



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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St. Luke Lutheran Church

Connect, Grow and Serve.

Parish Times

October 2020

The Pastor's Perspective...

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them.—Genesis 1:26-28

Dear People of God,

I recently had the opportunity to sit with about twenty junior and senior high youth from our area churches during a Deep Dive Confirmation session. Prior to our gathering, we watched a movie called "The Hate U Give". The main character "Starr" witnesses the shooting death of her childhood friend and is on a journey to discover who she is and what her part is in telling the truth. Her witness is powerful as she finds her voice for justice. This movie came out two years ago and focuses on the issue of racism but similarly mirrors the story we witnessed in the recent death of George Floyd.

In small groups, as we reflected on deep questions centered upon identity, race and being created in the image of God, I was blown away by the incredible insight of these young people. One of them said, "How are we supposed to make sense of everything that is going on in our world today? It is really messed up. I don't know how to be in it all." And that's where the faith piece came in. As we thought about our identity in Jesus, we recognized we are all created differently AND in the image of God. We brought our faces into the cameras on our screens to look at our eye color and remembered, we are all uniquely created in the image of God. In us, is the image of God. It is part of our being and includes our race, gender, sexuality, disability or class.

The last question we discussed was, how does seeing ourselves in the image of God change how we approach the other? Can we see the image of God in other people? I wonder if this is one of our greatest challenges in our chaotic and challenging world today.

Our baptisms are reminders of God's love. Set free in the waters, our faith journey gives us the opportunity to grow and live "wet". Water washes away things of the past, sins, hurts and mistakes we have made. We die to what we once were and through Jesus' death and resurrection, he makes it possible for us to have new life. Every single day we have a new chance to start over. We cannot erase the past, but we can change how we go forward. As we seek to look for the image of God in one another, may we see wonderful things! When we are curious about something that is different from us, may we have the courage to ask, sit with and listen.

When the youth in our congregations were baptized, we promised to love, pray for and walk with them. As you know, this journey of faith is life-long. We too, as adults, are always discovering more about who we are and know the blessing of community, as we lean on and embrace the child of God we are created to be. I believe it is God's desire for us to see the image of God reflected in all people. With God on our hearts and minds first, there are so many possibilities.

Please pray for our youth and their families as we seek to build faith together.

In Christ, Pastor Emily



October Birthdays

- 5 Laurie Smith
- 7 Alek Landenberger
- 8 Edward Czech
- 9 Mike Hegdahl
- 10 Ava Herrmann
- 11 Julianna Czech
- 12 Amy Drier
- 17 Wanda Mathison
- 21 Jack Holtz
Ben Pilgrim
- 22 Bev Eckstrom
- 24 Zachary Moore
- 26 Becky Pilgrim
- 31 Margaret Vigdal



October Anniversaries

- 4 Jen and Al Fredrickson: 2008
- 7 Kent and Beth Peterson: 1989
- 10 Mike and Nancy Hegdahl: 1992
- 21 Janell and Mike Walter: 2006
- 24 Doug and Jo Klein: 1981



LOAVES AND FISHES

Many thanks to our September volunteers: Christine Olson, Claudia Melbye and Bev Gause.

Zoom Scripture Readers for October:

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| October 4 | Wendy Bjorklund |
| October 11 | Myra Larson |
| October 18 | Christine Olson |
| October 25 | Bonnie Jellinek |

Proverbs 21:21

Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.



SM/SL All Saints Day

On All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 1, we will be remembering loved ones who have passed away this year. Please let secretary Jo Klein know, in written form or by email, (jojoklein@gmail.com) if you would like to remember a loved one during the All Saints service. Let us remember with thanks those who have gone before us and rest in God's eternal love and salvation.

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.

Giving online and through a smartphone or tablet is now possible because of St. Luke's new account through Vanco, a company that processes offerings electronically.

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 our website (saintlukechurch.org) and click "Ways to Give" at the top of the page. Your gifts are appreciated!



Our next SM/SL Book Club is Monday, Oct. 19 at 6:30pm! We will be discussing "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich: "Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.". All are welcome....do join us!



PLEASE NOTE

Pastoral Contact Info

Pastor Emily is always available if you have pastoral care needs and need to connect. If you would like to get in touch with her via phone, please call the church office (St. Luke @ 651-698-9443 or St. Mark @ 651-224-0228) and leave a message. These messages are checked daily, and she will get back to you as soon as possible. If you would like to contact her via e-mail, her address is: pastoremily@gmail.com.

If you or your loved one is in the hospital, please contact the church office as soon as possible, for they do not notify the pastor or congregation due to confidentiality issues. Lastly, if you would like to be on the prayer list for the coming Sunday, please let us know. You can contact Pastor Emily at the above numbers or leave an e-mail message for the administrative secretary, Jo Klein at: secretary@saintlukechurch.org.

President's Corner



Church life continues...because we are the church, not the building. This pandemic has not stopped us from worshiping together and having necessary meetings online. The council will be scheduling TWO congregation meetings this fall. The first Zoom meeting will be in October to vote to adopt the changes to the Constitution (which was scheduled for March 21) and to request approval to sign a contract to have the parking lot repaved (hopefully before the snow flies). In November, we will have an annual meeting on Zoom to ratify the Constitution changes (which will finally complete this process), and elect council members. There will be instructions for voting on Zoom. You will receive a letter with the dates of the meetings, the agenda for each meeting, and who is a "voting member" according to our current Constitution. There is one difference in voting on Zoom that I'd like to mention. Only one person can vote on a device. That means if there are 2 voting members in a household, each member must vote on a different device, i.e. one votes on a computer and the other would vote on a tablet or a smart phone. Please know that we will make this process as easy as possible for you. I actually voted on Zoom at the Synod Assembly in late September. It was very easy for me to click on a link and there was the yes/no question and a button to send it as a vote. I appreciate that our church family realizes that we must continue with the "business" side of church life, and will be willing to attend Zoom meetings to do this. We need as many voting members as possible to attend.

