



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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 Editor: Jo Klein

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Connect, Grow and Serve.*

## Parish Times November 2019

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### *The Pastor's Perspective...*

Dear Friends at St. Luke and St. Mark,

Thank you. Thank you for your hospitality and the celebration we had together at my installation service on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>! The music filled our souls, the preaching touched our hearts and the food filled our stomachs. These important parts of our Sunday morning worship and fellowship nurtured our bodies, minds and spirits. Having the opportunity to be amongst both communities together is a highlight of my start here as your pastor.

I was particularly drawn into the Gospel reading which Pastor Lees preached about; the ten lepers and the one who returned to give thanks. The one who returned and gave thanks was healed wholly. The others were physically healed, but the one who came back to Jesus was healed in faith as well. Faith is what draws us together and Christ is the one who makes us well week after week.

That is Good News, which we can be truly grateful for!

If there is one thing I want to focus our ministry on together as we move into the future, it is to create an atmosphere of gratitude and thankfulness in all that we do. In a recent study on gratitude, scientists have found that people who regularly practice gratitude by taking time to notice and reflect upon the things they're thankful for, experience more positive emotions, feel more alive, sleep better, express more compassion and kindness and even have stronger immune systems! Just think of how much healthier the St. Luke and St. Mark communities could be! ☺

As we are in the season of autumn and experience abundant blessings from God, I took a few moments to think about what I am grateful for. It was a little challenging to get started as I looked out of the window at the gray day, but once I did, the gratitude just seemed to flow. As I reflected, I suddenly started to feel better.

Here are a few things I am grateful for:

- The golden, red and orange leaves outside.
- Warm lattes and a connecting place at Claddaugh Coffee.
- Laughter and fun, which I've had at office/staff meetings, conference gatherings, coffee "meets", synod gatherings and in pastoral visits.
- The new places and experiences we have the opportunity to invest ourselves in.
- The houses we've been able to live in as we look to buy a home.
- Warm sunshine on my face (when it is out, which hasn't been very much lately!).
- Feeling excited that I have a good place to live out my call and people (all of you!) who are excited about what God is doing and will do through us.

*Continued on page 4*

## congregational meeting



**IMPORTANT...NOTE CHANGE OF DATE:** Be sure to attend our semi-annual congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 10 after the service. Your participation is valued and needed.



A big thank you to our November Bun Run volunteers: Doug and Jo Klein, Larry and Junella Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl, David Tews.



### Dec The Halls!

All are invited on Sunday, Dec. 1 after worship to decorate our church home for the Advent and Christmas seasons. After decorating, we will all enjoy a potluck lunch together. Donations of Poinsettias to adorn our altar are greatly appreciated. Join us for this cherished, time-honored St. Luke tradition...it is sure to put you in a festive mood!



### November Birthdays

- 1 Kou Vang
- 8 Gary Nelson
- 10 Hugo Ruiz
- 14 Joshua Vidgal
- 17 Dwight Paulson  
Joan Wilson
- 18 Bruce Magnuson
- 23 Christine Salaba
- 25 Ben Vidgal
- 26 Janell Walter
- 30 Robert Herrmann



### November Anniversaries

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



### November Acolytes

- 3 Ava Herrmann
- 17 Victor Landenberger



### Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for November: Judy Salaba, David Tews, Kay Reich, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, Roger Diestler.



**Ladies Night Out** will go on hiatus for November, December and January. We will resume Ladies Night Out again in February. Watch the January newsletter for details on where we will be dining in February.



### LOAVES AND FISHES

94 hungry men, women and children were served dinner on September 23rd at the Loaves and Fishes program at St. Matthew's Church. Workers from St. Luke were Sandy Berger, Larry Litzkow, Dianne and Roger Diestler and Pastor Emily Rova-Hegener.

### November WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

#### Readers:

- 3 Katy Eggert
- 10 Laurie Herrmann
- 17 Jen Fredrickson
- 24 Julie Ellingson

#### Communion:

- 3 Katy Eggert
- 17 Jen Fredrickson



Makerspace is fun and interesting! Do join us for the next session on Nov. 16!

