



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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Very Special Edition of...Pastor Jack's Jottings

This will be my last opportunity to say something to all of you at St. Luke Lutheran Church. What I want most to say is thank you for the most meaningful years that I have spent as an Ordained Minister. In those years I have found in you affirmation for my ministry and my peculiarities. You have challenged me to study, pray and grow as a Pastor and as a person. You have supported me and Arlene and my family when I needed it most and that will never be forgotten. I am a healthier, happier and blessed individual because of your caring community. Both Arlene and I express our sincere and sad thanks for everything that has happened these 23 and ½ years. You can be assured that we will stay informed about all of you and you will be in our thoughts and our prayers.

As some of you know are aware, when I came as your Pastor there was grave concern over the future of St. Luke in the aftermath of Pastor Hock's retirement. Well, to your credit, not mine, St. Luke has remained a vital and focused congregation and I have no doubt it will continue to be so. In fact you all have even a greater calling now because you are the last voice of the Gospel of Jesus Christ left in your neighborhood and that voice must be heard. The congregation has changed somewhat in these years. It has gotten younger as some of us have gotten older. Your leadership has changed hands and is capable and faithful and God has taken the hands of many of our friends and fellow members and welcomed them into the Kingdom. The Pastors have changed, the people have changed...even the décor and the furnace have changed. (I'm secretly hoping that the sanctuary lighting will follow suit soon.) But the purpose of the congregation and the ministry remains constant amid all of life's changes. I am not the ministry at St. Luke, you are, and the Pastor who will soon be a part of your congregational life is there to minister to you so that you can continue to be the ministry of this congregation. I hope and pray that you will all see the future that I see for St. Luke and recommit yourself to being a part of that reality. This is because, as I have said before, you are as a congregation the closest thing to what I believe God means the church of Jesus Christ to be that I have ever seen or been a part of anywhere.

Thank you for the wonderful years and all the joys and challenges therein. As you heard in Church on my last Sunday as your Pastor, Kimberly Tyl and Mike Amundson gave me a gift for my last birthday. It was a very special note pad made by Harley Davidson. On the top of each page it said, "It's not the destination, it's the journey". I thank you, everyone, for one hell of a journey!



Many thanks to our Meals on Wheels volunteers for November 24: Al Baird, Ann Verschoyle, Louis Billmeyer, Pastor Jack, Bill Klotz, Lee and Shirley Johnson, Eva Mac Niven, Bruce Magnuson, Betty Nelson, Audrey McNamara and Audrey Rongstad.



January Readers:
7 – Cathy/Maggie Erickson
14 – David Elliott
21 – Wendy Bjorklund
28 – Eva Mac Niven



January Birthdays:

- 1 - DUSTY JENSEN, LINDA FUNKHOUSER
- 10 - JACKIE SALABA
- 12 - HAMLINE JOHNSON
- 13 - MATTHEW BRUMMUND, JUDY JOHNSON
- 14 - GEORGIA HINNA
- 16 - NANCY HEGDAHL
- 17 - KATHY SPRAY, RUTH LINDGREN, RICHARD SILTBERG
- 21 - LOUIS BILLMEYER
- 27 - KEVIN ARNDT
- 29 - NORMA ALEXANDER
- 30 - SUE MCNEILL



108 Hungry people were served for Loaves and Fishes on Monday, November 27th. Many thanks to our workers: Larry Litzkow, Dwight Paulson, Jean Klotz, Helen Bye, and Eva Mac Niven. Thanks also to Donna Paulson and Audrey Rongstad for baking cookies.



Usher Notes...

Thank you very much to the December ushers:
 Eva Mac Niven, Grant Mongin, Carl Elliott, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Dwight Paulson, Katy Eggert
Ushers for January are:
 Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Abby Klein, Alex Klein, Audrey McNamara, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot, Al Baird

Thoughts to Ponder:

We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise we harden. –Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future. –John F. Kennedy

We Need Readers for the month of February!
 If you are available to read the scripture lessons for Feb. 4, 11, 18 or 25, please contact Jo Klein asap. Thank you!



