



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

May 2026 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Pr. Bristol Reading

The Importance of Jesus' Ascension

We will celebrate Ascension of Our Lord on Sunday, May 24. The ascension is the return of the risen Jesus to the throne of heaven. In the account of the New Testament, this happens about six weeks after Jesus' resurrection. During those weeks, the risen Jesus has been making appearances to his friends and followers, spending time with them and teaching them. But eventually, he leaves them. Here's how Luke's Gospel describes this moment:

Jesus led the disciples out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And the disciples worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God. (Luke 24:50-53)

This may seem like a minor event, but it's central to how we understand Jesus as the Messiah!

The ascension was important enough to make it into both the major creeds of the church. In the Apostles' Creed, we say: "On the third day Jesus rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead." In the Nicene Creed, we say something very similar: "On the third day Jesus rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the

May 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:

Doug Klein, Joan Wilson

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Kay Reich, Carol Hornung

READERS

3 Ellen Weis

10 Wendy Bjorklund

17 Christine Olson

24 Laurie Herrmann

31 Sue McNeill

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

3 Kay Reich

10 Wendy Bjorklund

17 Christine Olson

24 Nancy Redlin

31 Joyce Bluel

ALTAR GUILD

Kay Reich, Christine Olson

COUNTERS

5 Katy Eggert

12 Wendy Bjorklund

19 Julie Gaarder

26 Kay Reich

living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.” Creeds are theological statements, meant to express what Christians believe, and the ascension is important enough to get included alongside the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection. So, let’s talk about why it matters.

Jesus miraculously resuscitated a few people during his ministry, like a form of healing. For instance, after Lazarus had been in the tomb for days, Jesus called him back to life (John 11:1-45). But the people Jesus raised from the dead were still just mortal humans; they eventually died again. What happens to Jesus after the cross is different. He doesn’t die again. He defeats death for himself and for all people for all time.

The risen Jesus is clearly alive in an embodied way, meaning he’s not a ghost or apparition. He eats, talks, and breathes. People can touch him. But he’s also different somehow. Even his close followers have trouble recognizing him post-resurrection. He appears and disappears, seemingly walking through walls and locked doors. Resurrected life is a different kind of alive than we are used to recognizing with our human eyes.

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples a few times, reminding them that his Holy Spirit will always dwell with them. Then, eventually, he blesses them and ascends into the clouds, returning to heaven from which he came.

This is the mystery of Jesus being both human and divine. To be human is to be mortal: Jesus was really born and really died. But his divinity means that his existence is eternal. Christ was present at creation, long before Jesus was incarnated and birthed by Mary, and Christ continues to be present long after his own death and resurrection. He’s present now: sitting on the throne of heaven, victorious over sin and death. This is why the creeds both connect the ascension to a sense of judgment. Jesus is authoritative, a just king and judge, for all time.

Without the ascension, the story of resurrection isn’t complete. We don’t want to imagine that Jesus was simply resuscitated and then wandered around for a while before dying again. We want to remember that Jesus had come from heaven and returned to heaven because Jesus was and is part of the Triune God. In this sense, incarnation and ascension are like bookends around Jesus’ physical life on earth. Christ becomes human in the person of Jesus for our sake, coming down from heaven to dwell with us. Jesus dies for our sake, rises to new life for our sake, and returns to his rightful place in heaven for our sake. That’s the fullness of what we proclaim at Easter!

Here’s how Ephesians describes the importance of the ascension for us:

COFFEE HOSTS

- 3 Kay Reich
Christine Olson
- 10 Jakob and Elise Kamp
Susan Lorenz
David Elliott
- 17 Junella Litzkow
Bonnie Jellinek
Karen Larson
- 24 Don Clark
Nancy Redlin



Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for May: Julie Ellingson, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew, Doug Klein.

May Birthdays

- 1 Jodi Landenberger
- 4 Michael Amundson
- 5 Michael Reading,
Heather Moreno
- 6 Karen Larson
- 7 Emily Elfritz,
Casey Sivanich
- 12 Julie Ellingson
- 18 Katy Eggert
- 21 Dan Vigdal,
Mary Jo Brandt
- 28 Patricia Stadem

May Anniversaries

- 11 Robert & Lois Porter
- 22 Dan & Deborah Vigdal
Dennis & Ruth Olafson
- 30 Tom & Julie Gaarder



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, Friday, May 1 and 15. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!



