



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

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Connect, Grow and Serve.*

## Parish Times May 2021



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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your participation and response to our Safe Team survey! The information we gathered from the survey was very helpful to the council. It was prayerfully discussed and processed by all. We saw the wide variety of comfort levels within St. Luke members on returning to in-person services, which is probably reflective of our society as well. The information has also been shared with the Synod.

The Safe Team met several times for "special meetings" in order to approve a thoughtful plan for reopening the doors of St. Luke for in-person gatherings. Our aim is to do our best to safely include everyone wherever they are with regard to comfort level. I am very proud of our council members and ministry teams who have shown great wisdom, love, and courage as we move forward into uncharted territory.

We realize that there are differences of opinion regarding how best to move forward as a society, even among faithful followers of Christ. We all see the world a little differently because we all come from different life experiences and situations. We are also aware that we all have different comfort levels in interacting with others during this pandemic. In the mist of these realities, we want to encourage all to be patient and kind to one another (1 Corinthians 13:4). Our Lord commands us to love one another for that is how we will show the world the truth of God's love (John: 13:35).

We want to remind you that we are all trying to do our best in this unprecedented time. When it comes to reopening the church doors, there is a lot to consider. Thank you for your grace.

We will continue live-stream services with the in-person services for those staying home. This will be something we continue as our new normal, even beyond the pandemic. The council members are proposing to re-open St. Luke's doors in June. The council and Safe Team continue to review guidelines on any suspected surges and new variations. We want to remind you that this pandemic is an ever-changing and evolving situation. Our council/team members are working tirelessly searching for the latest information on guidelines, and to have a comprehensive understanding on protocols for health and safety. We are very hopeful that the availability of vaccinations has increased, and will certainly have a positive impact on our in-person meetings.

The Easter season invites us to know how wonderful we are because of Baptism, and who we are because of the Eucharist. Baptism and Communion are the sources of life, here in this world and in the world to come. COVID has threatened to separate us from the liturgy and one another. But it has also taught us our dependence on God and increases our hunger for communion in Word, Sacrament and fellowship.

May we witness to Jesus by longing to be one again by sharing this joyful mystery with everyone we know and meet. Let us embrace the change and make the best of it. In God's word from Romans 5:3-5 (NRSV): "3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

We love you and look forward to seeing you when the time is right.

Faithfully, your sister in Christ,  
Interim Pastor Jacqueline Belzer

### **Saint Luke Appreciates Your Continued Offerings**

Even though church services are currently suspended, you can still give to St. Luke to help support our mission to serve the people in our congregation and in our community. A new "Ways to Give" page on St. Luke's website explains how you can give in three ways—by mail, online, and using a mobile app.

You can make electronic offerings using a credit or debit card or by withdrawal directly from a bank account (EFT transaction). EFT transactions are preferred because the fees are lower. For more information, go to [saintlukechurch.org](http://saintlukechurch.org) and click "Ways to Give" at the top. Your gifts are appreciated!



**GIVE FROM THE HEART**

## **Church Council**

The official minutes of each council meeting can be obtained through the church office. If you have any questions, please contact any church council member. The council meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday. Meetings are open to the congregation, and all are welcome. Currently the church council is meeting by video conferencing. If you would like to attend, contact any church council member.

### **2021 Church Council Members**

Sue McNeill, President,  
[suemc1493@gmail.com](mailto:suemc1493@gmail.com)

Kay Reich, Secretary,  
[kernkamp.reich@gmail.com](mailto:kernkamp.reich@gmail.com)

Joyce Bluel, Treasurer,  
[JBluel@comcast.net](mailto:JBluel@comcast.net)

David Tews, Member at Large,  
[dtews.mn@gmail.com](mailto:dtews.mn@gmail.com)

Wendy Bjorklund, Member at Large,  
[wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu)

Jill Burchill, Member at Large,  
[jillkburchill@gmail.com](mailto:jillkburchill@gmail.com)



## **May Birthdays**

- 1 Jodi Landenberger
- 3 Alivia Mathis
- 4 Michael Amundson
- 6 Reginald Czech
- 9 Kent Peterson
- 10 Maleah Mathis
- 11 Ian Holmly
- 12 Julie Ellingson
- 18 Katy Eggert, Larry Litzkow
- 21 Dan Vigdal, MaryJo Brandt
- 22 Lucy Pilgrim
- 26 Kayla Stadem
- 28 Patricia Stadem, Sue Palm



## **May Anniversaries**

- 11 Robert & Lois Porter: 1968
- 22 Dan & Deborah Vigdal: 1971
- 30 Tom & Julie Gaarder: 1992

### **To Everything There Is a Season**

The St. Luke's Farmers' Market season begins Saturday, **June 12**, and extends through Saturday, October 2. Hours will be 8am to 1pm. We will open with safety accommodations, such as social distancing, a controlled flow of customer traffic, handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, etc. These match the MN Dept. of Agriculture requirements. At least initially, we will require our volunteers and vendors to wear masks (masks will be encouraged for our customers) per the CDC's recommendations. These accommodations will again necessitate several volunteers per Saturday. 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, **at least 3-4 volunteers are needed during market hours** to cover our bread table and to help create a safe, enjoyable shopping experience for our customers—and for our vendors and volunteers as well! Watch for an emailed signup sheet that will be sent 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 [wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu) or 651-357-5742.





