



St. Luke Lutheran Church
 1807 Field Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55116
 Phone: 651-698-9443 | www.saintlukechurch.org
 Editor: Jo Klein

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Connect, Grow and Serve.

Parish Times July 2020



The Pastor's Perspective... 

"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." --1 Thessalonians 5:18.

"In everything give thanks" does not mean "for everything give thanks."
 It is never appropriate to give thanks for things evil, unjust, violent, inhumane.
 The Greek word "*en*" means in, with, within, through.
 Not *for*.
 Be grateful through difficulty, not for it.

I won't be grateful *for* the pandemic - it has caused untold suffering, grief, fear, and loss. But I can be grateful through it, discovering unexpected gifts of courage and compassion even with this most unwelcome moment in history.
 ~ **Diane Butler Bass, author and church historian**

We are all "IN" this global pandemic together and I am deeply grateful for the church as we discern how God is leading us forward. We are continuing to navigate and make sense of these difficult days and as they continue to unfold, we are becoming more resilient.

This last week I learned from resilience researcher Dr. Lucy Hone, that there are three key factors to help us become more resilient in the midst of suffering, grief and loss:

First, we must recognize that we all suffer and experience loss and grief. The death of a loved one, living with a terminal illness, going through a divorce, struggling with infertility, moving, surviving a natural disaster, recovering from a surgery, or going through any other trauma or abuse, shows us that loss and grief do not discriminate. It affects everyone.

Secondly, while we tend to gravitate towards the negative, we must also approach the grief, fear and loss with gratitude and look for goodness as well. While this is hard, it helps us to move into the future and heal.

Thirdly, we need to ask ourselves, "Is the choice or response I will use, help or hurt the situation at hand?" As we discern how we respond to the grief or loss in front of us we have an opportunity to see how we use our words and actions. Will they be for the better or for worse?

While all three of these key components of becoming resilient are important, I'd like to focus on the second key factor; we are invited to be filled with gratitude and see goodness in the midst of our current challenges. Science studies show how much gratitude and looking for goodness, literally helps us overcome the challenges before us. In fact, they help us to find hope and hope is what we need in order to survive.

Upon reflecting about gratitude and goodness and sharing that with my immediate family, we've decided that at the end of the day, we will name three things which we are grateful for or places we have seen goodness. We will write them down and keep track of them as the weeks go along. With this intentional reflection during this season of COVID, and if we can approach each day with a grateful heart, I would imagine that we, like Diane Butler Bass said, "will discover unexpected gifts of courage and compassion." Courage and compassion are fundamental drivers of how we are called to be disciples of Jesus.

[Continued on page 2.]



July Birthdays

- 7 Ruth Carlson, Ian Walter
- 8 Joyce Bluel
- 15 Doug Wasko, Madison Munos
- 16 Wendy Bjorklund
- 17 Bob and Pam Ballis
- 20 Peter Klein
- 23 Jo Klein
- 26 Jill Burchill, Tatum Herrmann
- 28 Dan Grzywinski
- 30 Jason Woodford



July Anniversaries

- 6 Kevin and MaryJo Brandt: 1991
- 13 Larry and Bev Eckstrom: 2001

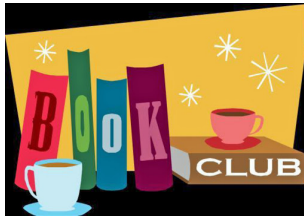


LOAVES AND FISHES Our heartfelt thanks to our June St. Luke volunteers: David Elliott, Susan Lorenz and Christine Olson.



Farmers' Market

Our sixth annual Farmers Market is underway! It will run every Saturday, 8am to 1pm, through Oct. 3. Covid 19 precautionary measures are in place for your safety. Come and shop...visit with neighbors and peruse the lovely fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers. Or better yet, come to volunteer, and get first choice of the produce. Interested? Contact Wendy at wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu.



