



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

July 2023 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective *Pr. Bristol Reading*

The hidden treasure of Jesus' parables

Our Gospel readings for July bring us some of Jesus' teaching parables. Jesus often used this enigmatic form of storytelling to describe God's mission in the world. For instance, Jesus will say that the kingdom of God is like a planted mustard seed, a bit of yeast in dough, buried treasure, a fine pearl, and a net full of fish (see Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52, the Gospel reading for July 30). What are we to make of all these disparate images?

One element to each of these metaphors is their hiddenness. A mustard seed's potential to grow into a large, sprawling shrub is hidden within its tiny shell. Yeast likewise has a hidden potential to change the nature and shape of the dough into which it is mixed. The buried treasure is hidden until it is discovered, the pearl's value is hidden until it is accurately assessed, and the fish are hidden beneath the ocean's waves until they are hauled above.

So it seems that there is something about the kingdom of God that is bigger and more valuable than it appears at first. One needs to do a little bit of uncovering to find its deeper worth, and not everyone will take a second look.

Or maybe Jesus meant something else entirely! Every time you come back to Jesus' parables, you might find new meaning in their imagery. In that sense, reading parables can be a little perplexing because they're like puzzles without a singular, clear answer. We can come away wondering why Jesus didn't just come out and say what he meant!

July

Worship Volunteers:
We are grateful for
your participation!

USHERS

In Person:

First and Second Sundays:

Volker Landenberger

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Mike and Nancy Hegdahl

Online:

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David NedreLOW

OFFERING COUNTERS

2 Katy Eggert

9 Wendy Bjorklund

16 Joyce Bluel

23 Kay Reich

READERS

2 Christine Olson

9 Kay Reich

16 Wendy Bjorklund

23 Joyce Bluel

30 Jo Klein

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

2 Christine Olson

16 Wendy Bjorklund

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Hegdahl

I love Barbara Brown Taylor's insight that the mystifying nature of parables might just be the point. "If anyone in the world were qualified to speak directly about God, surely it was Jesus," she writes, "and yet he too spoke indirectly, making surprising comparisons between holy things and ordinary things, breaking open our everyday understanding of things and inviting us to explore them all over again" (*The Seeds of Heaven: Sermons on the Gospel of Matthew*, p. 41).

I find that to be true. Jesus' parables leave me *wondering*: they leave me with a sense of curiosity and wonder. Not only about the kingdom of God and what it's like, but also about all the ordinary things around me. If the kingdom of God could be hidden in a seed or bread dough, where else might the sacred be hidden among my ordinary life? Is the kingdom of God like a recipe box, a soft throw blanket, a dandelion? The wondering fosters an attentiveness and gratitude that becomes a gift in itself. So I guess I *am* learning something from Jesus' parables, even if I'm still not entirely sure what they mean.



The **Fourth of July** marks the high point of summer in many ways. First and foremost, it recognizes the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted back in 1776, launching what would become the Great Experiment we call the United States of America. Let us all celebrate our nation's birthday together, even though we sometimes look less than united.

Fourth of July week is also a popular time to go "up north" and enjoy the lakes and other vacation destinations in the beautiful Upper Midwest. Find time to relax and enjoy it!

The **Farmers' Market** in our parking lot is off to a good start, with over 160 people attending opening weekend. Stop by some Saturday morning to support our vendors and treat yourself to some healthy and delicious local produce. Thank you Wendy Bjorklund, Laurie Herrmann, and the other volunteers who help make this resource available every Saturday.

There was good turnout for the **potluck with St. Mark** on Sunday, June 25. We moved it inside due to the threat of rain, but everyone still seemed to enjoy the array of delicious food and lively conversation.

Another upcoming event is **National Night Out** for people in our neighborhood on Tuesday, Aug. 1. Weather permitting, it will be held on the greenspace next to the church. Mike Hegdahl has



Loaves and Fishes

Our heartfelt thanks to our June Loaves and Fishes volunteers: Bev Gause, Christine Olson and David Tews.



Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for July: Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew, Doug Klein, Larry and Junella Litzkow, Julie Ellingson.

July Birthdays

- 7 Carol Hornung, Ian Walter
- 8 Joyce Bluel
- 15 Doug Wasko, Madison Munos
- 16 Wendy Bjorklund
- 17 Pam Ballis
- 20 Peter Klein
- 23 Jo Klein
- 26 Jill Burchill, Tatum Herrmann
- 28 Dan Grzywinski

July Anniversaries

- 6 Kevin and Mary Jo Brandt: 1991
- 13 Larry and Bev Eckstrom: 2001



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, the first and third Fridays of the month, July 7 and 21, at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

Ladies, are you looking for a quiet weekend away? Announcing a Quilt Auction/Silent Auction Weekend at Camp Onomia, September 15th (Friday night thru Sunday

volunteered to do the grilling, and the people attending are asked to bring a dish to share.

Get ready, **Twins baseball** fans! St. Luke has a block of seats reserved for **Lutheran Night** at Target Field on Tuesday, Aug. 15 at 6:40 p.m. We're in Section 126 on the third-base side. Tickets are \$37 each (kids under 30 inches tall are free). It's also Dollar Hot Dog Night. If you're interested, there's a sign-up sheet at church on Sundays, or you can contact me at dtews.mn@gmail.com or 612-590-4184. Payment is due by Sunday, July 23. You can pay me by cash, check, or Venmo (@David-Tews), and I'll pay the Twins. Some of us plan to take the light rail from the Fort Snelling station to Target Field.

