



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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Editor: Jo Klein

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Open doors, open hearts, open minds.*

## Parish Times March 2019

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

#### **A Journey of the Heart | Pr. John Keller**

A simple form of prayer rarely used is imaginative meditation. It is a spiritual exercise based on Jesus' promise in Matthew 28:20, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the close of the ages." The method has helped me enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. It involves taking imaginary trip to a favorite peace-filled place. Many people (especially during a Minnesota winter) might choose a tropical beach with warm breezes and rhythmic surf. Or a beautiful garden that is under a brilliant blue sky and filled with fragrant blooms. I choose the Cowlitz Ridge near Mt. Rainier.

I hiked the ridge once, over forty years ago. The week before I left for my freshman year of college, my friend Marv and I decided on one last hike together. We picked a three-day trip along the Wonderland trail which circles Mt. Rainier. At first we climbed steep switchbacks up out of a dark forested river canyon. As we near the top of the ridge we stepped out of the shaded forest into brilliant sunshine and a spectacular view of Mt. Rainier. We camped in that meadow for two nights, soaking up the beauty and wonder of that ridge.

Now whenever I want a special time of prayer, I mentally imagine a journey to that same spot. The only difference is that I take the imaginary trip with Jesus as my guide and friend. While we sit together in that mountain meadow, I share with Jesus whatever anxieties, fears or resentments I may be carrying. I also share my gratitude and hopes. For many reasons, I find rest, comfort, strength, hope in visualizing him there with me. As I meditate a deep abiding peace grows up around me. After a time, my thoughts cease and I simply sit with Jesus. I realize that I could imagine Jesus with me in other locations, but that mountain meadow has become a very holy place within my imagination.

You can try this spiritual exercise at home. Find a quiet spot to sit where you can be undisturbed for several minutes. Close your eyes and imagine yourself traveling to your favorite peaceful place. Visualize the place in your mind: the view, the fragrances and the sounds. Make it as real as possible in your mind. Then invite Jesus to join you and visualize his walking up beside you and being with you. Share from your heart whatever joys or sorrows, fears or dreams that you have. Simply be with him as long as you like. When you are ready to leave, say good b, imagine the journey back to your present location, but also carry with you whatever peace or light you may have discovered during the imaginative journey.

I sometimes wonder if I will ever make the hike back to Cowlitz Ridge. I might, but it is not essential to my spiritual life. The essential part remains Jesus who is my guide and source of peace and joy wherever I am.



### Usher Notes

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

**There will be an audit** of the church financials on Sunday, March 3 after worship. This is an open meeting; your participation will be welcomed and appreciated.



A big thank you to our March Bun Volunteers: Larry Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl, David Tews, Ken McGrew.



**We are in need** of Loaves and Fishes meals volunteers to help prepare (4pm to 5pm) and serve (5pm to 6pm) at St. Matthew every fourth Monday of the month. There is also a need for cleanup after the food service around 6pm. It is a fairly short time commitment, but a very fulfilling experience. If you have any questions or are willing to volunteer, please contact Joyce Bluel at church or at 651-690-4614.



### March Birthdays

- 2 Amy Hope
- 3 Abigail Winecke
- 4 Carl Elliott
- 6 Mark Stadem
- 7 Judy Salaba
- 10 Amelia Mathis
- Lois Porter
- 13 David Verschoyle
- 16 Susan Lorenz
- 18 Jacob Arndt
- Larry Eckstrom
- Lisa Beiswenger
- 22 Alex Klein
- 26 Sheridan Moore
- 31 Julie Gaarder
- Robyn Rongstad
- Ralph Skoe



### March Anniversaries

- 12 Mike Amundson/Kimberly Tyl: 2004
- 22 Dick and Dee Plagens: 1975
- 19 Sue and Dan Grzywinski: 1977



**Come one, come all** to a festive Mardi Gras Celebration on March 2 at St. Luke, 5pm to 7pm....a time for fellowship, great food and fun activities including face masks! Freewill donation to benefit our Loaves and Fishes Program. We also invite you to bring non-perishable food items for our March Foodshare drive. **Please, we need help with set-up and clean up...**can you pitch in? if so, please sign up on the kiosk asap. Mark your calendars, invite your family and friends!

## March WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### Readers

- 3 Beth Peterson
- 10 David Tews
- 17 Katy Eggert
- 24 Laurie Herrmann
- 31 Wendy Bjorklund

### Communion

- 3 Joan Wilson
- 17 Katy Eggert



**Ladies Night Out** in March will take place on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Olive Garden, 1525 County Rd C in Roseville at 5:30 p.m. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) by Sunday, March 17 if you are planning on attending so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.



**Set your clocks ahead March 10!**



### March Acolytes

- 3 Alek Landenberger
- 17 Evan Nelson

## Lent at St. Luke and St. Mark

Lent is a season for renewed spiritual discipline and growth. The forty days provide us with the opportunity to try new spiritual practices or deepen our ongoing life in Christ. Both St. Mark and St. Luke will have additional worship opportunities as listed below.

