



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

May 2024 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Pr. Bristol Reading

Rejoicing and Weeping Together as a Community

Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep.
Live in harmony with one another.

--Romans 12:15-16a

“The best testimony to the truth of the gospel is the quality of our life together...The character of our shared life— as congregations, communities, and families—has the power to draw people to the kingdom or to push them away. How we live together is the most persuasive sermon we’ll ever get to preach...A combination of grace, fidelity, and truth makes communities safe enough for people to take the risks that are necessary for growth and transformation.”

--Christine Pohl, *Living into Community*

The apostle Paul encouraged the early church to share in one another’s joys and sorrows, to both rejoice and weep together. This is something Saint Luke does so well! There is a lot of genuine love and friendship in this community. This month we will have a lot of opportunities to live into that part of our identity.

On May 5, we will welcome some new members to our congregation: Cristina Dredla, Peter and Megan Allen, and their two children Everett and Violet. They have all been active in our worship life and fellowship for a few months, but this will give us a chance to welcome them more formally and to reaffirm our

May Volunteers

Thanks for your participation!

IN PERSON USHERS

First and Second Sundays:

Doug Klein

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Kay Reich and Carol Hornung

ONLINE USHERS

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David Nedrelow

OFFERING COUNTERS

5 Katy Eggert

12 Julie Gaarder

19 Kay Reich

26 Sue McNeill

READERS

5 Mike Hegdahl

12 Julie Gaarder

19 Wendy Bjorklund

26 Cristina Dredla

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

5 Doug Klein

12 Julie Gaarder

19 Wendy Bjorklund

26 Cristina Dredla

COFFEE HOSTS

5 Junella and Larry Litzkow
Julie Ellingson

12 Kay Reich

Julie Gaarder

19 Vigdal Family

commitment to one another as a family of faith.

On May 11, we'll celebrate the life of Dianne Diestler, a longtime member of this congregation who died in February. Dianne was such an involved part of this community, and she is dearly missed. Funerals are a very powerful testament to the importance of community as we come together to support the family and to remember someone we have all loved together.

On May 19, we'll have the joy of sharing in the baptism of Carol Vigdal's great-granddaughter Blakelynn (daughter of Wyatt and Brandi, granddaughter of Holly). Wyatt, Brandi, and Blakelynn do not live locally, but they are part of the wider family of Saint Luke that extends to many generations and many states! We are all together part of God's great family.

May 19 is also, fittingly, Pentecost Sunday, the day when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit that descended on the disciples with lively sparks of fire and powerful gusts of wind. That dynamic spirit still animates the church today. It draws us together into this community, leads us through times of change, and gives us a vision for the future.

When we care for one another, grieve with one another, and celebrate with one another, we are living into the vision of the church that Jesus gave those first disciples. We are following his commandment to love one another. What a privilege it is to do so!

Thank you for being a community together in Christ!



What's that saying? "April showers bring May flowers"? We definitely received a healthy dose of rain in April, lessening the worry about last year's drought and the relatively dry winter. On my walks, I've enjoyed seeing the daffodils, tulips, and other early flowers that mark the emerging Spring season. I look forward to the coming progression of blooms that will adorn our gardens and, with Christine's green thumb, the altar area at St. Luke.

The designated charity for jar and online donations in March and April has been the Francis Basket Food Market at Sibley Manor (operated by Neighborhood House). Thanks to everyone who donated cash and food to this worthwhile cause that benefits people

26 Katy Eggert
Sandy Pilgrim

ALTAR GUILD

Kay Reich



Bun Run

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

May Birthdays

1 Jodi Landenberger
4 Michael Amundson
5 Michael Reading
7 Emily Elfritz
7 Casey Sivanich
12 Julie Ellingson
18 Katy Eggert,
Larry Litzkow
21 Dan Vigdal,
MaryJo Brandt
28 Patricia Stadem

May Anniversaries

11 Robert and Lois Porter
22 Dan and Deborah Vigdal
30 Tom and Julie Gaarder



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, the first and third Fridays of the month, May 3 and 17, at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

Supper with Saints

The next **Supper with Saints** will be held on May 23rd at 5:30pm at Zen Asia, 1011 Meadowlands Dr., White Bear Lake. If you plan on attending,

in our neighborhood.

May jar and online donations will go to a local non-profit called Small Sums. Their mission is “to outfit individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness with the work gear, tools, training, and transportation they need to start a new job.” A worthy cause indeed! Thank you to the person who suggested we support this St. Paul-based organization.

Special thanks to the people who took the initiative to declutter and clean up the meeting room in the east wing. Once a catch-all storage room, it is now a beautiful and welcoming space. My jaw dropped when I walked in and saw what a nice space it is now. I know several people were involved in the cleanup, and I appreciate the extra effort you made to make the room usable again.

Speaking of cleanup, I am writing this column before the designated cleanup day on April 27, but I know a dedicated crew of volunteers (the usual suspects, no doubt) will roll up their sleeves to make the church sparkle. Thanks in advance for your hard work.

