



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

November 2023 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Pr. Bristol Reading

November: a month with so much to celebrate!

November is almost like its own mini-season within the church year. This time in the calendar brings a lot of secular holidays (just take a look around your neighborhood and see how Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas decorations all seem to intermingle!), but it also brings festivals in the church year.

Right on the heels of Reformation Day, we celebrate All Saints' Day at the beginning of November, a day when we remember those who have died and proclaim our trust in God's sure promise of eternal life that awaits all the faithful. At the end of the month, we close out our liturgical year with Christ the King, a festival just before Advent that celebrates the supremacy of Jesus. Jesus is no ordinary king, however. He rules with love and gentleness. This year's lectionary will focus on Jesus as the good shepherd, who guides and protects the flock.

What do we do with all these holidays and festivals – so many different themes, so many different rituals? Well, I guess it depends on the state of your spirit.

You might be ready to embrace this time, after the 30+ weeks of ordinary season we've observed since Pentecost. The colors in the church have been green for months and months, and now they'll start to change color week to week: red for Reformation Day, white for high festivals, and then the blue of Advent for the month of December. This time can feel sparkly – so much to see and celebrate! So many different themes and rituals to embrace!

Here's one gift I'm looking forward to this year in particular: Advent doesn't begin until December. That means the weekend after Thanksgiving is *not* the first Sunday of Advent. It's

November Worship Volunteers

**Thanks for your
participation!**

IN PERSON USHERS

First and Second Sundays:

Doug Klein

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Carol Hornung & Kay Reich

ONLINE USHERS

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David NedreLOW

OFFERING COUNTERS

5 Katy Eggert

12 Carol Hornung

19 Kay Reich

26 Kay Reich

SCRIPTURE READERS

5 Julie Ellingson

12 Wendy Bjorklund

19 Julie Ellingson

26 Jo Klein

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

5 Emily Elfritz

12 Wendy Bjorklund

19 Christine Olson

26 Doug Klein

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Hegdahl

like we get an extra week. For me, that feels like a chance to fully soak in the joy of Thanksgiving – harvest-themes, family meals, gratitude – without too quickly turning to preparation for Christmas – twinkly lights, candles, and evergreen wreaths.

But the constant change of November might feel a bit overwhelming for you, especially if you're already dreading your holiday to-do list *outside* of your church life. Do I have to add *more* things to do for all these church festivals, too?! The answer to that is no. You can just come and be held by the holiness of worship. You don't have to commemorate every holiday on the church calendar (you don't even have to know about them). We say that every Sunday is like a little Easter, and that can be enough: just come to worship each week and celebrate the resurrection over and over again. That is always worth rejoicing, no matter what time of year it is.

So here are two prayers for your November. One for those of you ready for all the pomp and circumstance of festival season, and one for those of you who find all these changing holidays a little overwhelming.

Holy God, every moment is a chance to celebrate your goodness in a new way. Awaken me to your presence around me in the festival days to come. Through the rituals of this time, draw me closer to your presence and teach me daily of your ways. Amen.

Holy God, when life moves too fast, call me back to the still center that is your faithful presence. Keep me grounded in your word. Surround me with loving community. Sustain my spirit with the truth of your eternal grace. Amen.



Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for November: Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew, Doug Klein, Kay Reich.

November Birthdays

10 Hugo Ruiz
17 Dwight Paulson
30 Robert Herrmann

November Anniversaries

9 Tracy & Kevin Arndt: '91
12 Larry & Junella Litzkow: '60
26 Jack & Joan Holtz: '60



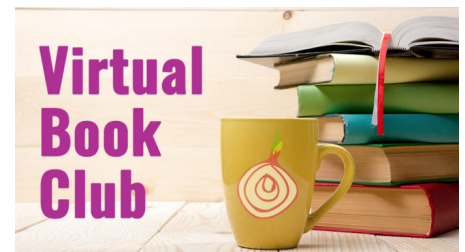
All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, the first and third Fridays of the month, November 3 and 17, at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!



We've had some beautiful fall weather this year, but we're getting a wake-up call in November with colder weather that reminds us of what is on the way. Time to get out our warmer clothes and make sure the snow blower is in working order!

