



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

November 2025 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Messages of Hope in Advent

Many people are familiar with some of the most hopeful and encouraging Bible verses in the New Testament, but the coming season of Advent will bring to us many of the Old Testament's most hopeful imagery. If you need a word of hope right now, listen closely to the first readings each Sunday. They are filled with vibrant images of restoration, peace, and new possibilities.

Here are some examples:

November 9 - The prophet Haggai shares a vision of God who keeps promises and abides with the faithful of every generation: Take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear. –Haggai 2:4b-5

November 16 - Through Isaiah, God expresses a desire to make a new way for all people to be whole and well:

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth... Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress... Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. –Isaiah 65:17-19, 24

Pr. Bristol Reading

November Volunteers

Thanks for your participation!

ONLINE USHERS

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David NedreLOW

IN PERSON USHERS

First and Second Sundays:

Doug Klein, Joan Wilson

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Kay Reich, Carol Hornung

READERS

2 Bonnie Jellinek

9 Christine Olson

16 Wendy Bjorklund

23 Emily Elfritz

30 Joyce Bluel

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

2 Charlotte Sivanich

9 Christine Olson

16 Wendy Bjorklund

23 Emily Elfritz

30 Joyce Bluel

COFFEE HOSTS

2 Jo & Doug Klein
Wendy Bjorklund

9 Robyn Rongstad
Nancy Redlin & Don Clark

16 Joyce Bluel
Carol Horning

23 Kay Reich
Junella Litkow

November 23 - The prophet Jeremiah describes God as a good shepherd who will never lose even one of the sheep:

I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands... and I will bring them back to their fold... and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. –Jeremiah 23:3-4

November 30 - Isaiah shares a vision of world peace, in which all people are welcomed by God and all hostilities are ended:

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established... all the nations shall stream to it. The Lord shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. –Isaiah 2:2, 4

December 7 - Isaiah shares a vision of God's peace permeating the whole creation so fully that even dangerous and vulnerable creatures can live together:

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. –Isaiah 11:6-9

December 14 - Isaiah describes the abundant healing, both physical and spiritual, and liberation that can be found in God:

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God... Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. –Isaiah 35:3-6

There are more: streams in the desert, wilderness places in bloom, plentiful vineyards, highways made safe for all to travel, restoration of ruined places, tiny green shoots growing out of seemingly dead stumps, sorrow and sighing fleeing away... Truly, the first readings in the weeks to come offer a profusion of hopeful images! Perhaps you will find one in particular to treasure for yourself in these darkening days.

Bible Study All are welcome to our weekly Bible Study, in person or online, on Wednesdays at 10am led by Pastor Bristol. We will discuss the scriptures for the forthcoming Sunday. The Zoom link is emailed to you every Monday. Join us!

COUNTERS

- 2 Katy Eggert
- 9 Wendy Bjorklund
- 16 Kay Reich
- 23 Julie Gaarder
- 30 Carol Hornung

ALTAR GUILD

- Nancy Hegdahl
- Christine Olson



Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for November: Doug Klein, Kay Reich, Julie Ellingson, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Volker Landenberger.

November Birthdays

- 8 Dennis Olafson
- 10 Hugo Ruiz
- 17 Dwight Paulson
Joan Wilson
- 30 Robert Herrmann

November Anniversaries

- 9 Tracy and Kevin Arndt



**Lutheran
Social Service
of Minnesota**

Youth Holiday Gifts Your Council has voted to "go local" again this year and support homeless youth in the Twin Cities over the holidays. Lutheran Social Services sponsors a program for homeless youth called "Youth Holiday Gifts." This is a gift program of LSS Metro Homeless Youth Services. We will be collecting gifts on Sundays, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30 and 12/7. The gifts will be delivered in early December. Gifts should be NEW and



THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the 2025 Fall Bazaar a huge success! While I can't name every person involved, there are a few key people who deserve a SPECIAL THANK YOU:

- Beth Peterson, who started prepping in September with the Chili Chicks, and led the effort on the day of the Bazaar—serving chili, pie, and rolls, and tackling the big cleanup. Many hands made light work in the kitchen—thank you all!
- Deb Vigdal for leading the Bake Sale again, with pricing help from Julie Gaarder and Junella Litzkow on Friday and all who assisted on Saturday. Thank you to everyone who donated delicious baked goods.
- Mike Hegdahl for organizing the Rummage Sale, along with Nancy White, Joan Wilson, and Nancy Redlin for sorting and pricing. A big thank you to Volker Landenberger and David Tews for hauling items to Goodwill.

