



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

August 2022 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Every three years our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), gathers for a national assembly. This year, the gathering will take place in Columbus Ohio August 8-12. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly is the primary decision-making body of the church, so it involves significant communal spiritual discernment. Hundreds of voting members, including lay people and rostered leaders (deacons and pastors), will participate. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Engage in worship and Bible study together
- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders, and units
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies. [Read more here](#) about the proposals are being considered this year.
- Elect officers, including this year the ELCA Vice President, board members and other leaders
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy
- Adopt a budget and conduct other legislative business. For example, this year there are some [proposed changes to the ELCA constitutions](#).

Here are ways you can get involved in this year's Churchwide Assembly:

Please pray for voting members and church leaders and staff

The Churchwide assembly makes important choices about ELCA policy and budgets that will affect the future of the church. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide their discussions and decision-making. Here is a prayer petition you can use:

O God, I lift to you prayers for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its members who gather in its Churchwide Assembly. Protect those who are preparing to travel to Columbus. Inspire the celebration of God's varied

August Ushers

In Person:

First and Second Sundays:

Doug Klein

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Kay Reich

Online:

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David

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Loaves and Fishes

Our heartfelt thanks to our July Loaves and Fishes volunteers: Bev Gause, Claudia Melbye, David Tews and Larry Litzkow.

August Bun Run



Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for August: Doug Klein, Larry and Junella Litzkow, Ken McGrew, Volker Landenberger.

works throughout the church. Instill your peace in the midst of the work you have called us to and the deliberations that will take place. Shape the work of the church according to your will for the whole world. In Jesus' name, amen.

Participate in Churchwide Bible Studies

This year's theme is "Embody the Word," focusing on the incarnation of Jesus Christ and our physical re-gathering as we emerge from the Pandemic. Bible Study guides can be downloaded [here](#), and videos of the Bible Studies are available on the [ELCA's YouTube channel](#) (see the "Churchwide Assembly 2022" playlist).

Attend hearings ahead of assembly to learn what's happening

It can be challenging to navigate all the information about the assembly. You can attend online informational hearings ahead of Assembly that will explain some of the major proposals being considered. [Register for the Zoom webinars here](#). August 2, 7-8 pm: 2023-2025 proposed budget. August 3, 7-8 pm: Memorials, which are proposals that come from synod assemblies. August 4, 7-8 pm: the "Civics and Faith" social statement that is under development.

Watch the proceedings online

The assembly plenaries and worship will also be livestreamed and posted on the ELCA website the ELCA Facebook page. [Here is a schedule](#) of what's happening when.

Pr. Bristol



Notes from the Music Director

This summer has been quite the whirlwind and I can't believe August is already nearing! I hope you've been able to enjoy **singing backwards through the hymnal** or worshipping with us during our **Jazz Vespers**. We still have one more vespers on August 31st at 6 pm where I'll play a little Horace Silver, George Gershwin and Dave Brubeck.

As August rolls in, it's time to start talking about the choral seasons! **Bell and vocal choir** will be meeting on Sunday mornings starting September 18th. Bell choir rehearses at 8:30 am and vocal choir rehearses from 10:45-11:30. No experience is necessary for either!

To gear up for singing, join me on Wednesday, August 24th and September 7th at 7pm for **Singing Club**: a casual get-together for people to sing a familiar hymn, do fun warm-ups and join in on a round. This will be a great opportunity for anyone who is curious about choir to get an idea of what choir is like. Or maybe you have a friend that you think would be a great addition to choir; feel free to invite them along too! Everyone is welcome!

-Rebecca Ruiz

August Counters

7 Katy Eggert
14 Kay Reich
21 Wendy Bjorklund
28 Doug Klein

Thank you for stepping up!

