



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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Editor: Jo Klein

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Connect, Grow and Serve.*

## Parish Times May 2022



### *The Pastor's Perspective.....*

#### What does “membership” look like?

This month, all three people in the Reading household will become members of St. Luke, but each one of us will become a member in a different way. I'll tell you the story behind that because it's an interesting lesson in the many facets of membership in our church.

I am currently a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Arlington, Massachusetts. That congregation initially sponsored my application to become a candidate for ordination in the ELCA, and I maintained my membership with them throughout the years of that process so I could stay under the care of the New England Synod. I will become a member by transferring my membership from St. Paul to St. Luke.

My husband, Michael, is an associate member at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Chicago, Illinois. Michael and I met while we were both living near Boston, and, after we got married, we moved to Chicago when I could start seminary. We knew we wouldn't be in Chicago long-term, but we wanted to be connected to a local parish while we were living there. Associate members aren't full voting members and they can even maintain full membership in another congregation, but they want participate in the mission and ministry of the congregation. That's what Michael decided to do for our time in Chicago.

Our daughter, Magnolia, will become a member of St. Luke because she will be baptized there. She won't be casting a vote anytime soon, but if she decides to be confirmed someday, she will “affirm her baptism” and become a full voting member like other adults. So there you go, three different paths to membership!

What does it mean to be a “member” of a congregation? Why does it matter? Well, it matters in some official record-keeping ways because it helps the different church bodies keep track of everyone. But it also matters in less official ways: it marks you as a committed part of a congregational family. It reflects your commitment to a particular community and their commitment back to you.

And, did you know? Membership is actually something that needs to be maintained! You remain an “active” member through two important forms of participation. First: you participate in worship, especially communion, at least once a year. In COVID times, we've recognized that worship participation can even be digitally mediated! Second: you offer your gifts back to the church. This means committing to a specific financial contribution each year. No matter how large or small the amount, that commitment matters. Many people also offer their time or talent for the shared work of ministry. That's what keeps congregations alive and thriving!

So, now you've heard my family's membership story. What about you?

- Would you like to become a member of St. Luke?
- Are you unsure whether or not you're an active member of our congregation?
- Would you like to affirm your commitment to our church family?

If you said yes to any of those questions, then come talk membership with us! Sunday, May 22 after worship, we'll have an informal forum about membership. Just stick around after coffee in the Social Hall or stay on the worship Zoom call to join us.

#### *A prayer for our family of faith:*

Almighty God, by the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to yourself and welcome them into the household of faith. May we show your joy by embracing new brothers and sisters as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our servant and Lord. Amen.

In faith,  
Pr. Bristol

### Altar Refresh

You will continue to see changes to our altar area in the coming months. We will be replacing the two altar candles, the baptismal candles and Christ Candle shells. As with the altar cloths and pulpit scarf, this is being financed out of the Fall Bazaar Fund.

### First Quarter Financial Report

Revenues \$27,369.  
Expenses \$38,908.  
Net (\$11,539.)



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



### May Birthdays

- 1 Jodi Landenberger
- 3 Alivia Mathis
- 4 Michael Amundson
- 6 Reginald Czech
- 9 Kent Peterson
- 10 Maleah Mathis
- 11 Ian Holmly
- 12 Julie Ellingson
- 18 Katy Eggert, Larry Litzkow
- 21 Dan Vigdal, MaryJo Brandt
- 22 Lucy Pilgrim
- 26 Kayla Stadem
- 28 Patricia Stadem, Sue Palm

### May Worship Assistants



#### Readers:

- 1 Kay Reich
- 8 Mike Hegdahl
- 15 Wendy Bjorklund
- 22 Christine Olson
- 29 Sue McNeill

#### Communion:

- 1 Kay Reich
- 15 Wendy Bjorklund
- 29 Nancy Hegdahl



### LOAVES AND FISHES

Our heartfelt thanks to our April volunteers: Julie Gaarder, Carol Hornung, Joyce Bluel, David Tews and Larry Litzkow.



### May Anniversaries

- 11 Robert and Lois Porter: 1968
- 22 Dan and Deborah Vigdal: 1971
- 30 Tom and Julie Gaarder: 1992

### A big thank you to our offering counters for the month of May:

- 1 Katy Eggert
- 8 Wendy Bjorklund
- 15 Volker Landenberger
- 22 Doug Klein
- 29 Sue McNeill



### *Notes from the Music Director*

First, I want to take a moment to thank the vocal and bell choirs for their amazing work! It was truly a blessing to hear music I've been working on played by real people - not just my playback software or layering my own vocals in Garage Band! Thank you from the bottom of my heart! As we wrap up the choral season, it's a great time for anyone, of any instrument, to check in with me if you'd like to do a solo. It's so wonderful to hear from all of the talent in our congregation, email me or talk to me after church if you're interested.

Hymn Sings, Singing Club... As we look toward summer, I'm exploring having some casual music gatherings. We could sing backwards through the hymnal again, have a casual singing evening, explore the other communion settings in the hymnal - let me know if any of these interest you or if you have an idea!

-Rebecca Ruiz

### BUN RUN



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

## President's Corner



Happy May Day!

I hope all of you had a wonderful Easter. Wasn't the Easter service at St. Luke the best? I thought it was a wonderful service with the dedication of the Paschal Candle, all the beautiful music, and so many friendly faces in person; people that we have not seen in two years. Many thanks to Pastor Bristol and Becca for their hard work and preparation, and to all the musicians that made it such a special day.

You may have noticed some fresh, new altar cloths, along with the new paschal candle; soon you will see all new candles at the altar and above the baptismal font. These new items have been purchased by Bazaar Committee funds. A huge thank you to the Bazaar Committee.

The council is currently working on our technology and updating our brochure that we send out to our neighbors and new members. We will post on the kiosk the WiFi guest password for your information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or any council member.

Blessings to All,

Nancy Hegdahl

### To Everything There Is a Season

The St. Luke's Farmers' Market season begins Saturday, **June 11**, and extends through Saturday, October 1, 8am to 1pm. Most Covid precautions will be discontinued, but we will still have a handwashing station and hand sanitizer at the east end of the market. This is now considered "best practice" for farmers' markets. If CDC guidelines change over the summer, we will pivot our policies to match theirs. You may sign up to work an early shift (7:30am to 10:30am), a late shift (10:30am to 1:30pm), or a double shift (7:30am to 1:30pm). In addition to the market co-managers, **3-4 volunteers are needed during market hours** to cover our bread table and entrance tent, along with helping to set up and take down the market. Watch for an emailed signup sheet that will be sent the beginning of May. Without your help, this important ministry to our community cannot continue. **Which Saturday(s) can you "work the market"?** For more information, please contact Wendy Bjorklund at [wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu) or 651-357-5742.

