



# Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

## March 2024 Newsletter



### *The Pastor's Perspective*

#### **A Heart for Holy Saturday**

I have a friend, Mary, who used to say that for decades the grief and loss she'd experienced in her life kept her stuck on Holy Saturday, the day Jesus lay sealed in the tomb. Easter would come around, and she would find that her heart was still in the grave; she just wasn't ready to embrace the joy of resurrection. Eventually, she felt healed enough to experience an Easter spirit, but for many years, she just let it be okay that she was in more of a Holy Saturday place than an Easter place.

I have kept that wisdom with me for many years. The cycles of the church calendar hold space for a wide range of emotional states, from sorrow and contrition to rejoicing and celebration. The gentle wonder of Advent is often a time of expectation and hope. Then Christmas arrives with all its sparkle as we celebrate the Light of the World's arrival at the darkest time of year. Midwinter's Epiphany always seems a little more subtle, with its focus on the ways God is revealed in scripture, through Jesus, and even now in our lives. And then we move through the somber season of Lent, a time for focus and discipline and spiritual reflection. Until at last, the most joy-filled festival of the church year arrives: Easter! ... That is, it arrives if you're ready.

At different times in your life, different seasons of the liturgical rhythms will feel more or less relevant for you. And honestly, it's okay to get stuck in one moment or the other. God can meet you in any of these days. So this year, you might find that the pain of Good Friday and the waiting of Holy Saturday are hard to bear and

### *Pr. Bristol Reading*

### *March Worship Volunteers*

**Thanks for your participation!**

#### **IN PERSON USHERS**

**First and Second Sundays:**

Laurie & Ava Herrmann

**Third and Fourth Sundays:**

Carol Vigdal & Mary Jo Brandt

#### **ONLINE USHERS**

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David Nedrelow

#### **OFFERING COUNTERS**

3 Katy Eggert

10 Kay Reich

17 Carol Hornung

24 Kay Reich

31 Carol Hornung

#### **READERS**

3 Christine Olson

10 Ellen Weis

17 Joyce Bluel

24 Wendy Bjorklund

31 Cristina Dredla

#### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

3 Christine Olson

10 Doug Klein

17 Joyce Bluel

24 Wendy Bjorklund

31 Doug Klein

you really need to hold most tightly to God's victory over sin and the grave that comes with resurrection. Or, perhaps you feel like my friend, Mary, ready to walk into the darkness and liminality of Good Friday and Holy Saturday, but not quite ready for all that pastel-colored joy that comes on Easter.

I want to write about Holy Saturday for this reason. And for another: we hold worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. So if you'd like to embrace those days, come to worship at St. Luke (March 28, 29, and 31) and hear more about them! But we don't hold a worship service on Holy Saturday. So here are some thoughts for you to keep with you at home.

First, a Holy Saturday scripture reading for you to reflect on:

Joseph of Arimathea took down Jesus' body, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment. (Luke 23:53-56)

And some thoughts on what to do with this day...

Saturday of Holy Week is the in-between day. The waiting day. The silent day. Jesus has died and the tomb is sealed. What do we do with this day?

One thing you can do is wait. That's what Jesus' first-century disciples did. Saturday was the Jewish sabbath, a day of religiously-prescribed rest. The disciples wanted to go back to the tomb, to adorn Jesus' body and begin their mourning rituals. But they were faithful to the sabbath rhythm, and they waited instead. Surely they were in shock from the week's events, unsure of what the future would hold. And this day of waiting held space for that uncertainty.

Jesus' death and resurrection are written about in scripture, but only God knows what happened on the day in between. So Holy Saturday is a day to bring your unanswered questions, to just let your unresolved emotions be what they are. It's a pause in the chaotic action, a liminal moment. It's important for us to leave time for that in the fast pace of Holy Week.

If you do want to mark this day, here are some other ideas that are fitting:

**Read or tell stories.** From its earliest days, the church kept vigil the night before Easter morning, waiting through the dark of night for the first moment of daybreak on Sunday. This is why so many

## GOOD FRIDAY READERS

(March 29, 6pm)

Christine Olson, Joyce Bluel, Jo Klein, Wendy Bjorklund, Kay Reich, Barb Jensen

## ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Hegdahl



## Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for March: Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew, Doug Klein, Kay Reich.