### Ash Wednesday, March 6

- Noon Worship at **St. Luke**
- 7pm Worship at **St. Mark**

### Midweek Lenten Worship, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10

- 6pm Soup Supper at **St. Mark** with St. Stanislaus (at St. Stan on March 20 and April 3), worship follows at 7pm
- 6:45pm Holden Evening Worship with Video Series at **St. Luke**

### Maundy Thursday, April 18

- Noon Worship at **St. Mark**
- 7pm Worship at **St. Luke**

### Good Friday, April 19

- Noon Neighborhood Cross Walk at **St. Mark**
- 7pm Worship at **St. Luke**

You are encouraged to worship at the time and location that works best for you. May your walk with Christ deepen during Lent.



## LENT: A season of preparation



It's a means, not an end.  
It's a road...  
with the Holy Resurrection  
as our destination.



## 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. It recruits thousands of congregations, companies, schools and civic groups to run local food and fund drives to aid in the effort.

Minnesota FoodShare actively promotes statewide food shelf donations, provides resources for food drive organizers, distributes funds to participating Minnesota food shelves, lobbies lawmakers on the behalf of those who are hungry, and educates the public about hunger in 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 St. Francis Basket, which is our neighborhood's 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!

**Announcing Annual Gertens Flower Fundraiser!** We will be available on March 10, 17 and March 24 after worship to take your flower orders for Easter. (Please note: we have volunteers to take order for 3-10 and 3-24...we need someone to take orders for 3-17....**can YOU help??** If so, let Jo Klein know asap!) Varieties include Lilies, tulips, Azalea and more. Flowers will be delivered to church on April 20. If you wish, you may leave your flower purchases at church to use for our glorious floral display for Easter Day (April 21). You may take your flowers home after the 9:30 a.m. Easter service. Thank you!

Prices are as follows:

- 6" Lily: \$12
- 8" Lily: \$20
- Hydrangea: \$18
- Azalea: \$18
- Mums: \$12
- Bulb garden: \$12
- Calla lily: \$18
- Hyacinth: \$10
- Tulips: \$10
- Pansy bowls: \$16







### *Musings from the Music Director*

As we enter March, we begin our journey in Lent and tuck away the alleluias until Easter. As I combed the readings for inspiration, I was ready to delve into the somber hymns and embrace the minor keys. But it wasn't what I found this year. I noticed the natural world being used to paint a stark picture and really bring to light God's strength and His mercy. I noticed the words of joy and praise in the readings. I saw the fire, the arid landscapes, but what caught my mind and ear were the words to stand firm, that God is our refuge, that we sow tears but reap joy. The feeling of Lent is there, though not in sorrow, it is the hope of what happens after Lent and trusting God to lead us there. As I tried to express my thoughts, I found myself opening to the hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" by Elizabeth Clephane. As she writes in the second verse, "And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness." That hymn segues into my other March note - I will be writing a 4-week blog series featuring female hymnists for Women's History Month and will correlate with a hymn sung the previous Sunday. Plus, join me for a Hymn Sing on March 10th featuring more hymns by women where we will sing "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" and a few other hymns that might surprise you.

-Becca Ruiz

Hello St. Luke Members,

I'm writing this before things are finalized, but I trust they will be soon. You will have voted to ratify our new constitution, along with approving our Shared Ministry Agreement with St. Mark and our Ministry Site Profile on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Perhaps that won't happen, but I think it will. Over the past several months of sharing Pr. John with St. Mark, we've realized the benefits this arrangement can bring to us, and some of our fears have been put to rest. That said, some things have needed to change.

The biggest change is that we're moving our worship service to 8:30am beginning Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> and St. Mark's worship service will be at 10am. St. Mark members truly believe they have lost attendance and perhaps members because their worship service moved from 9:30am to 10:30am. That was a big change. Our worship service time didn't change at all. So, this is a compromise and we'll see if it works. Please realize, all of these agreements are fluid. They can be changed, but first they need to stay in place long enough to see if they'll work. We'll revisit worship times, but not for at least 6 months.

I am very excited to move into the call process. You have elected your Call Committee. We were very fortunate to have more nominees than positions (as we did when we called Pr. Dave). The Call Committee's work is very time consuming and will influence the direction of this church for a long time. Whether elected or not, everyone on the ballot deserves recognition for being willing to do that hard work and I am so grateful for the people who were willing to stand up and say, "I can do this." Whether on the committee or not, we will need every one of you to be willing to participate in the call process by meeting our candidate, placing your vote, and then helping that person become adjusted to this new position ... especially since a shared ministry call in an urban environment is new, indeed.

I feel so blessed by all of you. We are doing hard work. But, you step up to volunteer your time and share your collective wisdom. I want to thank the people who worked on the documents who helped get us to this point: Sue Mc Neill, Jackie Brueggemann (from St. Mark), Jo Klein, Laurie Herrmann, Roger & Dianne Diestler, Pr. John and Pr. Joe. They did the heavy lifting to get us to this point. I hope I'm not missing anyone and if I am, please know it's not intentional.

The Bible verse I want to share is this: "A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on water; and they were terrified. But, he said to them, 'It is I, don't be afraid.' Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading," (John 6: 18-21, NIV). I think that even though sometimes these feel like turbulent, stormy times, if we invite Jesus into our boat, we'll be fine. We are his church, put here to do his work. If we listen to him, we'll be OK.

My best to you all.  
-Wendy Bjorklund

