



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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St. Luke Lutheran Church

Connect, Grow and Serve.

Parish Times *February 2020*



The Pastor's Perspective...

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear."—Ephesians 4:29

I am still relatively new in many of your minds. I just arrived not even five months ago and when I stand up to lead or preach in worship, you may feel and see I am different from your previous pastors. It is totally natural for you to have initial thoughts about who I am or what you think my intentions are or try and read between the lines. Because I am different, it might feel uncomfortable for some. Assumptions are made and misperceptions can occur easily during a time of transition. Anxiety can run high and emotions often become the driver of conversation.

When something or someone is new, it takes awhile to get used to it or them. Time is the key.

In coming to St. Luke and St. Mark, I too, made assumptions about who I thought you were. I have quickly learned that I need to verify, listen, watch and constantly check in with folks to find out what your traditions and rituals are, what has been done in the past and how you see yourselves now. As I get to know you more and more, I am beginning to see whether my assumptions or perceptions are accurate or not.

With that being said, we are a community of faith. We are also broken. The ways in which we communicate with each other can dictate the way in which our congregations choose to go in the future. My hope is that we choose healthy ways to express and share our thoughts and concerns with one another. Talking with one another and giving negative opinions about me or a sermon or worship or anything else that is a part of our lives is unhealthy. Anonymous feedback is not helpful or healthy. Talking with one another and giving negative opinions about other people is unhealthy. If you have feedback of any sort, it is always best to go to the person you have the feedback for. As we move forward into the future, I would like to cultivate healthy communication to the best of our abilities at St. Luke and St. Mark. The goal of giving feedback is to be genuine, helping us or the other person to understand where we are coming from.

If you have feedback, I would ask that you hold the scripture above in your hearts. As we proceed forward, we need to find productive and healthy ways to communicate so that we can continue to build up the community of Christ and give grace to those who hear.

My prayer at St. Luke and St. Mark is that we go directly to the person if there is a problem or issue. My prayer is that we look to do things for the benefit and building up of the whole community, not just ourselves. My prayer is that we uplift one another and find ways to solve problems with grace and forgiveness. My prayer is that with curiosity, we can get to know one another and find ways to be the church now and in the future.

No matter what context we serve in daily life, "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." These words from Ephesians were written for a community 2,000 years ago. They still apply to us now more than ever.

Thank you for the ministry you do here in this congregation and in the world. May you be blessed on your way.
In Christ's Love and Peace, Pastor Emily



February Birthdays

4 Maggie Erickson
 9 Kirby Peterson
 10 Junella Litzkow
 11 Sue Grzywinski
 14 Dianne Diestler
 16 Ann Verschoyle
 17 David Nedrelow
 23 Mary Dybvig,
 Volker Landenberger
 24 Jeff Kingsley
 26 Karen Wasko
 28 Sadie Pilgrim



Ladies Night Out will be held on Tuesday, February 18th, at Bennett's Chop and Railhouse, 1305 West 7th Street at 5:30 pm. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) by Sunday, February 16th if you are planning on attending so we have an idea of how many for the reservation. All are welcome.



Council Approvals in January:

- 1) Approved purchase of new membership and accounting program ICON to replace several programs used now.
- 2) Approved repair of the refrigerator.
- 3) Approved 7 Constitution changes and updates required by the ELCA and our congregation (vote needed by congregation at two special meetings).



LOAVES AND FISHES

83 hungry men, women and children were fed dinner on December 23rd at the Loaves and Fishes program at St. Matthew's Church. Workers from St. Luke were Sandy Berger, Larry Litzkow, Verdel Humburg, and Joyce Bluel.



We are expanding to Sundays for February! Stop by Sat. Feb. 22nd from 10 am to 1 pm or Sun. Feb. 23rd from 1pm to 4pm. The Makerspace is a drop-in creative building and art space with ample supplies to create as you wish! If you'd like to volunteer for the Makerspace, contact Becca Ruiz (bunkamade@gmail.com) or sign-up at the Kiosk!

A big thank you to our February Bun Run volunteers: Larry and Junella Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl, David Tews, and Ken McGrew.



February WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Readers:

2 Wendy Bjorklund
 9 Joyce Bluel
 16 Katy Eggert
 23 Laurie Herrmann

Communion:

2 Wendy Bjorklund
 16 Katy Eggert

Many thanks to all who contributed socks and underwear for our "Undie Sunday" drive for The Drawer! This worthy organization is the brainchild of our beloved former St. Luke members, Deb and Stew Shepard. We are proud and honored to participate annually in this cause, to provide dignity and warmth to those in need. From their website: "The Drawer is an enlivening and empowering organization not only for the recipients of the product, but also to every person whose life somehow intersects with The Drawer. We understand a communal need that goes beyond socks and underwear. A need for the power of community. A need to act in the world. A need to pass on the faith in humankind. Stew and Debby Shepard, the power couple behind The Drawer, recognized these needs and had a desire to create a place where everyone is welcome. No exceptions. And the rest, as they say, is history."



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for February: Judy Salaba, David Tews, Kay Reich, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, Roger Diestler.

President's Corner

Sue McNeill



Changes

First, I'd like to thank Wendy Bjorklund for the great work she did during the past five years that involved many, many meetings and reports in addition to normal Council work. I would like to thank you for allowing me to represent our congregation as President. My desire to volunteer again was the opportunity to assist Pr. Emily as she discovers our strengths and needs. I also want to find a way to outreach to some members we haven't seen for a while and find ways to welcome new members.