## March Birthdays

3 Abigail Winecke  
6 Mark Stadem  
7 Judy Salaba  
10 Lois Porter  
13 David Verschoyle  
16 Susan Lorenz  
18 Larry Eckstrom  
31 Julie Gaarder  
Robyn Rongstad  
Ralph Skoe

## March Anniversaries

12 Mike Amundson & Kimberly Tyl: 2004  
19 Sue & Dan Grzywinski: 1977



*All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke*, the first and third Fridays of the month, March 1 and 15, at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

churches have sunrise services. Easter vigil services are full of scripture from the whole arc of the Bible, retelling stories like Noah and the flood, Jonah and the whale, and Daniel in the lions' den. What are your favorite Bible stories? Revisit them on the night of Holy Saturday. ([Here's a website](#) that has videos for all *twelve* of the appointed Old Testament Easter Vigil readings!)

**Remember your baptism.** Easter is overflowing with baptismal imagery: forgiveness through Jesus' death on the cross; the gift of new life; the abundance of spring. The early church baptized groups of people at the Saturday vigil, following their preparation throughout Lent. The newly baptized would participate in their first communion on Sunday morning at Easter. Today, dip your fingers in water and mark yourself with the sign of the cross today. Remember you are God's beloved, sealed by the Holy Spirit forever.

**Light a new fire.** Easter vigils frequently include the symbolism of fire. As the light of Christ dramatically emerges from the tomb on Easter morning, so we bring a new light into our worship space with a new paschal candle. You can capture the feel of this at home. Our family usually has a small bonfire in our yard on Saturday night before Easter, but even a candle will do. If you'd like to make a paschal candle for your home, this is the perfect day to light it for the first time. ([Here's a tutorial to follow](#)) Any fire can evoke awareness of God's mighty presence, breaking through the darkness.

A final note: some articles are adapted from the one I wrote for my Lenten & Holy Week Devotional. If you like having these kinds of reflections, please know that resources are available for you every season. You can find the devotions on our website: [www.saintlukechurch.org/blog](http://www.saintlukechurch.org/blog)

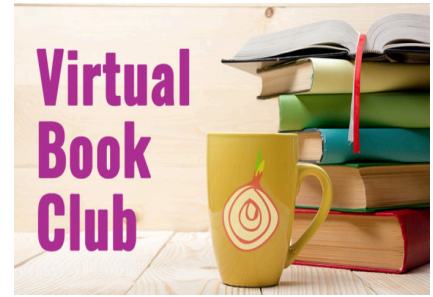
Blessings to you, whatever season your heart is in right now.

Pr. Bristol



### St. Luke Lent 2024 Schedule

Sun. 3/3, 9:30am:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent
Wed.. 3/6, 6pm:	Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer
Sun. 3/10, 9:30am:	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, w/Bishop Patricia Lull
Wed.. 3/13, 6pm:	Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer
Sat. 3/16, 10am:	Make-Your-Own Paschal Candle Workshop
Sun. 3/17, 9:30am:	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent
Wed.. 3/20, 6pm:	Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer
Sun. 3/24, 9:30am:	Palm Sunday Service



**Join us for St. Luke Book Club,** Sunday April 7, 6:30pm, via Zoom, to discuss "The Measure", by Nikki Erlick. "*The Measure* is equal parts charming and thought-provoking. It takes a philosophical question—what if everybody on earth knew exactly how long they had left to live?—and explores, with compassion and pragmatism, how the implications would trickle down into every area of modern life, from politics to intimacy." — *Marie Claire*. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome!

### *Lunch with Saints*

The next luncheon with St. Marks will be held on Saturday, March 9 at noon. We will be going to Quinney's Pub in Mahtomedi, 3140 Century Ave. N. Please notify Joyce Bluel by March 4th if you plan on attending. We need an accurate number for the reservation.



### *Notes from the Music Director*

It has been so fun to see the art cards being made each week! I hope you're finding inspiration in Pastor's scripture pairings and inspiration guidance, or the videos I post on our Youtube channel. I

Thurs. 3/28, 6pm: Maundy Thursday Service  
Fri. 3/29, 6pm: Good Friday Service  
Sun. 3/31, 9:30am: Easter Sunday Service, Brunch, Egg Hunt



With his background as a weatherman, Doug Nelson would tell you that March 1 marks the beginning of meteorological Spring. Normally in Minnesota, we would say, yeah, yeah, maybe in places south of here but not in Minnesota. This year we could say that Spring weather has already been here awhile. While most welcome the mild weather, it has shortened the season for those who enjoy winter activities like skiing, ice fishing, and outdoor ice rinks.

