



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

April 2023 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Signs of Easter

I hope you'll be able to join us for worship this Holy Week.

- On **Palm Sunday, April 2**, our worship will begin with a Palm processional, and we will hear much of the Passion story from the Gospel of Matthew.
- On **Maundy Thursday, April 6, 6pm**, our worship will focus on Jesus' institution of the Last Supper, which is the basis for our sacrament of communion.
- On **Good Friday, April 7, 6pm**, we'll hear the dramatic last words of Jesus from the cross, drawing from all four Gospels.
- Then comes **Easter Sunday, on April 9**. This is the highest point in the whole church calendar, our great, joyous festival marking the Lord's resurrection! There will be a bagel brunch and an Easter egg hunt to celebrate.

But Easter isn't over after April 9. It's a whole 50-day season that stretches until Pentecost. Here are some ways you'll see signs of Easter in the sanctuary.

Color! The liturgical color of the Easter season is white, as it is for the Christmas season and our most holy festival days. But we will also have a beautiful, colorful Easter garden of flowers to brighten up our worship space as we welcome the new life of spring and celebrate the new life in Christ. Thanks to all who contributed plants to our garden this year.

Water! Instead of beginning with confession, our worship will begin with a Thanksgiving for Baptism. Water symbolizes the abundance of God's provision through the natural world and the cleansing of God's mercy and forgiveness. During this liturgical rite at the font, we'll repeat the refrain "your steadfast love fills the earth." God's grace does indeed flow all around us.

*April
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 Nedrelov

OFFERING COUNTERS

2 Katy Eggert
9 Julia Gaarder
16 Kay Reich
23 Kay Reich
30 Wendy Bjorklund

SUNDAY READERS

2 Christine Olson
9 Kay Reich
16 Joyce Bluel
23 Julie Ellingson
30 Wendy Bjorklund

GOOD FRIDAY READERS

Wendy Bjorklund
Julie Gaarder
Barb Jensen
Sue McNeill
Christine Olson
Kay Reich

Light! Easter brings a new light into the sanctuary: the paschal candle. This special wax candle is lit during the 50 days of Easter, and after that only at baptisms and funerals. As the beauty of this candle's light shines into our worship space, the hope of Christ's resurrection shines into our hearts. If you'd like to make a paschal candle for your home, [here's a tutorial](#) you can try.

Bread and wine! These symbols are with us throughout the year, but we will pay special attention to them during the Easter season by celebrating communion every week until Pentecost. On the third Sunday of Easter, April 23, we'll hear the story of the risen Jesus walking with two disciples to Emmaus (see Luke 24:13-35). Though he comforts them and teaches them, they do not recognize him. But when Jesus comes to the table and breaks bread before them, suddenly they recognize him! As you come to the communion table this Easter season, be on the lookout for Jesus' presence breaking in where you haven't noticed it before.

May these symbols enliven your worship experience and draw you closer to the beauty of God.

Pastor Bristol

A prayer for Easter:

Everlasting God, increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.



Make-Your-Own Paschal Candle Workshop

Saturday, April 1, 10:00 am

Suggested donation: \$5

Materials provided

The Paschal Candle is a beautiful Christian tradition of introducing a new decorated wax candle at Easter. It is burned throughout the season of Easter, until Pentecost, or even throughout the whole year. During this workshop, we'll decorate white pillar candles with the

traditional symbols of a cross, numerals for the year, and an alpha and omega, and then we'll add clove 'nails.' Your paschal candle will enrich the celebration of Easter in your home.

Join us for Online Book Club

on Sunday, April 30, 6:30pm. We will discuss "The Salt Path" by Raynor Winn: The true story of a couple who lost everything and embarked on a transformative journey walking the South West Coast Path in England. "*The Salt Path* is an unputdownable tale and a temple to equanimity... It will change you."—*Wall Street Journal*. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome!

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 2 Katy Eggert
- 9 Kay Reich
- 16 Joyce Bluel
- 23 Julie Gaarder
- 30 Wendy Bjorklund

ALTAR GUILD

Julie Gaarder



Loaves and Fishes

Our heartfelt thanks to our March volunteers: Christine Olson, Bev Gause, Claudia Melbye, Dave Tews and Larry Litzkow.



Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for April: Mike Hegdahl, Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew, Doug Klein, Larry Litzkow.

April Birthdays

- 1 Joan Holtz
- 2 Beth Peterson
- 3 Barb Jensen
- 5 David Elliott
- 6 Tom Gaarder
- 7 Michael Arndt
- 11 Samuel Elliott
- 21 Tracy Arndt
- 23 Juniper Ulrich
- 26 Abby Klein
- 30 Eddie McGrew

April Anniversaries

- 5 Volker & Jodi Landenberger
- 8 David & Nahoko Person
- 11 David Elliott & Susan Lorenz
- 24 Raul and Becca Ruiz



All are invited to *Game Day at St. Luke*, the first and third Fridays of the month, April 7 and 21, at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!



