



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

November 2022 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Resolutions for a new (church) year

Happy new year! You might think we still have a few more months to go before we can say that, but in the rhythm of the church calendar, we're actually about to turn over a new year. Advent, the first season of the church year, begins on November 27. The weeks of Advent are a time of preparation and waiting as we anticipate the arrival of the Christ Light in the baby Jesus.

Many people make new year's resolutions for January, setting goals to refocus and reenergize as the new year begins. What might it look like to bring that kind of intention and hope to the beginning of the church year? This might sound similar to the themes of Lent, when we prepare for Easter and focus on strengthening our spiritual practices. That makes sense because, historically, Advent was introduced into the church calendar as a kind of "Little Lent," a time of preparation for Christmas just as Lent was a time of preparation for Easter. Our scripture readings for Advent offer us some ideas for how we might focus our Advent journey. Here are some verses we'll hear on Advent 1 (November 27) and some ideas for how they might translate into a kind of new year's resolution for your spirit:

Awaken to salvation all around you

Now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers. (Romans 13:11)

Keep awake... You must be ready. (Matthew 24:42, 44)

Our Advent texts repeatedly tell us to awaken, to pay attention, to be aware and ready. In Romans, Paul tells believers that salvation comes ever nearer. Reflect on that this Advent. What if God's presence is closer to you now than ever? Where do you witness it? How can you give thanks for the gift salvation that is always at hand?

Dress in the light of Christ

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light... Put on the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 13:12, 14)

November Worship Volunteers Thank you for your time and talents!

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 Nedrelow

OFFERING COUNTERS

6 Katy Eggert

13 Wendy Bjorklund

20 Kay Reich

27 Sue McNeill

SCRIPTURE READERS

6 Kay Reich

13 Julie Ellingson

20 Wendy Bjorklund

27 Christine Olson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

6 Kay Reich

20 Wendy Bjorklund

Like Lent, Advent is a time to focus on drawing closer to God. What is inhibiting the growth of your faith, and how might you lay it aside? Imagine being wrapped in the presence of Christ, like a robe. How would it change your behavior throughout the day to be wearing Christ? How might it comfort you to be surrounded by Christ?

Worship with joy!

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" (Ps. 122:1)

Our Psalm for Advent 1 is 122, which opens with this beautiful line about being overjoyed to go to God's house and be in God's presence. There are many opportunities to be in worship during Advent. Might you commit to being in worship every Sunday morning for the four weeks of Advent? Might you find an evening candlelight service to attend? (St. Luke has one on December 4 at 7:00 pm.) As you come to worship this season, how can you tap into a sense of joy at being in the presence of God?

Pray for peace around the world

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem... "Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers." For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you." (Psalm 122:6-8)

The Psalmist encourages believers to pray for the peace in their holy city, Jerusalem. Many parts of our world today need prayers for peace. Pray for our own community and country, and offer prayers for the people, creatures, and land of these places experiencing conflict or crisis: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Mexico, Lebanon, Myanmar, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen, and others. Jesus, Prince of Peace, come and heal our world.

Blessings on your Advent journey!
Pr. Bristol



Greetings,

In previous articles I have spoken about a partnership with the Neighborhood House; that partnership is not possible at this time as they feel they may need more space. In October we were approached by another non-profit who would like to rent space from St. Luke for their office for a period of years. The council feels this may be a better fit for our church and possibly less intrusive. The organization is Metronet, a multi-type library system that serves all types of libraries in the seven county metro area and operates under the authority of the Minnesota State Library system.

They would like to rent the library as their two-person office space and would like to start this in November 2022. The council has recommended that this be brought to the congregation for a vote to allow Metronet to rent



Loaves and Fishes

Our heartfelt thanks to our October Loaves and Fishes volunteers: Carol Hornung, Kay Reich, Joyce Bluel, David Tews and Larry Litzkow.



November Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for November: Ken McGrew, Doug Klein, Larry and Junella Litzkow, Julie Ellingson.

November Birthdays

8 Gary Nelson
10 Hugo Ruiz
17 Dwight Paulson
18 Bruce Magnuson
23 Christine Salaba
26 Janell Walter
30 Robert Herrmann

November Anniversaries

9 Tracy & Kevin Arndt: 1991
12 Larry & Junella Litzkow: 1960
26 Jack & Joan Holtz: 1960



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, the first and third Fridays of the month, November 4 and 18, at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

space in the church. We will be taking that vote at our annual meeting on November 6. Please plan on attending the annual meeting to vote. Please stay tuned. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, Pastor Bristol or any council member.



St. Luke/St. Mark Ladies Night Out

is held on the 4th Thursday of the month. Since Thanksgiving falls on this date in November, we will either not gather or will change the date. Follow the bulletin for further details.

