



St. Luke Lutheran Church
 1807 Field Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55116
 Phone: 651-698-9443
www.saintlukechurch.us
 Editor: Jo Klein

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Parish Times April 2010

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11

Balance. It seems like lately more and more people have mentioned the problem of finding balance in their lives. Many talk of life as a pie divided into various activities. Trouble is, the pie tends to get divided in lopsided ways so that what is truly important is squeezed out. I think it is best to take that pie, and throw it out the window. Perhaps a better model is a mobile with all of our various activities as parts of the mobile, with the most important part being the very top portion, which holds everything else in balance. That top portion is God and our spiritual life. Instead of being driven by myriad activities that bounce us around mindlessly like a pinball, we are called to center ourselves on God, the source of life. This is the way to find our center and our balance. I am reminded of a woman who said, "I am so busy today I need to take an hour for prayer to set my mind and heart straight." She has it right. This is the key to a balanced and sane life. Turn to the Lord my friends. As it says in the psalm the Creator of all will show you the path of life, a life of balance and blessing. See you in worship!



Pr. Dave



Many thanks to our faithful Meals on Wheels volunteers for March: Al Baird and Ann Verschoyle, Audrey Rongstad and Eva Mac Niven, Bruce Magnuson, Carol Vigdal and Holly Schultz, Ralph and Ruth Wassman, David Elliott, Jane McGrew.



Hey YOUTH!

Announcing a Youth Lock-in at church beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 16. Sign up at the kiosk and bring along some friends!

Our heartfelt appreciation to our Bun Run Volunteers for March: Julie Ellingson, Nancy Hegdahl, Mark McGough, Joan Wilson.



April 11 will be the audit of St. Luke's 2009 financials after the church service. All are welcome. Your participation is needed, and will be very much appreciated.



- Acolytes
- 1: Sam Lipscomb
 - 2: Colleen McGough
 - 4 at 9:30: Sheridan Moore
 - 11: Eddie McGrew
 - 18: Riley Miller
 - 25: Olivia Peterson



Confirmation News

There will be no confirmation on April 7. But on Saturday, April 10 we will meet at church at 8:30 a.m., then go to Highland Park to help with the clean-up there, working for about an hour or so picking up trash. This is a servant event, part of taking care of God's creation. We will have class beginning at 6:15 on April 14, 21, and 28.



Micro-lending Meeting

We will have a micro-lending meeting on Thursday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate tax day by having a meal together, then lending some money to people around the world. If you have never come, come and see what it is all about. For example, did you know we have made 33 loans to people in 17 different countries around the world for a total of \$4200 loaned out, with no defaults? Lives are being changed. Come learn more! Sign up at the kiosk so I know how much delicious food to order. See you there. – Pastor Dave

Abby Klein invites you!

Come join Girl Scout Troop 50707 at their annual

Chili Fest!

There will be many varieties of delicious chilies, as well as hot dogs, desserts and beverages

Where: St. Luke Lutheran Church
When: Tuesday, April 13
from 5:30 to 7:30

Adults: \$5.00
Children 7 and under: \$2.00

See you there!



April Birthdays

- 1 - JOAN HOLTZ
- 2 - BETH PETERSON
- 3 - BARBJENSEN
- 4 - CARL GOERS
- 5 - DAVID ELLIOTT
- 6 - TOM GAARDER, JOSHUA STADEM
- 7 - MICHAEL ARNDT, JEAN GILLAND
- 11 - SAMUEL ELLIOTT
- 13 - LEROY RONGSTAD
- 14 - LARRY VIGDAL
- 15 - RILEY MILLER
- 18 - PASTOR JACK
- 21 - TRACY ARNDT
- 24 - JOHN FABIE
- 26 - ABBY KLEIN, GLADYS BYRNES
- 30 - EDDIE MCGREW



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for March: Eva Mac Niven, Max Elliott, Sam Elliott, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Dwight Paulson, Katy Eggert.

Our ushers for April will be: Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Abby Klein, Peter Klein, Audrey McNamara, Bruce Magnuson and Al Baird.



