



St. Luke Lutheran Church

Connect, Grow and Serve.

St. Luke Lutheran Church
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Editor: Jo Klein

Parish Times August 2021



The Pastor's Perspective...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I pray you are well. It's hard to believe that it's August; our days and months seem to be melting together (and not just from the heat). Typically, at this time of year, we are busy with preparations for the fall -- back-to-school supplies, classroom set-up, cleaning up/clearing out, and taking those last summer vacation days. As we have seen in 2021, we are not in our typical seasons, and our preparations are a little different. Remember, God is in every season with us, no matter the uncertainty, the changes, or things that remain the same.

One of the things I miss right now is planning our Sunday School and confirmation classes. This has always been a fun and exciting time. Nevertheless, God is at work, and plans are in process for new ways to prepare for our bible study and meetings in person. We are continuously looking to God to move in new and mighty ways. We may be in uncertain times (still), but Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow and gives new life. I look forward to the time when we can re-gather in person in full, but I thank God for opening doors for ministries and connections to continue.

Luke 6:30-36 "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those, who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same." (vs. 32-22) One of the valuable lessons I learned as a participant in diverse co-host through the Synod is that success is directly proportional to how well the team unifies the diversity of every member. You don't get to choose your teammates, which is true for most co-hosts or communities of which we are members in life. But you can achieve much worldly success by working well together, caring for each other.

Jesus purposely chose a diverse group to become apostles, and by His Grace and Spirit, they became the foundation of His Kingdom. That is a wonderful reminder each day here at St Luke. God is purposely choosing to send us diverse members for our own community. The mutual benefit is that we love every one of them as Jesus has loved us. Acts 2:42-47 says it best: "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

We are together, serving God and doing His will. At times, it feels overwhelming but together, our load is light. Each one of you has the personal gifts and talents you bring to the ministry. We are still praying for our brothers and sisters in this congregation and their loving families and friends who take care of them, but it is complicated. In Galatians, Chapter 6 it talks about how together we carry each other's burdens, that no one can handle it alone. We are His handiwork, so let's live in the opportunities He gives for us to be creative in sharing the Gospel and growing deeper in love with Him. Blessings to you on your journey, my friends in Christ!

Your sister in Christ, Pastor Belzer

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Update from the St. Luke Call Committee

Good news: the St. Luke MSP was submitted to the Synod and has been accepted. The Call Committee had its first meeting on Tuesday, July 6 with Synod representative Deacon Krista Lind. Our first item as a Call Committee was to request potential candidate names from the congregation which was to be submitted to Deacon Lind by July 26. The Call Committee will now be meeting to develop the interview questions and timeline, while the Synod will start gathering candidate names for the committee to review and consider who to interview. Deacon Lind is hopeful to have those first names to the Call Committee by early August. The Call Committee is working expeditiously to move this process along. Members are: Chair Nancy Hegdahl, Mike Hegdahl, Doug Klein, Sue McNeill and Judy Salaba. Please feel free to reach out to any of the committee members if you have questions or concerns. Please understand that the call process is confidential, and we may not always have the information you want but thank you for your prayers and words of encouragements as the call Committee continues their work.

Come on down to the St. Luke Farmers Market, Saturdays, 8am to 1pm. There will be specialty coffees, crafts, soaps, candles, lots of veggies, beef, breads, and delicious caramels. Tomatoes will soon arrive! It will be your favorite errand of the week. Support your local farmers and small businesses. See you there!



President's Corner



The Call Committee (Judy Salaba, Doug Klein, Nancy and Mike Hegdahl, and me) is ready to receive the list of candidates from the Synod to begin the first interviews for our settled part-time pastor. We have met several times to review the Ministry Site Profile, review the Synod's process list, and create questions for first interviews and potential second interviews. Our last meeting was very interesting. In the Call Manual, there is a list of questions the candidates may ask us. Each member answered the individual questions. This resulted in some great discussions about past events, church history, personal experiences, shared hopes, and current realities in our membership. I am energized to know the Call Committee is in agreement in how to represent our church family and how determined we are to find the right person to be our spiritual leader. We begin each meeting with individual prayers. We ask that you pray for us too. The power of prayer is undeniable and a key part of this process. Thank you.