In anticipation for the possible tenant move in we will be cleaning the church on Saturday, November 5. Please take any items that you may have stored in the church home with you, so that things do not get discarded by accident. We will be cleaning all rooms, but will be concentrating on the library space for our possible tenants. Many hands make light work. Please plan on helping with the cleaning starting at 10:30 am, Saturday, November 5.

At our annual meeting we will also be approving our budget and electing the 2023 board. If you are interested in serving on the board, please let the council know.

Regards,
Nancy Hegdahl



Notes from the Music Director

It's hard to believe, or admit, it is November! As musicians, this is the time when we're working on special music for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. And guess what? Our rehearsals are open to *everyone*. Even if you haven't been to one before, you can come to rehearsal anytime. Or maybe you, or someone you know, has a special song that could be shared during a service. Find me after church to let me know or email me, bunkamade@gmail.com. Bell choir rehearses most Sundays from 8:30am to 9:00am. Vocal choir also rehearses most Sundays from 10:45am to 11:15am. Join us!

-Becca Ruiz

All Saints Day

Sunday, Nov. 6 is our annual All Saints Day worship service at St. Luke. We will be honoring those who have passed away since our last ASD service. During this service we observe a Rite of Remembrance, in which we read the names of the deceased one by one, and as each name is read, a family member or friend of the deceased may come forward to light a candle to honor their loved one. (If no one comes forward, the Pastor lights the candle.) We invite you to participate in this special service. If you have a family member or friend that you wish to honor on All Saints Day, please contact Administrator Jo Klein at jojoklein@gmail.com so that she may add the name of your loved one to the list.



Join us for Book Club

on Sunday, Nov. 6, 6:30pm via Zoom to discuss "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how plants and animals offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. "With deep compassion and graceful prose, Robin Wall Kimmerer encourages readers to consider the ways that our lives and language weave through the natural world."—*Publishers Weekly*. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome!



Farmer's Market Report

Dear St. Luke Friends,

Thanks to every one of you for supporting the St. Luke's Farmers' Market this season. Our numbers of customers still have been higher than they were pre-pandemic and we have many "regular" customers who come to the market every week. We also see more people using SNAP than ever before. Truly, the market offers a welcome and appreciated service to our community.

Although most COVID restrictions are lifted for farmers markets, it is best practice to provide a handwashing station at our main entrance, which we did. The market requires 4 volunteers per shift (plus Laurie and me) to best operate the market. Laurie and I are in the EBT/debit/credit card booth, two volunteers work the bread booth, and two volunteers work at the main entrance, greeting customers, "dog-sitting" pets that are not allowed within the parameters of the market, and counting the customers that enter the market. Setting up and taking down the market requires "all hands on deck!" We also had several musical performances!

I want to specifically thank 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. MANY of you volunteered multiple Saturdays and without your willingness to do so, the Market couldn't have happened. At the risk of missing someone (if I do, I'm truly sorry), this is the list of our market volunteers: Kay Reich, Julie Gaarder, Christine Olson, Claudia Melbye, Conie Borchardt, Joyce Bluel, Carol Hornburg, Rob Herrmann, Tracy Arndt, Beth Peterson, Olivia Peterson, Dianne Diestler, Jo Klein, Ruiz family, Laurie Smith, Larry Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Emily Elfritz, Ken McGrew, Sue McNeill, Abby Winecke, Landenberger family, Ekaterina Kravchenko and friends. Hugs to you all!

ALL OF THIS WORK YIELDED GREAT RESULTS! We have retained our past customers and have seen several new faces. Although we lost two vendors this season (Curioso Coffee opened a brick-and-mortar store and Sweetiwinks moved on to other things), we also gained two: Casa Varani Cut Flowers and Christina of homemade granola bars fame! Green Acres Beef was without a processor again, but fully intends to rejoin us next season. We're seeking another coffee vendor ... let people know! When all vendors were present, which occurred several times, we had 10 vendors plus our EBT booth!

Finally, I want to thank Jo Klein and Becca Ruiz for publicizing the Market on our website and through social media. The Market is NOT an individual effort. It takes all of us to make the Market a success each year.

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 and much happiness. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Best, Wendy Bjorklund

Fall Clean-up Day

St. Luke will have a "Fall Clean-up Day on Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 am. We need volunteers willing to put a little elbow grease into sprucing up our church building and grounds. We';; have some buckets, rags and cleaning supplies on hand. Thanks in advance for pitching in! Your efforts are needed and will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity!

26 households have already made a financial commitment for 2023. If you have not returned your intent card yet, we would still love to have you participate. All levels of contributions are valued and needed. You can return your card at the offering on Sunday, mail it to the church, or [make your intent online](#). A special thank you to our challenge donor who offered an additional \$2,000 gift as incentive for us to reach at least 25 returned intent cards, which we did. Together, our generosity is growing!



Connect, Grow and Serve.