



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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St. Luke Lutheran Church

Connect, Grow and Serve.

Parish Times *January 2021*



Please welcome Pr. Jacqueline Belzer as our interim part-time pastor. Pr. Jacqueline was ordained 7 years ago and has worked with various churches to establish new congregations, lead youth groups, and use her organizational skills with various mission programs. She has been an Associate Pastor at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in W. St. Paul as a re-developer and assisted in the founding as Mission Developer for Cristo Rey Lutheran Church at Christ the King Lutheran Church in New Brighton. She returned to Minnesota last November from a two-year call in New Jersey. She lives in Minneapolis and has two grown children and a grandson.

As the interim part-time pastor, Pr. Jacqueline will work 25 hours per week for St. Luke Lutheran Church. (St. Mark has a new interim pastor assigned by the Synod.) She is here to assist us and be our spiritual leader. She is eager to meet and speak to our members and get to know us. While she is a part-time pastor, she wants the congregation to know that she is available 24/7 for any pastoral emergency calls.

Notes From the Music Director



As I write this the day after solstice, the day gets a little longer, the light will last a little further and we have hope. To write this article, I'm taking a break from editing Christmas Eve's "Silent Night" recording, and I just want to give a big, big Thank You to everyone who helped out! It is really beautiful to hear all your voices and it's going to be one of the best hymns on Christmas Eve (or when you read this it will have been). So thank you Patty, David, Emily (and special shout out to Marie who cried on pitch!), Ruth, Sue, Wendy, Barb, Jo, Christine, Bonnie, Raulie and Hugo (I'm guessing Tiger too, but I haven't recorded my family yet).

Also, thank you to the choir for sticking with it this year and all your time, talent, and work. I appreciate it more than you know, and while it is a little extra work for me, I personally enjoy hearing other voices harmonizing together. Ringers, I look forward to warmer weather when we can start playing together again.

I'd like to continue offering opportunities to connect through music:

Sunday, January 3rd at 7pm we'll have our next Hymn Sing and we'll sing all the Christmas music you want!

Sunday, January 17th, 1:00-2:00pm: Live in the Lot - I'll be playing another hour of organ music for you to enjoy in your car on 88.9 FM.

And keep an eye on the announcements for another chance to record singing a hymn together.

Stay safe, be well,
Rebecca 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.

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 saintlukechurch.org and click "Ways to Give" at the top. Your gifts are appreciated!



January Birthdays

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



Thrivent Financial members of St. Luke, have you directed your Thrivent Choice \$ yet this year? If not, a wonderful way to support your church would be to direct those dollars to St. Luke. It is simple to do by logging into your account online or by calling your Thrivent agent.



LOAVES AND FISHES

Our heartfelt thanks to our December volunteers: Jodi, Volker, Alec, and Victor Landenberger.

January Scripture Readers

- 3 Holly Schultz
- 10 Christine Olson
- 17 Sue McNeill
- 24 Jen Fredrickson
- 31 Wendy Bjorklund



Church Council

The official minutes of each council meeting can be obtained through the church office. If you have any questions, please contact any church council member. The council meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday. Meetings are open to the congregation, and all are welcome. Currently the church council is meeting by video conferencing. If you would like to attend, contact any church council member.

2021 Church Council Members

Sue McNeill, President, suemc1493@gmail.com
 Kay Reich, Secretary, kernkamp.reich@gmail.com
 Joyce Bluel, Treasurer, JBluel@comcast.net
 David Tews, Member at Large, dtews.mn@gmail.com
 Wendy Bjorklund, Member at Large, wbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu
 Jill Burchill, Member at Large, jillkburchill@gmail.com



Our next SM/SL Book Club is Sunday, Jan. 10 at 6:30pm! We will be discussing "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng: "A deeply impressive novel with the power to provoke and entrance." —Minneapolis Star Tribune. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you the week before. All are welcome....do join us any time!

BUN RUN



Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for January: Larry and Junella Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl and the Landenbergers.

President's Corner



Happy 2021! I am looking forward to reopening our church home and worshipping together again and for you to meet our new interim part-time pastor, Pr. Jacqueline Belzer, in person. Before we can do that, we can work together to introduce our members to Pr. Belzer with a short, social Zoom meeting. The council will schedule a series of 1 hour Zoom meetings. The council member will host the meeting and invite 3 families/members to spend 20 minutes each with Pr. Belzer to share their life at St. Luke and have a conversation. Just looking at a directory photo and name doesn't really let you know a person. And there is no way to share that someone is actually the cousin or parent of another member. We are hoping these meetings will help Pr. Jacqueline visit with everyone and learn about those special connections. Please know that the council is also working on ways for our non-Zoom members to engage with our pastor. Being a part-time pastor is new for Pr. Jacqueline, and still new to us. We must be aware of her 25 hr. per week schedule. This includes preparation time for sermons, services, confirmation classes, Synod meetings, and connecting with our shut-ins and prayer list members. Of course, there may be weddings, baptisms or funerals. I hope that we can quickly schedule our social meetings with Pr. Jacqueline before her schedule fills with the requested pastoral duties. I know she is eager to get to know each member, and we are interested in learning more about her. The council and I are ready to meet the challenges of this new year with your help. On behalf of the council and congregation, we would like to thank Laurie Herrmann (stepping down as Vice President), Volker Landenberger, and Ruth Carlson for their valued time on council. Blessings for a happy and healthy new year. Be safe and well.



Wonderful Food Drive News!

Have you heard it said that St. Luke is all about food? Never has that been more evident than in 2020.

The St. Paul Synod challenged east metro parishes to raise \$50,000 in food during the last 4 months of 2020 to help address the problem of food insecurity among our communities. East metro parishes raised a total of \$160,000! During those 4 months, St. Luke raised \$665 for St. Francis Basket, which along with the \$250 raised during the March Food Drive is a total of \$915 donated to St. Francis Basket in 2020. This doesn't include all of the actual food contributions you made to St. Francis Basket. Our tiny church is so generous!

In addition, St. Luke's Council has approved contributions to Second Harvest. We matched our \$250 contribution to St. Francis Basket with one to Second Harvest, and approved additional funds in March, August, and December for a total of \$1350 donated to Second Harvest in 2020.

Never has the need been so great, and St. Luke responded by digging deep to financially support these two organizations. Thanks to all of you who volunteered to help operate the food drives these past 4 months (including setting up a way to donate online), who took the many food donations to St. Francis Basket, and who made food and financial donations. You are amazing!

The new St. Luke photo directories are now printed and available! Pick up dates at St. Luke will be announced shortly. We will be accepting a free-will offering to cover the \$3.30 cost per directory. One directory per household, please, until everyone has one. It is such a joy to see all these new photos, all these smiling faces! The directory was a big undertaking; we are very grateful to Sue McNeill and David NedreLOW for their dedication to this project.



*Everything that is done in
the world is done by hope.
Martin Luther*