



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

March 2026 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Listening to Jesus

Our Sunday morning Gospel readings in March will all come from the book of John. John's Gospel tells many stories that aren't found in the other Gospels. This month in particular, we'll hear lengthy conversations between Jesus and individual people with whom he interacted during his ministry. What a gift to get to hear so much from Jesus. We really get to listen deeply to what he has to say. I hope you'll spend time reading and reflecting on these rich texts, even outside of Sunday worship.

I've listed the readings here and lifted out specific lines Jesus speaks in each conversation. You might use these lines in your own prayer life this month, imagining what Jesus is saying to you through them now. If you'd like to spend even more time with these texts, I wrote a series of devotions for the season that are available online on our website (www.saintlukechurch.org/blog) or as printed copies in the sanctuary.

March 1: John 3:1-17, Jesus talks with the pharisee Nicodemus

Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him." (John 3:16-17)

March 8: John 4:1-30, Jesus talks with the Samaritan woman at the well

Pr. Bristol Reading

March 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:

Mary Jo Brandt, Carol Vigdal

READERS

1 Emily Elfritz

8 Wendy Bjorklund

15 Kay Reich

22 Jo Klein

29 Christine Olson

COMM. ASSTS.

1 Emily Elfritz

8 Wendy Bjorklund

15 Kay Reich

22 Doug Klein

29 Christine Olson

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Hegdahl, Christine Olson

COUNTERS

1 Katy Eggert

8 Kay Reich

15 Carol Hornung

22 Carol Hornung

29 Julie Gaarder

Jesus said, "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." (John 4:14)

March 15: John 9:1-41, Jesus heals a man born blind

Jesus said, "We must work the works of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:4-5)

March 22: John 11:1-45, Jesus raises Lazarus from the tomb

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-26)

Note: March 29 is Palm Sunday, which marks the beginning of Holy Week. On that day we read about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Easter is the following Sunday, April 5. We will also have 6 pm worship services on Maundy Thursday (April 2) and Good Friday (April 3). Please join us!

May your Lenten time be enriching and meaningful.
Pr. Bristol



Lent worship continues every Wednesday through March: March 4, 11, 18, and 25. We'll have a simple soup supper beginning at 6 pm, followed by a Lenten service. During Holy Week, you are invited to join us for 6pm service on both Maundy Thursday on April 2 and Good Friday on April 3. We will celebrate the resurrection with joy on Easter Sunday, April 5.



Supper with Saints for March will take place on March 21st at noon at LaCasita Mexican Restaurant, 1925 Perimeter Dr., Roseville. Please let Joyce Bluel know by Sunday, March 15 if you plan on attending, so we have a number for the reservation.

COFFEE HOSTS

- 1 Carol Vigdal
Mary Jo Brandt
- 8 Katy Eggert
Elise and Jakob Kamp
- 15 Karen Larson
Junella Litzkow
- 22 Julie Gaarder
Nancy Redlin
Don Clark



Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for March: Doug Klein, Kay Reich, Julie Ellingson, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl.

March Birthdays

- 6 Mark Stadem
- 7 Judy Salaba
- 10 Lois Porter
- 16 Susan Lorenz
- 18 Larry Eckstrom
- 22 Theo Moreno
- 31 Julie Gaarder
Robyn Rongstad

March Anniversaries

- 12 Mike Amundson
and Kimberly Tyl
- 19 Sue and Dan Grzywinski



**Notes from the
Music Director - Becca Ruiz**

We're fully in the season of Lent and it is one of my favorite seasons. I like the contemplative nature of it, the encouragement to look at oneself and try something different for a season, and how our midweek services start fully immersed in the dark but the light extends and reaches out to us as



There will be an audit of the church financials on Sunday, March 8 in the social hall after worship. This is an open meeting. Your participation will be welcomed and appreciated.



A Very Big Thank You to our Lent Soup Supper Hosts for March!

Mar. 4: Christine Olson and Karen Larson
Mar. 11: Junella Litzkow and Charlotte Sivanich
Mar. 18: Joyce Bluel and Nancy Redlin
Mar. 25: Julie Gaarder and Pastor Bristol



Council Spotlight! In 2026, the church council was so pleased to have Raulie Ruiz join us as our newest council member. While he needs no introduction to most, I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight that he's joined us and share a bit more about his time at St. Luke. Here are a few questions I asked him for you to get you know him more.