Once we have a settled part-time pastor, our work as a congregation will begin in earnest. Just like other congregations in our nation, we need to "rebuild" after 1 ½ years of COVID isolation, and subsequent "new normals". Each member of our church family must step up and offer their help. It may be a new committee, it may be phone calls, it may be brainstorming meetings for a new approach to strengthen our finances and build our membership. It is fair to say the first few months of our new pastor's part-time hours will be getting to know the members. They need to put a face to a name. How can you help make that happen? Everyone has a talent we can use right now. It could be making a commitment to attend all congregation meetings to vote on actions, volunteering a few hours for a one-time event, being willing to share your point of view, your ideas. You might be the key person to assist and inspire us to find and try a new ministry, a new project, a new way to connect to our neighbors. This is what excites me, and I hope it excites and inspires you too. The number of members does not determine the success or impact of a congregation. Our success will come from each of us being responsible for strengthening what has been weakened, each person finding a way to contribute the three basics: time, talents, and tithes. Of course, growing the membership is always a goal. But don't let that be the only measure of a healthy congregation. I know that Bishop Lull wants St. Luke to thrive and grow. We have so much to offer all who come to us as guests, new members, returning members, friends, and neighbors. My prayers will always be to find ways to keep St. Luke on solid ground, now and in the future.

With your help and God's guidance,
Sue McNeill

BUN RUN



Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for August: Doug Klein, Larry and Junella Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl, Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew.



August Birthdays

- 2 Emma McGrew, Phillis Amlee
- 3 Kimberly Tyl
- 5 Sandra Berger
- 14 Thor Burchill-Riley
- 17 Marietta Johnson
- 20 Doug Klein, Cathy Erickson
- 21 Kay Reich, Max Elliott
- 22 Dean Stadem
- 24 Sol Holmly
- 27 Becca Ruiz



August Anniversaries:

- 4 Kurt and Holly Schultz: 1984
- 21 Kay Reich & Charles Kernkamp: 1982
- 30 Mary Dybvig & Ralph Skoe: 2009

Notes From the Music Director



Choral season is around the corner! We'll be taking different precautions this year, but if you are interested in being a singer or being a ringer, email me with any questions, bunkamade@gmail.com, and stay tuned to next month's newsletter for more info!

Live in the Lot! Though we can't sing in the church, you can park in the lot and tune to 88.9FM or join on Zoom, Wednesday evenings 7:15pm to 8:00pm, for some hymn singing! Each Wednesday (except August 25th) we're journeying backwards through the hymnal to hit up all the old favorites and try out hymns we might not know - let's make a joyful noise!

-Becca Ruiz



LOAVES AND FISHES

Our heartfelt thanks to our July volunteers: The Landenberger family, David Tews, Larry and Junella Litzkow.

Announcing the next SM/SL Book Club, Sunday, August 29 at 6:30pm! We will be discussing the classic novel *Beloved* by Toni Morrison: "Dazzling. . . . Magical. . . . An extraordinary work." —The New York Times. Winner of the 1987 Pulitzer Prize. We will be meeting **in-person** for the first time! If the weather is good, bring a lawn chair and meet in Newell Park, 900 Fairview Ave N., St Paul. Rain Day Plan B: home of Jo Klein, refer to church directory for address. All are welcome...do join us!



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

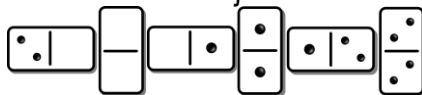
August Scripture Readers



- 1 Christine Olson
- 8 Joyce Bluel
- 15 Jennifer Fredrickson
- 22 Julie Gaarder
- 29 Wendv Biorklund

Game Days at St. Luke have resumed!

We will meet on the first and third Fridays of the month (August 6 and 20) at 12:30pm. Bring your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!



*Summertime is
always the best
of what might be.*

-Charles Bowden

The Lord bless thee and keep thee. -Numbers 6:24