



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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St. Luke Lutheran Church

Connect, Grow and Serve.

Parish Times June 2021



The Pastor's Perspective...



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

This month of June, we are celebrating the beginning of summer, virtual graduations, Flag Day, Children's Day and Father's Day. Busy month! On Father's Day, we honor all fathers, stepfathers, and adopted fathers. The Bible commands us to honor them; but this year, take some time to thank our heavenly Father for all he has done for us. God Almighty is our Heavenly Father, and He is the perfect example of what it means to be a dad. In the US, we celebrate Father's Day on the 3rd Sunday in June (June 20th this year). This celebration started back in 1910 when Sonora Smart Dodd was inspired by a Mother's Day sermon to begin a day in honor of fathers. Her father, Henry Jackson Smart, had raised her and her five siblings after her mother died in childbirth. Understandably, she wanted to honor her father. She had originally chosen her father's birthday, June 5th. But for logistical reasons, it was not celebrated until June 19th, 1910, in her hometown of Spokane, Washington. By the way, there is also a Children's Day (isn't every day children's day?) begun in 1856 for the 2nd Sunday in June (not officially celebrated in the U.S.). So celebrations for Children's Day (1856) came first, then Mother's Day (1908), and then Father's Day (1910). Let us all celebrate the families that God gives us and the love they share. Happy Father's Day!

Dear St. Luke members, please know there have been many hours of prayer, study, and thoughtful discussion during these pandemic times. Some are working on the Mission Site Profile document to help us search for a settled part-time pastor, the Safety Team has reviewed many sources for guidelines to safely return to in-person services, maintaining and cleaning our church for our return, and opening our church to all ministries to meet again. I am so pleased that the council members have been working hard to listen and follow God's leading. They strive to serve the congregation by putting aside their own interests to discern what is right and best spiritually, and follow God's true calling for this church.

We will return to our church home on June 13 at 9:30 am, and continue our simultaneous virtual service for those not able to attend in person. When we return, some things will be different. Some will attend in person, and some will continue to attend by Zoom. If you are unsure about being in a group setting, or are a caregiver, or are simply unable to leave your home, please continue to join the virtual service. If you are not feeling well or think you may have been exposed to someone with coronavirus, please stay home and worship with us via the virtual church. The in-person services will be a little different too. We will **not** be sharing the peace (not yet) or passing the offering plate for obvious reasons. Instead, the offering plate will be on the back table to give your offering before or after the service. We will still be able to give online or mail offerings to church. One of the realities that we must face is that singing is one of the most effective ways of spreading the virus. We will be wearing masks and we will not be singing the service or hymns. We will have instrumental hymns, led by our wonderful music director Rebecca Ruiz. I know how much you love music and how important it is to us to worship in song, but we don't want to sing and possibly cause someone else harm or death. So, until it is safe, we will forego singing and find other ways to praise God! The service may be different, but God will be glorified. As Christians, view this as another opportunity to invite others to this unique way to worship. Invite them to log on and join the virtual service or make a reservation through our dedicated administrator Jo Klein! Go forth and be Christ's witnesses in St. Luke and to the ends of the Earth.

We are learning, as we journey through these uncertain days, that the situation changes each week. However, after over a year of this pandemic, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. So, I would ask everyone to live in God's grace a bit and realize we are all trying to do the right thing and keep everyone safe. We know these days will cease, and we will return to a church life where gatherings, hugs, dinners, and handshakes are the norm. Then we will joyously celebrate worship in person, but more importantly, celebrate our love and care for each other. Stay safe. If you have any needs, please call the church office, or forward your needs to one of our staff members. Let us remain strong, hopeful, and compassionate as we seek to continue building Christ's community of love and peace. As always, I am yours in Christ.

Pastor Jacqueline Belzer

Please, we need many volunteers for our Farmers Market! It is fun and easy, but we cannot do it without YOU. The market runs from June 12 to Oct. 2. Please let us know your available Saturday(s) to help: contact Wendy Bjorklund at wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu or 651-357-5742. The market will not be as restricted as last year, with regards to market flow and social distancing. Vendors and volunteers must wear masks. Masks are optional for customers, but we will offer handwashing stations for customer use when entering and exiting the market. Our guidelines will be modified throughout the summer as MN Farmers' Market Association guidelines change. We hope to hear from you today!



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
 Kay Reich, Secretary,
kernkamp.reich@gmail.com
 Joyce Bluel, Treasurer,
JBluel@comcast.net
 David Tews, Member at Large,
dtews.mn@gmail.com
 Wendy Bjorklund, Member at Large,
wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu
 Jill Burchill, Member at Large,
jillkburchill@gmail.com



June Birthdays

2 Lynda Mathison
 3 Arlene Drier
 8 Phroah Mathis
 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
 25 Jenifer Drier, Carter Alcenot
 30 Karl and Charles Gaarder



June Anniversaries:

8 Roger & Dianne Diestler: 1963
 15 Jane & Ken McGrew: 1991
 23 Patricia & Mark Stadem: 1990

COVID-19
 safety
 precautions

The Church Council and Safe Team have agreed we can return to in-house services on Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. We will still broadcast on Zoom, as we have done for over a year.

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.
- Wear a mask, and please no touching outside of family members.
- Enter through the front or parking lot doors.
- Use sanitizer when entering and exiting. There are three dispensers.
- Temps will be taken at the door you use to enter.
- Pews to be used will be marked on the aisle arms with blue tape.
- Please take a bulletin from the table and proceed to an available marked pew.
- You may leave your offering in the plate on the back table or by the podium in front.
- Pew capacity: family of 4 on one end plus 1 on the other end; 2 people on each end; or 1 person on each end.
- Allow one pew at a time leave to avoid a crowd in the aisle and keeping six feet apart.
- There will be no Coffee Hour just yet (sorry).
- Bathrooms will be open/available.