Easter is also early this year, on March 31. As we approach the observance of Christ's Passion, we still have a few opportunities for Lenten worship with the soup suppers and Holden Evening Prayer services held on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

The St. Luke community is grieving the passing of longtime member Audrey Rongstad. Audrey was truly a pillar of the St. Luke congregation and could light up a room with her smile. We will miss her greatly and offer our condolences to her family.

We should also pray for Dianne and Roger Diestler as they cope with the struggles Dianne is having with her health. We miss Dianne and Roger's presence at St. Luke's worship services and social events, but we can support them with prayers, phone calls, and visits. There's also a sign-up sheet at church if you can help by bringing them a good old Minnesota hot dish or other food to help them out.

On Feb. 24, I attended a day of conference assemblies and toolkit workshops at Faith Lutheran in Forest Lake. The St. Paul Area Synod is divided into six "conferences" and we're in the City Conference. I attended two workshops. The first one focused on "creation care," ways that churches and individuals can support environmental causes. The other workshop was "Revisioning Church Spaces." It gave tons of insights into how to evaluate a church's spaces to make sure they're welcoming and meet a congregation's current needs. Both workshops were inspiring, and I hope to channel that inspiration into actions we can take at St. Luke.

In January and February, our jar donations supported The Drawer, which donates socks and underwear to those in need. March is Minnesota FoodShare Month, and St. Luke will donate to Francis Basket Food Market, which is located in Sibley Manor Apartments on the south side of West Seventh Street. It's operated

look forward to seeing what everyone comes up with in the next few weeks, too!

And it's getting to be time again to brush up your skills and show off your talent because the St. Luke Talent Show is back and we're looking forward to seeing your old skills, new skills, maybe even fine-tuned skills? Save the date for Saturday, April 20th, more info coming!

### ***Attention Thrivent Clients***

Don't forget to direct 2023 Choice Dollars® prior to 3/31/24! If you're an eligible Thrivent client and have Choice Dollars available to direct, please keep St. Luke in mind. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice." Or go to [thrivent.com/thrivent-choice](https://thrivent.com/thrivent-choice).



### ***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, March 17 (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

by Neighborhood House, a local nonprofit. In addition to cash donations, we will collect donations of non-perishable food during the month of March to help Francis Basket.

This year, March may come in like a lamb and go out like a kitten at the rate this winter has gone. But there could be some March tournament storms in between. Who knows? And we will end the month with a “hallelujah” as we celebrate Easter on March 31.

Yours in Christ,  
David Tews

### ***The Drawer Volunteer Opportunities***

The Drawer has a warehouse in Eagan (about 13 minutes from church) with an opportunity to volunteer for 2 hours 2 Mondays per month. You will open packages, and count, bundle and tag items. The address is: 2935 W. Service Road., Eagan (Lone Oak Rd exit off 35E, right to first stop light, right to Service Road; building is on the right). There are 6 spots to fill per Monday. To sign-up, use [this link](#). Create a SignUpGenius account and then click on a Monday you would like to volunteer for The Drawer. It is relaxing and fun. If you have questions, contact Sue McNeill (suemc1493@gmail.com or 651-688-8176) for more details.



### ***It is time to order your Gertens Bedding Plants!***

It seems early, but spring is right around the corner. Proceeds go to support the St. Luke Farmers Market. Orders will be taken online, as we did last year. To access the site and place an order for our fundraiser group: Go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com). Enter the **Store ID code 135** into the text field and click ‘Enter ID to Continue’. Our site is now open and will close at 10 PM on Monday, April 1. We cannot accept any late orders past the deadline. **\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** Quantities are limited on fundraiser items. If an item sells out, it will be marked sold out on our website and you will not be able to continue to order that item. Get your orders in early to avoid limited item availability!

Please take note of the important dates below, and thanks in advance for your generosity!

**Tuesday February 27: Open online ordering**

**Monday, April 1: Close online ordering**

**Tuesday, May 14: Pick-up bedding plants: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

**Wednesday, May 15: Pick-up bedding plants: 10 am to noon**

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!

### ***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!

***Annual Audit*** There will be an audit of the church financials on Sunday, March 3 in the social hall after worship. This is an open meeting. Your participation will be welcomed and appreciated.

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