



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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St. Luke Lutheran Church

Connect, Grow and Serve.

Parish Times *October 2021*



The Pastor's Perspective.....

Dear Sisters and Brothers, I pray you are doing well.

Welcome to October. This month, we are celebrating Reformation Month and we remember that rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be open to change to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We are set free every day to do this life-transforming work given to us in baptism.

Luther was a junior faculty member at a new university in small-town Germany, intently studying the Scriptures, "captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans." In these days, Luther was tormented by the demand for righteousness before God. "I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God." Then, during that struggle with God, the message of the Scriptures became clear, like a long-shut door opening wide. When he realized that a "merciful God justifies us by faith ..." he said, "I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates."

What Luther discovered is the freedom of Christians trusting God's mercy in Christ. As he later wrote, "Faith is God's work in us. It changes us and makes us be born anew of God. This faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times."

He says, "Here in it (in the gospel), the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, 'the just shall live by faith.'" This verse is taken from the book of Habakkuk in the Old Testament that is cited three times in the New Testament. As Luther would stop short and say, "What does this mean, that there's this righteousness that is by faith, and from faith to faith? What does it mean that the righteous shall live by faith?" Again, it was the verse for the whole exposition of the gospel that Paul sets forth here in the book of Romans. And so, the lights came on for Luther. And he began to understand that what Paul was speaking of here was righteousness that God, in His grace, was made available to those who would receive it passively, not those who would achieve it actively, but that would receive it by faith, and by which a person could be reconciled to a holy and righteous God.

The Latin word for justification used at this time in church history was—and it's the word from which we get the English word justification—the Latin word *justificare*. It comes from the Roman judicial system. The term *justificare* is made up of the word *justus*, which is justice or righteousness, and the verb, the infinitive *care*, which means to make. And so, the Latin fathers understood the doctrine of justification is what happens when God, through the sacraments of the church and elsewhere, makes unrighteous people righteous.

But Luther was looking now at the Greek word in the New Testament, not the Latin word. The word *dikaio*, *dikaio*sune, didn't mean to make righteous, but rather to regard as righteous, count as righteous, and declare us righteous. This was the moment of awakening for Luther. He said, "You mean, here Paul is not talking about the righteousness by which God Himself is righteous, but a righteousness that God gives freely by His grace to people who don't have a righteousness of their own."

Dear Sisters and Brothers, we are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace doing God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world. "The righteous shall live by faith."

Faithfully your sister in Christ, Pastor Belzer

Notes From the Music Director



The choirs are back in session! It's been really nice to hear voices singing together - and this month you'll get to hear our lovely choristers too! Join us at 9:25am in the Social Hall to hear a few hymns on Oct. 17th and Oct. 31st.

Bells will be joining our services too this month! Rehearsals are 8:45am to 9:15am, and we always welcome new ringers any time of year. -Becca Ruiz

Our next SL/SM Book Club will be Sunday, Oct. 17, 6:30pm to discuss The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek. "With a focus on the personal joy and broadened horizons that can result from access to reading material, this well-researched tale serves as a solid history lesson on 1930s Kentucky. A unique story about Appalachia and the healing power of the written word." - Kirkus Reviews. If the weather is good, we will meet at Cherokee Park (700 Cherokee Heights Blvd, St Paul, MN 55107) If it is raining, or too cold, we will meet via Zoom. All are welcome...join us!



October Scripture Readers

3 Emily Elfritz
10 Jennifer Fredrickson
17 Barb Jensen
24 Wendy Bjorklund
31 Christine Olson



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD Once again, we 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 church from Oct. 17 to Nov. 14. On Nov. 14, the boxes will be blessed by Pr. Jacqueline. You can pick up a pre-printed box at St. Luke 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.samaritanaspurse.org and click on the Shoebox link.



Meet and Greet

MEET AND GREET
The Call Committee
would like to invite
you to join us to meet
Rev. Bristol Reading
and husband Mike on
Sunday, October 3 at
10:30 in the church
social hall. Let's all
try to attend and
welcome our new
called minister and
her husband.