Thanks to the 19 vendors who brought energy and fun to the day. Many reached out afterward to say how much they enjoyed it and look forward to returning. Thank you to all who donated raffle gifts and helped sell tickets. Prize winners shared how much they enjoyed the event. Special thanks to Pastor Bristol for her support, and Jo Klein for keeping members informed. Thanks to the cashiers and money counters—we raised around \$3000!

This event couldn't happen without the many hands and warm hearts of our members. With your continued support, we look forward to our next Bazaar on October 10, 2026!

Thank you, Nancy Hegdahl



Don't forget to “fall back” on Saturday, Nov. 1: Set your clocks one hour back as Daylight Saving Time ends.

UNWRAPPED. Please indicate the dollar amount on any gift card you donate. A list of desired holiday gifts is available in the Social Hall or click here for details. You are a warm, giving congregation; I'm confident we can offer gifts to these young people who are in need. Please contact me with any questions or concerns! -Wendy Bjorklund
651-357-5742,
wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu



Notes from the Music Director - Becca Ruiz

Thanks to those who came to the Winter Music Preview on Sunday, Oct. 26th! The Music Previews are a time where I share a couple ideas for the upcoming season's liturgy; we discuss the music we sing week to week like the Kyrie, Gospel Acclamation and Communion music. For the season of Advent our music will borrow tunes from Advent hymns; this is a set of music I've been adding to over the last few years.

On October 22nd, we had our first St. Luke Family Choir rehearsal and it was a blast! Families are welcome to come on Wednesdays through November 19th for food and social time at 5:30pm and music about 6:00pm. We're working towards singing a choir piece with the vocal choir at an upcoming service and engaging in different fun music activities together. Thank you to everyone who is helping out with the meals and joining in!



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, Friday, November 7 and 21. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

Congregational Meeting On Nov. 2, we'll meet for our annual congregational meeting after the Sunday service. The key events of the meeting are reviewing annual reports, approving the minutes of last year's meeting, approving next year's budget, and electing a church council for next year. The council meets monthly to conduct the business of the church. We welcome new people and previous council members to serve on the 2026 council. If you are interested, talk to Nancy Hegdahl or one of the other council members.

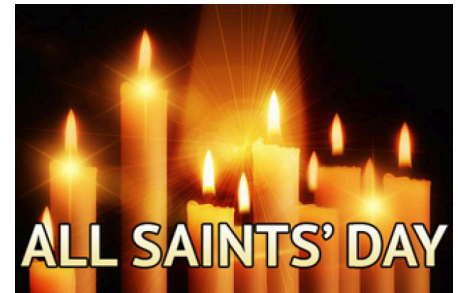


Deck the Halls! Please, we need your participation! Let's roll up our sleeves and decorate the church for Advent/Christmas after worship on Nov. 30, then enjoy a potluck lunch together! Please bring a dish to pass. Many hands make light work! It is sure to put you in a festive mood...hope to see YOU there!



Supper with Saints will not take place in November, but will return as a luncheon in December. We will meet at Joseph's Grill, 140 S. Wabasha St. at noon on December 6th. Please let Joyce Bluel know by Sunday, November 30th if you would like to reserve a spot. We will need a firm number and will not be able to accept requests after this date.

Connect, Grow and Serve



All Saints Day Sunday, Nov. 2 is our annual All Saints Day worship service at St. Luke. We will be honoring those who have passed away since our last ASD service. During this service we observe a Rite of Remembrance, in which we read the names of the deceased one by one, and as each name is read, a family member or friend of the deceased may come forward to light a candle to honor their loved one. (If no one comes forward, the Pastor lights the candle.) We invite you to participate in this special service. If you have a family member or friend that you wish to honor on All Saints Day, please contact Administrator Jo Klein at jojoklein@gmail.com so that she may add the name of your loved one to the list.