



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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 Editor: Jo Klein

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times February 2012

Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray. Proverbs 22:6

On Saturday, February 18 at 6 p.m. our youth will hold a spaghetti dinner/silent auction fundraiser for the purpose of attending workcamp in Brockton, Massachusetts on July 29-August 4. During the weeklong workcamp we will join approximately 400 other youth from across the country to help repair homes for people, who for whatever reason, cannot repair them by themselves. Many of the homeowners are elderly, disabled, or simply cannot afford to make basic repairs. During this workcamp we will repair about 40-50 homes. But this isn't just about repairing homes; it is about repairing lives and growing in faith. Last year during our week of workcamp in Barnesville, MN, one homeowner told the youth working on her home that God had sometimes answered her prayers, but sometimes her prayers went unanswered. Then she told the youth, "You are the answer to my prayers." Another homeowner who was 76 years old told the youth working on her home that she had felt she no longer had anything to live for. She then told the youth THEY had given her a reason to live. Many of our youth continue to correspond with the people whose home they repaired. And many of our youth have grown in faith during workcamp. It is a beautiful, beautiful time of giving and growth for everyone involved. So please support our youth, help them to help others, help them to grow in faith by coming on Saturday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m. for some delicious spaghetti! Come hungry!



Pr. Dave



Souper Bowl Sunday!

Sunday, February 5 is Souper Bowl Sunday, when the confirmation students will be selling delicious homemade soup for a free will donation. Give as little or as much as you wish! The money will be given to Feed My Starving Children. Eat some delicious soup while helping to feed children! It's a win/win! If you wish to take some soup home, please bring a container for that purpose.



CONFIRMATION NOTES

On Saturday, February 4 we will meet at church at 10 a.m. to prepare soup for Souper Bowl Sunday (Feb. 5). It will take about one and a half hours for the preparation. Then we will sell the soup after worship on Sunday, Feb. 5 for a free will offering and give the money to Feed My Starving Children. Because we are doing this on Saturday and Sunday, there will be no class on Feb. 8. We will have class on Feb. 15. Feb. 22 is Ash Wednesday, so please come to worship at 7 pm. During Lent we will meet from 5:30-6:30. That schedule begins on Wednesday, February 29 (Leap year!).



February Readers:

- 5 – Mike Hegdahl
- 12 – Al Baird
- 19 – Sue McNeill
- 22 (Ash Wed.) Wendy Bjorklund
- 26 – Shantel Zvejnieks



February Acolytes:

5 – Thor Burchill-Riley

12 – TBD

19 – Kirby Peterson

22 – Ash Wednesday, 7:00

p.m.; Enma McGrew

26 – Kayla Stadem

WE NEED DONATIONS for our Feb. 18 silent auction! Proceeds to raise funds for our youth group workcamp mission trip. Hand-crafted, store purchased, or simply monetary: any and all auction donations will be GREATLY appreciated! Ready and willing to help? Contact Pastor Dave or the church office. Many thanks!



February Birthdays

1 - ELLEN SCHULTZ

4 - MAGGIE ERICKSON

5 - KURT SCHULTZ

7 - SAMANTHA SMITH

9 - KIRBY PETERSON

10 - JUNELLA LITZKOW

11 - SUE GRZYWINSKI

12 - ALEC SCHULTZ

14 - DIANNE DIESTLER

16 - ANN VERSCHOYLE

23 - MARY DYBVIIG,

LORRENE CHLIAN

24 - JEFF KINGLSEY

26 - KAREN WASKO

28 - OLIVIA LELII



Usher Notes

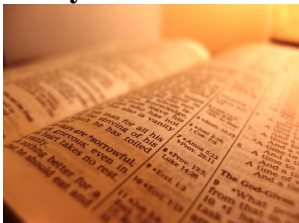
Many thanks to our ushers for January: Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Abby Klein, Peter Klein, Joan Wilson, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot, Al Baird. Our ushers for February will be: Carl Goers, Gwen and Steve Brummund, Lisa Vandrovec, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, Tom Gaarder.



Ladies Night Out –

Ladies Night Out in February will actually be a **night in** at church, Tuesday, February 21st at 5:30 p.m. We will start off with a pizza supper and then a showing of the movie “The Help”. All women are welcome! Please let Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) know if you are planning on attending by Sunday, February 19th so that we know how much pizza to purchase.

Sunday Adult Forum



We will have Adult Forum on Feb. 19 and 26 right after worship. Meet in the library after picking up your coffee and a treat!



Some simple goals for St. Luke

The church council has been discussing forming some simple goals for St. Luke this year. Our main goal is for two families, with children, to join St. Luke in 2012. We want every member of St. Luke to work together for this goal. As part of this, some people will be making baby blankets (or other baby related items) to be given to women taking part in the Baby Café held at our church every Wednesday. These items will also be available for you to give to a new neighbor or someone else you know, as a gift from St. Luke. We will also pass out pamphlets in the neighborhood this spring inviting people to our Easter worship, and look into providing St. Luke pamphlets to area apartments as part of any welcome packages they may have. Let’s reach out anew to all the people around us.



Micro-Lending Dinner and Meeting

All are invited to come to a delicious Chinese dinner here at St. Luke at 6:30 on Tuesday, February 7, followed by making micro-loans to people all across the world. The only cost involved is for the dinner, \$5.00. Come eat and help us improve people’s lives all across the world! Please sign up on the kiosk so I know how much food to order. –Pr. Dave.

