



# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Connect, Grow and Serve.*

## Parish Times January 2022

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St. Luke Lutheran Church  
1807 Field Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55116  
Phone: 651-698-9443 | [www.saintlukechurch.org](http://www.saintlukechurch.org)  
Editor: Jo Klein



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

Greetings St. Luke!

I am so excited to begin my ministry alongside and among you this year. Thanks to the many of you who joined online or in-person to celebrate my ordination in December, and thank you for the gift of the beautiful stole. What a joy and honor it is to become a pastor, and to become *your* pastor! My family and I already feel so welcomed by all of you.

These coming months will be filled with newness, as we get to know each other and discern together what might be next for St. Luke. How fitting that this newness begins in the liturgical season of Epiphany, when we celebrate the coming of new light into the world. It is a beautiful time to embrace hope and possibility.

And yet, this is also a time of great darkness. The days are short; the nights are long. There's also a darkness in our spirits, as we face the emerging threat of the Omicron variant in the already-too-long pandemic. Although Christmas has come and gone, it can feel like we are still waiting for the light to reach us. Waiting for relief from fear. Waiting for reunion with loved ones. Waiting for resolution to so much uncertainty.

If you find yourself feeling some of that weariness as you enter this Epiphany, I'd like to offer a prayer, from the ELCA's book for pastoral care. This is listed as a prayer for those who are afraid of losing hope:

*Loving God,  
inspire by your Holy Spirit all who are afraid of losing hope.  
Give us a fresh vision of your love, that we may find again what we have lost.  
Grant us your powerful deliverance;  
through the one who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.*

Even in the midst of darkness, what fresh vision of God's love is being revealed to you this season – in your home, in the church, in the world around you? How might you find hope growing from the roots of God's loving presence? What is being made new in your life right now? May this Epiphany time bring you a new and deeper understanding of the God who loves us.

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Bristol Reading

One more note: I hope to be able to connect with each of you soon, through a phone/video call or visit, as safety allows, but I hope you'll also feel free to reach out to me if you are needing care or support.

Introducing our 2022 St. Luke church council.  
We pray that our council will be empowered by the Holy Spirit, and we are grateful for their time and talents in the service of our congregation.

### St. Luke Lutheran Church Council 2022

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#### January Birthdays

- 1 Dusty Jensen
- 5 Dawn Peterson
- 13 Judy Candia
- 16 Nancy Hegdahl
- 27 Kevin Arndt
- 29 Norma Alexander
- 30 Sue McNeill
- 31 Kim McNamara



#### January Anniversaries

- 16 Judy and Jaime Candia 2021



#### LOAVES AND FISHES

Our heartfelt thanks to our December volunteers: David Tews, Larry Litzkow, and the Landenberger family.

#### January Scripture Readers

- 2 Christine Olson
- 9 Wendy Bjorklund
- 16 Sue McNeill
- 23 Barb Jensen
- 30 Kay Reich





Join us for our next Book Club on Sunday, Jan. 30, 6:30pm via Zoom to discuss “A Woman of No Importance”, by Sonia Purnell: “Purnell vividly resurrects an underappreciated hero and delivers an enthralling story of wartime intrigue...fans of WWII history and women’s history will be riveted.” — Publishers Weekly. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you. All are welcome!

### *A Prayer For The New Year*

Gracious Lord,

You spoke your Creation into being when you said “Let there be light.” And now, through your Son Jesus Christ, you bring your creation to another new year of light and life.

At the onset of this new year, give us the will to minister to those whom you have placed within our midst. Strengthen us in love that we may feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, care for the sick and reach out to the lost and forgotten sharing the good news of Christ and the power of your love. Bless your people with the presence of your Holy Spirit. In our uncertainties, give us assurance of your grace. In our doubts and fears, help us turn to you for guidance. In our pain and sickness, bring us healing and wholeness.

As we begin a new year in our earthly pilgrimage, bless us all according to your loving kindness, and bring us into the glory of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

[www.lutheranroots.com](http://www.lutheranroots.com)



## President's Corner



Happy 2022! It doesn't seem possible that another year is in the books! If you are like me, having 2021 come to a close is actually a welcome sight, with all the challenges presented in these past years. Working from home since March of 2020, zoom meetings, shots, mask up, don't mask up...we have endured a lot and we are still weathering this pandemic and probably will for a little bit longer. All these things can take a toll on us. I hope all of you were able to close out 2021 celebrating the birth of our Savior and the joy of the season.

The beginning of a new year is always a good time to look back at where we have been and ahead to where a new year may take us. St. Luke has been in transition for over a year and I want to thank Pastor Jacqueline Belzer for her guidance, teaching, and comforting words during this time. I also want to thank the church council leaders for pushing through this transition, Deacon Lind from the St. Paul Synod for her guidance, and the call committee for working together to interview the candidates and presenting one candidate. Also, a big thank you to the congregational members for their support and prayers for all of us during this transition.

On December 4, I was honored to be able to present Bristol Huffman Reading for ordination into the ministry of Word and Sacrament and be able to witness her new calling as Reverend Bristol Huffman Reading; what a glorious celebration it was. Pastor Bristol's official start date with St. Luke is January 3. As we enter into the New Year, our focus should be on taking the next steps with our new settled Pastor with our ears wide open. When we listen, we find the support we need from God, and an extra measure of patience, strength and endurance. There will always be challenges, but if we listen with our ears wide open God will help guide us together in the right direction.

Happy New Year,  
Nancy Heqdahl