Mmmmm...Pancakes! Mark your calendars for Sunday, Jan. 21 for our annual Sunday School Pancake Breakfast. We will once again be raising funds for our popular Family Retreat in February. It's great food for a great cause, so bring your wallets and your appetites and join us!
Parents and students: Set-up for the breakfast will be Saturday, Jan. 20 at 1:00...please plan on pitching in...thanks!



Dear Fellow Members of St. Luke Lutheran Church Congregation,
Relatives, Friends, Neighbors and Visitors;

A few years ago someone in this congregation came up with an idea, not the brightest idea of that year, but an idea. It was to assemble a musical group made up of voices and musicians from within the congregation. Lo and behold, it came to pass.

This group quickly became so popular it was soon, quite frequently, playing the two main rooms at St. Luke, (those would be the sanctuary and the social hall). Either you folks don't get out much or you like cheap entertainment.

Anyway, this group, calling themselves Leap Of Faith was having a good time performing for some Sunday Services and birthday parties, etc. and you folks seemed to be enjoying it. That was when another bright light said "you should record a CD"...Well, there you go. You got this group with a growing ego and someone says "you should record a CD". There was no stopping it now; this was serious.

And this is where this letter gets serious. For the long two years beginning in the summer of 2004, to the completion this fall of 2006, you enthusiastically and generously supported LOF. You graciously bought novelties that we sold, you very generously gave us funds and you are very courageously buying the CD and even the spin-off poster of Pastor Jack.

The total cost of the project was just under \$2300. Novelty sales and your donations paid just under half the expenses with CD and poster sales paying off the balance. In addition, approximately \$250 more has been given back to the church and the plan is to put all future sales back into the church. So, keep buying!

The recording was quite an experience for all of us; Kent Peterson did a terrific job of recording and mixing and made us sound pretty good. We hope you enjoy the music and/or the poster. Hopefully they will be a nice way of remembering Pastor Jack and the good times that were had.

From the bottom of our hearts and our entire beings, we, the Leap Of Faith dance band, thank you for your tremendous support in making it possible to fulfill that bright little suggestion, "you should record a CD".

Thank you very much!

The Leap Of Faith Dance Band

Heartfelt thanks to Sandi Gordon for coordinating another marvelous Sunday School Christmas Program! It's a big undertaking; we are very grateful for all the time and energy she devotes to this wonderful St. Luke tradition. Kudos, Sandi, and many thanks!



“Spotlight” on...Eva Mac Niven

I'm not one much for change as you will see after reading this. I was born and raised in St. Paul. We moved out to this end of town when I was 1 ½ years old and I have always lived in this general area. I went to Homecroft Elementary school and graduated from Monroe High School. I was baptized along with my sister Audrey at home by Pastor Walter Pilgrim when I was 7 ½ years old and have never belonged to any congregation but St. Luke. Boring, you say? I say it's nice and comfortable...just the way I like it!

Several years after confirmation, I began to teach Sunday School. I did this for quite a time and then moved up to the job of Superintendent of the Sunday School for a number of years. During this time I sang in the choir and only recently quit when I realized my 81 year old voice could no longer be relied upon to hit the real high or very low notes of a soprano's range. I played in the Bell Choir since it's beginning until recently when I realized I was missing notes every so often even though it may not have been glaringly noticeable.

Seems as if I have been on the Church Council forever and I was treasurer of the congregation for more years than I can count. I quit when I realized the old fashioned idea of receipts and disbursements (which are the terms I still think in) are no longer the jargon that the younger generation now uses.

After I retired from Early American Life Insurance Co. in 1988 I started to participate in the Loaves and Fishes ministry which was called Food For Friends back then. I also help with the Southwest Area Meals (Meals on Wheels) program since retiring.

I think my favorite hymn is “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”: #712 in the new hymnal. When Linda Jundt was our organist she used to play this hymn as the offertory so when it was assigned as a hymn the congregation was to sing we were all familiar with the tune.

Some people say that St. Luke may fall apart when pastor Jack retires. I surely hope not as you are all the bulk of my family and when I leave this earth, I want my funeral service to be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church.