



St. Luke Lutheran Church
1807 Field Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55116
Phone: 651-698-9443 | www.saintlukechurch.org
Editor: Jo Klein

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Connect, Grow and Serve.

Parish Times *December 2020*

Introducing our 2021 St. Luke church council. We thank them for sharing their time and talents in their roles on council; we appreciate their commitment and dedication. Let us lift them up in prayer.

St. Luke Lutheran Church Council 2021

President

Sue McNeill
1493 Woodview Ave. E.
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Commissioner

David Tews
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(term ends 12/2021)

Vice President

Laurie Herrmann
1074 Bowdoin St.
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Commissioner

Jill Burchill
361 Stevens St. West
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Treasurer

Joyce Bluel
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Commissioner

Wendy Bjorklund
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(term ends 12/2022)

Secretary

Kay Reich
1711 Morgan Ave.
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Kerkamp.reich@gmail.com

Pastor



December Birthdays

- 4 Olivia Peterson
Stacy Alcenot
- 5 Douglas Nelson
- 7 Alina Alcenot
Raul Ruiz
- 18 Holly Schultz
- 23 Deborah Vigdal
- 30 Roger Diestler
- 31 Al Fredrickson



December Anniversaries

- 17 - Doug & Karen Wasko: 1960

Saint Luke Appreciates Your Continued Offerings

Even though church services are currently suspended, you can still give to St. Luke to help support our mission to serve the people in our congregation and in our community. A new "Ways to Give" page on St. Luke's website explains how you can give in three ways—by mail, online, and using a mobile app.

You can make electronic offerings using a credit or debit card or by withdrawal directly from a bank account (EFT transaction). EFT transactions are preferred because the fees are lower. For more information, go to saintlukechurch.org and click "Ways to Give" at the top. Your gifts are appreciated!



GIVE FROM THE HEART

Church Council

Council News

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.

2020 Church Council Members

Sue McNeill, President, suemc1493@gmail.com
 Laurie Herrmann, Vice President, lauriebuss@yahoo.com
 Kay Reich, Secretary, kernkamp.reich@gmail.com
 Ruth Carlson, Treasurer, rac4310@msn.com
 David Tews, Member at Large, dtews.mn@gmail.com
 Volker Landenberger, Member at Large, landenbergers@gmail.com
 Jill Burchill, Member at Large, jillkburchill@gmail.com



St. Luke Mitten and Hat Tree During the Advent season there will be a Christmas tree placed in the front entryway where we will be collecting hats, mittens, and scarves. The neighborhood will watch the tree become colorfully decorated as we place the donations on the tree. Please drop off your donations at St. Luke on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9am to 10am, or Saturday, Dec. 12 from 9am to 10am. If neither of these times work for you, call Jo Klein at 651-343-9317 and a time will be arranged. Or you may donate hats and mittens during the Food Drives at St. Luke. Nov. 15 and Dec. 13, 1pm to 3pm. Or you may tie a scarf to our Little Free Library or put a pair of mittens or hat in the Library for anyone who might be in need in our neighborhood. At the end of this drive, we will then donate all the hats, mittens and scarves to Naomi Family Residence, a local homeless shelter for women and children. Thank you for participating in this worthy cause!



LOAVES AND FISHES

Our heartfelt thanks to our October and November volunteers: Katy Eggert, Larry Litzkow, Joyce Bluel, Christine Olson, Bev Gause and Claudia Melbye.

December Scripture Readers

- 6 Roger Diestler
- 13 Wendy Bjorklund
- 20 Sue McNeill
- 27 Jen Fredrickson





Just in case there is any confusion about the happenings in November, let me review for you what happened and what it means. Pastor Emily gave both St. Luke and St. Mark a letter of resignation on Nov. 4. That letter cancelled the parish agreement we had with St. Mark. The Synod will present a name to our council as an interim pastor for 4-6 months. After the first of the year, a new call committee will be formed, and this committee will begin interviewing for a "settled" (Synod doesn't use "permanent") part-time pastor for JUST St. Luke. St. Mark has their own interim pastor. The interim and a settled pastor will each sign a covenant (contract) with us before they begin, and the council will sign each covenant on behalf of the congregation. A part-time pastor will work 25 hours per week; that includes getting to know our members, contacting our sick and shut-ins, preparing for services/sermons (extra during the holidays), teaching confirmation, Bible study, and attending our meetings and Synod meetings. Once the pandemic is under control and we can re-open the church, many duties will be in person. While the covenant certainly lists pastor duties, it also lists promises we make to that pastor. I can share those with you so you can begin to think about how **you** can contribute to the welcoming of any pastor to St. Luke.

"WE THE CONGREGATION WILL:

- A. *Uphold and support the ministry of the interim part-time pastor with prayer and compassion.*
- B. *Share our traditions and be open to new ideas to blend our traditions with innovations in the church and worship services.*
- C. *Work with the interim part-time pastor to find ways to maintain our current membership and to grow our membership.*
- D. *Discuss and support new programs and ministries the interim part-time pastor may suggest and help the interim part-time pastor understand our existing programs and connect with the volunteer leaders of those programs to open communication and clear expectations.*
- E. *Remain realistic in our expectations of the interim part-time pastor's time and provide respectful, direct communication to the interim part-time pastor during periods of problem solving."*

Every member of St. Luke is included in this list of promises to a new pastor. The council will certainly have ideas on how to introduce a new pastor to our entire congregation. I hope you will also consider offering some ways to create opportunities to share what traditions we enjoy, to be open to discuss new ways to fulfill our missions, find new missions and goals for our congregation, and welcome new members to our church family.

