



# Saint Luke Lutheran Church

1807 Field Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55116 | 651-698-9443 | [saintlukechurch.org](http://saintlukechurch.org)

## February 2026 Newsletter



### *The Pastor's Perspective*

#### What To Pray For Now

Recent weeks have been difficult times for our Twin Cities community, full of conflict and anxiety. I hope you will continue to care well for one another: genuine friendship and supportive community are among St. Luke's greatest strengths! Come to worship when you can to refresh your spirit and connect with your church family, and please reach out to me if a pastoral visit or conversation would be helpful.

Also, be diligent in prayer. As Christians, we believe that prayer is powerful and draws our hearts closer to God's heart. You do not need to use words to pray, and God understands prayers that are nothing more than wordless sighs deep our spirits (Romans 8:26). But if you are wanting some words, I have offered suggested prayers below. Here are some specific issues I hope you'll be praying for right now:

#### **1. The bishop election**

In May 2026, the Saint Paul Area Synod will elect a new bishop. The election process takes months and is already underway. On February 14, nominations will begin at Conference Assemblies. Please be praying for the voting members of those assemblies (who are both lay people and clergy), and for the leaders they identify as potential candidates for bishop. As we move into the next stages of the election process this spring, continue praying for wisdom and clarity in the synod.

[A prayer for the bishop election process:](#)

### *Pr. Bristol Reading*

### *February Volunteers*

Thanks for your participation!

#### **ONLINE USHERS**

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David Nedrelov

#### **IN PERSON USHERS**

First and Second Sundays:

Doug Klein, Joan Wilson

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Kay Reich, Carol Hornung

#### **READERS**

1 Wendy Bjorklund

8 Julie Gaarder

15 Nancy Redlin

22 Laurie Herrmann

#### **COMM. ASSTS.**

1 Wendy Bjorklund

8 Julie Gaarder

15 Nancy Redlin

22 Doug Klein

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

Julie Gaarder, Christine Olson

#### **COUNTERS**

1 Katy Eggert

8 Julie Gaarder

15 Kay Reich

22 Kay Reich

Holy God, we pray for your church. Fill it with passion for your Word and trust in your promises. Raise up gifts among us as we work to call a new bishop for the Saint Paul Area Synod: listening and speaking, analyzing and inspiring, humility and grace. In all things may we trust in your promises, follow your will, and serve your people – through Jesus Christ, who is our hope. Amen.

## **2. Our partners in ministry**

Many of the community organizations we support, like Neighborhood House and Shobi's Table, are on the front lines of helping get food and provisions to individuals and families in this difficult time. Please continue to pray for their work and for those they serve. The Saint Paul Area Synod has also been organizing aid efforts, especially in partnership with our immigrant congregations Cristo Rey, Foundation of Life, and Eternal Flame. Please continue to pray for those faith communities and their leaders.

### A prayer for our partners in ministry:

Gracious God, our provider, strengthen the work of those serving the most vulnerable. Empower us to bring the light of your compassion to those in need. Help us see the face of Christ in our neighbors. Keep us diligent in extending your care in tangible ways that build up our human family in mutual love. Amen.

## **3. For strength and hope**

You might just need some words to pray for strength and hope in these days – for yourself and for those around you. Hebrews 6:19 describes our hope in Christ as “a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.” Your faith can be a source of grounding and confidence when all else feels shaky.

### A prayer in times of distress:

Come to our help, merciful God. Our spirits are weighed down with fear; our bodies feel as fragile as the dust from which we came. Help us know you have not forgotten us. We do not trust in our own power or strength, but in your steadfast love in every generation. Show us your face in this time of trial, remind us of your faithfulness, and save us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

As always, I continue to pray for all of you, people of God!  
Pr. Bristol



## **COFFEE HOSTS**

- 1 Heather Moreno  
Kay Reich
- 8 Jodi and Volker  
Landenberger
- 15 Joyce Bluel  
Carol Hornung  
Joan Holtz
- 22 Karen Larson  
Wendy Bjorklund



## ***Bun Run***

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for February: Julie Ellingson, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew.

## ***February Birthdays***

- 1 Ellen Weis
- 5 Pastor Bristol Reading
- 10 Junella Litzkow
- 11 Sue Grzywinski
- 16 Ann Verschoyle
- 17 David Nedrelow
- 21 Matthew Elfritz
- 23 Volker Landenberger



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

I want to thank those who joined me at the last music preview. I appreciate your input and thoughts for the seasons of Lent and Easter. Our next music preview will be in May as we look toward the long Season After Pentecost and summer!



**Lent begins** on February 18: Ash Wednesday. Join us on Feb. 18 at 6pm for an Ash Wednesday worship service with imposition of ashes. Every Wednesday during the season of Lent, (February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25) we'll have a simple soup supper beginning at 6 pm, followed by a Lenten service. You are invited to join us for 6pm service on both Maundy Thursday (April 2) and Good Friday (April 3). We will celebrate the resurrection with joy on Easter Sunday, April 5.



## ***2025 Financial Report***

The following is a summary of the year-end financial statement for 2025:

### **Income**

Contributions	\$ \$131,631
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 2,400
Use of Bldg./Rental	\$ 14,297
Miscellaneous	\$ 134
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 148,462</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 159,414</b>

Results of the Stewardship Drive for 2026 show an increase of 8% over the pledges made in 2025. Thank you for your continued support and generosity for St. Luke and its ministries.



***The next Supper with Saints*** will be held on Saturday, February 21 at 12:00pm at Donatelli's, 2692 County Rd E. White Bear Lake. Please let Joyce Bluel know by Sunday, February 15, if you plan on attending, so we have a number for the reservation.

We'll begin the season of Lent halfway through February. Lent is often a time where people give something up or, in recent years, try something different. I thought I'd share something that I'm trying in 2026, in case it might be something you'd like to try for the season of Lent. One of my new daily practices is to read at least 10 verses of a Psalm with the option to use a hymn instead. As I was writing this, I checked and there are 41 hymns in the Lent and Holy Week section of the hymnal. For Lent, I'm in on both - I'll continue my Psalm practice but I'll sing/read a hymn as well and share a verse or phrase I found interesting on the music bulletin board throughout Lent. As a bonus, here is a verse to carry with you until then:

Psalm 36:9 "For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light."



***It's time for another KIVA meeting*** to lend out funds to individuals outside of the United States. We have a total of \$2,261.77 to lend out, with \$921.54 loans to be repaid to us. We have lent out \$37,485 in loans so far since beginning this program. Please join me in lending out those funds on Sunday February 22nd after the church service in the double room down the hall. It doesn't take long to lend out the funds that have been repaid to us, and anyone can



join us to help with this special outreach. -Julie Gaarder



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

***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.

***Connect, Grow and Serve.***

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