



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

May 2025 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Pr. Bristol Reading

A note of thanks:

Thank you to everyone who was a part of making Lent and Holy Week so meaningful this year! You all served as lectors, ushers, communion assistants, decorators, hosts, musicians, chefs, and more. It takes so many people to make holidays special, and I am so grateful to share in ministry with this generous church family!

The celebration of Easter doesn't end after Easter day. It continues for the fifty days that take us to Pentecost, June 8 this year. During this season, we will hear from the book of Revelation and the Gospel of John on Sundays.

Finding Hope in Revelation

I know the book of Revelation comes with a lot of baggage, and many people have heard grim interpretations of it. I have written devotions for the whole Eastertide season based on the assigned lectionary readings from Revelation that will offer a different reading of Revelation, which I am convinced can and should be read as a message of hope for people living through fearful times. I hope these devotions will help you to that message.

Here's a sneak peek: Revelation ends with a vision of a city of welcome, which is eternally lit by the light of God. Its gates never shut, and people from all around the world are welcome to come into it and live in peace. At its center flows a river of life, the source of which is Christ. At the river is a giant tree with fruit for all whose leaves provide healing for the nations. (See Revelation 21-22 for

May Volunteers

Thanks for
your participation!

ONLINE USHERS

1st Sunday: David Tews
2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill
3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz
4th Sunday: David Nedrelov

IN PERSON USHERS

First and Second Sundays:
Doug Klein, Joan Wilson
Third and Fourth Sundays:
Kay Reich, Carol Hornung

READERS

4 Wendy Bjorklund
11 Bonnie Jellinek
18 Emily Elfritz
25 Kay Reich

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

4 Wendy Bjorklund
11 Julie Gaarder
18 Emily Elfritz
25 Joyce Bluel

COFFEE HOSTS

4 Mary Jo Brandt
Carol Vigdal
11 Julie Gaarder
Junella Litzkow
18 Jodi & Volker Landenberger
Katy Eggert
25 Joyce Bluel
Carol Hornung

more of this vision.) A place of welcome and peace, provided for by God's goodness, where the nations can find healing... that certainly sounds like a vision we need right now!

Promises and Callings from John

Our readings from the Gospel of John during this season will take us back to some of Jesus' final teachings to his followers before his crucifixion. We will hear comforting promises spoken by Jesus. Like this one from John 10:28: "I will give my sheep eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." And this one from John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you... Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

We will also hear some of Jesus' strongest calls that his followers live in love and unity. Like this from John 13:34: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." And this from John 17:26, when Jesus prays on behalf of his followers: "Righteous Father, I have made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Although Jesus spoke these words before his death and resurrection, they are a reminder to us that the mission of love which Jesus embodied was handed on to his followers to carry on once he was physically gone. Jesus continued to empower his followers through the gift of the Holy Spirit, to give them guidance and peace, and to empower them to live out the Gospel. We join the lineage of Jesus' disciples, called to live as reflections of God's gracious love – for one another and for our neighbors.

Hope and love come intertwined. We continue to trust these biblical promises, which can carry us through when times are dark. And we continue to courageously bear the light of Christ as best as we are able, trusting that, since God has called us to this work, God will enable us to continue it.



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, Friday May 2 and 16. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

If you ordered bedding plants through our Gertens fundraiser, please note these important pick-up dates below:
5/14: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
5/15: 10 am to noon

COUNTERS

- 4 Katy Eggert
- 11 Kay Reich
- 18 Wendy Bjorklund
- 25 Carol Hornung

ALTAR GUILD

Kay Reich



Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for May: Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew, Doug Klein, Kay Reich, Julie Ellingson,

May Birthdays

- 1 Jodi Landenberger
- 4 Michael Amundson
- 5 Michael Reading
- 7 Emily Elfritz
- 7 Casey Sivanich
- 12 Julie Ellingson
- 18 Katy Eggert
- 21 Dan Vigdal,
Mary Jo Brandt
- 28 Patricia Stadem

May Anniversaries

- 11 Robert and Lois Porter
- 22 Dan and Deborah Vigdal
Dennis and Ruth Olafson
- 30 Tom and Julie Gaarder



Online Bible Study All are welcome to our weekly online Bible Study on Wednesdays at 9:30am led by Pastor Bristol. We will discuss the scriptures for the forthcoming Sunday. The Zoom link is emailed to you every Monday. Join us!