Our first St. Luke/St. Mark Zoom Book Club meeting has been set for Wednesday, July 8 at 6:30 pm! All are welcome! The first book will be "Almost Everything: Notes on Hope", by Annie Lamott. We thought the subject was fitting. If you are not familiar with Lamott, she is warm, wise, spiritual, earthy, and very funny.

After the first book club meeting, we can poll folks on books choices, moving forward. We are excited to get this rolling....hope you plan to join us!

A New Photo Directory is in the Works!

You have received an email or letter about our forthcoming St. Mark/St. Luke photo directory. Since we are still in the midst of social distancing, it would be wonderful if we could get a photo jpg that you have taken of you and/or your family. Feel free to take the photo outdoors. Please remember that for this purpose, we want very much to see your face(s)...not the scenery. If you have a family member who is on our prayer list, we would appreciate a current photo of them you may have taken prior to the pandemic, or a favorite photo of your choice. If you are unable to provide a photo of them, it is our intention to do all we can to take a photo at a later date or see if one may exist in our church event photos. If you have questions, please contact David Nedrelow at nedre004@umn.edu or Sue McNeill at suemc1493@gmail.com, your representatives on the Church Directory Committee. Thank you for sharing in the gathering of information and photos for this unique joint directory.

(Pastor's Perspective continued from page 1.)

As a church, I wonder, can we reflect together on the goodness we have seen or things we are grateful for each week? I know these are not easy days, but how might we uplift one another and see the blessings in our midst? At the end of each week in July, I will send out an e-mail, to which, if you would like to share your gratitude, please reply and let us know what those things are. We will compile them together and post them in the August newsletter!

If we look with gratitude on our daily life, my guess is the unexpected gifts will become more apparent. They will shape us as individuals and community and will hopefully give us a new way to see one another and the world we live in.

Today, I am grateful for these three things; a good and challenging conversation with colleagues, my morning cup of coffee and fireflies. What are you grateful for?

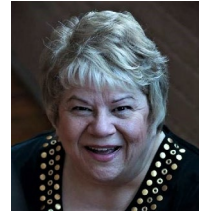
In everything, give thanks and see what God does with that! ☺

Blessings upon your summer days. Stay cool. Be Well.

In Christ, Pastor Emily



Sixth Annual Farmers Market, every Saturday, 8am to 1pm, through Oct. 3...join us!



Safety Team: Bishop Lull requested each congregation to form a team to begin discussions and determine procedures for what needs to be done before and after we open our church building for services and meetings. I would like to introduce you to the St. Luke team as of today. Sue Grzywinski (VA nurse), Julie Ellingson (elder care), Kay Reich (message therapy), Jo Klein (church administrator), Sue McNeill (council president, legal field), and Pr. Emily. At our first meeting in May, we determined we needed to ask the church council to approve our motion to keep the church closed through August 2020. The council agreed with the motion and it passed. The Safety Team will continue to review the newest information from the CDC, MN Dept. of Health, the Synod, and procedures other churches are developing and sharing. In June, we reviewed several documents and chose various topics to begin “to do” lists, supply lists, procedures necessary before we open our building, and new routines for worshipping or meeting in our building. This is a serious topic and procedures must be in place before we can once again worship in our church home. Please complete the Survey Monkey you will receive soon to help the team in developing a plan for returning. Contact Julie Ellingson regarding the survey. Your safety is of the utmost importance. These past few months have proven to me that our “church” is not the building, but our wonderful members. St. Mark has their own Safety Team; and in the future, we will share resources and ideas.

2020 Photo Directory: David NedreLOW and I have volunteered to work with Bonnie Jellinek and Dianne Testa of St. Mark to create a joint photo directory. When opened from one cover, St. Luke information and photos will be listed. When opened from the other cover, St. Mark information and photos will be listed. It is important to put names to faces as we continue to worship together and help each other at events. We believe that we can create the directory ourselves (since social distancing does not allow us to pose for a photographer). This is a unique year and an opportunity to have some fun with a more casual directory. I am looking for event photos for our collage page, and would welcome photos you'd like to share. We are trying to collect all information and photos by the end of July. Whether you are an active or inactive member, we want you to be part of this directory. You were sent a form to provide information about you and a photo or jpg. Please take a moment and be part of this project. We rely on your help to make this happen!