## ALL SAINT'S DAY

On All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 3, 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](mailto:jojoklein@gmail.com)) if you would like to remember a loved one during the All Saints service. We will ask families to bring a photo of their loved one that day, and to light a candle for them during the worship service. Let us remember with thanks those who have gone before us and rest in God's eternal love and salvation.



## Now Thank We All Our God!

Join us for  
Thanksgiving Eve Worship,  
Wednesday, Nov. 27th  
6:30 PM  
At St. Luke Church



## Thanksgiving Baskets

As is the St. Luke tradition, we will be collecting donations for Thanksgiving Baskets, which will be distributed to members of our community. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, November 24. If you would like to make a monetary contribution to filling these baskets, please indicate "Thanksgiving Basket" on the memo line of your check. Thank you!



Join us for Makerspace, Saturday, Nov. 16th @ St. Mark: Cardmaking featuring Sue McNeill! Community Craft: Holiday cards for our shut-ins and for U.S. Troops. Due to the holidays, the Makerspace will not be on the 4th Saturday, and during the school year we will be alternating venues, so please note the locations! We will need help with supplies for these events. If you would like to contribute, please email [bunkamade@gmail.com](mailto:bunkamade@gmail.com) or talk to Becca to find out how!



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** Once again, SL/SM 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 on Nov. 3, Nov. 10 or Nov. 17. **On Sunday, November 17**, the boxes will be blessed by Pr. Emily, then delivered to the distribution center. We will have information on the bulletin table with ideas of what to pack, if you need it. If you wish to look online at information, go to [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) and click on the Shoebox link.

**FALL BACK!** Don't forget to set your clocks one hour back on Saturday night, Nov. 2nd.



**Mitten and Hat Tree** During the upcoming Advent season there will be a Christmas tree placed by the pulpit where we will be collecting hats, mittens, and scarves. The congregation will watch the tree become colorfully decorated each Sunday as these items are placed on the tree, and we ask that members bring forth their donations to hang on the tree during the offering. Once the tree is decorated, we will then donate all the hats, mittens and scarves to Naomi Family Residence, a local homeless shelter for women and children. Thank you for participating in this worthy cause!



*The Pastor's Perspective, continued from page 1:*

- Other churches who use our space and teach me and us new things about their ministry.
- The new places I get to hike and explore.
- Ethnic restaurants in the Twin City area!
- Time to reconnect with old friends and opportunities to make new ones.
- I GET to be a Minnesotan again and live in a place where humor is a part of my everyday life.
- The experience of living abroad and the relationships I have with friends overseas who still connect with me even though I am not physically near them.
- A new book.
- A beautiful drive to and from work.

I wonder.....what are you grateful for?

What if we practiced more gratitude every single day? How would that change the perspective we have and what would we notice because we were looking for it? What might God show us about ourselves and each other?

Make a list. Post it somewhere you will see it. Practice gratitude and let's see where God takes us.

I'm grateful for each of you and the blessing you are on my life's journey. Thanks!

In Christ,  
Pastor Emily

## **Church Council Elections**

During our semi-annual meeting on Sunday, November 10th, (NOTE DATE CHANGE) we vote for new Council members.

All officer positions are open along with one commissioner position. The officers include: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The officer positions are one-year terms. Only the position of President requires that you have served previously on the Council for at least a year.

Two current officers have indicated a willingness to run for officer positions, but that should not mean you cannot also run. The commissioner position is a two-year term. A commissioner can serve up to 4 consecutive terms (if they feel called to do so and are elected!). Council meetings are once a month, on the second Tuesday of the month, at 6:30 pm. Pastor Emily attends the meetings.

Council welcomes new faces and new points of view. If you have questions or are interested in running for one of the open positions, please contact me at 651-357-5742 or [wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu) (or talk to me during fellowship!). I'll need to hear from you by Sunday, November 3rd so the ballot can be assembled and copied. Or, you can be nominated (including offering a self-nomination) the day of our semi-annual meeting. Please feel free to talk to me or any other council member. We would be happy to answer your questions.

-Wendy Bjorklund, Council President

A graphic with a green-to-blue gradient background and the text "Church Elections" in a serif font.

Church Elections

*The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. -Numbers 6:24*