Changes... they are a part of life that can be exciting, rewarding, stressful, confusing, disappointing, scary, fun, and often can move us forward. My retirement in 2018 was an exciting change! No more rush hours. No more schedules. Hah! I am as busy as I was when I was working, just doing things I really enjoy. Finally, after 46 yrs. in a law firm, I am using my teaching degree as a substitute teacher and teacher's aide for Dis. 196 adult ELS classes. That makes me so happy!

Welcoming a new pastor is sure to bring changes for us, but maybe in different ways for you or me. I thought we could look at some changes we've shared, big and small. A new pastor is exciting because she will have the same basic beliefs about being a child of God and worshipping as a Lutheran, but her point of view and her personal life stories that she shares in her sermons help us to find what is similar in our lives, and what is different and interesting. And now our life stories are new to her for us to share. A big change is losing our coffee hour after the service so that she can join St. Mark's congregation for worship. This makes it difficult to get to know her on a casual basis in our usual way. There was a whirlwind on her arrival in Sept. of new faces and names and worship styles to learn for two churches. Then the holidays hit with extra services in the evenings in addition to two each Sunday morning. By accepting the change of no pastor at the Christmas Day service, both churches were able to gift her the opportunity to worship with her husband and two sons that morning. That was a nice change.

That whirlwind is over and the Council and the Parish Board are aware that not sitting with her over coffee has been a difficult change for many. Please know there are plans for creating some opportunities for casual time together with Pr. Emily. Shared Ministry has meant a change to an 8:30 am service and a 9:30 am shared service once a month. I was able to adjust. I reserve Sunday mornings for church, so that change was ok for me. I hope it has become ok for you too. No change is that our pastor lives in another city about 25 minutes away. Our last two pastors lived in Roseville and Shoreview. Most of the time Pr. Emily is in town visiting our sick and shut-ins, attending Synod meetings, other church-related meetings, Bible Study, Confirmation, and taking care of congregation business. She is probably near and available to you for an emergency call, just as our other pastors have been.

A small change I enjoyed was reading a new creed one Sunday. I thought about these new words and if they said what I felt. We were back to the Apostles Creed the next Sunday. Our routines at church are comforting. But small changes can give us a new window of understanding or insight to the creed's meaning. A major change was not sharing all day with the pastor at the Bazaar. Both St. Luke and St. Mark host bazaars on different weekends. That had to change this year. We couldn't expect Pr. Emily to spend 7-8 hrs. at both bazaars. She came to ours with her family and checked it out, and even won a raffle prize! Yes, it would have been fun to spend the day with her, but that isn't what we agreed to in our Shared Ministry. This is when we must remember that a Shared Ministry with St. Mark has allowed us to keep St. Luke open for worship, open to new members, to be a continued meeting place for several groups, and allows us to continue our neighborhood mission projects. It will enable us to share new and many more ideas to help each of our congregations.

We are still a warm and welcoming congregation for all. When a change disturbs or troubles you, please try to be patient and share your concerns. By discussing these changes openly, we may find that we can grow to like the change or modify the change. We must learn to be open to losing something familiar to find the positive in what is new. And that, my dear church family, is how we will continue to be strong and grow. Peace.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

It's been a long time since we produced a photo phone directory! Especially since we're sharing a pastor with St. Mark, this is really necessary because we need to match faces with names. Could you volunteer to help coordinate the production of this valuable tool? We need two people from St. Luke who are willing to work with two people from St. Mark to figure out how to do this. It will be a fun task and is something so necessary for both of our churches. Please contact Sue McNeill or Jo Klein if you are interested in helping.



The 2020 offering envelopes are now available in the Social Hall. Please pick up your box as soon as possible to defray postage expenses. Thank you.



February Acolytes
2 Tatum Herrmann
16 Alek Landenberger



Lent and Holy Week Schedule

Mardi Gras will take place at St. Mark on Saturday, Feb. 22, 4pm to 6pm.
Ash Wednesday service will be at St. Luke on Feb. 26 at 7:00pm. New this year will be a set up at St. Luke/St. Mark for a drive-thru where anyone driving up can receive ashes and a cup of coffee. It will occur at St. Luke 7:30am to 8:30am, and St. Mark 11:30am to 12:30pm. In addition to the ashes and coffee, business cards will be given out that will include our Lenten Season and Holy Weeks service schedules.

Lenten services will alternate between St. Mark and St. Luke. Soup will be served at each service starting at 6pm with service at 6:30pm. Dates/locations are as follows:

March 4 at St. Mark
March 11 at St. Luke
March 18 at St. Mark
March 25 at St. Luke
April 1 at St. Mark

Maundy Thursday worship will be at St. Luke on April 9 at 7pm in Social Hall, transitioning to sanctuary.

Good Friday service will be April 10 at 7pm at St. Mark. Also, there will be a Cross Walk at 12 noon, beginning at the Salvation Army at 401 West 7th Street.

Easter Sunday is April 12:

6:30am: Sunrise River bluff service; details to follow
8:00am: worship at St. Luke
9:00am: Breakfast fundraiser at St. Luke
10:00am: worship at S. Mark

Please be sure to mark your calendars and participate in these important events and worship services!



Come one, come all to a festive Mardi Gras Celebration on Feb. 22 at St. Mark, 4pm to 6pm....a time for fellowship, great food and fun activities! The event will be potluck, so please bring a dish to pass if you are able.