



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

June 2023 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective *Pr. Bristol Reading*

Summer Devotions

Pastor Bristol has written a series of devotions based on the assigned scripture readings for June and July. Each devotion is paired with a suggestion for a simple spiritual practice you can try. You can download the devotions as a PDF on our website (go to “the Word and the Spirit Blog”) or pick up a printed copy in the back of the sanctuary. Here’s the devotion based on Genesis 12:1-9, which is one of the lectionary readings for June 18.

An Altar to the Lord

When Abram had come to the land of Canaan... he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, and there he built an altar to the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages. (Genesis 12:7-9)

When you hear the word “altar,” ornate sanctuaries probably come to mind: marble tables and brass candle holders and large decorative crosses. But this story from Genesis about the beginning of Abram’s journey comes long before there were any church buildings. Abram (later called Abraham) was a Bronze Age nomad, traveling from place to place, trying to follow the voice of God to find a new home. Along the way, the text says, he built altars.

Likely these altars were nothing more than a stone or a pile of stones, intentionally placed as a reminder of God’s guidance and provision throughout the journey of his life. Someone else passing by might not even recognize one of these altars, but to Abram they were a holy reminder of God’s presence and care.

*June
Worship Volunteers
We are grateful for
your participation!*

USHERS

In Person:

First and Second Sundays:

Laurie Herrmann

Ava Hermann

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Carol Vigdal

Mary Jo Brandt

Online:

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David Nedrelow

OFFERING COUNTERS

4 Katy Eggert

11 Julia Gaarder

18 Joyce Bluel

25 Sue McNeill

READERS

4 Wendy Bjorklund

11 Katerina Kravchenko

18 Kay Reich

25 Mike Hegdahl

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

4 Wendy Bjorklund

18 Joyce Bluel

ALTAR GUILD

Joyce Bluel

In her book *An Altar in the World*, Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor describes altars as “ordinary looking places where human beings have met and may continue to meet up with the divine More that they sometimes call God” (p. xix). The place itself could be anywhere: a garden, a church pew, a closet, a park bench, a mountaintop. But it’s somewhere where God’s presence breaks through and makes itself known, and then such ordinary places are transformed into hallowed places.

Marking those places can help us remember that “earth’s crammed with heaven and every common bush is afire with God,” as Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote, “but only he who sees takes off his shoes.” Altars are our reminder that it might be time to go barefoot because we might be on holy ground.

In our house, we work to transform our dining room table into an altar. At Advent, we set out a candle wreath to mark the time until the Christ light comes into the world at Christmas. During the Easter season, we bring out a pillar candle marked with a cross to celebrate Christ’s victory over death. Sometimes we add flowers or greenery for special occasions. It’s a simple thing, lighting special candles at mealtimes, but for us it’s an intentional reminder that God is at the heart of our days and the heart of our home.

A spiritual practice to try: Building an altar

Reflect on a place that has felt spiritually significant to you and consider how you might set an altar there. You could use stones, candles, photos, ribbon, or other special objects to mark the holiness of that spot. Any time you see your altar, offer a prayer of thanks for God’s presence.



Welcome to **summer!** According to the calendar, summer officially begins June 21, but a lot of us think of summer as running from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. And meteorological summer goes from June 1 to August 31. What we know for sure is that winter is over and we can finally savor the nicer weather!

Synod Assembly: On May 12 and 13, Pastor Bristol, Joyce Bluel, and I attended the Synod Assembly at St. Andrew’s in Mahtomedi. Representatives from the 107 congregations in the St. Paul Area Synod of the ELCA came together to conduct the business of the synod, including approving a budget, electing officials, and discussing and voting on resolutions. A highlight for me was a terrific keynote address by Dr. Barbara Rossing,



Loaves and Fishes

Our heartfelt thanks to our May Loaves and Fishes volunteers: The Landenberger family and David Tews.



Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for June: Doug Klein, Larry and Junella Litzknow, Julie Ellingson, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl

June Birthdays

- 2 Lynda Mathison
- 3 Arlene Drier
- 10 Andrew Stadem
- 11 Marie Elfritz
- 16 Evan Nelson
- 18 David Tews,
Alex Grzywinski
- 21 Pastor Dave Person
- 22 George Heriot,
Diane Nelson
- 24 Christine Olson
- 30 Karl and Charles Gaarder

June Anniversaries

- 8 Roger & Dianne Diestler
- 15 Jane & Ken McGrew
- 23 Patricia & Mark Stadem



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, the first and third Fridays of the month, June 2 and 16, 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 16th (Friday night thru

a professor at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Entitled “Seven Things That Give Me Hope for the Climate Crisis,” her very timely address offered biblical insights into addressing our climate crisis and said it’s not too late to heal our planet by transitioning to clean, renewable energy. You can watch her address here: vimeo.com/827336221

Talent Show: The talent show on April 28 that was hosted by Becca Ruiz and Jodi and Volker Landenberger was a huge success. I was very impressed by the varied talents of our members! There was beautiful music, cute toddlers, funny routines, Hugo’s magic tricks, and yummy treats. Thanks to all who contributed.

Spring Clean-up Day: A group of hard-working St. Luke members met on April 29 to clear out a lot of unused stuff from the classroom in the northeast corner of our building. It looks a lot less like a junk room now, and more like usable space. Thanks to everyone who helped!

Picnic with St. Mark: A picnic with our friends from St. Mark Lutheran is planned for Sunday, June 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. It’s potluck, so if you can attend, try to bring something to share. We’ll be meeting in our side yard, weather permitting.

Farmers’ Market: The St. Luke’s Farmers’ Market opens for the season on Saturday, June 10. The market is hosted in our parking lot and runs 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through Oct. 7. If you want to help set up, tear down, or sell baked goods, talk to Wendy Bjorklund or Laurie Herrmann.

Fall Retreat: Plans are moving forward for a one-day retreat on Saturday, Oct. 21 at the Mount Olivet Retreat Center near Farmington. Tentative plans call for us arriving after 8:30 a.m. for sign-in and continental breakfast, followed a morning program starting about 9:30. The content of the program is a work in progress. At noon, we’ll gather together for a full lunch prepared by the center’s kitchen staff. Most of the afternoon will be unstructured so people can visit and take advantage of the amenities of the retreat center. They have five miles of trails through woods and prairies and a floating marsh walk to an island in Chub Lake. They also have an indoor pool and a patio fireplace. We’ll close the day with a “happy hour” from 3:30 to 5 p.m. with beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks. This is all preliminary, so if you have ideas for or concerns about the retreat, let me know.

Watermedia Society: We had a new group use the social hall in May. The NorthStar Watermedia Society promotes the artistic use of watercolors, acrylics, and other water-based media through meetings, art shows, and workshops. The group met at St. Luke on May 18 and hopefully will use our space again.

Have a great summer!

Yours in Christ,
David Tews

Sunday 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!

Join us for Book Club

on Sunday, June 11, 6:30pm. We will discuss “The House on Mango Street” by Sandra Cisneros, the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero, a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. “Cisneros draws on her rich [Latino] heritage ... and seduces with precise, spare prose, creat[ing] unforgettable characters we want to lift off the page. She is not only a gifted writer, but an absolutely essential one.”—*The New York Times Book Review*. Location to be announced. All are welcome!

To Everything There Is a Season

We need volunteers for the Farmers Market at St. Luke, Saturdays, June 10 through Oct. 7! 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! There are many open slots; but our primary focus right now is **June 10, June 24, and all the Saturdays in July**.

If you are willing and able to help on a Saturday--or two or three!--please let Wendy Bjorklund know asap at wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu. **We really hope to get the June/July dates filled first!** Also, we will be collecting donations for the Farmers Market through our Sunday offering jar; this is another great way to



Two Young Adult Interns from St. Luke

The Saint Paul Area Synod is launching a paid summer internship program for young adults, funded by the Planting Hope Campaign, and Pr. Bristol has the honor of being the program coordinator. For nine weeks starting in mid-June, nine interns will be serving at sites around the synod. Each week, they'll gather as a cohort to reflect on what they're learning and experiencing and to think more deeply about how faith and vocation intersect.