Mark your calendars: We'll be **worshipping with St. Mark** members on Sunday, July 30 at 9:30 a.m. at their church, St. Mark Lutheran, 550 Seventh St. W. (across from Mancini's). This continues a tradition that St. Luke and St. Mark started years ago to worship together whenever a month had five Sundays. On Sunday, Oct. 29, it will be St. Luke's turn to host a joint worship service.

Happy Birthday, America! Enjoy your summer vacations, everyone!

Yours in Christ, David Tews

Fall Bazaar

The Annual Church Bazaar, a 35-year tradition, will be held at St. Luke on Saturday, October 14, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. We shall once more extend a warm invitation to our church home to our friends, family, and neighbors. Our congregation continues to have a great reputation for coming together as a group to provide the best crafts and delectable treats available. So remember to mark your calendars and make plans to go!

We desperately need volunteers because this event wouldn't be possible without them! If you are interested in helping, please contact one of the bazaar organizers: Susan Grzywinski (651-343-1453) or Nancy Hegdahl (651-600-8179). **GREAT NEWS:** two people have stepped up to help: Beth Peterson will organize the kitchen, and Deb Vigdal will oversee the bake sale. Thank you, Beth and Deb! **We are still in need of an individual to organize the rummage sale.** Once more, the Fall Bazaar will enable St. Luke Church to provide fellowship in our church home to both new friends and possible new members, as well as to our current members, friends, and neighbors. So kindly assist us in organizing an occasion that we can all be proud of, enjoy together, and use to foster a sense of community.



morning), 14202 Shakopee Lake Road, Onamia. Two nights, 4 meals adult rate is \$112 per person. There is also a one-night Auction Weekend special rate of \$40 for one night and 2 meals. Call 320-532-3767 to reserve your room space for the Auction Weekend; they fill up fast. Relax with long walks on the beautiful trails, reading, crafts that have been waiting to be finished, sitting in the sun in their gazebo or deck, playing games, shopping, much laughter, and lots of napping if that is what you desire! Join us!

St. Mark/St. Luke Supper with Saints will be held at Shamrock's, 995 W. 7th St., on Thursday, July 27th at 5:00 p.m. If interested in attending, please let Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) know by July 23rd so that we have an idea for the reservation.

Join us for Book Club on Sunday, July 30, 6:30pm. We will discuss the classic "Love Medicine" by Louise Erdrich: "A multigenerational portrait of strong men and women caught in an unforgettable whirlwind of anger, desire, and the healing power that is love medicine." "The beauty of *Love Medicine* saves us from being completely devastated by its power." — Toni Morrison. Location TBA. All are welcome!

Joint Worship

Fifth Sundays with St. Mark On **July 30**, the fifth Sunday in July, St. Mark will host worship for both congregations at their site, 550 7th Street West. There will be no worship held at St. Luke that morning; all are invited to join at St. Mark. The next fifth Sunday is **Oct. 29**, when we will host worship for both congregations at our building.



LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE MN TWINS GAME

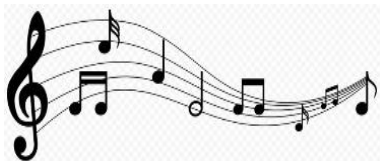
Lutheran Night Aug. 15 at the Twins Game

Tuesday, Aug. 15 is **Lutheran Night** when the Minnesota Twins play the Detroit Tigers. St. Luke has a block of 30 seats reserved at \$37 per ticket. If you're interested, David Tews will have a sign-up sheet at church or you can email him at dtews.mn@gmail.com. Payment is due by July 20. Go Twins!



National Night Out

We are looking for volunteers to help at the National Night Out event being hosted by St. Luke on August 1st. The event begins at 5:00 p.m., so we need people to set up tables and chairs between 4:30 and 5:00. We will also need helpers to take down and put away the tables and chairs after the event is over (this would be sometime after 8:00 p.m.) If your neighborhood does not celebrate National Night Out, why not come to church, and help us welcome and get to know our church neighbors? We will be providing hamburgers/hotdogs and water; all we ask is that you bring a dish to share. Live entertainment will once again be provided by a talented group of musicians. Come join the fun. **If you can help in set up and/or clean up, please contact Joyce Bluel (690-4614).** Thanks!



Notes from the Music Director

Come one, come all to our Fall Music Preview, Sunday August 20th! We'll start 15 minutes after church and preview the fall hymns, sing a few favorites, and have fun! See you there!

Farmers Market

We need volunteers for the Farmers Market at St. Luke Saturdays, through October 7! (**Note: the market will be closed July 1 in observance of Independence Day.**) You may work a single shift: 730am to 1030am OR 1030am to 130pm, OR a double shift: 730am to 130pm. Most of the work is in the first and last half hour--just setting up tables and signs, etc.--the rest of the time you mostly sit and greet the shoppers, bask in the morning sun and take in the wonderful sights, sounds and aromas of our small but lively, thriving market! June and July are scheduled, **but we have openings August 5 and 19, every Saturday in September, and October 7.** If you are willing and able to help, please let Wendy Bjorklund know asap at wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu. Also, we will be collecting donations for the Farmers Market through our Sunday offering jar; this is another great way to support this worthy cause. THANKS IN ADVANCE for your support! We can't do this without you!



The baked goodies are always a big hit at the St. Luke Farmer's Market!