This past year has been a trial for all of us in being unable to worship together and to share conversations each week to keep in each other's lives. I understand and so does the council and our Safe Team. At the December council meeting, our Safe Team is going to request the council to approve April 1, 2021 as the possible re-opening date for our church building. The Team is purchasing all the supplies necessary to reopen and have procedures in place for us to keep safe when we gather. As vaccines become available, this reopening date will be re-addressed so we can welcome everyone back to the building as soon as possible. Until then, let's work together to find ways to welcome our interim. Tentative plans for services are being made to celebrate this special holiday season. Thank you for your patience and your understanding that the safety of our congregation comes first. Please wear your masks to stay safe and well so we can all meet together again.

Sue McNeill



Annual Meeting Decisions: The changes to the Constitution have been approved and ratified. No further action is necessary. The parking lot will be repaved in spring of 2021. The 2021 Council was elected. We approved using the 2020 budget for 2021.



Notes From the Music Director

Advent is a time to pause. Reflect. Repent. This year we have been given the chance to fully embrace this as we have to let go of so many traditions to keep ourselves and each other safe. What can we hold onto traditions while giving our selves the space and grace to reflect and listen to God's voice? How is the voice in the wilderness calling us? As we reflect on these questions, as we take advantage of the gift to be still, we can join together in worship, sing together virtually, and create a new space in our hearts for God this Christmas.

As we prepare for the season, join us on Sunday, Dec. 6th for the Advent Candlelight Service at 7 pm. I would also like to put together a special "Silent Night" for Christmas Eve but need your voice to make it work. It doesn't matter how well you sing; it will be woven together with other voices from St. Luke and only requires 10 minutes of your time. Please email me, bunkamade@gmail.com, for more details.

Virtual Ushers! We are looking for anyone who is willing to learn how to help with our Sunday morning Zoom services. We'll teach you how to be a co-host and help with muting/un-muting during the service. If you are interested, please email me.

Stay safe, stay well,
Becca

Christmas Food Gift Cards

In the tradition of Christmas benevolence at St. Luke, this year we will be collecting donations for Christmas Food Gift Cards, which will be distributed to members of our community. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 20. Please mail your donation to St. Luke Church, 1807 Field Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55116, and indicate "Christmas Gift Cards" on the memo line of your check. Or give through our website, www.saintlukechurch.org; click on "Ways to Give. Thank you.



SM/SL FOOD COLLECTION The St. Paul Area Synod is encouraging churches in the east metro to collect/raise \$50,000 worth of food between now and the end of 2020 in response to the increased need of our residents during this pandemic time.

UPDATE: The Synod raised over \$160,000 for the food challenge. We contributed to the Synod, raising 3 times what it expected, but we will continue to collect food for our neighborhood shelf, Francis Basket.

ST. MARK will be collecting food items and donations at their church on Saturday, December 12 from 10am to 12pm.

ST. LUKE will be collecting food items and donations at their church on Sunday, December 13 from 1pm to 3pm.

All donations will go to St. Francis Basket, our neighborhood food shelf. You may bring food or financial donations on the appointed days (we'll wear masks and be socially distanced). Or you may choose to give a financial donation by mailing a check to church. You also may give online through Vanco, where there now is a Food Shelf option for giving.

Here is a list of most needed items: sardines, beets, buckwheat, cabbage, sugar, meat, eggs, milk, fresh produce, dried prunes, oil, peanut butter, jelly, dish soap, shampoo/conditioner, razors/shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, body soap, baby items.



BUN RUN

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for December: Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, David Tews, Ken McGrew, and Doug Klein.



St. Luke recently received this information from a local Girl Scout, which we are glad to share with our members:

My name is Brogan Frey, and I am a Cadette Girl Scout working toward my Silver Award. My Silver Award project is to increase awareness and recruitment for Meals on Wheels. How we plan to do so is to make seniors aware that Meals on Wheels is still taking applications and is available to them even with COVID-19. We have been working with Meals on Wheels to ensure the information on the attached is accurate. There is a special program currently in effect that allows for 21 meals each week to be delivered to participants who are not able to leave their homes due to COVID-19 which we want to ensure all seniors who might need it know about.



If you need help getting
necessary items,
including groceries or
meals, please contact
Meals on Wheels.
We can help!

Ramsey County Emergency Food Service (RCEFS) is a government-funded program to provide home-delivered meals to anyone over the age of 18

Potential clients must be experiencing financial hardship and unable to afford adequate groceries or other home delivered meals

Potential clients must be homebound due to a positive COVID diagnosis or isolating because of being in a high-risk category

Meals are available to people already on a government-funded waiver to be used as a supplement to the meals provided by the waiver

Contact
Information:

phone: 651-266-4107

email: email@mealsonwheels-rc.org

website: mealsonwheels-rc.org

This poster is brought to you by Girl Scout Troop 17729 in partnership with Meals on Wheels.

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