Smile! It is a simple gesture that is welcoming to strangers and the people you know alike. You can tell if someone is smiling, even when they are wearing a mask. I smile more these days. Our church parking lot will be repaved and lined making it look better and be safer. At the April Council meeting the Treasurer's Report stated we were \$12 ahead of last year at the same time! But my biggest smile is knowing that in a few weeks, we will be back in church worshipping together, and still be able to broadcast on Zoom for those at home or out-of-state. Our wait has proven to be a good idea because many more people will be vaccinated when we return. There will still be masks and social distancing...and sorry...no coffee hour yet. But we will once again be in our church home. The Safe Team survey certainly helped the Council to make safe decisions. Thank you to everyone who submitted responses.

The MET (Mission Exploration Team) shared 3 pages from the Mission Site Profile (MSP) for the congregation to complete and submit. The Synod uses the MSP to share with potential candidates. The candidates can then decide if they want to interview at St. Luke to become our next part-time pastor. Those three pages are very important in showing someone what St. Luke is all about, our needs, and our strengths. Thank you to everyone who submitted a response. As I write this, we are days from the deadline and I hope you have helped St. Luke in this task.

The MSP will be submitted to the Council for approval, and then it will be shared and discussed at a special congregation meeting for approval. From there, it goes to the Synod and the elected Call Committee (at this meeting) will prepare to interview candidates.

Please be mindful of the differences between a full-time pastor and a part-time pastor. We have been so fortunate to have Pr. Belzer with us. She has been more than generous with her time. She provides far more than 25 hours per week as a part-time interim. We have been spoiled with her kindness. We must be more realistic about how much we rely on our Pastor to be present at every meeting, or be the only one relating to our homebound or ill members. Now is the time to rethink what we can offer as congregation leaders to assist our pastor, rather than rely on our pastor to meet all the needs. The Council will continue to help the congregation find new ways to recruit lay leaders to be trained in assisting in any way possible. Please share your ideas with the Council on what lay leaders can do.

We are blessed to be so strong after a year that included an unsuccessful shared part-time pastor agreement, separation from our family, friends, and church family, and inability to visit those who are ill or dying in assisted living or hospitals. Yet, we found fellowship with Zoom services and meetings to keep the business of St. Luke on-going, and we are blessed with so many members who continue to financially support us with regular offerings, who are willing to quickly prepare the church (with Council approval) for a restricted, in-house funeral, and who provide Sunday School for our little ones. We are blessed to hear our choir and our Music Director fill the Zoom services with lovely music, and we are very pleased to offer the Farmers Market during a pandemic for our neighbors and ourselves. Lastly, we are gratefully moving forward in defining our expectations for a new settled part-time pastor.

I am so thankful to the members of St. Luke who continue to work and pray together for our future. Blessings abound!

Sue McNeill

## BUN RUN



Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for May: Doug Klein, Larry and Junella Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl, and Volker Landenberger.



### First Quarter Financial Summary

Receipts	\$29,531
Expenses	\$32,761
Difference	(\$3,230)

-Joyce Blueel



### LOAVES AND FISHES

Our heartfelt thanks to our April volunteers: the Landenberger family.



**Our next SM/SL Book Club** is Sunday, May 23 at 6:30pm! We will be discussing *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett: "A powerful story about family, compassion, identity and roots." -Good Morning America. Named a Best Book of 2020 by New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, People, Time Magazine, Vanity Fair and Good Morning America. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you the week before. All are welcome....do join us any time!

### May Scripture Readers



- 2 David Tews
- 9 Jennifer Fredrickson
- 16 Holly Schultz
- 23 Sue McNeill
- 30 Jo Klein

## Notes From the Music Director



I want to take a moment this month to say a big big THANK YOU! to the Zoom Choir. They really stuck through it all and made our services beautiful. Thank you for showing up - I realized that we probably met together significantly more than a normal choir year and I really appreciate your time and patience to do so. Rehearsals weren't a collective sound either, but muted singers with me leading them. Performances were even odder as they sang along to a song either playing sooo quietly, they couldn't hear it well over their own singing; or they were plugged into earbuds. Then magically one Sunday they would hear their voices mixed with the others. I'm even more grateful that they learned a new song and made the sounds in my head reality for Lent. Thank you for all the hard work, your time and grace with me this year.

I miss the rest of the choir so much though - and hearing us all together in one space. I can't wait to work with everyone again once it's safe to do so.

Rebecca Ruiz



*We are counting the days until our popular Farmers Market opens...mark your calendars...JUNE 12!*





The day we return to church to worship in person is approaching, and the Safe Team would like you to be aware of the protocols in place to keep everyone safe.

- Make a reservation with Jo Klein, no later than noon the Saturday before worship. We have determined that maximum capacity, with safe distancing, is 46.
- Wear a mask. If you don't have one, we will provide one. Please, no touching outside of family members.
- Enter through the front or parking lot doors. An usher or Safe Team member will be available to answer questions.
- Use sanitizer when entering and exiting. There are three dispensers - each located by a door.
- Your temperature will be taken at the door you use to enter.
- The floor will be marked with X's for social distancing.
- Pews to be used will be marked on the aisle arms with blue tape.
- You will take a bulletin from the table and proceed to an available marked pew.
- Pew capacity will be: family of four on one end plus one on the other end; two people on each end; or one person on each end.
- Hymnals have been removed from the pews and there will be no singing.
- Because the Zoom camera is set up in the middle of the aisle in the front, you may want to avoid the first few pews so it isn't in your line of vision.
- Wait for the removal of the webcam/tripod if you wish to exit through the doors by the office.
- Allow front pews to exit first, keeping six feet apart.
- Offering plates will be placed by the doors for you to drop your offering as you leave.
- There will be no coffee hour just yet (sorry), but there will be access to the bathrooms.

We can't wait to see you!

~The Safe Team

*The Lord bless thee and keep thee. -Numbers 6:24*