



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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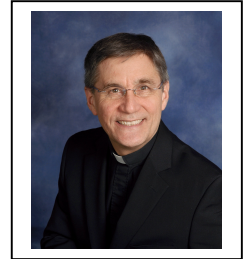
St. Luke Lutheran Church

Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times July 2014

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." Luke 11:1

I have been reading and rereading a book about prayer these last few months. One of the things the author writes about and has had me thinking a lot about is "trust." The author writes that one way to begin to experience this trust is to simply lie on your back and concentrate on your breathing. Most of the time, we don't think about our breathing, we simply trust that it will happen....and all through our lives it DOES happen...automatically... or maybe it is better likened to a precious gift. The author also wrote about feeling the floor or earth under your back, and the trust that it will support you....and it does...automatically...or maybe we need to think of it too as a precious gift. When one begins thinking about all the things in which we trust, we see that life is really very much of a miracle that we too often take for granted (I know I do). Like our breathing, heartbeat, the air around us, all that supports us even when we take them for granted, God too is there with us, holding us in love. Too often we take that for granted too, but God is here. What a precious gift. Like Paul writes in Romans 8, even when we do not know how to pray as we ought, the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. God is here. Prayer is a way of opening our eyes to this most precious gift and keeping company with our God, the giver of all.



Pr. Dave



Our heartfelt to our Bun Run volunteers for June: Doug and Jo Klein, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl.

St. Luke May Financial Status Update:

\$11,513.00 – General Fund Receipts
 \$10,524.69 – Disbursements

Thank you for supporting St. Luke. For a detailed report, please feel free to contact our treasurer, Ruth Carlson, via the church office: 651-698-9443.



Ladies Night Out

There will be no Ladies Night Out event in July. We will resume our regular schedule in August.

WE NEED GENTLY USED SWEATERS for a Bazaar mitten project. Please bring yours in to the church office asap. Thanks!



Spotlight on...Volker Landenberger



I am Volker Landenberger and I was born on February 23rd, 1974 in Germany. I grew up in a small town of 1000 souls called Lehnigen, at the northern edge of the Black Forest in the southwestern corner of Germany, close to Stuttgart. France is 50 km from my hometown and Switzerland is 200km.

My parents are still in Germany, so is my older sister and her son. I see them in average once a year.

I went to high school in Pforzheim which was about a 30 minute bus ride from my home. After graduating from high school I went to college in Karlsruhe. I studied Electrical Engineering and specialized in Electric Energy Systems and High Voltage Technology. I graduated in 1999 as Diplom Ingenieur which is equivalent to a M. Sc.

After that, I took a job with Siemens in Nuernberg, Bavaria. The job involved a two year delegation to the US. It started in the year 2000. It is now 2014 and I have officially overextended my two year stay. That's Thanks to Jodi who I met in 2001 and married in 2003.

When we got married we tied the knot twice. The legal wedding was in Minneapolis by a judge. We had another wedding ceremony in Germany where we got married in the church where I grew up, got baptized and confirmed. The church is close to my hometown, in Muehlhausen. This part of Germany used to be mainly catholic. Hence, there is a catholic church in every town. Lutherans were in the minority and the church in Muehlhausen served the Lutherans in the area. The church was built in 1830 out of sandstone. I remember how cold it could get there in winter and it had no bathroom. The link attached has some pictures of the church. http://www.eki-muehlhausen.de/?Informationen:Unsere_Kirchen:M%26uuml%3Bhlhausen_Kreuzkirche

In the Twin Cities I lived Maple Grove, Uptown Minneapolis, Shakopee, and finally moved to St. Paul five years ago.

Our lives took a sharp turn when we adopted Aleksey (Alek) and Victor from Khabarovsk, Russia in 2008. At that time we were living in Shakopee. Both boys got baptized the following year in *Cross of Peace* in Shakopee.

