



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

October 2026 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Fall is a busy season in this congregation's life with many community events and programs happening. Of course that includes the very special day of the Fall Bazaar, and I hope we'll see you there on October 10! Thanks to the many helping hands who bring that event to life – what a fun way to open our doors to our friends and neighbors!

In terms of worship, fall brings the final weeks of the long green season of "Ordinary Time," which we've been in since Pentecost. The Gospel readings we hear on Sundays during this time focus on themes of discipleship and commitment to the way of Christ. We hear a number of teaching parables from Jesus. This year, we are reading through the Gospel of Matthew, so all our Gospel readings will come from the later chapters of that book.

You'll notice the second scripture reading each week this fall will be from the book of Acts. This is a unique book in the New Testament. If the four Gospels– Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John– tell us about Jesus' life, ministry, and death, Acts is the sequel (Acts was written by the same writer as the Gospel of Luke). Acts tells us about the first 30 years of the church, so if you've ever wondered what Peter, Thomas, and the other disciples did and said after Jesus' ascension, the book of Acts will tell you. For this reason Acts is sometimes called by its longer name: "The Acts of the Apostles."

But others suggest a more appropriate name might be "The Acts of the Holy Spirit," because the events recorded in Acts tell of faithful

Pr. Bristol Reading

October 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:

Volker Landenberger,

Aidan Tarpenning

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Mike and Nancy Hegdahl

READERS

4 Sue McNeill

11 Charlotte Sivanich

18 Wendy Bjorklund

25 Kay Reich

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

4 Kyle Ulrich

11 Charlotte Sivanich

18 Wendy Bjorklund

25 Kay Reich

ALTAR GUILD

Julie Gaarder, Christine Olson

COUNTERS

6 Katy Eggert

13 Carol Hornung

20 Kay Reich

27 Carol Hornung

people empowered and equipped by God, whose spirit is evidently at work through their lives as the message of Jesus spreads. We get to hear some of the first sermons ever preached about Jesus. We get to see the disciples themselves perform miracles that heal and liberate people.

And those stories invite us to bring new imagination to what it means for us to be church today.

“As we read about the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Peter and Paul, Philip and Stephen, Priscilla and Aquila, and many others – some well known, and others less so – we find ourselves wondering how we might act and what we might say in such circumstances. When we read how Peter was forced to broaden his thinking about the early church’s relationship to the Gentiles, we present-day readers are forced to ask about our church’s relationship to those who are considered unwelcome. As the early church struggled with the meaning of life together in community, the modern ready inevitably asks the same questions today.” (Charles C. Williamson, Acts, 3.)

I hope you will find the upcoming scripture readings from Acts interesting, inspiring, and relevant to your own life of faith.



Notes from the Music Director - Becca Ruiz

Choirs have begun - but that doesn't mean you can't still join! Bells meet before service at 8:30 am, and vocal choir rehearses after service and fellowship, from 11:00 am to noon.

A note for the singers - Vocal choir has a lot of post-service conflicts during the fall, so it is really important for you to be at full rehearsals in this season. We'll have fewer than 10 rehearsals before the Advent Candlelight Service!

Speaking of Advent, we'll have our Winter Music Preview on Sunday, Oct. 25th during fellowship time. Bring your treats as we discuss our favorite Advent and Christmas pieces, and chat about what Kyries, Gospel Alleluias and Hosanna in the Highests we want to sing. (Choir will follow.)

And now I'd like to give some big Thank You's:

~Thank you to our Rally Day 1 Hour Bell Choir - you added such joy to our Processional Hymn and it really helped start off the service with a spark!

COFFEE HOSTS

- 4 Kay Reich
Junella Litzkow
- 11 Ulrich/Sivanich Family
Elfritz Family
- 18 Karen Larson
Bonnie Jellinek
- 25 Robyn Rongstad
Wendy Bjorklund

KITCHEN LAUNDRY

- 4 Kay Reich
- 18 Bonnie Jellinek



Bun Run

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

October Birthdays

- 5 Laurie Smith
- 7 Alek Landenberger
- 9 Mike Hegdahl
- 10 Ava Herrmann
- 14 Megan Allen
- 15 Charlotte Ulrich
- 18 Magnolia Reading
- 22 Bev Eckstrom
- 23 Peter Allen
- 29 Nancy Redlin

October Anniversaries

- 10 Mike & Nancy Hegdahl: 1992
- 24 Doug & Jo Klein: 1981



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, Friday, October 2 and 16. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

~Thank you to all who attended that Sunday's piano concert with Thomas Hecht! It was a flawless program with a really creative and thoughtful storyline woven throughout the pieces. It was such a blessing to have the honor to host the event.

~And to that point, I'd like to thank one of our new members, Katherine Jacobson Fleisher, who approached me about hosting the concert at our church. Thank you so much for your effort and working with me to make this happen!

Hosting concerts with outside artists is new to me in this space, and I'm not sure how new it has been for St. Luke, but if this is something you would enjoy to attend and have at our church, please let me know!



It was our honor and great joy to host the Thomas Hecht piano concert on September 13.