We can't wait to see you! Welcome home! ~The Safe Team



This is an exciting month! We are returning to our church home for services, and we will continue simultaneous Zoom services for those unable to join us in person. There will be guidelines for June that will not change: masks, social distancing, reservations. I hope that by July, we can revise the guidelines. We will also be able to take advantage of the warm weather to have outdoor services. We have a special congregation meeting coming soon to vote on the acceptance of the Ministry Site Profile (the form used by the Synod to share with possible candidates), and a Call Committee Ballot. We need at least 3 and would prefer 5 people to be on the Call Committee. That is an elected committee, so we now need volunteers. Please contact me if you are interested in helping to choose our settled part-time pastor.

We can't thank Pr. Belzer enough for all the extra time she has given us as an interim part-time pastor. I am sure every week our needs have exceeded 25 hours per week. While her generosity is so greatly appreciated, we must be far more realistic about a part-time pastor's schedule in the near future. Times have changed at St. Luke. We are a smaller congregation with fewer resources, and are now looking for a settled part-time pastor. Once the new pastor joins us, we must be realistic about time available. In addition to 25 hours as our pastor, the pastor is also required to attend Synod meetings and write reports above and beyond our time. A part-time pastor can be a full-time position with our expectations and Synod expectations. We must stay within the 25 hours per week for all visitations, sermon preparation, services (during the year there are many extra services for Lent and Christmas), confirmation, our missions, council meetings, office hours for meetings and counseling, etc. Of course, with growth, we could once again have a full-time pastor.

Now is the time to commit to each other and a new part-time pastor to share more of our time/talents to the needs and activities of St. Luke. There is absolutely nothing to stop St. Luke if we all give a little more in time, talent and tithes. Our building is doing well because of the continued maintenance. Realistically, however, we are not growing in numbers and are losing some of our larger contributors to relocation or death. We have so much to offer new members.

St. Luke members are welcoming, sincere, friendly, and most importantly, faithful children of God, always striving to find new ways to help or assist others. We can continue to grow if we step up now to being a more active member. We must support our settled part-time pastor with renewed energy and a willingness to try new ways to share our time and talents. All is possible with God's help. All is possible with St. Luke's energy and love for all people.

Be safe and well,

Sue McNeill

Our next SM/SL Book Club is Sunday, July 11 at 6:30pm! We will be discussing *The Most Beautiful Book in the World*: "A cast of extravagant and affecting characters lovingly portrayed by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt animates eight contemporary fables about people in search of happiness. One of Europe's most popular and bestselling authors, Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt captivates the reader with his spirited style and enchanting stories that move effortlessly from the everyday to the fantastical." The Zoom invite will be emailed to you the week before. All are welcome....do join us any time!



Parking Lot Repaving Project

If you have driven by the church lately, you may have noticed the beautiful new parking lot. After many years of patching and repairing, it was decided it was time for a new paving job. With the use of our lot for the Farmer's Market, we were aware of the possibility of trips and falls as well.

Thanks to a generous donation bequeathed to St Luke by Eva Mac Niven, we were able to make it a reality this year. The cost of the project was approximately \$64,000 and was taken from our Vanguard account.

Since the Vanguard account is depended on to offset revenue shortfalls in our general fund, we are asking for donations to offset some of the repaving cost. When making a donation, please specify on your check "Parking Lot Repaving".



LOAVES AND FISHES

Our heartfelt thanks to our May volunteers: Christine Olson, Julie Gaarder and Joyce Bluel.

June Scripture Readers

6 Holly Schultz
13 Christine Olson
20 Jennifer Fredrickson
27 Wendy Bjorklund



BUN RUN



Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for June: Doug Klein, Larry and Junella Litzkow, Julie Ellingson and Ken McGrew.

Notes From the Music Director



Grace, patience and respect. That's what we'll need as we enter this new phase of life.

Patience for taking our time and thoughtfully reentering the building. Patience for the small changes we need to make in order to worship together in the sanctuary, and online. Grace with how the online services will look and sound. Grace for when things don't go smoothly. Grace for not achieving perfection. Respect that we're not all going to feel the same about how to return to life. Respect for wearing our masks, keeping our distance, and not singing in the sanctuary.

Things are going to be different and that's okay. Beyond our worship services, here are ways for us to connect through music:

Live in the Lot: most Wednesdays 7:15-8:00pm (7:15-7:45 streaming) - while we can't sing in the building, you can sing on Wednesdays in your cars! There'll be a mix of instrumental music and hymns each week. Check the announcements for any cancellations.

Offering Themes:

June 6: photos of hope or maybe what gives you hope.

June 13: It's the mustard seed so send us photos of things that are very small or very big!

June 20: Share the Peace! While we still can't share the peace in our building, we can share it online! Send a photo of you holding the peace sign, or waving hi!

Peace, Rebecca Ruiz

CALL COMMITTEE CANDIDATES: The MET (Mission Exploration Team) is looking for 5 people to become the Call Committee. No experience necessary. We hope the MSP (Ministry Site Profile) will soon be approved by the Council, and then the congregation will meet to discuss and approve the MSP AND cast votes for the Call Committee. Once we submit the approved MSP to the Synod, we must have a Call Committee prepared to interview. Please contact Sue McNeill ASAP (651-688-8176 or suemc1493@gmail.com) with any questions or to add your name to the ballot. Thank you!

The Lord bless thee and keep thee. -Numbers