After living in St Paul for a few years we thought it was time to look for a church that was close to our home. It can be overwhelming at times parsing through all the options. It was important to me that the church was member of ELCA. We had noticed St. Luke's before, driving by, and we decided to give it a try. Jodi was the first to attend a service at the church and she liked it. I was next and I liked it, too. I liked the fact that it felt like a real church: There was a real sanctuary and real pipe organ. I also liked how welcoming everybody was. We have been members since last year.

My work is in Minnetonka so I spend a significant amount of my time in traffic and at work. After work I am taxiing the boys from one activity to the other. For whatever time is left, we like to take the boys on bike rides or going for walks to the village with the family and our dog, Bella. And living in an old house there is always a project lined up to keep me busy.

I think St. Luke is in the right place. It feels like a big family. We just need to keep working on trying to attract a younger crowd to keep the church alive. I have been enjoying getting to know the people during the social hour after service and the camp Onomia trip last winter.



July Birthdays

- 7 – Ruth Carlson, Ian Walter
- 8 - Joyce Bluel
- 9 - Nancy Greatrix
- 10 - Cyndy Stadem
- 11 – Dave Grzywinski
- 14 - Al Baird
- 15 –Doug Wasko
- 16 - Wendy Bjorklund
- 17 – Bob and Pam Ballis
- 18 - Dick Holtz
- 20 - Peter Klein, Dallas Erickson
- 23 - Jo Klein
- 26 - Jill Burchill. Tatum Herrmann
- 27 – Jennifer Kroschel
- 28 - Dan Grzywinski



July Anniversaries

- 6 - Kevin & MaryJo Brandt: 1991
- 19 - Richard & Paula Siltberg: 1975
- 26 – Dave & Sandy Grzywinski: 1980

July Readers:



- 6 – Jen Fredrickson
- 13 – Wendy Bjorklund
- 20 – Laurie Herrmann
- 27 – Audrey Rongstad



July Acolytes:

- 6 – Emma McGrew
- 20 – Matt Brummund

National Night Out

St. Luke is sponsoring National Night Out for our neighborhood on Tuesday, August 5 at 6:00 p.m. Come, meet neighbors, enjoy some food and good fellowship and live music with our neighbors.



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 9, 10, 11 (Wednesday-Friday) from 5:30-8:00 pm each day. The theme is: “God is love.” The first day will center on “God loves me.” The second day’s theme is “God loves you (our neighbor).” And the third day we will learn about how God loves this whole world, the creation. VBS is for children age 4 to sixth graders. I need teachers, craft people, helpers for games and food. And if you would like to take a walk with me on a day in June to distribute pamphlets, I would love it! Or...if you wish to pass out pamphlets on your own, I can give you a bunch with a particular street or neighborhood in mind. Also, during VBS we will begin each day with a simple meal. If you can help donate/ prepare a meal (for example, hot dogs, burgers, pizza, etc) or help in any other way, please sign up on the kiosk.
--Pr. Dave



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for June: Eva Mac Niven, Jim Kroeschel, Doug Nelson, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Pam Ballis, Katy Eggert.

Our ushers for July will be: Roger Diester, Doug Klein, Abby Klein, Peter Klein, Joan Wilson, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot and Rob Herrmann.

May Semi-annual Meeting Thoughts by Pastor David Person

I was both deeply impressed and strengthened by many of you at our semi-annual meeting in May when we talked about our finances and need to increase our outreach into the community. The Spirit was moving as various people came up with exciting new ideas for reaching out and making St. Luke more visible in the community. We will be sponsoring the mass distribution of produce on August 11 at Sibley Manor, helping give away free fruit and vegetables to all who need it. We are looking into the possibility of someday having a farmer's market meet once a week in our parking lot. In September on Rally Day we will join ELCA congregations across the U.S. in wearing yellow t-shirts that say, "God's Work. Our Hands," as we do some service projects such as picking up trash around the neighborhood. Our church council is writing cards of welcome and sending them to newly arrived people in surrounding neighborhoods. As suggested by one of our members, in order to keep this conversation going, we will also take time periodically after worship to continue open discussions about ways of reaching out into the community. Finally, our members are stepping up to say, "I will give more so our work of sharing the gospel may continue." Thank you! It is a privilege to be in mission with you all!