We are trying to schedule the October meeting to include the conversation Bishop Lull would like to have with our St. Luke congregation. We will have a short voting meeting first, and then she will join us to listen to your concerns and questions regarding St. Mark's letter and what this means for St. Luke. Bishop Lull has a plan for this 90-day discernment period and talking with you is certainly a part of it. She has been so kind and helpful to both congregations. I can share what I think would happen if St. Mark votes to end the parish agreement. It would automatically end the call to Pr. Emily for both churches, because the two congregations signed those documents together. At that time, the Synod would assign a new interim part-time pastor to St. Mark. It is possible that Pr. Emily could be assigned to St. Luke as our interim part-time pastor for 3-6 months. This would give us an opportunity to review our recent experiences having a part-time pastor and sharing a pastor. What worked well, what didn't work well? Would we consider another parish agreement to share a minister? What changes would we make to any agreement or call? Of course, there is a Synod process for agreements and/or calls for part-time pastors that we would have to follow.

Please do your best to attend these congregation meetings. Your vote is very important. The opportunity to speak with the Bishop is also important. Please keep Pr. Emily, St. Mark, and our St. Luke church family in your prayers to ask for continued guidance and patience as we find our way in the future.

Please be safe, be well, and wear your masks!

Sue McNeill

The St. Mark and St. Luke September Food Drive was a success! We delivered 22 bags, 2 boxes of canned goods, and \$20 cash to the Francis Basket in Sibley Manor. The donation was valued at \$610 and will be reported to the Synod to be included in their Food Shelf Challenge. Thank you for your generosity. You made a difference to many people.

Thank you for your generosity!



Notes From the Music Director

October is usually a time of stewardship and reflecting how we can contribute. Even in 2020, there are so many ways we can contribute to our church life from things that have continued like Bun Run and choir, to new things we can dive into, like book club and Sunday School readers. In music, when we layer note on note, it's called harmony, and our stewardship is like the harmony of the church. This month, the choirs are pre-recording music for service. Bell choir will perform at the outdoor/drive-in service on Oct. 11th, and don't miss our Hymn Sings every first Sunday at 7pm.

I also want to thank my choir members for showing up and trying new things. Thank you to the congregation for being gracious as we find our way in Sunday services. I feel so grateful to be able to work with Pastor Emily in this time as we collaborate on services together. As Christians, we weave Christ through our lives in more ways than one. And this is the harmony of life.

Be safe, be well,
Becca

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Once again, SL/SM will be collecting shoebox presents for Operation Christmas Child. This is a time to pack a shoebox with presents for a boy or a girl somewhere around the world who normally wouldn't receive a Christmas present. It is something we ALL can do...it's a fun and feel-good way to do your part for a worthy cause. Please pack your shoebox and bring it to your church at St. Mark: Nov. 14, 10-noon during food drive or St. Luke: Nov. 15, 1-3:00pm during food drive. On Sunday, Nov. 22, the boxes will be blessed by Pr. Emily virtually (they will be delivered before then). You can pick up a pre-printed box St. Luke on Sunday, October 11, 1-3:00pm during the food drive or use your own. Please remember to include a \$9.00 check made out to Samaritan's Purse with Operation Christmas Child in the memo line. For ideas of what to pack, go to www.samaritanspurse.org and click on the Shoebox link.



SM/SL FOOD COLLECTION The St. Paul Area Synod is encouraging churches in the east metro to collect/raise \$50,000 worth of food between now and the end of 2020 in response to the increased need of our residents during this pandemic time.

ST. MARK will be collecting food items and donations at their church on the following Saturdays from 10am to 12pm: September 12, October 10, November 14 and December 12.

ST. LUKE will be collecting food items and donations at their church on the following Sundays from 1pm to 3pm: September 13, October 11, November 15 and December 13.

All donations will go to St. Francis Basket, our neighborhood food shelf. You may bring food or financial donations on the appointed days (we'll wear masks and be socially distanced). Or, you may choose to give a financial donation by mailing a check to church. You also may give online through Vanco, where there now is a Food Shelf option for giving. We have a few people who have volunteered to help the "collection Sundays," but could use a few more. If you'd like to help, please contact Jo Klein at secretary@saintlukechurch.org. Here is a list of most needed items: sardines, beets, buckwheat, cabbage, sugar, meat, eggs, milk, fresh produce, dried prunes, oil, peanut butter, jelly, dish soap, shampoo/conditioner, razors/shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, body soap, baby items.



All are Welcome to a Special Presentation: "**Suicide Survivors' Club**" Grab a cup of coffee or your lunch and join us on Zoom. Rebecca and Aidan Anderson will share their experiences working with artist Laurie Phillips and collaborating on the 5-book art/narrative series "Suicide Survivors' Club – A Family's Journey Through the Death of Their Loved One", an integrated approach for healing using art and storytelling. Sunday, Oct. 11, 11am. The Zoom invite will be emailed to all.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. -Numbers 6:24