Ruiz, [bunkamade@gmail.com](mailto:bunkamade@gmail.com)



### Spotlight on...David Tews

My name is David Tews, and I've been a member of St. Luke's for about two years.

I grew up in New Ulm, in southern Minnesota. My Dad met my Mom when he was stationed in Japan during the Korean War. He brought his Japanese bride to his hometown of New Ulm and they started a family. My sister Christine was born first, and then about a year later, I was born in 1955.

We attended a Wisconsin Synod Lutheran church in New Ulm, and my sister and I attended the Wisconsin Synod grade school. After eighth grade, I opted to attend the public high school and then attended Concordia College in Moorhead, an ALC college at the time. At Concordia, I enjoyed working on the school newspaper, and that precipitated my decision to go into journalism. Concordia didn't have a journalism program, so I majored in English.

After graduation, I worked for a couple of small-town newspapers for very little money, and decided I needed a Plan B. I moved to the Twin Cities and took a job as a technical writer, first at a contract house and then for Sperry Univac (which later became Unisys).

When the computing market turned away from mainframes, I left Unisys and learned some skills in a new thing called the Internet as well as graphic design. That ultimately led me to my current position at Read Naturally Inc., where I am responsible for web content and do some design work. Read Naturally develops remedial reading programs aimed at grade school students who are not reading at their grade level. Our goal is to help students catch up with their peers so they can be more successful in school.

When I first came to St. Luke, I was looking for a church that had a sense of community like the one my parents belonged to. When my Dad died, I was moved by the friendliness and support from the members of my parents' church, and I hoped to find something like that here in St. Paul. I like how warm and friendly the people at St. Luke's are, and how church is an important part of their lives. I feel that I have found my spiritual home here, and I pray that that light can continue to shine well into the future.