Who To Contact List: The council is creating a Who To Contact List if you have questions, suggestions or have interest in various activities. When you review the list, you'll see the same names appearing several times. We would so appreciate your consideration in choosing to help one time or many times in any of the areas listed. There will be a star next to events that happen only when we return to our church building. Each of the contact people would be more than willing to explain what they do and welcome your interest. Help us share the wealth in keeping St. Luke alive and well during this period of separation.

Be well and safe,
Sue McNeill

Zoom Readers for July:

July 5: Jen Fredrickson
July 12: Lyndi Fabbrini
July 19: Wendy Bjorklund
July 26: Bonnie Jellinek



Musings from the Music Director

Worship Update

We would like to thank everyone who has been patient with us as we navigate how to best use our technology. We are learning and adjusting what we do in our services weekly. Here are a few highlights:

- Every week we are trying new things to improve our overall sound, so check back in if you haven't been to a service recently!

- Both churches now have a music license that includes streaming so we can use most of the hymns in our hymnal! As we adjust to the new company, we will not be including the music in our emailed services but will continue to put the lyrics on screen for Sunday service.

- In April and the first part of May, each Sunday worship had 50-60 connections! As we moved into the summer, we have averaged 48-50 connections each week. The new offering photo videos and post-service breakout rooms have created more new ways for us to feel connected in this time. Thank you to everyone who participates!

- Our Zoom services will continue at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings, but we will also have a Drive-In Service on Sunday, July 26th and Sunday, August 30th in St. Luke's parking lot at 7 pm. We will be ushering the cars in to make sure they are spaced appropriately apart. You'll be able to tune in and hear the service through your FM radio. Further guidelines and information will be emailed prior to the service. Please email Rebecca Ruiz (bunkamade@gmail.com) if you would like to find out more about volunteer opportunities with the subject line "Drive-In Service."

VBS

We have sent out a short survey to the families of St. Luke and St. Mark to help us figure out the best combination of activities and interaction. As we start to put the framework together, we welcome anyone with ideas, or wanting to find out more about how to volunteer, to contact Rebecca Ruiz (bunkamade@gmail.com) with the subject line "VBS." While it won't look like years past, it will be fun and open to kids of all ages!

-Becca Ruiz

Saint Luke Appreciates Your Continued Offerings

Even though church services are currently suspended, you can still give to St. Luke to help support our mission to serve the people in our congregation and in our community. A new "Ways to Give" page on St. Luke's website explains how you can give in three ways—by mail, online, and using a mobile app.

Giving online and through a smartphone or tablet is now possible because of St. Luke's new account through Vanco, a company that processes offerings electronically.

You can make electronic offerings using a credit or debit card or by withdrawal directly from a bank account (EFT transaction). EFT transactions are preferred because the fees are lower. For more information, go to our website (saintlukechurch.org) and click "Ways to Give" at the top of the page. Your gifts are appreciated



Parish Board News:

The Parish Board continues to meet once a month to discuss how best to engage in shared ministry.

All of you should have received information about worship schedule options for when we re-open our churches. We will have conversations about this going forward, and no decisions will be made right now. Please contact Wendy Bjorklund and Nancy Redlin with any feedback/questions.

Our first drive-in service will be held at St. Luke on Sunday, July 26 at 7pm. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer for this service, so please check the rest of the newsletter if you are interested!

Please continue to send information and photos for our shared church directory to David Nedrelow (davidned@me.com) and Bonnie Jellinek (bonniejell@aol.com) so they can complete the directory.

Plans are being made for VBS this summer. Please contact Becca Ruiz (bunkamade@gmail.com) if you are willing to help plan and facilitate a different kind of VBS this summer (there are so many options for how to make this work!).

The Parish Board continues to work on how best to engage in shared ministry with one another during this time of social distancing due to COVID 19. Please contact Wendy Bjorklund (wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu) or Eric Michelson (e.h.michelson@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

-Wendy Bjorklund

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