



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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Editor: Jo Klein

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Connect, Grow and Serve.*

## Parish Times *January 2020*



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

*When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. —Matthew 2:10-11*

Happy Epiphany AND Happy New Year! I'm sitting here writing and wondering where the last four months have gone! (I know, many of you are thinking about the last twelve months, but my life started in the US back in September, so that's the calendar time frame for my brain!) Time seems to fly by, the older I get. I would imagine many of you resonate with those feelings as well.

While I've started to settle into life at St. Luke and St. Mark, I've had lots of epiphanies and "ah-ha" moments as I've learned lots of new things along the way. I can see how God continues to give me new chances to learn about myself and the people I get to minister alongside. As an educator, I am always finding ways to connect and make sense of the Good News of Christ every day because the love of God manifests itself in us in all sorts of ways. As I prepare for weekly worship, I love to incorporate the different ways we each approach God with openness, vulnerability and possibility.

Last year, when I was a teacher in Year One at the International School of Oslo, I encountered a very diverse class. Fourteen of eighteen of my students didn't speak English as their first language and I had to teach them the basics of reading. Learning the alphabet and the sounds associated with each letter became the underlying force of the year. It became the building blocks of everything we did. At the beginning, it was really hard. And I mean really hard.

I taught the children from my own perspective and had to constantly remember that each one brought in their own perspective, shaped by their culture and language (or languages). When they walked into school each morning, I had to assess how they were feeling, what kind of night they had, and how open and ready they were to make sense of these basic foundations of learning.

Some of my students had a hard time of sitting still and had lots of energy that was difficult to contain. Some loved to draw and doodle. Some wanted to experience things. Some could pay attention for long periods of time and others could barely hold onto a sentence before they were onto the next thing. It was my job to connect as best I could, to look at the range and approach of how they learned and find ways to help them be the best they could be. That became my mantra for the year, as I wanted them to be the best of who they could be, honoring who they were each day along with challenging and loving them.

As I got to know them, I had daily epiphanies as I discovered new ways to help them make connections in their learning. Throughout that year, they taught me how to be a better teacher and ultimately, pastor. The most significant "ah-ha" moment was recognizing how we learn in different ways. It reminded me that with the view of the church in mind, God made each of us different and we connect to scripture, worship, learning, fellowship, and life in all unique ways. Holding this epiphany in my hand and remembering that we all approach church life and worship from a different perspective, I am excited about our future. I will learn from you what is central to your identity as people of God and together, we will use God's Word and look for the ways to continually connect it to our faith in daily life. If we do that, it will shape how we listen and the ways we'll respond to the needs of each other and the community.

Epiphany is the ah-ha moment for the world, but especially the Magi. The world isn't the same any more after they see the baby (actually toddler) Jesus. Epiphany is the day that we remember that Jesus has come to us to break into our hearts and minds and love us more than we can imagine. He is our great teacher, the one who looks at us with loving eyes, wants the best for us and for us to be our best every single day. My guess is that as we (St. Luke and St. Mark and myself as pastor) get to know each other we will have lots of epiphany or ah-ha moments.



A big thank you to our January Bun Run volunteers: Mike Hegdahl, David Tews and Ken McGrew.



### LOAVES AND FISHES

77 hungry men, women and children were fed dinner on November 25th at the Loaves and Fishes program at St. Matthew's Church. Workers from St. Luke were Sandy Berger, Larry Litzkow, Verdel Humburg, Joyce Bluel and Pastor Emily Rova-Hegener.



### January Birthdays

- 1 Linda Funkhouser  
Dusty Jensen  
Kayla Padden
- 5 Dawn Peterson
- 9 Laurie Herrmann
- 13 Judy Johnson  
Kimberly Loewen
- 15 Madalynn Padden
- 16 Nancy Hegdahl
- 17 Kathy Spray
- 27 Kevin Arndt
- 29 Norma Alexander
- 30 Sue McNeill
- 31 Kim McNamara



**Ladies Night Out** is still on hiatus. We look forward to resuming this event on Tuesday, February 18, when we will be going to Bennett's Chop and Railhouse at 5:30 pm. Please watch your bulletin and the February newsletter for more details. All are welcome.

### January WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

#### Readers:

- 5 Wendy Bjorklund
- 12 Christine Olson
- 19 Jen Fredrickson
- 26 Barb Jensen

#### Communion:

- 5 Wendy Bjorklund
- 19 Jen Fredrickson



### January Acolytes

- 5 Ava Herrmann
- 19 Victor Landenberger



The Makerspace is going to continue at St. Luke on the 4th Saturday of the month. We are looking for volunteers to help set up, takedown, publicity and any ideas you may have. Talk to Becca or sign-up at the kiosk. Don't forget to come join us on January 25th for making and creating fun!



### Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for January: Doug Klein, Volker and Alek Landenberger, Ben Pilgrim, Joan Wilson, Bruce, Ava and Rob Herrmann.

*Here is a delicious soup to warm your spirits on a cold winters night!*

### Stuart Anderson's Potato Soup

- |                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 7 T. margarine         | 1/8 t. white pepper             |
| 2 c. chopped onions    | 1/4 t. black pepper             |
| 3 T. flour             | dash Tabasco                    |
| 1 3/4 c. chicken broth | 1/2 c. Potato Buds              |
| 1/2 T. Spike Seasoning | 1/2 c. milk                     |
| 1/2 t. salt            | 4 c. potatoes, cooked and diced |
| 1/2t. basil            |                                 |



Sauté margarine and onions. Add flour to make a roux. Combine broth, Spike, seasonings; add to roux and boil. Add instant potatoes; reduce heat to simmer. Add milk, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in diced potatoes. Garnish with sour cream, cheddar cheese, bacon bits and chopped green onions.

