



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

January 2023 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Epiphany Traditions

Come and join us for an Epiphany service at St. Luke on Friday, January 6 at 5:00 pm. Epiphany falls twelve days after Christmas, concluding the liturgical season of Christmas. The word Epiphany means “manifestation.” It is a day to celebrate God’s presence revealed in the light of the Christ child born in Bethlehem. Epiphany comes with some fun traditions. During our January 5 worship service, we will bless our church building by adding an inscription in white chalk at the entrance:

20 + CMB + 23.

The numbers represent the year we are beginning (2023), and the letters (CMB) stand for the Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means “Christ bless this house.” As some traditions celebrate Epiphany as the day the three wise ones arrived from the East to honor the newborn baby Jesus, the legendary names of those three can also be read into the Epiphany blessing: CMB for Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.



January Worship Volunteers We are grateful for your participation!

USHERS

In Person:

First and Second Sundays:
Volker Landenberger
Third and Fourth Sundays:
Mike Hegdahl

Online:

1st Sunday: David Tews
2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill
3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz
4th Sunday: David Nedrelow

OFFERING COUNTERS

1 Katy Eggert
8 Katy Eggert
15 Kay Reich
22 Joyce Bluel
29 Wendy Bjorklund

SCRIPTURE READERS

1 Joyce Bluel
8 Kay Reich
15 Christine Olson
22 Barb Jensen
29 Wendy Bjorklund

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

1 Katy Eggert
15 Christine Olson
29 Wendy Bjorklund

We'll also bless our worship space by dipping a pine branch into a bowl of baptismal water and sprinkling the pulpit, the font, and the table. This practice is called asperges (pronounced ah-SPUR-jes). Asperges is not only for objects: it's for people, too! You might get sprinkled a little yourself as a reminder of the baptismal gift of God's grace. Epiphany blessings can also be done at home. Many people do a house blessing at Epiphany, even inscribing the 20 + CMB + 23 over their own doors. You might consider trying it this year. One more fun Epiphany tradition to try: a King Cake. King cakes are usually round, shaped like a crown, with a little trinket baked inside. The trinket is most often a tiny baby figurine representing the little baby Jesus the three kings came to find. As the king cake is eaten, the person who finds the hidden baby is "king/queen for a day." If you join us for worship on January 6, we'll have a king cake to share, and you just might be the lucky finder of the prize. The above photos come from two great articles about Epiphany traditions, especially chalking the door; links below:

[Episcopal News Service](#)
[The Homely Hours](#)

Here's a prayer for your Epiphany celebration:

Radiant Morning Star,

you are both guidance and mystery. Visit our rest with disturbing dreams, and our journeys with strange companions. Grace us with the hospitality to open our hearts and homes to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom bearing profound and unusual gifts. Amen.

(Prayer from revgalblogpals.org)

-Pastor Bristol Reading

Many Thanks

Dear Church Family, We would like to thank you for your generosity, thoughtfulness and continued prayers to our fire recovery fund. It is a long, slow process and having all of your support has helped us immensely.

Mike and Nancy Hegdahl



Notes from the Music Director

Thank you so much to all our talented ringers and singers for your time and talent this holiday season! You brighten our services with your songs! I really appreciate the work you put in and the continued time and dedication you bring each Sunday to rehearsal and performance.



Loaves and Fishes

Our heartfelt thanks to our December Loaves and Fishes volunteers: Kay Reich, Chuck Kernkamp, David Tews and Larry Litzkow.

January Birthdays

- 1 Dusty Jensen
- 5 Dawn Peterson
- 9 Laurie Herrmann
- 13 Judy Johnson
- 16 Nancy Hegdahl
- 27 Kevin Arndt
- 29 Norma Alexander
- 30 Sue McNeill
- 31 Kim McNamara



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, the first and third Fridays of the month, January 6 and 20, at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

Quote to ponder...

"Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we do not see."

- Martin Luther

Have you noticed the Psalm on the music bulletin board? If you have, make sure to check it again because it might have changed! When thinking of the bulletin board, I wanted to make sure there was something to share with everyone. Most people are familiar with Psalm 100:1, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you earth." But I wanted to explore beyond that and find inspiration for different ways of praising God in the Psalms. I even got a little help from my dad, a retired pastor, when I had the opportunity to stay with him for two days recently. After explaining my idea, he came back 20 minutes later with a two-page list! It won't change every week, but keep an eye out because you never know, maybe one week it will inspire you!



It is time for Undie Sunday! It's that time of the year again! The dropping temperatures make us think of those less fortunate who are experiencing homelessness, unemployment or underemployment. Providing the basic needs of socks and underwear is our mission. The biggest need right now is mens and womens underwear in the large-XXL size range! Financial donations can be made out to The Drawer or to St. Luke with The Drawer in the memo area. So, for the month of January, let's fill The Drawer! Thank you to our church family at St. Luke, Stew & Debby Shepard.

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the "Holiday Gifts for Homeless Youth" drive sponsored by Lutheran Social Service. We collected several gift cards, clothes, slippers, toys, underwear and socks, toiletries and even a microwave! Cash donations were converted to gift cards as well. Everything was delivered on December 9 to a safe house in St. Paul with the exception of a few gift cards, which were mailed to a central location where they were distributed as needed. As always, St. Luke members were so generous ... the back end of my CRV was FULL! I know you made a difference for many homeless young people this holiday season. If you have any feedback regarding the drive, please contact me. In the meantime, I wish you my best in this New Year!

Wendy Bjorklund, 651-357-5742, wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu.



St. Luke/St. Mark Ladies Night Out

The St Mark/St Luke Ladies Night Out will be a luncheon again in January. Tentative date of January 14th, watch bulletin for further details.



Join us for Book Club on Sunday, Jan. 8, 6:30pm via Zoom to discuss "Gilead" by Marilyn Robinson. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Critics Circle Award, GILEAD is a hymn of praise and lamentation to the God-haunted existence that Reverend Ames loves passionately, and from which he will soon part. "So serenely beautiful and written in a prose so gravely measured and thoughtful, that one feels touched with grace just to read it." -*The Washington Post*. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome!



Connect, Grow and Serve.