April Anniversaries

- 11 - DAVID ELLIOTT
- AND SUSAN LORENZ: 1990

News From Council President Nancy Hegdahl



First of all I want to wish everyone a very Blessed Easter!

Here is a fun Easter Cookie recipe that could be made with your children or your family the night before Easter. Hope you enjoy!

You will need:

1 cup whole pecans	zipper baggie
1 tsp. vinegar	wooden spoon
3 egg whites	tale
pinch salt	Bible
1 cup sugar	

Preheat oven to 300 degrees (this is important--don't wait **until** you're half done with the recipe!)

Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after **Jesus** was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. **Read John 19:1-3.**

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when **Jesus** was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. **Read John 19:28-30.**

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that **Jesus** gave His life to give us life. **Read John 10:10-11.**

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by **Jesus'** followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. **Read Luke 23:27.**

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that **Jesus** died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. **Read Ps. 34:8 and John 3:16.**

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by **Jesus**. **Read Isa. 1:18 and John 3:1-3.**

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where **Jesus'** body was laid. **Read Matt. 27:57-60.**

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven **OFF**.

Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that **Jesus'** tomb was sealed. **Read Matt. 27:65-66.**

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. **Jesus'** followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. **Read John 16:20 and 22.**

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, **Jesus'** followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. **Read Matt. 28:1-9**



Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Come worship on these most holy days as we follow Jesus to the cross and resurrection. We gather to worship at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 1 for Maundy Thursday worship. We began Lent with Ash Wednesday and an extended confession of sins but no absolution. The absolution comes on Maundy Thursday, linking all of Lent together. Maundy Thursday is the close of the time of Lenten repentance, concluding the Lenten season of penitence with the long-awaited absolution of sin. "Maundy" is an English form of the Latin word for commandment, *mandatum*. It is called this because we remember that Jesus gave us a new commandment, which is to love one another. It is at the end of the Maundy Thursday worship that we strip the altar, much as Jesus was stripped of his clothes before his crucifixion. This leads us to Good Friday, April 2 (7 pm worship), the day of the crucifixion of our Lord. Some may ask, what is "good" about Good Friday? It is on this day that we "celebrate" our Lord's sacrifice on the cross for you and me. It is on that cross that Jesus turned evil into good, death into life, despair into hope and sin into forgiveness. It is there that we see God's unimaginable love for you and me. We come to remember and worship our God in thanks and praise. This then leads to Easter Sunday (April 4), with worship at 7:00 and 9:30. One of my seminary professors compared Easter to a beautiful piece of music you never tire of hearing, which always surprises you with something new you hadn't noticed before. Come worship on Easter to hear the beautiful music of the Love of God which goes beyond our wildest dreams! --Pastor Dave



96 Hungry people partook of the supper St Mark and St. Luke churches provided on Monday, Feb. 22 at St. Matthew's Church for the Loaves and Fishes program. Workers were Larry Litzkow, Pastor Dave and Nahoko Person, Joyce Bluel, Jean Hilland, Ann Verschoyle, Dorothy Zitterow and Eva Mac Niven. Audrey Rongstad and Donna Paulson also helped by baking cookies. Thank you, one and all.

Our heartfelt gratitude to all who helped with and contributed to our fantastic Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction...here are the results:

- Raffle - \$849.00**
- Auction - \$1516.50**
- Free Will Offering - \$1294.00**

We could not have done this without YOU...many thanks!



Pastor Paul Erickson to preach on April 25.

Rev. Paul Erickson, the assistant to the Bishop for Evangelical Mission is visiting various congregations in the St. Paul Area Synod. On April 25 he will be visiting St. Luke to both share in his ministry and to get to know us better as a congregation. Let's give him a warm welcome.

Spotlight on...Olivia

I was born at the Abbott Northwestern hospital on December 4th, 1995. My parents are Beth and Kent Peterson. They have been married 20 years and will hopefully stay that way for another 20. I have a younger brother named Kirby. He is 11, and in the 5th grade at the same school as me.

