



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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Editor: Jo Klein

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Open doors, open hearts, open minds.*

## Parish Times December 2018

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

#### **Advent Storms and Safe Harbors | Pr. John Keller**

Advent comes during the dark cold month of December. The sun hangs low in the Minnesota sky and frequent storms race across the prairie. The first snow storm of the season often disrupts our daily lives. During this season we hanker for some warmth and light, some good cheer. The world seems ready to collapse and die.

In Advent, I am reminded of Jesus' words,

*There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:25-28)*

Jesus experienced the broken, destructive shadows of creation. He knew the despair we can slip into. Yet he would not let us go. It's as if we are on a long sea voyage and terrible storms are smashing our ship. The storms of sickness, violence, neglect, sin and death cause us to despair. Why celebrate Christmas when the world appears to be so harsh, cold and cruel?

The interim journey can feel like a dangerous sea voyage. The uncertainty of how and when a new pastor will be called can stir anxiety and angst. People may feel like abandoning ship and striking out for some new lifeboat. A few may wonder, "Will we make it?"

But the present storms are not the end of the story, only a temporary part in God's glorious story of safe passage. Even as the seas roar, our safe harbor in Jesus is drawing near. A safe harbor called Bethlehem. The angel choir will once again announce, "Peace on earth, good will to all." God will calm the storm.

Lord Jesus, you gave us a glorious promise that someday your whole creation will be made new again. Grant us the faith to trust in your promise and the everlasting hope to live by your power. We trust you to guide St. Luke with your strong love. Raise our heads high and let us sing your praise with energetic joy today. Amen.



## Usher Notes

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



## LOAVES AND FISHES

113 very hungry men, women and children enjoyed a delicious meal at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on October 22nd. Workers from St. Luke were Joyce Bluel, Larry Litzkow, Verdel Humburg, and Roger and Dianne Diestler.

## DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

*All morning services unless otherwise noted.*

### Readers:

12/2: Barb Jensen  
12/9: Wendy Bjorklund  
12/9, 7 PM: Katy Eggert, Barb Jensen, David NedreLOW, Beth Peterson, Dee Plagens, Kay Reich  
12/16: Dick Plagens  
12/23: Christine Olson  
12/24, 6 PM: Wendy Bjorklund  
12/25: Sue McNeill  
12/30: Jen Fredrickson

### Communion:

12/2: Joyce Bluel  
12/16: Dee Plagens  
12/25: Sue McNeill



## Christmas Baskets

As is the St. Luke tradition, we will be collecting donations for Christmas Baskets, which will be distributed to members of our community. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 16. If you would like to make a monetary contribution to filling these baskets, please indicate "Christmas Basket" on the memo line of your check. Thank you!

A big thank you to our December Bun Run Volunteers: Doug and Jo Klein, Larry Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl.



**Abbreviated Worship** The Shared Ministry Team and St. Luke's church council have heard concerns that with our present Sunday morning schedule, Interim Pastor John Keller (and any possible shared pastor) is not able to be present during for coffee fellowship after St. Luke's worship. The Shared Ministry team is discussing several options to address this need. They will experiment with one option on Sunday, Dec. 9th: shortening the worship service from the normal 60 minutes to about 45 minutes. The abbreviated worship will have fewer readings, shorter hymns and sermon as well as being a non-communion Sunday. We will not rush the service, but rather condense it. Please participate with an open heart and mind to see if this might help in the future.

**Mitten and Hat Tree** During the upcoming Advent season there will be a Christmas tree placed by the pulpit where we will be collecting hats, mittens, and scarves. The congregation will watch the tree become colorfully decorated each Sunday as these items are placed on the tree, and we ask that members bring forth their donations to hang on the tree during the offering. Once the tree is decorated, we will then donate all the hats, mittens and scarves to Naomi Family Residence, a local homeless shelter for women and children. Thank you for participating in this worthy cause!



**O COME  
LET US ADORE HIM!**  
*Join us as we celebrate  
Advent and Christmas!*

**Candlelight Service**  
Sunday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday School  
Christmas Program**  
Sunday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m.  
(As part of our Sunday service)

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
Monday, December 24  
Worship at 6:05 p.m.

**Christmas Day Worship**  
Tuesday, December 25 at 9:30 a.m.

**St. Luke/St. Mark Joint Worship**  
Sunday, December 30 at 9:30 a.m.  
at St. Luke



## 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.



### December Acolytes

- 2 Evan Nelson
- 16 Tatum Herrmann
- 24 Alek & Victor Landenberger



### O Come, All Ye Faithful!

Join us for our time-honored Advent Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 7:00 p.m., in which we celebrate the Advent season with many beloved hymns. Please bring 2 dozen cookies to share, if possible, for the fellowship time following the service.



### Ladies Night

Out will go on hiatus for November, December and January. We will resume Ladies Night Out again in February. Watch the January newsletter for details of where we will be dining in February.