What a joy that two of our 2023 interns are from St. Luke! Congratulations to Ava Herrmann and Victor Landenberger for being selected to be part of the inaugural cohort of synod interns.

Ava will be working with Shobi's Table, a pay-as-you-can food truck ministry that serves lunch at designated spots around the city each week. The meals at Shobi's are creative and nutritious, focusing on from-scratch recipes using local ingredients. Learn more about how Shobi's creates a common table where all can be fed: shobistable.org.

Victor will be working with Rice Street Gardens, a huge community garden program connected to Galilee Lutheran Church in Roseville. 260 gardeners, 70% of whom are immigrants or refugees, manage their own plots, growing food for their families and beautiful flowers. Many of the gardeners are from Nepal and Myanmar, and more than a dozen languages are spoken in the gardens. Learn more about how the Rice Street Gardens are building community at ricestreetgardens.org.

Please pray for Ava, Victor, and all our interns this summer! Stay tuned to hear more stories about their ministry.

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!

support this worthy cause. THANKS IN ADVANCE for your support! We can't do this without you!

Usher Training

If you are on our usher schedule -- or would like to try ushering in the future -- please plan to stay after worship on June 11 for a quick review of Sunday morning usher tasks. Ushers are a vital part of the worship leadership team, and we are so grateful for the guidance and hospitality they provide for worshippers each week!

Thrivent Choice

Thrivent Financial members of St. Luke, have you directed your Thrivent Choice \$ lately? If not, a wonderful way to support your church would be to direct those dollars to St. Luke. It is simple to do by logging into your account online or by calling your Thrivent agent. See instructions below.

Online

- 1) Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice
- 2) In the Get Started section on the right, click Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars.
- 3) Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click Register for account access.)
- 4) Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars: a. To direct to a previous organization: i. Click Direct Now next to the organization's name, or ii. Click on the View activity history link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization. b. To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, Zip code, cause, etc. Click Search.
- 5) Choose Direct All or enter a specific number and click Direct Now. Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

By phone

1. Call 800-847-4830 and when prompted, say Thrivent Choice.
2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars Program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)

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.

Faith Formation

Most Sundays before worship, kids and parents gather for a fun time of faith formation and learning led by Pastor Bristol. We don't call it "Sunday School" because it's a lot closer to Sunday *play!* We read stories, sing songs, try different forms of interactive prayer, and make silly crafts. Here we are with some cute cotton sheep we made one week this spring.



Faith Formation will take a summer hiatus and return in the fall. Kids of all ages are welcome – yes, even babies and toddlers – and parents can come, too. No experience necessary, but you probably should be prepared to “baa” like a sheep.

3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.



Notes from the Music Director

As the season shifts to summer, the musical life at St. Luke also changes. Our choral season has wrapped for the year and will return in September. Thank you to our bell ringers and our choral singers! Your work and dedication are truly commendable and you make it fun to work together. As always, a call to any and all who would like to contribute musically to our services, just contact me after service or email me, bunkamade@gmail.com. We've got three months of offertories and distribution music to fill!

Our liturgy will also change in June to Setting Ten. It's a fun setting that uses hymn melodies for the liturgical tunes. We had a fun Summer Preview and made a good list of songs we'd like to sing and noted a few that didn't seem to work so well also. Our Fall preview will be happening in mid-August, so keep an eye out for that date!

--Becca Ruiz

Building Fund

In 2022 we found out that some electrical work needed to be done on the east wing of the building to correct some problems and bring it up to code. The cost of this work was \$4,734. This was not in our budget so we are still looking for contributions to cover these costs. If you are interested in contributing, please note “Building Fund” on your check. You may also utilize the online giving and select Building Fund instead of General Fund.

Connect, Grow and Serve.