We're so glad you're here, Raulie! –Emily Elfriz

Q: Raulie, when did you join St. Luke?
A: We started going to St. Luke in 2017.

Q: What's your favorite St. Luke tradition?
A: My favorite tradition is Decking the Halls. It's amazing how quickly we can get the church looking fully festive with everyone working together!

Q: Why did you join the church council?
A: Seeing all of the different folks who have served over the years, and seeing that there was a need for someone new to step in, it seemed like it was the right time to take a turn.

we move towards Holy Week and Easter.

I also like it because the drama of it appeals to my drama kid roots and penchant for harsh, noisy music. As much as I love the kitschy side of Christmas music, I really love the drama of the music we use during Lent. One lyric that I've been thinking about is from the hymn, "Chief of Sinners Though I Be," verse 2:

“Oh, the height of Jesus' love!
Higher than the heav'ns above,
deeper than the depths of sea,
lasting as eternity. Love that
found me - wondrous thought -
found me when I sought him
not.”

I love the build of how expansive Jesus' love is to that last line, "Love that found me - wondrous thought - found me when I sought him not.". When considering how that love has found the hymnist, he interrupts himself with awe captured by " -wondrous thought - " so caught up was he in the emotion of it.

As we continue through Lent, I'm hoping to be as open while listening to the texts, singing hymns that tug at different emotions than we allow the rest of the year, to feel the extent of Jesus' love, to let it interrupt life with wondrous thought.



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, Friday, March 6 and 20. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

Q: What's something you're enthused about learning from or contributing to council?

A: I'm really just ready to learn all about how things are done and I'm hoping that I have a good perspective to offer that helps the council to continue to function at its best and for the church to thrive!

It is time to order your Gerten's Bedding Plants! It seems early, but spring is right around the corner. Orders will be taken online, as we did last year. To access the site and place an order for our fundraiser group: Go to www.gertensfundraising.com. Enter the Store ID code **135** into the text field and click 'Enter ID to Continue'. Our on-site store opened on February 17 and will close at 10 pm on Monday, April 6. We cannot accept any late orders past the deadline. ****PLEASE NOTE: Quantities are limited on fundraiser items. If an item sells out, it will be marked sold out on the website and you will not be able to continue to order that item.** Get your orders in early to avoid limited item availability! Please take note of the important dates below, and thanks in advance for your generosity!

Monday April 6: Close online ordering

Tuesday May 12: Pick-up bedding plants: 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month!

Each March, Minnesota FoodShare directs the March Campaign, the largest food drive in the state, and restocks 300 food shelves across Minnesota. So, during the month of March, we will be collecting donations of food and money for those in need. The food gathered will be donated to Neighborhood House, which is our local food shelf. Checks can be made out to St. Luke with a notation of "food drive" in the memo line. Thanks for all of your help!



Connect, Grow and Serve.



With Easter right around the corner, it is time to think about decorating the sanctuary with flowers. This year we will be selling Easter lilies and other plants that can be used in our Easter floral display in our sanctuary. Beginning on Sunday, Feb 15 and running through Sunday, March 8, we will be taking orders for Easter flowers. Payment will be due at time of order; checks should be made out to St. Luke Lutheran. Please visit the table in the social hall during coffee fellowship to see what is available and place an order for your plants. Dates for pickup of plants to be announced. If you would like to include them in the Easter floral display, they can be taken home after worship that day.

We invite you to partake in a Lenten Devotions series by Pr. Bristol. Lent is a season of reflection, calling us to examine the state of our spirits: Are we growing deeper in God's mercy? Is our prayer life vibrant? Are we turning from sin toward new life in Christ? These weeks prepare us for Holy Week and the Easter promise of forgiveness and eternal life. The discipline of Lent points us toward that hope. Hard copies of the devotions are available, or click [here](#) for the online version. May these reflections help you pause, listen, and draw near to the wonder of Christ's resurrection.