--Dianne Diestler

(Reprinted from the 2005 St. Luke Cookbook)

## Volunteer opportunities



### THREE NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

**The Parish Board** is the body comprised of members of both St. Luke and St. Mark (including one member of each church's councils) that helps plan shared worship services and develops other ways the two churches can share in pursuing Christ's mission. We need a person to serve as an "alternate" that will fill in for a St. Luke member that is not able to attend a meeting (and is welcome to come to any of the meetings). The Parish Board meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm and the location rotates between each church. Please contact Wendy Bjorklund (at coffee, 651-357-5742, [wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu)) if you are interested in serving.

**We currently don't have a Secretary** for our Church Council during 2020. It's pretty easy; you just have to attend the Council meeting the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm, take notes, and generate the minutes for the meeting. It helps if you have a laptop so you can take notes "real time," but it's not necessary. Could you serve as Secretary? If so, please contact Wendy Bjorklund at coffee, 651-357-5742, [wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu) or Sue McNeill at coffee, 651-688-8176, [suemc1493@gmail.com](mailto:suemc1493@gmail.com) if you are interested!

**It's been a long time since we produced a photo phone directory!** Especially since we're sharing a pastor with St. Mark, this is really necessary because we need to match faces with names. Could you volunteer to help coordinate the production of this valuable tool? We need two people from St. Luke who are willing to work with two people from St. Mark to figure out how to do this. It will be a fun task and is something so necessary for both of our churches. Please contact Sue McNeill or Jo Klein if you are interested in helping.



### 2019 Fall Bazaar

St. Luke hosted its 35th Fall Bazaar on Saturday, October 26th. The weather was beautiful and we had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. This event could not be held without the dedication and hard work of **all** of our members.

The money raised from the Bazaar is used to carry out the ministries of St. Luke as well as providing a great fellowship opportunity for our church and community.

The day started off with our traditional fare of delicious rolls and hot coffee and moved into lunch with scrumptious chili, chili dogs, seven varieties of soup, apple crisp, apple and pumpkin pie.

The ever-popular Rummage Sale Room was busy again this year. Thanks to the talented bakers and crafters, we had a nice quantity of items to offer the shoppers.

The raffle offered the chance to win some very nice prizes this year thanks to the generosity of members of our congregation. In addition to these donations, we raffled off two \$100 gift certificates for Cub Foods and Target.

Special thanks to our committee chairs: Rummage Sale Room: Jo Klein, Bake Sale: Deb Vigdal, Raffle: Julia Gaarder, Judy Salaba and Joyce Bluel, Kitchen: Beth Peterson, Publicity: Pam Ballis, Cashier Coordinators: Robyn Rongstad and Tracy Arndt and Treasurer: Julia Gaarder.

Thanks again for your support!

2019 Fall Bazaar Chairs  
Joyce Bluel and Judy Salaba

**It's time for Undie Sunday!** In partnering with THE DRAWER, please help us make our annual 'Undie Sunday' a *success*! Now is a great time to stock up. They need NEW women's and children's socks, and underwear for all ages and genders. (No men's socks.) We will be collecting these items in the bin marked with THE DRAWER, which will provide dignity and warmth for those less fortunate. We will also gratefully accept monetary donations; just indicate Undie Drive in the memo line of your check. We hope that you will join us and be a part of our collection! THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

**Collection Start: Jan. 5 – Undie Sunday: Jan. 26.**

-Deb and Stew Shepard





### *Musings from the Music Director*

Thank you to everyone who participated in our music over the holiday season - to the singers, the ringers, the soloists, and to my awesome 2nd Sunday team for filling in! I appreciate all the work you do and the time you put in. You make our services resounding!-

-Becca Ruiz

(The Pastor's Perspective,  
continued from page 1.)

These good moments will ultimately drive us forward to our common goal of share the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ with our community and with the world. These good moments will help us to discern a shared version of God's mission in the 7<sup>th</sup> Street corridor and grow disciples of Jesus Christ. These good moments will bring joy and gratitude and deepen our faith in the one who loves us more than we can ever imagine.

I want for all of us to be the best we can be, together. I will honor who you are, will love you, challenge you, rejoice with you, and walk the road by your side. I hope and pray you will do the same.

May God bless and keep you as we begin this new year and season of life together.

Epiphany Blessings,

Pastor Emily

## Shared Ministry

### Our Shared Worship Schedule

Starting in 2020, we will be sharing worship once a month together between St. Luke and St. Mark! This is exciting as we build on the relationships we have with each other, worship together, praise God and share the gifts we have been blessed with. Shared worship will happen on the last Sunday of the month, regardless of whether it is a fourth or fifth Sunday.

The 2020 schedule for the Sunday mornings looks like this:

January 26<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @ St. Luke

February 23<sup>rd</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @St. Mark

March 29<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @St. Luke

April 26<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @St. Mark

May 31<sup>st</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @St. Luke

June 28<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @ St. Mark

July 26<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @ St. Luke

August 30<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @ St. Mark

September 27<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @St. Luke

October 25<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @St. Mark

November 29<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @ St. Luke

December 27<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 a.m. worship and fellowship @St. Mark

The focus of these services will be to learn more about our individual congregations, build and strengthen relationships, and delight in the opportunity to share in worship and fellowship together.

### SAVE THE DATE!

Come one, come all to an ALL MEMBER WINTER CHURCH RETREAT at Camp Onomia, Feb. 7-9 for St. Luke and St. Mark! Young and old, parents or singles, all are welcome! Want to get away from your busy life, and just relax and have fun? Or do you want to have some great family time with your kids? There is something for everyone! To RSVP, email [secretary@saintlukechurch.org](mailto:secretary@saintlukechurch.org).



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