Highlights from the September council meeting:

- > Fire extinguisher inspection is due, David E. will take the extinguishers to a local shop.
- > Approximately 12 dead trees were removed from the north parking lot area. Parking lot lines and handicapped markings were repainted, and brush was trimmed. East chimney flashing was sealed following a roof leak; the roof will be monitored. Utility rooms were organized and shelving installed for Garden Club storage. Two additional electrical outlets are planned along the north side of the building for farmers' market vendors.
- > Current council officers are expected to seek another term. David E. and Carol are up for re-election as at-large commissioners. A candidate is needed to replace David N., who is moving to Ohio.
- > St. Luke will again support the LSS homeless youth program through donated items and October/November jar offerings.



Are you interested in ushering? We need two ushers--one for the first and second Sundays in February, May, August, and November to usher with Doug Klein, and another for the first and second Sundays of March, June, September, and December to usher with Kyle Ulrich. Duties include lighting the candles, greeting people and handing out bulletins, counting attendance, passing the collection plates, and guiding people for communion. If you are interested in ushering, please talk to David Tews, Pastor Bristol, or one of the other ushers



Kiva Lending Opportunity

It's time for another Kiva lending session! Thanks to the funds that have been repaid, we have **\$2,370 available to lend** to individuals and entrepreneurs outside the United States. Since we began this program, our congregation has provided a total of **\$39,985 in loans** to people around the world. Please join us **Sunday, November 8, after worship** in the double room down the hall as we decide together where to lend these funds. It doesn't take long, and anyone is welcome to join us. Come be part of this meaningful outreach and help extend our congregation's generosity around the world!—Julie Gaarder

December offerings will support Union Gospel Mission's Naomi Family Program; January offerings will support The Drawer.

Fall Bazaar

Only about one week until the Bazaar! If you would like to make a donation to the raffle please talk to Joan Holtz or Joyce Bluel, they will be heading up the raffle. If you have time on Saturday Oct. 10th we need all the help we can get. Sign up sheets are in the social hall, please sign up if you can help.

We need helpers after church on Sunday, October 4 to move things out of the social hall and bring the vendor tables in; please stay after if you can help.

Please bring baked goods for the Bake Sale! Here are the guidelines:

Suggested Guidelines:

Fast selling items each year are ethnic foods (lefse, krumkake, stollen, etc.), sweet rolls, coffee cakes, candies (fudge, etc.), sweet breads and yeast breads, jams and jellies, and PIES. Cookies, bars, cakes, muffins and cupcakes also do well.

Please prepackage your bakery donations as follows:

6 cookies per package

4 cupcakes or muffins per package

12 candies per package, cut 1" x 1"

6 rich bars per package, cut 1" x 2"

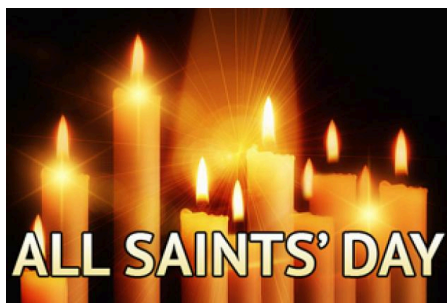
6 cake bars or sheet cake per package, cut 2" x 2"

All frosted items should be placed in a single layer.

If you cannot package your baked goods, we'll be glad to do it for you. Please use disposable pans; or be sure to label your personal pans with your name.

Please label your baked donations with the name of the item. The Bake Sale Committee will do the pricing.

Spread the word...tell your friends and neighbors about the Bazaar!



All Saints Day Sunday, Nov. 1 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



Supper with Saints for October will take place on October 22nd at 5:30 pm at HoHo Gourmet Restaurant, 1985 Old Hudson Rd., St Paul. Please let Joyce Bluel know by Sunday, October 18th if you plan on attending, so we have a number for the reservation.



Congregational Meeting On Nov. 1, 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 2027 council. If you are interested, talk to Emily Elfritz or one of the other council members.



Christmas in October? That's right, the annual Gerten's Christmas fundraiser has begun...time to order poinsettias/festive greenery to dec the halls *and* support our church! To access the site and place an order, go to <http://www.gertensfundraising.co>

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.



Magnolia and Pastor Bristol were asked to be communion servers during the installation service for Bishop Justin Grimm on September 13.



We had a nice representation for our Blessing of the Animal event on September 13.

m and enter our Store ID code 135 into the text field, then click 'Enter ID to Continue'. The site opened Monday, September 21st and will close at 10 PM on Thursday, October 29. Plants will be delivered and available Friday, December 4th at St Luke. If you would like to leave your plant at church to be included in our holiday decorations, please let Joyce Bluel know.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's School Tools Drive! School Tools is a summertime school supply drive hosted by Interfaith Action to help provide kids with the supplies they need to start the school year strong. The faith communities of Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul collect new backpacks and school supplies to support families. The 2026 recipients were: CornerHouse Children's Advocacy Center, Emma Norton Services, and Project REACH. In addition, three Interfaith Action programs, including Department of Indian Work, Career Pathways and Project Home were recipients. Along with donating enough school supplies to fill the back end of a CRV for delivery, St. Luke donated \$147 in August jar money and \$450 from individual congregants, for a total of \$597! Thank you so much for your generosity! This will make a huge difference for children and their parents!

***Connect, Grow
and Serve.***