



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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Editor: Jo Klein

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Connect, Grow and Serve.*

## Parish Times April 2021



### *The Pastor's Perspective...*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Peace be with you.

I want to thank you for your active and respectful participation during our conversations and for engaging in such fruitful, constructive, and open conversations for hopes and discernment for St. Luke. I want to thank the council members for actively connecting with all of you with the help of Deacon Lind, assistant of the Bishop Lull St Paul Area Synod to help with this process.

We finished the group conversations, and Deacon Lind and I are working to bring forth the result of these conversations to present to the whole congregation. Special thanks to Council member representatives who worked arduously through this time to bring transparency and help overcome some of the identified challenges in the last 18 months at St Luke.

Let us pray for this community of saints to continue carrying God's ministry and to give us the comfort to work together in difficult times with mutual forbearance and respect.

*"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." -John 16:33*

What does it mean to have "peace"? Maybe we have peace when we are healthy. That makes sense. When we are healthy, our bodies feel peaceful. Maybe we feel like we have peace when everything is going well at work, or even when we have work. Being out of work, or not having steady work, is stressful. Life definitely feels peaceful when work is going well. What about right now while many of us suddenly find ourselves mostly staying at home? Would you describe this as a "peaceful" time? People are very worried about getting sick. We are terrified of passing this mysterious illness to someone unintentionally. We are literally starting to look at everyone around us as the carrier of death itself. Would you say that is "peaceful"? Probably not.

The peace we speak of is not the lack of trouble in life or the security in the accumulation of goods and the happiness of strifeless relationships and life, or a season of life devoid of suffering. But it is so very important to see, to know, to acknowledge as true, what true peace is and from where it comes...

As we finish up Lent and prepare for Easter, we see the peace John is talking about. As Christians, our peace almost has nothing to do with what is ongoing on in the world around us. Our peace is a lasting, eternal peace because the Son of God offered a perfect sacrifice for us on Good Friday; He suffered for us, died for us, and rose from the dead for us three days later. Because of what Christ has done, He has mended our broken relationship with God the Father that was fractured all the way back to the Fall. We now have peace with God given to us by Jesus.

Our peace in Christ does not depend upon what is going on in this world. In fact, I would say our peace in Christ can be even more precious to us especially when this world around us seems to be crumbling. You have a peace in Christ that nothing in this world can ever snatch away from you; so important for us to remember, especially now.

Fear not! Our Suffering Lord, who has suffered all of this and more, goes before you, and has promised not to leave you nor forsake you, but to be with you, especially as you observe this Lententide in the midst of this COVID-19 crisis. Be at peace in the Lord! You will continue to be in all of our prayers. God keep you all safe in Christ Jesus our Lord! He is risen indeed!

Faithfully in Christ, Pr. Jacqueline Belzer

## 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](http://saintlukechurch.org) and click "Ways to Give" at the top. Your gifts are appreciated!



**GIVE FROM THE HEART**

## Church Council

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.

### 2021 Church Council Members

Sue McNeill, President,

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Kay Reich, Secretary,

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Joyce Bluel, Treasurer,

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Jill Burchill, Member at Large,

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### April Birthdays

- 1 Joan Holtz
- 2 Beth Peterson
- 3 Barb Jensen
- 5 David Elliott
- 6 Tom Gaarder
- 7 Michael Arndt
- 11 Samuel Elliott
- 21 Tracy Arndt
- 26 Jen Fredrickson
- Abby Klein
- 30 Eddie McGrew



### April Anniversaries

- 5 Volker & Jodi Landenberger
- 8 David & Nahoko Person
- 11 David Elliott & Susan Lorenz
- 24 Raul & Becca Ruiz
- 25 Bob & Pam Ballis

### Update from the St. Luke Safe Team:

The church council voted on the Safe Team's suggestion that we will remain closed until June 1, with reassessment for an earlier date based on changing guidelines. FYI.

**COVID-19 UPDATE**  
YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY



**Our next SM/SL Book Club is Sunday, April 18 at 6:30pm!** We will be discussing "Homegoing", by Yaa Gyasi. "Homegoing" weaves a spectacular epic. . . . Gyasi gives voice not just to a single person or moment, but to a resonant chorus of eight generations." The Zoom invite will be emailed to you the week before. All are welcome....do join us any time!

## → BUN RUN ←



Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for April: Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl, Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew.



The process of calling a settled part-time pastor has begun! In a nutshell, the Mission Exploration Team ("MET") creates the 2021 Mission Site Profile ("MSP"). Who is on the MET? Christine Olson, Kay Reich, and me. The Synod website has a manual for us to follow, we are looking at the 2019 MSP, we have assistance from Pr. Belzer and Deacon Lind (Synod), and we need the input of the congregation to "fill in the blanks." What is the MSP? It is the form we complete for the Synod to approve and candidates to read that presents accurate information about St. Luke Lutheran Church, its neighborhood, its history, its congregation, and our hopes for the future and our mission(s), and what we expect from a part-time pastor. The MSP will be reviewed by the Council, and once finalized, it will be voted on by the congregation at a special meeting, and a Call Committee will be voted on at that meeting. Once approved by the congregation for submission, we will submit it to the Synod for approval. Once the Synod approves our MSP, they will then send us the names of candidates that the Call Committee will interview. A candidate will be presented to the congregation for a final vote. That is a rather quick list of many hours, days, and a couple months of gathering information before we can begin meeting candidates. At this point in time, there are 4 open positions for settled part-time pastors in the St. Paul Area Synod. It is in our best interests to complete the MSP as completely and quickly as possible.