Scholarships are available to any St. Luke member attending a Lutheran College. **The deadline for Fall Semester 2014 is July 1, 2014.** The deadline for Spring Semester 2015 is November 1, 2014. Please contact Ruth Carlson to get instructions and an application for qualification.



Mass Distribution of Produce

On Monday, August 11 from about 10-3:00 (times may change slightly so watch for future notices) St. Luke will sponsor a mass distribution of FREE produce (fruits and vegetables) at the Francis Basket in Sibley Manor. ANYONE may come to this event to receive produce free of charge. There will be several mass distributions during the summer at Francis Basket (May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8), but at our semi-annual meeting in May, we voted to sponsor the distribution on Monday, August 11. That means on August 11 St. Luke will provide 15-20 volunteers to help set up tents, put food on pallets for the distribution, and give the food to people. We will be on our feet, bending, twisting, and hauling food. The food will be donated by Second Harvest Heartland Food Bank. Part of our sponsorship (besides providing volunteers) will be to pay one penny for each pound of food donated (usually about 12,000-15,000 pounds of produce – which comes to \$120-150.00, which St. Luke will pay). The staff at the Francis Basket will be there to help direct our efforts. This will be a one-time sponsorship for us, so please, come and help. What a great cause! ANYONE can come and receive produce FREE! Come help! The sign-up is on the kiosk.

Ladies, Ready for the 3 "R"s...

RETREAT, RELAX and READING?

Join us for relaxing, reading, shopping, games, crafts, Bible studies, puzzles, laughter, seeing old friends, making new friends and lots more.

When: Friday, Sept. 19th through Sunday, Sept. 21st.

Where: Camp Onomia

Who: St. Luke Ladies

Cost: \$82.00 per person for the weekend, which includes Friday snack, 3 meals Saturday and Sunday breakfast. \$10.00 – Linens or bring your own

How to sign up: Send a \$10.00 deposit to Julie Gaarder at St. Luke Lutheran, 1807 Field Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55116



Prayers Appreciated!

July 18-27 the youth will be traveling to Pocahontas, Virginia for workcamp. We will be joining about 400 youth from across the nation to fix up homes for people who, for whatever reason, cannot do it themselves. All repairs are free! During the week-long workcamp we will be working, having devotions and taking part in Christ-centered programs. Please remember us in your prayers that we may be of help to those who need it and grow in faith in our Savior Jesus Christ! The workcampers are: Jacob Arndt, Michael Arndt, Connor Burchill-Riley, Teagan Burchill-Riley, Charlie Gaarder, Karl Gaarder, Peter Klein, Sheridan Moore, Emily Morris, Sol Olson-Holmly, David Person, Beth Peterson, Kirby Peterson, Olivia Peterson, Abby Winecke,



Musings from the Music Director

Gifts of summer music needed! Please consider sharing your musical gifts during the summer worship services at St. Luke Lutheran Church. *"Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us."* - Martin Luther

Everyone is welcome to participate! Please sign up on the Summer music sheet located on the Kiosk in the Fellowship Room.

Volunteers needed to **sing** the **Psalm** during the worship service on Sunday mornings. The Psalm tone is very easy to learn and sing. Please let me know if you are interested! I will rehearse with you and make sure you are comfortable leading the Psalm.

Blessings,
Cammy Horne, Director of Music



Lawn Service

Ah, summer at last...time for another Lawn Service! Bring your chairs, chaise lounges or blankets on Sunday, July 13 as we meet outside for worship on the east lawn. Let's join our voices with the rustling wind and chirping birds as we all sing praises to our Lord.

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