**Notes from the
Music Director - Becca Ruiz**

Congratulations to our bell and vocal choirs for a wonderful year of music together! It is such a gift to work with all of you and your gifts beautified our services!

As we wind down the choral season, a few musical things to keep in mind:

- Sunday, May 31st: Summer Music Preview! Bring your treats to the choir seats after service and we'll talk about our summer liturgy and sing a requested hymn together.
- One-Hour Choir is coming back! Want to sing or ring this summer? Join me for One-Hour Choir - one song, one hour to learn it, sung that day in service. Check back in the June Newsletter for dates.

If you have a piece you'd like to share in our services during offering or communion, please contact me after service or by email, bunkamade@gmail.com, and we'll find a time and date together.



Greetings to all from the church council. This month we're featuring another council member, David Nedrelow, who

May you perceive what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And God has put all things under Christ's feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:18-23)

The next time you mention the ascension in one of the creeds, I hope its meaning might feel a little more potent for you, that you might remember the same holy power of God that could raise Jesus to new and eternal life is also at work in you. Thanks be to God!



Please be included in our new St. Luke pictorial directory for members *and* friends! It wouldn't be the same without YOU! Our photo dates are: Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9. Schedule your photography appointment online! Just go to www.ucdir.com and click the "Photography Session Sign-Up" button. The "Church Code" is mn653. The "Church Password" is luke. (Church code and password are lower case.) Online sign-up may not be available on Sundays so we will have paper sign-ups at church on the weekends. You will receive a free 8x10 portrait and a free copy of our directory just for coming in for a portrait!



Please mark your calendars and join us to spruce up the grounds around the church on Saturday, May 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Come for as long as you are able; all help is welcome and appreciated. BYOG (bring your own gloves). See you there!



Reminder: For those who ordered bedding plants from the Gertens fundraiser, you may pick up your plants at church on Tuesday, May 12, 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.



THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Minnesota March Foodshare Drive! All donations (food and financial donations) have been given to the Montreal Neighborhood House location. This is where St. Francis Basket Food shelf moved almost 2 years ago to be part of the new Neighborhood House Food Shelf at that location. You donated 280 pounds of food! I deliver the food donations the days I volunteer at the food shelf, and we weigh the food and place it on the shelves when I bring it in, and by the end of my shift, it's usually gone. That's how huge the need is. In addition, you donated \$380 in financial donations, along with \$213 in "Jar Money" during March for a total of \$593. We are a small congregation, but you are mighty in your generosity! Financial donations go a long way because Neighborhood House, through their various partnerships (including Second Harvest Heartland), can make a dollar go much further than we can in a grocery store. If you

shares a bit about his experience at St. Luke. Best, Emily

How long have you been a member at Saint Luke and how did you find the church?

I've been a member since around 2017. At that time, I was living across from the park. I had been exploring churches throughout the area but none of them were as welcoming as St. Luke. I'm hoping I can share the St. Luke fellowship with others the way it has been shared with me.

What is your favorite Saint Luke tradition?

Easter is always my favorite. I like deck the halls too.

What is something you've particularly enjoyed about being a part of the council?

Council is fun because I get to know other members better and learn about how big groups of people manage.



To Everything There Is a Season: The St. Luke's Farmers' Market season begins Saturday, June 13, and extends through Saturday, October 3, 8am to 1pm. This will be our 12th season of the market! If you would like to volunteer at the market, you may sign up to work an early shift (7:30am to 10:30am), a late shift (10:30am to 1:30pm), or a double shift (7:30am to 1:30pm). This year, 5

have any questions about Neighborhood House, please ask me. I've been volunteering at the Food Shelf since it opened June 2024, and will share what I know! -Wendy Bjorklund



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Good News! The Farmers' Market received a \$725 grant from Compeer Financial that has covered the cost of replacing the market's point-of-sale device! This is the device that allows us to accept EBT/credit/debit cards and is an invaluable service to our customers. Our old machine no longer receives technical support from the manufacturer and cannot be used for another season. Thank you Compeer Financial!

volunteers are needed most weeks during market hours to help in the information/card booth, cover our bread table and entrance tent, along with helping to set up and take down the market. Without your help, this important ministry to our community cannot continue. Which Saturday(s) can you "work the market"? For more information, please contact Wendy Bjorklund at wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu or 651-357-5742.

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

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