St. Mark/St. Luke Ladies Night Out will be held on Thursday, April 20, 5:30pm at House of Wong, 1163 Larpenteur Avenue, St. Paul. Please let Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) know by April 16 if you plan on attending, so we have an idea for the reservation



Notes from the Music Director

This month is a very special month as we begin April with Holy Week and end it with our Talent Show! I hope you enjoy the special music the vocal and bell choirs have been preparing. You may even see a few more faces in Bell Choir, showing it's never too late or early to join either choir! I am so grateful for my singers and ringers and all of their hard work.

Who's got talent? Yes, it's you! **Join us on a new date: Friday, April 28th at 5:30 pm for St. Luke's Talent Show!** Jodi

As we wrap up Minnesota Foodshare Month, I want to thank everyone who donated food and cash to the local **Francis Basket Food Market** during the month of March. With the high cost of food, many people need help making sure they have enough to eat. It's one of the most basic human needs. Thanks for your generosity!

April brings the most important events of the church year as we observe the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The vespers services of Lent lead up to Maunday Thursday and Good Friday, culminating in our celebration of **Easter** on Sunday, April 9. Thanks to Pastor Bristol, Becca Ruiz, the choirs, and altar guild for making these services special. We should also thank the many people who ordered Easter lilies to adorn the altar area for the Easter service!

Sadly, on April 15, we will be observing the life and passing of longtime member **Wanda Mathison**. I will always remember the friendliness of Wanda and her daughter Lynda when I first started coming to St. Luke. We will miss Wanda and wish Lynda and her family peace and healing at this sad time.

Other things to note:

- Shout-out to Julie Gaarder for stepping up to coordinate the **Kiva/Microlending** group. It's a great way to help people in other parts of the world with small loans.
- Thanks also to the people who **sent notes** to people who recently moved into our neighborhood.
- March **jar donations** went to Neighborhood House/Francis Basket. In April and May, jar donations will support Loaves and Fishes. The fourth Monday of every month, we work with people from St. Mark Lutheran to prepare a free meal for those in need on the west side of St. Paul. Talk to me or Larry or Joyce if you're interested in helping.
- The **talent show** that Jodi Landenberger and Becca Ruiz are organizing has been rescheduled for Friday, April 28 to allow more people to participate. There's plenty of time to sign up, regardless of your skill level.
- The **Fall Bazaar** is on track for Saturday, Oct. 14, but Sue Grzywinski and Nancy Hegdahl are looking for someone to organize the **rummage sale** that's planned. Talk to them if you're able to help.
- A **spring cleanup day** is still planned on Saturday, April 29, starting at 10 a.m. If you're available, we welcome the help.

Thanks to all the hard-working people who make things happen at St. Luke!

Yours in Christ,

David Tews

The Fall Bazaar Returns!

Dear Church Family,

Our thirty-five year tradition of the Annual Church Bazaar will be returning this year to St. Luke on Saturday, October 14, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. We will once again welcome our friends, family, and community to our church home. As in the past, our congregation has a wonderful reputation for pulling together as a group, to present the finest crafts and tastiest goodies anyone has to offer. So mark your calendars and plan to attend!

As in previous years, we will be renting out tables to local crafters/vendors to sell their products, have a rummage sale, bake sale, and the kitchen with a full menu. We are in need of volunteers; many volunteers make this event a success! We are particularly in need of people to run the rummage sale and the bake sale. If you are interested in one of these positions, or would like to be a part of the planning, please contact one of the bazaar organizers: Susan Grzywinski (651-343-1453) or Nancy Hegdahl (651-600-8179). If you know of a vendor/crafter that is interested in selling their product please give them our contact information or forward us their email, and we will send out the vendor registration form.

Once again, the fall bazaar will allow St. Luke Church to offer fellowship in our church home not only to our current members, friends and neighbors, but also to new friends and potential new members. So please help us to plan an event to be proud of and celebrate together. Let's share in the fun, fellowship, and community building! --Bazaar Organizers Nancy Hegdahl and Sue Grzywinski

Landenberger is cooking up some yummy bites, but we need you-- yes you!--for the entertainment! Knock knock jokes, dance routines, magic tricks, cat's cradle aficionado - what talent can you show off? Sign up sheets are on the music bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Gertens Bedding Plants Fundraiser

Time to order your Gertens Bedding Plants! It seems early, but spring is right around the corner. Orders will be taken online, as we did for the Easter flower fundraiser. To access the site and place an order for our fundraiser group:

Go to:

www.gertensfundraising.com.

Enter the Store ID code 135 into the text field and click 'Enter ID to Continue'.

Our site is now open and **will close at 10 PM on Thursday, April 6**. We cannot accept any late orders past the deadline. PLEASE NOTE: Quantities are limited on fundraiser items. If an item sells out, it will be marked sold out on our website and you will not be able to continue to order that item. Get your orders in early to avoid limited item availability! Please take note of the important dates below, and thanks in advance for your generosity!

Thursday, April 6:

Close online ordering

Tuesday, May 16:

Pick-up of bedding plants:
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 17:

Pick-up of bedding plants:
10 a to noon

Connect, Grow and Serve.

During Lent, we tried a new way to pray together: responding to prompts with prayers written on strips of paper. During Sunday School, some helpful young weavers worked to incorporate those prayers into our Lenten prayer station.