I am bummed that I missed the talent show on April 20 due to a prior commitment. The reports I’ve heard say that it was a rousing success, although a bit smaller than last year’s event. I’m especially disappointed that I missed Volker’s performance of a song by Rammstein, a German heavy-metal band.

Don’t forget the memorial for Dianne Diestler at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 11. We will gather to celebrate her life and remember the joy that she brought to all of us.

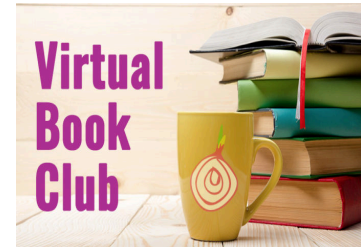
Breaking news for baseball fans! St. Luke has reserved a block of seats for Lutheran Night at the Minnesota Twins game on Monday, Aug. 12 at 6:40 p.m., when the Twins take on the Kansas City Royals. The tickets are \$39 each, and the seats are in Section 126, the same location as last year. Save the date and watch for details about signing up.

Are you interested in ushering? We need two ushers for the first and second Sundays in the months of March, June, September, and December. Duties include lighting the candles, greeting people and handing out bulletins, counting attendance, passing the collection plates, and guiding people for communion. (Thank you to Laurie and Ava for ushering over the past year.) If you are interested in ushering, please talk to me, Pastor Bristol, or one of the other ushers.

Enjoy the flowers of Spring!

Yours in Christ,
David Tews

please let Joyce Bluel know by May 19th so we have the number needed for reservation.



Join us for St. Luke Book Club, Sunday May 19, 6:30pm, via Zoom, to discuss “Horse: A Novel”, by Geraldine Brooks. “*Horse* isn’t just an animal story—it’s a moving narrative about race and art.” —*TIME*.

“A discarded painting in a junk pile, a skeleton in an attic, and the greatest racehorse in American history: from these strands, a Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history.” The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome!



Notes from the Music Director

A bunch of thanks are in order this month:

Thank you choirs for all your work this choral season and making our Holy Week and Easter services so special! **Thank you Talent Show Talents and Karaoke singers** for your entertainment this year! **Thank you Jodi** for helming the kitchen and creating delightful eats! Also **thank you to all who brought food** for the Talent show! **Thank you soloists, Sue and Jo**, for bringing your lovely voices and



Spring Bedding Plant Fundraiser from Gertens Just a reminder that if you ordered plants from the online store for the fundraiser, your plants will be available for pickup between 5:00 and 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 14th in the Social Hall. If you are unable to pick them up at that time, please contact Joyce Bluel to arrange a different pick up time. Thank you for your orders, the funds raised from this sale will be used to support the St. Luke Farmer's Market.

March Food Drive

Thanks to all of you who contributed to this drive during the Minnesota Foodshare March Campaign. I delivered about a dozen bags of groceries to the Neighborhood House's hub location on the West Side. Food donations are collected there, but ours will be distributed to St. Francis Basket. In addition, we raised \$130 in cash donations (not including donations to "the jar"). We will continue to collect donations in "the jar" through the month of April and will send a separate check to St. Francis Basket for them at the end of the month. Our members are always so generous, and St. Francis Basket appreciates our support.

-Wendy Bjorklund

St. Luke's Farmers' Market

To Everything There Is a Season: The St. Luke's Farmers' Market tenth season begins Saturday, June 8, and extends through Saturday, October 5, 8am to 1pm. Aside from Expectancy Coffee (Denzell has accepted a new job in Colorado and is moving), all our vendors will be returning to the market this season. Yes, we are actively pursuing a new coffee vendor. We will continue to have a handwashing station and hand sanitizer at the east entrance of the market, along with an entrance tent and market greeters. 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). In addition to the market co-managers, 4 volunteers are needed during market hours to cover our bread table and entrance tent, along with helping to set up and take down the market. Watch for an emailed signup sheet that will be sent at the beginning of May. 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.

Connect, Grow and Serve.

music to our services!

All are invited to join me in the sanctuary after service on **Sunday, June 9th** to sing hymns together, talk about music in our services and think about what new things we might like to sing in the future.

Thinking of music in our services, through Lent and Easter we have explored different ways of experiencing the Psalm other than traditional chanting: we've used a refrain, spoken it and sung hymns inspired by the Psalms. Has one of these ways connected with you? Changed the way you think of or hear the Psalm? I'd love to know!

-Rebecca Ruiz



Announcing another Craft and Chat! Do you crochet, knit, sew, embroider, scrapbook, or create in some other way? Craft and Chat is for you! Pack up your current project and bring it over to work on after worship on Sunday, May 19 (around 11am). There are no group projects or rules about what you may work on; just a time for people to share, show off, and perhaps learn new skills from fellow crafters. This may be the motivation you need to finally finish that afghan you've been working on (or the like)! Lunch will be served...all are welcome...invite a friend or two! Join us for a relaxing, enjoyable afternoon with friends!