### December Birthdays

- 4 Olivia Peterson
- Stacy Alcenot
- 5 Helen Bye
- Douglas Nelson
- 7 Alina Alcenot
- Raul Ruiz
- 18 Holly Schultz
- 23 Deborah Vigdal
- 30 Roger Diestler
- 31 Al Fredrickson



### December Anniversaries

- 17 Doug & Karen Wasko: '60
- 29 Anne & John Fabie: '84

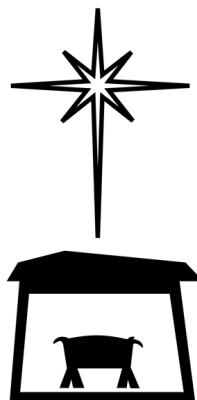
### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

As the holiday season approaches, the Sunday School students would like to extend an invitation to everyone to attend our Christmas Program, "The Gift of the Animals", on Sunday, December 16 during the worship service. Come, hear the joyous Christmas message as only children can tell it!



*Look, look dear friends, look over there!  
What lies within the manger bare?  
Who is that lovely little one?  
The baby Jesus, God's dear son*

*Welcome to earth, O noble guest,  
Through whom this sinful world is blest  
You turned not from our needs away;  
How can our thanks such love repay?  
- Martin Luther*





### *Musings from the Music Director*

Ah December, a time for hymns that we sing but once a year - advent hymns of course! While maybe not as popular as their Christmas companions, they're beautiful all the same as we wait expectantly for Christmas Eve. The Musical Spotlight returns to our church's blog this month with a series on Advent and Christmas. By Christmas, you'll be able to answer what is a carol anyway, what "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" has to do with Christmas, and more. I hope you enjoy it as much I enjoyed writing it.

Hey, as the year comes to the end, perhaps you need a new New Year's Resolution...something to keep you on your toes and invigorate your new year. Why not join choir and learn a new skill or brush up an old one? Learn to ring or come and sing! We're happy to have people join us any time of the year, plus you'll be just in time for Lent and Easter! Contact me: [bunkamade@gmail.com](mailto:bunkamade@gmail.com), or talk to me on Sunday. Keep sounding in the New Year through May with a resolution to join choir at St. Luke! -Becca Ruiz

### **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Report**

Thank you all so very much for your continued generosity with Samaritan's Purse. The Operation Christmas Child Project this year was another resounding success with the partnership between Saint Luke and Saint Mark and friends of both churches. This year we packed a total of 167 boxes together, WOW! Not only were all the boxes packed full of wonderful items for the children who will receive them around the world, but the cost of shipping them (\$9.00 per box), was also raised in a variety of ways. That cost is over \$1,500., another WOW! Just think of all those smiles, which are priceless. Thanks again for your giving spirit and for getting your boxes to church for the blessing on November 11.

-Jackie Brueggmann, Saint Mark Church



### **2018 Fall Bazaar**

St. Luke hosted its 34th Fall Bazaar on Saturday, October 27th. The weather was sunny and cool, and attendance was down from last year.

We would like to thank the vendors that rented tables and brought us such a variety of products. This was our second year of renting out space for our crafts and we had 16 vendors participate.

A big thank you to our members, whether you donated a raffle prize, a craft item, rummage sale items, made something for our popular bake sale, prepared and brought soup to be sold in our kitchen, cashiered or came to participate. This event could not be held without the dedication and hard work of **all** our members.

We still have many lovely craft items available for your holiday shopping. We will continue to sell items until after the candlelight service, December 9th. As of October 27th, we have sales totaling \$3,961.75 and after expenses we have made \$2,754.75.

The money raised from the Bazaar is used to carry out the ministries of St. Luke as well as providing a great fellowship opportunity for our church and community. In the next month or so we will meet to decide how to spend these proceeds.

Last year we gave our benevolences to Camp Onomia, the Airport Ministry and the St. Luke Farmer's Market for postcards. If you have ideas of how you think we should spend these proceeds, feel free to contact any committee chair, Judy Salaba or myself. You are also welcome to attend our meeting, just watch the bulletin for date and time.

Thanks again for your support!

2018 Fall Bazaar Chairs

## *The President's Message*

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6.

Hi All,

It is the holiday season and Isaiah's prophecy reminds us of the gift and promise of God's Son. I wish you all hope, light, and joy as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

Thanks to all who participated in the conversation about shared ministry with St. Mark and Pr. Joe Lees on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. I hope you felt your voices were heard and that you have a better understanding for how members of both churches are feeling and what our options are going forward. The following day, both churches voted to delay making a decision about whether to move forward in the shared ministry process until after the holidays, on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Soon, you will see a timeline of the process that will unfold after we decide whether or not we want to proceed in the shared ministry model with St. Mark. If we decide we want to do that, we will complete our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) document, cross-referenced with St. Mark's, put together a call committee and form an agreement with St. Mark that outlines the specifics of the shared ministry model. The agreement will be a flexible document that can be modified as needed. If we decide not to move forward in shared ministry with St. Mark, we will take many of the same steps sans the agreement.

One concern that emerged during the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting is having more fellowship time with Pr. John. On Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, we will experiment with a shorter worship service that will allow Pr. John to spend time with us after the service before he leaves for St. Mark. Please let us know what you think of this shortened service.

In general, please talk with St. Luke's members of the Shared Ministry Committee (Laurie Herrmann, Ruth Carlson, Becca Ruiz and me) about your concerns and questions. My hope is that this can be an ongoing conversation as we prepare to make a decision in January.

Our next Shared Ministry meeting with St. Mark will be Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm at St. Luke. These meetings are open to anyone who is interested.

Thank you for your prayers as we try to make good decisions for our church. I am confident that the Holy Spirit is guiding us through this process!

Blessings,

Wendy Bjorklund, Council President



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