I go to Seward Montessori in south Minneapolis. I am in the 8th grade and will graduate from grade school on June 8th. I have a lot of friends there that I have an excellent time with any time that they are around. After I graduate I hope to go to South High School with the rest of my friends.

I'm not entirely sure of what I want to do when I am an adult. I've been thinking about going to medical school to become a doctor or even an RN. But I've also thought about being a biologist.

I really like baseball (and softball) and hope to make it on to my school's softball team in this year. I've also tried volleyball, and I like playing tennis during the summer with Sheridan. I have played the flute since the 5th grade and hope to continue through High School.

I really like reading! If I really like a book, I can finish it in a little over a day. Sometimes, I read more than one book at the same time. I've always hated picking favorite books because I've never had one favorite. I have a new favorite author, though. Her name is Sarah Dessen and I've read most of her books. Even though I can't pick a favorite book, I can pick favorite genres. I like reading fantasy; things like faeries and magic, fiction, and some historical fiction. I don't like reading history books and sci-fi is not my thing.

I'm in my last year of confirmation right now and have participated in many volunteer projects. I've had a lot of fun volunteering for Operation Christmas Child and Feed My Starving Children. I haven't thought much about what I hope to do for St. Luke in the future. I just hope to keep going to church here!

The best thing about St. Luke is the people! Everyone makes you feel welcome and cared for. It's just a place where I feel comfortable and safe. I don't think there is any thing that needs to be improved. Maybe a later church service...no, waking up early is probably good for me!

I never want St. Luke to lose that homey feel. I've grown up with the people of St. Luke and I want more kids to do the same.

Come! Join us for...



•fellowship •refreshments
•live music •board games
at St. Luke Coffee House
Open to all!

7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

All ages welcome...

Just drop in!

We'll see YOU

Friday, April 23!

Ladies Night Out – Ladies Night Out in April will take place on Tuesday, April 20th at Axel's – Highway 13, Mendota Heights at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in car pooling, please meet at church at 5:00 p.m. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) if you are planning on attending by Sunday, April 11th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.



April Readers:

4, 7:00: Al Baird

4, 9:30: Megan Jefferson

11: Olivia Peterson

18: Julie Gaarder

25: Max Elliott



Notes from Conie:

Special thanks to Jo Klein for her musical support at the Wednesday, March 17 mid-week Lenten service. Her guitar stylings of the Holden Evening Prayer service are refreshing.

Wednesday night soup suppers resume after Easter! All are welcome to partake of this midweek gathering. Come and connect with others starting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7. Volunteers to create soup are also gratefully accepted. Sign up on the kiosk in the fellowship hall.

Minestrone Minstrels, our visitation ministry of music and simple meals: our next meeting will NOT be Tuesday, April 6 as originally scheduled. Please stay tuned for updated details.

We lift our voices to sing hymns of thanksgiving to Bill Klotz, Dorothy Zitterow, Junella and Larry Litzkow, and Julie Ellingson for helping select hymn semifinalists for the season of Easter to Pentecost. Thank you!

The next hymn selection meeting is Sunday, April 18 during the fellowship hour and covers the summer season. The volunteers--you know who you are--are studying the readings for each Sunday and will be selecting 5 to 9 hymns that relate specifically or thematically with those readings. Thank you for enriching the worship life of St. Luke!

Worship. It's one of the blessed activities we do as Christians in a community or privately. Speaking prayers of confession, intercession and thanksgiving, singing songs that echo our experience, beliefs and vision, and hearing words of faith from our past and present are part of the experience. Is it comforting you in times of need? Is it gently challenging you to act faithfully for others? Our God of Love sends the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds to all of these. Is worship everything you need it to be? Do you want to get more out of it? What are you yearning for? We are heading into Holy Week with its many different worship services. I hope you attend the evening Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and the early Sunrise Easter service. Each service will comfort and challenge us in different ways. Come to hear the radical message of Love that offers to wash your dirty and tired feet. Come to sing the depths of Love as we remember the lengths Love is willing to go for others. Come to the garden and smell the sweet flowers where the empty tomb is evidence of a Loving God. Come.

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