August Birthdays

2 Emma McGrew
3 Kimberly Tyl
5 Sandra Berger
14 Thor Burchill-Riley
17 Marietta Johnson
20 Doug Klein
21 Kay Reich, Max Elliott
22 Dean Stadem
24 Sol Holmly
27 Becca Ruiz

August Anniversaries

4 Kurt & Holly Schultz
21 Kay Reich & Charles Kernkamp
30 Mary Dybvig & Ralph Skoe

August Worship Assistants

Readers

7 Christine Olson
14 Kay Reich
21 Wendy Bjorklund
28 Mike Hegdahl

Communion Assistants

7 Christine Olson
21 Wendy Bjorklund



Jazz Vespers

Mark your calendars and join us at 6:00 pm on the last Wednesday, August 31, for our third and final outdoor Jazz Vespers. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and join us for this family-friendly service!



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, the first and third Fridays of the month, August 5 and 19, at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

Recently I was asked, "What are you going to do with the money in the jug?" In the past we collected money in the jug all year, and then, on Rally Day, the Sunday school students would empty the jug, count the money, and donate it to a charity of their choice. Since we currently don't have Sunday school students, and we haven't been passing the collection plate pew by pew, people have been putting their change in the jug. At our July council meeting, we voted that we would count the money at the end of August and divide it 50 percent to the general fund and 50 percent to a charity yet to be determined. Then in September, we will start fresh with an empty jug and will collect money for a charity, which could be something through the Synod or Lutheran Social Services, or a charity one of you might recommend to us. We will switch charities every three months and will keep you informed as to which charity we will be collecting for during those three months. We cannot thank you enough for your continued support.

In July, the executive members of the council, along with Pastor Bristol, met to continue discussions and further our research into the possible partnership with the Neighborhood House. This time we included the pastor from Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church and the executive director of Merrick who have similar partnerships. We all found the meeting very informative and many questions were asked and answered. One particular comment that really resonated with me was from Pastor John, who said, "You have to change your vocabulary and thought process; it isn't *their* people and *our* people, because *all* of these people are *our* community." An important part of our mission is to serve our community. What better way for St. Luke to do that than to collaborate with the Neighborhood House to extend that outreach into our community? We will continue to keep you informed as things unfold, and at some point we will ask for representatives from the Neighborhood House to come in and talk to all of you.

August 2nd is National Night Out, be sure to have dinner early and then come to church for an ice cream social with our neighbors. Thanks to Jo and Becca for providing live music for the event.

Blessings, Nancy Hegdahl



St. Luke/St. Mark Ladies Night Out is held on the 4th Thursday of the month. The next outing will be August 25th at 5:30 pm; location to be determined. Please call Joyce Bluel at 651-690-4614 by August 21st if interested in attending so a reservation can be made.



Join us for Book Club on Sunday, August 7, 6:30pm via Zoom to discuss "The Seed Keeper" by Diane Wilson. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome! PLEASE NOTE that we are always open to book suggestions....feel free to contact Jo Klein at jojoklein@gmail.com with your recommendations!

VBS Reimagined!



While we aren't offering a traditional Vacation Bible School this year, we are kicking off the fall with some fun learning opportunities for little ones at St. Luke. Learn more about what we have planned...

What: Three interactive learning stations on the theme of "God is... I am" will be introduced each week. For example, one week we'll learn that God is good to me, so I am good to others. On Rally Sunday, September 11, all twelve stations will be set up to re-visit.

Who: All ages are welcome to come explore new stations each week! They will be most appropriate for toddlers and young children to experience at their own pace with their families.

When: Sundays, before or after worship, August 14 through September 11 the stations will be set up in the Social Hall.

Why: Play is part of faith formation, and we want to give our little ones a chance to grow and learn through fun sensory stations.

National Night Out

We are looking for volunteers to help out at the National Night Out event being hosted by St. Luke on August 2nd. The event begins at 5:30 p.m., so we need people to set up tables and chairs between 5:00 and 5:30. We will also need helpers to take down and put away the tables and chairs after the event is over (this would be sometime after 8:30 p.m.)

If your neighborhood does not celebrate National Night Out, why not come to church and help us welcome and get to know our church neighbors?

We will be providing refreshments and snacks and will have activities and games for kids.

Come join the fun. If you are able to help in set up and/or clean up, please contact Joyce Bluel (690-4614). Thanks!



Our popular St. Luke Farmers Market continues every Saturday, 8am to 1pm, thru Oct. 1! Join us!

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