



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

April 2025 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Pr. Bristol Reading

*If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,
we are of all people most to be pitied.
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died.
For since death came through a human being,
the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being;
for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
-1 Cor. 15:19-22, 26*

The celebration of Easter is at the center of our Christian life. We proclaim that Christ has indeed defeated death, and that gives us hope not only for this earthly life, but for the gift of eternal life we receive from God. Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the grave are not events that are only about him. They become events that involve all of humanity: we are all raised to new life with Christ. All of creation is redeemed. Alleluia!

The drama of Holy Week takes us on a journey with Christ through his Passion beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating with Easter morning. Even if you feel like you already know these stories – the palm-waving in Jerusalem, the last supper in the upper room, the agony in the garden, the horror of the cross, the finality of the grave, the surprise of resurrection – take time this year to walk through them again with intentionality and care. Don't lose sense of how life-changing (and death-defeating!) these events are. Martin Luther wrote that it is more spiritually beneficial for a Christian to ponder Christ's passion *just once* than to fast for an entire year or to

April Volunteers

Thanks for
your participation!

ONLINE USHERS

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

IN PERSON USHERS

First and Second Sundays:
Volker Landenberger
Third and Fourth Sundays:
Mike and Nancy Hegdahl

SUNDAY READERS

6 Mike Hegdahl
13 Gwen Brummund
20 Christine Olson
27 Cristina Dredla

GOOD FRIDAY READERS

Wendy Bjorklund, Gwen
Brummund, Julie Gaarder,
Bonnie Jellinek, Christine Olson,
Kay Reich

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

6 Doug Klein
13 Kay Reich
20 Christine Olson
27 Cristina Dredla

ALTAR GUILD

Julie Gaarder

pray a psalm every single day. He said the experience of reflecting on the Passion was as transformative as baptism.

Here are the Holy Week worship services we will offer at Saint Luke:

April 13, 9:30 am: Palm Sunday

April 17, 6:00 pm: Maundy Thursday

April 18, 6:00 pm: Good Friday

April 20, 9:30 am: Easter Sunday

Saint Luke doesn't offer an Easter Vigil service on the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter, April 19, but that can also be a very powerful worship opportunity. Some of our Lutheran neighbors do offer Easter Vigils. You might consider attending one at Immanuel Lutheran (104 Snelling) at 6:00 pm or at Gloria Dei (700 Snelling) at 6:30 pm.

No matter how many worship services you're able to attend, I hope you'll spend some time reflecting on the good news of new life offered through Christ. To close, I'll share here a long but powerful prayer from theologian and biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann that asks God to "Easter us" into new life (from a published collection of his prayers called *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*).

You God who terrified the waters, who crashed your thunder,
who shook the earth, and scared the wits out of chaos.
You God who with strong arm saved your people by miracle and
wonder and majestic act. You are the same God to whom we turn,
we turn in our days of trouble, and in our weary nights;
we look for steadfast love and are dismayed,
we wait for your promises, but wait in fatigue,
we ponder your forgetfulness and lack of compassion,

and we grow silent.

Our lives, addressed to you, have this bitter-sweet taste
of loud-clashing miracles and weak-kneed doubt
So we come in our bewilderment and wonderment,
deeply trusting, almost afraid to trust much,
passionately insisting, too timid to insist much,
fervently hoping, exhausted for hoping too much.

Look upon us in our deep need,
mark the wounds of our brothers and sisters just here,
notice the turmoil in our lives, and the lives of our families,
credit the incongruity of the rich and the poor in our very city,
and the staggering injustices abroad in our land,
tend to the rage out of control, rage justified by displacement,
rage gone crazy by absence, silence, and deprivation,
measure the suffering, count the sufferers, number the wounds.

You tamer of chaos and mender of all tears in the canvas of
creation,

COFFEE HOSTS

- 6 Kay Reich
Emily and Matthew Elfritz
- 13 Ruth and Dennis Olafson
Karen Larson
- 27 Donald Clark
Nancy Redlin

COUNTERS

- 6 Katy Eggert
- 13 Julie Gaarder
- 20 Carol Hornung
- 27 Kay Reich



Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for April: Doug Klein, Kay Reich, Julie Ellingson, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl.

April Birthdays

- 1 Joan Holtz
- 2 Beth Peterson
- 3 Barb Jensen
- 5 David Elliott
- 6 Tom Gaarder
- 12 Oliver Ulrich
- 21 Tracy Arndt
- 23 Juniper Ulrich

April Anniversaries

- 5 Volker & Jodi Landenberger
- 8 David & Nahoko Person
- 11 David Elliott & Susan Lorenz
- 24 Raul & Becca Ruiz
- 28 Peter & Megan Allen

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!

we ponder your suffering, your crown of thorns,
your garment taken in lottery, your mocked life,

and now we throw upon your suffering humiliation, the suffering of
the world.

You defeater of death, whose power could not hold you,
come in your Easter, come in your sweeping victory, come in your
glorious new life.

Easter us, salve wounds, break injustice, bring peace, guarantee
neighbor,

Easter us in joy and strength.

Be our God, be your true self, lord of life,
massively turn our life toward your life
and away from our anti-neighbor, anti-self deathliness.

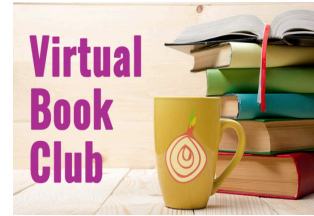
Hear our thankful, grateful, unashamed Hallelujah! Amen.