Spotlight on...Kathy



Hi, my name is Kathy Laramy. I have been married to my husband Bill for almost 31 years. We have 2 children. Our son Bill is married to our new daughter-in-law Janice; they live in St. Paul. They attend St Luke church periodically. Our daughter is a teacher and lives in St Paul also.

We live in Eagan and I work as a Basic Skills Teacher in an elementary school in Apple Valley. In my job, I see small groups of students in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades that are not working at grade level in reading, writing and/or math. This is my 13th year at this position and prior to this I worked in Early Childhood Special Education for 12 years. Working with kids is both tiring and rewarding.

Some of my hobbies include running, working out, baking, knitting, travel and home improvement projects. Recently I read a very inspiring but unknown book about a man who lived a simple life and learned to read at the age of 98, titled LIFE IS SO GOOD.

I was raised in a Catholic family and attended St. Jerome's Catholic grade school and St. Bernard's high school but feel that the Christian teaching of St Luke Church is what is important and is more closely aligned with the Bible. I love the message and work that is done for the community by St Luke church, like the work we did for families in the community this past spring.

My dream for St. Luke is for a more vibrant, lively worship service. I love praise and worship music and a more relaxed feel that could potentially bring in younger or unchurched people to join and grow the church. My fear is that the church does not grow and there is no turnover and would lead to a dwindling number of members.

Bill and I started attending St Luke Church in 2011 after bouncing from place to place in search of a church with a strong message and solid Christian teaching. I am especially impressed with the weekly message from Pastor Dave that I am able to take with me as I leave and apply to my life during the week. The sincere welcome that we received was unlike anything we had ever experienced and was one of the reasons we kept coming back.

God bless,

Kathy

TRUST in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek HIS will in all you do, and he WILL direct your paths. -Proverbs 3:5-6



News from the President Joyce Bluel

How do we reach out to our neighbors and invite them to join us in worship? How do we encourage families with young children to become members and increase our Sunday school ranks? These are questions many congregations are asking these days and something the council has been discussing. If you have any ideas, I encourage you to share them with Pastor Dave or any member of the council.

There are a couple of activities coming up this month that may be of interest. The family retreat at Camp Onomia takes place the weekend of February 10-12. This is a great opportunity to spend quality family time in a relaxed atmosphere at a reasonable cost. If interested in attending, please contact either Jo Klein or Julie Gaarder. The Youth Workcamp Silent Auction & Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser will be held on February 18th. The spaghetti is delicious and there are wonderful items to bid on. I hope you make an effort to attend & invite your friends & family. All are welcome!

Attention Parents:



► Our ever-popular Sunday School Retreat is scheduled for February 10-12. Families should receive a mailing outlining the specifics shortly. Please sign up on the kiosk as soon as possible!

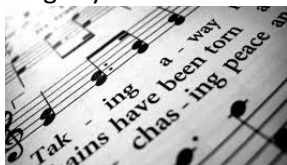
► We will be having a brief organizational meeting on Sunday, January 29 at 11:15 to make plans for the upcoming retreat. What traditions do we want to keep? What new traditions do we want to develop? We want to hear from YOU!

Youth Workcamp Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction

Come support our youth, eat some delicious spaghetti, and take part in the silent auction on **Saturday, Feb. 18** beginning at 6:00 p.m. We have received some wonderful donations from generous members and area businesses for the silent auction. The proceeds of this will all support the youth in traveling to a workcamp in Massachusetts where they will join about 400 other youth in fixing up about 55-60 homes for people who for whatever reason cannot do it themselves. The workcamp includes Bible studies and Christ-centered programs linking faith to the work. It is a time of blessing for all involved, so come to the spaghetti dinner and support your youth!



The Worship Commission will meet after church on Sunday, February 5 to select hymns for Lent (Ash Wednesday through Good Friday). All members who are interested in helping select the hymns we sing during church services are invited to attend this meeting. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Jeff Kingsley.



69 Hungry people were served supper on Monday, Dec. 26 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on the West Side for the Loaves and Fishes program. Workers were Pastor Dave, Nahoko, and John Person, Larry Litzkow, Joyce Bluel, Jean Gilland, Ann Verschoyle and Eva Mac Niven. Audrey and Robyn Rongstad also helped by baking cookies.



Stamping With Sue
Sue McNeill announces a Stampin' Up! technique class on Saturday, Feb. 25 from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. For \$5, you will make 3 cards using different techniques and receive a collectible technique card. RSVP by 5:00 p.m. the Wednesday before class so a kit can be prepared for you. Email: ssmcneill@hotmail.com; work 612-596-4011; home 651-688-8176. No experience necessary. All are welcome!



Year to Date 2011 Givings	
Received	\$129,412.74
Pledges	\$122,356.00
Budget	\$157,992.12



Our heartfelt appreciation to our Bun Run Volunteers for January: Ken McGrew, Joan Wilson, Nancy Hegdahl, Julie Ellingson.



Ash Wednesday and Lent

We join together for worship on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7 pm. Come worship the Lord and remember that it is in God that we find life. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the forty days before Easter. During Lent this year we will once again have Wednesday evening worship from 6:40 – 7:10. Worship will be simple and hopefully profound. I pray it helps you to go ever deeper in your faith. Lenten Wednesday worships will be centered on the "Shema," the passage that is recited daily by many Jews. It is the passage Jesus quoted when a scribe asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus' answer is found in Mark 12:28-30, where he says, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'" We will meditate on these words as we travel through Lent together. Come and grow deeper in faith.

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