October was an action-packed month:

- Oct. 7 was the last day of the **St. Luke Farmers' Market** this year. Many thanks to coordinators Laurie Hermann and Wendy Bjorklund and the countless volunteers who made the market possible.



Join us for St. Luke Book Club, Sunday Jan. 7, 6:30pm, via Zoom, to discuss "Big Little Lies", a mystery by Liane Moriarty. "A novel about secrets burrowed in a seemingly placid small town. Moriarty is a fantastically nimble writer, so sure-footed that the book leaps between dark and light

- Oct. 14 saw the return of **St. Luke's Fall Bazaar**. I was impressed by the delicious food and talented craft vendors, and it was hard to decide which baked goods to buy because it all looked so good. And now I know why Sue and Dan Grzywinski's fresh lefse always sells out! Yum! Thank you to coordinators Sue Grzywinski, Nancy Hegdahl, and Mike Hegdahl and the army of volunteers who helped with planning, setting up, working at the event, and cleaning up. Well done!
- The following Saturday, Oct. 21, a group of 17 members gathered for the **fall retreat** at the Mount Olivet Retreat Center near Farmington. The morning focused on an insightful workshop on spiritual gifts, lead by Justin Grimm, Director of Evangelical Mission for the St. Paul Area Synod. In the afternoon, the perfect temperature and peaking fall colors made for ideal conditions to hike the trails through woods and prairie and take the marsh walk out to a small island in Chubb Lake. Thanks to all who attended.
- October concluded with a **joint service and potluck** with our friends from St. Mark's. There's always good food and good conversation at our get-togethers.

Looking ahead, try to attend our annual congregational meeting after the service on Nov. 5. The agenda includes:

- Minutes from last year's congregational meeting.
- Reports from our treasurer Joyce Bluel, Pastor Bristol, and the president (me), and a Farmers' Market report from Wendy Bjorklund
- Election of the 2024 church council members. We're still looking for a candidate to run for secretary. (Our thanks to Kay for serving as secretary for so many years.)
- 2024 Budget to be approved by the congregation.
- Amendments to our constitution that require approval by the congregation. All of the changes resulted from changes the ELCA made in 2022 to the standard language in church constitutions.
- A discussion of our decision to stop our involvement with the Loaves and Fishes program.

Jar donations in October benefitted Naomi Family Residence, a shelter for women and children operated by the Union Gospel Mission. November and December jar donations will go to the Lutheran Social Services program to help homeless youth. We are also collecting holiday gifts for homeless youth every Sunday in November and on Dec. 3. There's a general needs list on the back

seamlessly; even the big reveal in the final pages feels earned and genuinely shocking."—*Entertainment Weekly*. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome!

Supper with Saints

Supper with Saints will not take place in November, but will return as a luncheon in December. We will meet at the Downtowner Woodfire Grille, 253 W. 7th St., at noon on December 2nd. Please let Joyce Bluel know by Monday, November 27th if you plan on attending, so we have a number for the reservation.



Notes from the Music Director

The holidays are coming up quickly! If you have a piece you'd like to sing or play during offering or communion, make sure to contact Becca. Also, it's not too late to join either the bell or vocal choir! Rehearsals for the holiday pieces start Nov. 19th.

-Becca Ruiz

All Saints Day

Sunday, Nov. 5 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. 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.

table at church, listing the most-needed items. Thanks, Wendy, for organizing this!

Happy Thanksgiving to all the good people at St. Luke. We certainly have much to be thankful for!

Yours in Christ, David Tews



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, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26 and 12/3.** The gifts will be delivered in early December. Gifts should be UNWRAPPED! 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



Join us for Thanksgiving Eve worship at St. Luke, Wednesday, Nov. 22, 7pm.

Pastor Bristol has written a series of devotions

based on the assigned scripture readings for October and November. Each devotion is paired with a suggestion for a simple spiritual practice you can try. It is posted on our [website](#), or you may pick up a printed copy in the back of the sanctuary



Here’s our families singing and drumming during Faith Formation!



Don’t forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, Nov. 4!

Connect, Grow and Serve.