March Food Drive Report

Thank you to everyone who donated food items or made a monetary donation to our March Food Drive for the Neighborhood House's food shelf (formerly St. Francis Basket). St. Luke members donated 256 pounds of food, and it all was shelved immediately at the Montreal Ave. location (by me!). You also made \$841 in monetary donations (including jar money for March and April). At this writing, we still have one more Sunday in April so that figure will likely go up a little. Your generosity is appreciated very much. Food insecurity is increasing, and food resources are becoming scarcer. Donations like this really help! Thanks for making St. Luke Lutheran Church such a good neighbor.

-Wendy Bjorklund

Member Spotlight on Charlotte Sivanich



My name is Charlotte Sivanich, and my family and I have been members at St. Luke for about 3 years. My husband Casey grew up in an ELCA church, and I attended St. Olaf College, so when we found out that St. Luke's was down the street from our new home, we were excited! We have welcomed two children (Juniper and Oliver) into our family in the past few years, and we've always found St. Luke to be such a welcoming place. We love the Lenten Soup dinners, Faith Formation, and National Night Out. During the day, I work as a math teacher at Highland Park Middle School. I like running and doing the New York Times daily puzzles.



Greetings from recently installed church council member, David Elliott. I have been a member of St. Luke (along with my bride, Susan) for over thirty years. We raised three sons who all attended and were confirmed in this church. I have previously served on the

Book Club

We invite you to our St. Luke Book Club, on Sunday, May 18, 6:30pm, via Zoom, to discuss "Sting-Ray Afternoons", by Steve Rushin, about growing up in the 1970's in Bloomington, MN. "Funny, elegiac... a remarkably sunny coming-of-age story about growing up in a Midwest world." – NPR. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome; join us!



Camp Onomia

In 1949 the American Lutheran Church bought property from the University of Minnesota which became American Lutheran Memorial Camp, now called Camp Onomia. St. Luke was one of the several Lutheran churches involved with this purchase. The camp is located just 100 miles north of St. Luke on beautiful Lake Shakopee in Onamia, MN. The camp has 1500 feet of lakeshore property, surrounded by approximately 100 acres of the Rum River Forest and Kathio State Park.

For 76 continuous years, St. Luke has supported and utilized this camp. From Family Week, Youth Summer Weeks, Senior Weeks, to retreat in all seasons. Various church members have served on the camp board. Pastor Al Hock, Pastor Jack Drier and Pastor Dave Person have led studies for senior week and kids

church council for numerous years and was also employed as the church custodian.

Camp Onomia recently reached out to member congregations for help raising \$12,000 to pay to repair damages caused to the main building by water leakage. St. Luke has pledged \$500 which will be matched by another donor. The jar offering for the months of May and June will be given to this cause.

The council is also moving forward with replacement and repairs to the two brick chimneys on the roof. We are also looking into replacing the door from the parking lot to be handicap accessible and to make the entryway more inviting.

The church custodian, Doug Klein, has recently turned in his resignation effective June 1. Thank you, Doug, for seven years of doing an excellent job maintaining the church. Doug has also done countless repairs and maintenance above and beyond custodial duties for decades. The council plans to hire a replacement soon.

In closing, I just want to add that at this time my favorite part of attending this church is watching all the work that Pastor Bristol has done with the children of the congregation.

Thank you,
David Elliott



It's time for another KIVA meeting to lend out funds to individuals outside of the United States. We have a total of \$2,323.16 to lend out, with \$937.18 loans to be repaid to us. We have made 272 loans so far since beginning this program. Please join me in lending out those funds on Sunday June 1st after the church service. It doesn't take long to lend out the funds that have been repaid to us, and anyone can join us to help with this special outreach. We will use the projection screen and the church computer used for services.

-Julie Gaarder

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

retreats.

The camp cannot operate on the fees of campers alone. That makes up only 33% of the annual budget. It takes contributions from member churches, individual donations and the annual Quilt Auction. Currently, the camp has some major gutter repairs that need to be done and have asked for donations. The church council approved a one time \$500 donation and the jar donations for May and June. If you are interested in helping the Camp, please think about adding your donation to the jar during May and June. Member congregation dues help reduce summer camp fees by over 45%.

To learn more about the camp and the programs offered, see the camp website at camponomia.org.



The next Supper with Saints will be at Lucky's 13 Pub, 1352 Sibley Memorial Hwy, Mendota on May 22 at 5:30 pm. Please let Joyce Bluel know by Sunday, May 18th if you plan on attending so we have a number for the reservation.



Clean-up Day at St. Luke is May 31, 9am to 12pm. Whether you can help for 2 hours or 20 minutes, your participation will be greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work...join us!