Member Spotlight on Nancy White

I was born in 1950 in Duluth, MN. Five brothers followed me! After high school I attended Mankato State University and completed a degree in Recreation Park Administration. I went on to work for The City of Duluth at Spirit Mountain in their Cross-Country Skiing/Campground division. This was followed by a position with the Girl Scouts, in LaCrosse, WI as a camp administrator.

My next job was at the College of St. Teresa in Winona, MN as Director of Student Activities. After St. Teresa's closed, I returned to school and completed a graduate degree in career counseling at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. Following school, I worked for several government programs that focused on assisting laid-off workers to attain new employment. In 1985, I met Dan White in LaCrosse at a rummage sale! We married in 1989. In 1990 we moved to St. Paul where I took a position at Dakota County Technical College working with job seekers. When the program was canceled, I moved on to other career/job counseling positions in the



Book Club

We invite you to our St. Luke Book Club, on Sunday, April 13, 6:30pm, via Zoom, to discuss "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store". From National Book Award winner James McBride, a novel about small-town secrets and the people who keep them. "A murder mystery locked inside a Great American Novel . . . Charming, smart, heart-blistering, and heart-healing." —Danez Smith, The New York Times Book Review. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome; join us!



Notes from the Music Director

As I'm writing this we're almost halfway through our season of Lent already! It's been such a pleasure to sing the Holden Evening Prayer service on Wednesdays and enjoy delicious soup together. I've also been enjoying exploring the different prayer practices each week. The choirs are hard at work on music for our Holy Week services, bringing depth and reflection through the beauty of music on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, and joyful ringing and singing on Easter Sunday.

Mark your calendars for a Summer Music Preview on Sunday, May 18th! Grab your

St. Paul area. One of my very favorite jobs was working at the Ford Plant in St Paul assisting the many employees unfortunately in the process of losing their jobs due to the plant shut down.

Shortly before I retired, we sold our house in the Como area and moved to Riverview Highland on Prior and Norfolk. It is a great place with great residents. We have no human children, but we have raised, loved and cared for several fur babies! Currently we have two cats who believe they are “in charge” of our household! My husband Dan works at Como Zoo and Conservatory as an attendant. During the Christmas season he “is” Santa! He visits many families spreading joy and laughter! I have been an avid swimmer for over 40 years. I currently swim laps at the JCC – a wonderful community. I am also an avid reader and belong to two book clubs – one for over 30 years. We love to travel, but since our budget is limited, we enjoy “road trips” in the Midwest.

After years of disillusionment with the Catholic Church, I searched for another church community that reflected my beliefs. One Saturday at the St. Lukes’ Farmers Market, I stopped to talk with Doug Klein who was greeting customers. I asked about St. Luke, and we had an honest discussion about churches and what St. Luke offers. He invited me to come to a service to see for myself. I am very happy I did! The congregation is so friendly, and Pastor Bristol is an excellent speaker and presents her messages with care and meaning. I know I have found a new spiritual home.



I’m writing to you on the first official day of spring and thinking about what a wonderful time of year it is. I’m new to the church council in 2025 and I appreciate the opportunity to serve the St. Luke community. I have enjoyed getting to know my council colleagues better and learning more about the history and operations of the church. My family and I have been members for about 5 years and I know I still have much to learn about our long, storied history. I look forward to continuing to partner with the council and all of you.

As I think about more sunshine and warmer weather that I’m certain we’ll soon enjoy, I think of bright things and how joyful it is to spend Sunday mornings with Pastor Bristol and the children in our faith formation class. Pastor Bristol is thoughtful about activities and always ready to have fun while

treats and join me in the choir pews to reflect on the Lent and Easter season and look ahead to choose our setting for summer!



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, Friday April 4 and 18. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!



LAST CHANCE! It is time to order your Gertens Bedding Plants! Orders will be taken online, as we did last year. To access the site and place an order for our fundraiser group, click [here](#). Enter the Store ID code 135 into the text field and click ‘Enter ID to Continue’. Our on-site store opened on February 17th and **will close at 10 PM on Thursday, April 3**. We cannot accept any late orders past the deadline. ****PLEASE NOTE:** Quantities are limited on fundraiser items. If an item sells out, it will be marked sold out on our website and you will not be able to continue to order that item. Get your orders in early to avoid limited item availability! Please take note of the important dates below, and thanks in advance for your generosity!

- 4/3: Close online ordering
- 5/14: Pick-up bedding plants:
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
- 5/15: Pick-up bedding plants:
10 am to noon.

teaching the kids, who span ages and interests. We read stories, do projects and crafts, play games, pray, and sing. It's a happy time our kids look forward to - I also see how it fosters friendships and deeper connections to the church community across both children and families.

I'm grateful to be part of the St. Luke family and looking forward to this special time of year.

With gratitude, Emily Elfritz



Our Faith Formation kiddos making communion bread and salt dough spirals to count the 40 days of Lent.



Supper with Saints will be returning to the 4th Thursday evening every month. We will be going to Red Rabbit, 788 Grand Ave., St Paul on April 24th at 5:30 pm. Please let Joyce Bluel know by Sunday, April 20th if you plan on attending so we have a number for the reservation.

There will be an audit of the church financials on Sunday, April 27 after worship. This is an open meeting; your participation will be welcomed and appreciated.



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 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,

Can you help with our Easter Brunch, April 20?

We will be serving egg bake, coffee cake, bagels and cream cheese and fresh fruit. Can you help with set-up, food prep or clean-up? Please talk to Nancy Hegdal or email her at nkh116@aol.com. Thanks so much!

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

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.