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, Oct. 10, at 10:45am on Zoom. Sunday School will be held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. It will last about 25 min. Sue McNeill will be sharing a Bible story and art project, and Becca Ruiz will be sharing music time. We still hope someone will step forward to share in this fun experience as a teacher. There will be a separate Zoom invitation for SS. We know that we have a pre-K class. Please let Jo Klein know if there are any other children who will be joining us.



LOAVES AND FISHES

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

BUN RUN

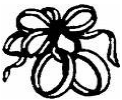


Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for October: Doug Klein, Larry and Junella Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl, Volker Landenberger.



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



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



SM/SL All Saints Day

On All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 7, 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.



Hello St. Luke! I am so honored and excited to be moving through this process with you, and I'm grateful for your prayerful discernment as you take this congregational vote. I wanted to share a little bit more about myself and my ministry so you can get to know me.

I studied theology at the undergraduate level (Loyola University Chicago) and the graduate level (Graduate Theological Union) before entering parish ministry in 2012. I spent five years working in children, youth, and family ministry near Boston, then moved to Chicago for seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology Chicago (LSTC). My internship brought me to Minneapolis in 2019, where I served as the vicar at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in the Powderhorn Park neighborhood.

Since completing my internship, I have been serving in a temporary capacity at Zion Lutheran Church in Buffalo, MN. Zion recently experienced a significant transition in leadership, with all three of its pastors leaving since I arrived, so my role has been wide and varied. I led the Confirmation program, oversaw staffing changes, preached and led worship, and supported congregational care needs.

In addition to my work in congregational ministry, I am a trained Spiritual Director and have experience doing strategic planning and retreat leadership with congregations. In 2020, I completed community organizing training through the Minneapolis Area Synod, and I currently serve as the chair of the synod's EcoFaith Network leadership group. I love to write, and my work has been published by Augsburg Fortress, White Cloud Press, and Duke Divinity School's online magazine "Faith & Leadership."

After I wrap up at Zion at the end of the September, I'll take a few months off as my husband Michael and I start a new chapter of our lives – parenthood! We're expecting our first child, a girl, in October.

Some more personal details about me: I love distance running and cycling, bird watching, reading both fiction and nonfiction, and doing crosswords. I sing and play piano and have been hoping to learn guitar. Thanks to 18 months of online worship, I have gained a new skill during the pandemic: video editing!

I'm praying for your discernment process today, and looking forward to getting to know all of you as the process moves forward.

Bristol Reading

Dear St. Luke Friends,

Thanks to every one of you for supporting the St. Luke's Farmers' Market this season. After breaking attendance records last season (during the COVID-19 peak), our numbers increased again this season, while still in the midst of the pandemic. This is remarkable.

Because COVID guidelines changed by the time we opened, we no longer needed to restrict the Market to a single entrance, nor did we have to practice social distancing. We began the season requiring masks of all of our vendors and recommending them for our customers. Eventually, masks were recommended, but not required for everyone. We continued to have a handwashing station and hand sanitizer available at the main market entrance because this is considered "best practice" for markets in general. All of this simplified the Market set up a bit, although we still needed 4 volunteers per shift, per week.

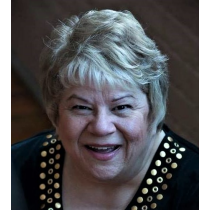
I want to thank all of the volunteers who enabled the Market to occur this summer. As Market Co-Managers, Laurie Herrmann and I were there most Saturdays, as was Doug Klein who is our "set up master" and chief customer greeter. Conie Borchardt and Abby Winecke also were consistent volunteers (working more than half of the markets), with Abby serving as our "Substitute Market Co-Manager" when Laurie or I couldn't be there. MANY of you volunteered multiple Saturdays (often 4 or 5 times) and without your willingness to do that, the Market couldn't have happened. We also had two volunteers from St. Mark who served multiple times. At the risk of missing someone (if I did, I'm truly sorry), this is the list of our market volunteers: Jen Fredrickson, Kay Reich, Jo Klein, Doug Klein, Emily Elfritz, Christine Olson, Claudie Melbye, Nancy Redlin, Barb Jensen, Ken McGrew, Don Clark, Joyce Bluel, Carol Hornung, Beth Peterson, Pete Klein, Olivia Peterson, Rob Herrmann, Jill Burchill, Volker and Victor Landenberger, Sue McNeill, Conie Borchardt, and Abby Winecke. Hugs to you all!