Serving on this council and on these committees is not a 1 hour/1 meeting per month commitment. Everyone who has stepped forward is working very hard. These people represent our congregation, but it is impossible to think we "know" how everyone feels. There have been some meetings scheduled for people to express their concerns, questions, and feelings about all that happened last year during our shared minister experience. They met with Pr. Belzer and Deacon Lind (two advisors on the creation of the MSP). Those comments and opinions will be shared with the congregation and certainly taken into consideration in answering the MSP questions. In addition to the survey that the Safe Team recently circulated (and is still looking for more responses), the MET is creating a survey (much like circulated in 2019) with a few questions for each of you to answer. The MET survey will be asking for your point of view on what you expect from a part-time pastor, are you willing to assist a part-time pastor, are you prepared to be realistic about a part-time pastor's duties (within a 25 hr. week), what traditions are important to you, what missions are important to you, what goals would you like to set for our congregation? The survey is one more opportunity for you to share your point of view.

I believe we are still learning what a part-time pastor is in terms of what tasks they can accomplish in 25 hrs. per week. During the Lenten season, our interim part-time pastor is preparing for two services a week, in addition to Bible study, council meetings, other meetings, Synod meetings, etc. How can each of us assist that pastor to meet our needs? At this point in time, we are working with our 2020 budget, and that reflects a part-time pastor's salary and benefits. Once we have a settled part-time pastor and return to our building, we will reconsider the budget. Our members must step forward and share their expectations and needs through the MET survey. We cannot guess. We must hear from each of you. The only way we will find the most compatible candidate is if we are realistic and honest about what we need and what we expect. We must accept that a part-time pastor will never be able to assume all the tasks our past full-time pastors have done. Each of us has something to share that will keep St. Luke healthy and able to grow in members and missions. We are a caring group who is very interested in supporting our neighbors and neighborhood. I pray that our new spiritual leader will show us how strong we can be if each of us is willing to "donate" a little more time for the work of our church. We can accomplish anything working together.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Pr. Belzer for being available above and beyond 25 hrs. each week as our interim part-time pastor. She was prepared to lead a service the week she signed our covenant. We also signed that covenant and promised to support her in all ways. She has offered many extra hours to get to know our members through in-person or phone visits with our ill or homebound members, answering calls from members, online chats, after service chats, and healing meetings in addition to leading services and attending meetings with us and with the Synod. Please take a moment to thank her for being so giving with us of her time and talents. She has been a blessing to us. Pray for our congregation to find our new settled part-time pastor with God's guidance and help. Be safe and well.

--Sue McNeill



### Holy Week Online Service Schedule:

Palm Sunday  
March 28, 9:30am  
Maundy Thursday  
April 1, 7pm  
Good Friday  
April 2, 7pm  
Easter Sunday  
April 4, 9:30am

Finally, spring is right around the corner. It is time once again for our popular annual **Gertens bedding plant fundraiser!** Orders will be taken online, as we did for the spring flower fundraiser.

To access the site and place an order:

1. Go to <http://www.gertensfundraising.com>
2. Enter the Store ID code provided into the text field and click 'Enter ID to Continue'.

Store ID code for St. Luke Lutheran Church: **135**

Please take note of the important dates below, and thanks in advance for your generosity!

Thursday, April 1: Open online ordering  
Thursday, April 22: Close online ordering  
Saturday, May 15: Pick-up of bedding plants, times TBD. 10am to noon or 11am to 1pm.  
Contact person: Joyce Bluel, 651-295-7350



### Notes From the Music Director



*Psalm 23:3 - "he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake."*

As we still wait to gather together inside the building for a holiday, this verse stuck out to me as I prepared April's music. There's hope on the horizon, we just need to have faith. In the meantime, let's connect through music and worship.

**Sunday, April 11th, 1pm-2pm:** Live in the Lot - Easter celebration! I'll be playing Easter hymns and other triumphant, festive music. Park in the lot and tune into 88.9 FM or I'll livestream from 1-1:30 on Zoom, watch the bulletin for a link.

#### **Offering Themes for April:**

April 4 New Life  
April 11 Doors  
April 18 A favorite or special meal  
April 25 Hearts

#### **April Scripture Readers**

4 Christine Olson  
11 Jennifer Fredrickson  
18 Wendy Bjorklund  
25 Emily Elfritz



#### **LOAVES AND FISHES**

Our heartfelt thanks to our March volunteers:  
Christine Olson, Bev Gause and Claudia Melbye.