



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

1807 Field Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55116 | 651-698-9443 | saintlukechurch.org

June 2026 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Pr. Bristol Reading

Some Updates from Synod Assembly...

Our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is made up of 65 geographic regions called synods. St. Luke's synod includes 106 congregations and mission starts around the greater St. Paul area. Once a year, the whole synod gathers together to worship, hear reports, and complete necessary business. This year's annual gathering, called Synod Assembly, happened on May 15-16.

Each congregation is allowed a certain number of lay voters at the Assembly, depending on the congregation's size, in addition to active rostered leaders (i.e. pastors and deacons) who are automatically allowed to vote. St. Luke had the opportunity to send two lay voting members: thanks to Carol Hornung and Joyce Bluel for attending the synod as our two voters. At this year's Assembly, there were 100 congregations represented from across the synod – what a special chance for the diversity of our synod to shine!

This was an especially important Assembly because there was an election for the synod's next bishop. There was a wonderful slate of candidates, all courageous and well-equipped leaders who were willing to step into this challenging and important call. The person who was elected is Rev. Justin Grimm, who currently serves on the synod staff as the Director for Evangelical Mission. In August, Bishop Patricia Lull's term will end, and Bishop-elect

June Volunteers

Thanks for your participation!

ONLINE USHERS

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David NedreLOW

IN PERSON USHERS

First and Second Sundays:

Doug Nelson, David NedreLOW

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Carol Vigdal, Mary Jo Brandt

READERS

7 Julie Gaarder

14 Laurie Smith

21 Sue McNeill

28 Laurie Herrmann

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

7 Julie Gaarder

14 Wendy Bjorklund

21 Kay Reich

28 Doug Klein

ALTAR GUILD

Joyce Blyel, Christine Olson

COUNTERS

7 Katy Eggert

14 Kay Reich

21 Carol Hornung

28 Wendy Bjorklund

Justin Grimm's term will begin. Bishops serve six-year terms and are eligible to serve up to two terms.

Mark your calendars! A retirement party for Patricia Lull will take place at Roseville Lutheran Church from 2-4 pm on Sunday, July 26. Justin Grimm will be installed to the office of bishop at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley in the afternoon on September 13 (timing TBD). Thanks be to God for both of these strong, wise, faithful leaders who have given and continue to give so much to the church! Please do be praying for them both in this time of transition.

Another exciting election took place at this year's Assembly. One of the members of our own congregation, Aidan Tarpensing, was elected to serve a three-year term on the Synod Council as a Young Adult Representative. Much as our church council serves as the leadership body for our congregation, the Synod Council leads the wider synod as a kind of board of directors. When the Assembly is not in session (meaning the 363 days out of the year when the Synod Assembly is not happening), the Synod Council is the legislative authority. You can learn more about the St. Paul Area Synod Council at spas-elca.org/governance. Pray for Aidan and the rest of the council members that they may have the discernment and vision to steward well the resources of this synod.

I say it often because it's true: ministry is shared! We are all, lay and ordained alike, called to do this work together in community. Thanks for being church together!

May the Holy Spirit strengthen, guide, and inspire all the faithful believers in our synod as we carry out the mission of the church, proclaim the good news of the Gospel through word and deed, and commit together to serve our neighbors and work for peace.



Baseball fans can now sign up for Lutheran Night at the Minnesota Twins. St. Luke has reserved a block of seats for the Twins game on Tuesday, Aug. 11 at 6:40 p.m., when the Twins take on the Baltimore Orioles. The tickets are \$34 each, and the seats are in Section 126, the same location as last year. If

COFFEE HOSTS

- 7 Emily and Matthew Elfritz,
Julie Gaarder
- 14 Carol Hornung, Joyce Bluel,
Joan Holtz, Joan Wilson
- 21 Wendy Bjorklund,
Karen Larson
- 28 Kay Reich,
Laurie Herrmann



Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for June: Kay Reich, Julie Ellingson, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, and Volker Landenberger.

June Birthdays

- 2 Lynda Mathison
- 3 Arlene Drier
- 11 Marie Elfritz
- 16 Evan Nelson, Trevor Weis
- 18 David Tews, Alex Grzywinski
- 21 Pastor Dave Person
- 22 George Heriot, Diane Nelson
- 24 Christine Olson
- 30 Karl and Charles Gaarder

June Anniversaries

- 9 Ellen and Trevor Weis
- 21 Elise and Jakob Kamp
- 23 Patricia and Mark Stadem



Notes from the Music Director - Becca Ruiz

During this Easter season, writing a weekly Psalm refrain has been a fun exercise. Sometimes I keep the suggested refrain verse, sometimes I'm inspired by a different one. The next step is to try to express the emotion or energy of the Psalm through the rhythm and harmony of the

you're interested, let David Tews know at church, or call or text him at 612-590-4184. To pay, either write a check to "David Tews" or pay him through his Venmo account (@David-Tews). Deadline is July 19.



Supper with Saints for June will take place on June 25th at 5:30 pm at Obb's Sport's Bar and Grill, 1347 Burns Ave. St Paul. Please let Joyce Bluel know by Sunday, June 21st if you plan on attending, so we have a number for the reservation.



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, Friday, June 5 and 19. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!



To Everything There Is a Season: The St. Luke's Farmers' Market season begins Saturday, June 13, and extends through Saturday, October 3, 8am to 1pm. This will be our 12th season of the market! 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). This year, 5 volunteers are needed most weeks during market hours to help in the information/card booth, cover our bread table and entrance tent, along with helping to set up and take down the market. 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 or 651-357-5742.

**SAVE THE DATE: 38th Annual
Fall Bazaar, October 10!**

melody. It's a weekly puzzle I overall enjoyed and sometimes felt a little whelmed by. As I prepared the final Psalm refrain for Ascension Sunday, I worried over whether or not the melodies were repetitive. Fortunately, Raulie is a patient partner and listened to me play through each week in succession. "So is it too same-y?" I asked. "No, they're all different." Relieved, I added chords to the new melody, my final puzzle for the season complete.

We have some musical fun coming up at St. Luke:

Sunday, July 12th, 8:30am

1 Hour Vocal Choir is back! 1 hour. 1 song sung that day in the service. All skill levels are welcome! We meet at 8:30 am to warm-up and learn our song.

Sunday, September 13th, 4:00pm

Piano Concert by Katherine Jacobson Fleisher and Thomas Hecht. I'll talk more about this in the next two newsletters as we get closer to the date!

Also, the summer is when the choir rests and a great time for any musicians at the church who'd like to share a solo piece! If you have a piece you'd like to play at a service, catch me after service or email me, bunkamade@gmail.com.

**Connect, Grow
and Serve.**

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