ALL OF THIS WORK YIELDED GREAT RESULTS! As of this writing, we've had a record number of attendees. We have retained our past customers and have seen several new faces. We also have FIVE new vendors including Curioso Coffee, Caldera Caramels, SweetiWinks Marshmallows, Papa Bears Jams, and The Hen Collective, which is a group of neighborhood women who sell arts and crafts. In addition, Green Acres Beef returned this season after finding a new processor.

Finally, I want to thank Jo Klein and Becca Ruiz for publicizing the Market on our website and through social media. Becca and some of our vendors also have come up with creative ideas to promote Market attendance. The Market is NOT an individual effort. It takes all of us to make the Market a success each year. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

The Market continues to be my "happy place." This group of people, including our volunteers, customers and vendors, truly has become a community. As we prepare for our next season, I wish you good health, much happiness and hope for an end to this pandemic and better days ahead. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Best, Wendy Bjorklund





We are going to welcome a new settled three-quarter time pastor Jan. 1, 2022. I wish it were sooner, but there are some important steps to be taken by Bristol Huffman Reading and by us. Bristol will be ordained (must be called by a congregation to be ordained in our Synod), and she and her husband will welcome their first child! We wish them well, and look forward to our hosting her installation at St. Luke. We too have important steps to complete to make her first call welcoming as she begins her calling as a pastor.

The President and Secretary (Kay Reich and I) signed the Call letter on behalf of the council and our congregation. In the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) and the Call Letter, we carefully listed what we needed and wanted from our pastor. We also agreed to several covenants with our new pastor. I'd like to share those with you again.

We have promised to be patient and understanding by supporting her with open and honest communication. While we will share the traditions we love at St. Luke, we will also be open to discuss new ways of approaching and trying new ideas. We will volunteer our time and talents to support our pastor in programs with current and new members. We will strive to always be encouraging, helpful, and respectful to our brothers and sisters in Christ. And something we need to continue to work on: being realistic about what can reasonably be done in a 35 hour week.

I know we can do all of the above and more. Deacon Krista Lind met with the council, call committee, Jo Klein, and Becca Ruiz to share ideas of how to welcome a new pastor and our covenants with her. We can start now by offering daily prayer for our new pastor, and to give thankful prayer for our interim, Pr. Jacqueline, in the next few months. What a gift she has been to St. Luke. We can also pray for our hearts to be open in welcoming our new pastor, new ideas, and renewed energy in our congregation. We have scheduled a Meet and Greet with Bristol and her husband on Oct. 3, after the service. You will soon hear of a "card shower" (more on that soon). Let us be positive and appreciate the uniqueness our pastor will bring to us. I also look forward to Bristol meeting each and every one of you in person at the Meet and Greet, a service, or on Zoom chats that will be scheduled in January and on. We must be sure to wear name tags as often as possible...masks can make it difficult to make a connection. She does have a photo directory (that will be updated in 2022). Hopefully and with prayer, I would like to be maskless at church in 2022 (or sooner).

Be well, be safe, and have a blessed month.

Sue McNeill



Way to step up, St. Luke! We received several packages of socks/undies, and collected **\$515.00** for "Socktoberfest", the recent socks/undies drive for The Drawer. Thanks to Sue McNeill for delivering our donations, and many thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause. It was wonderful to see such a generous outpouring of support!