St. Luke Lutheran Church
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Editor: Jo Klein

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times

October 2015

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord… Philippians 4:1

All throughout his letters, Paul refers to fellow believers as "brothers and sisters." In and through Christ we have a new family, new brothers and sisters, our fellow believers. Here at St. Luke down through the years, I have seen that played out in a number of ways. I don't know about your family, but my sisters and I sometimes had disagreements (to put it mildly) and fights. That is part of being family. You don't hide any part of yourself. I have seen a few disagreements at St. Luke, too. That is normal in a family and can make us stronger. But mostly I have seen love and care played out at St. Luke, people loving and caring for others, like they do family. It is beautiful to see. I see hugs, loving touches and words. I see care for the children, who have a whole church load of uncles and aunts. I also see great care for those who are growing older in years. I see tears of love and hurt at funerals as we reach out to comfort one another. I see people giving sacrificially so our youth could grow in faith and love through workcamp. I see so much. I see the love of family, and I give thanks, as I know many do. On Sunday, October 25 we will celebrate our church family during stewardship Sunday. All of you are irreplaceable family members of St. Luke. Come on Sunday, October 25, join together to celebrate the love of this family through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Dave Person

Our heartfelt thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for September: Ken McGrew, Doug Klein, Julie Ellingson, Larry Litzkow.

Oct. Acolytes:
4 – Matt Brummund
18 – Zach Moore

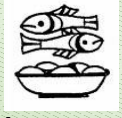
Stewardship Sunday

Our stewardship Sunday this year is October 25, when we will celebrate our family of St. Luke! Stay tuned for additional information that will be coming your way. Please plan of attending worship on Sunday, October 25.

Stewardship
a way of life

Ladies Night Out

Ladies Night Out in October will take place on Tuesday, October 20th at Obb's Sports Bar & Grill, 1347 Burns Ave., St. Paul 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, October 4th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.



Loaves and Fishes

115 very hungry men, women and children satisfied their hunger at the Loaves and Fishes program at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on August 24th. Workers from St. Luke were Tracy Arndt, Sandy Berger, Larry Litzkow, Pastor Dave Person and Roger and Dianne Diestler.

Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for September: Eva Mac Niven, Jim Kroschel, Doug Nelson, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Pam Ballis, Katy Eggert.. Our ushers for October will be: Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Abby Klein, Pete Klein, Joan Wilson, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot, Rob Herrmann.

OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Readers:

4 Laurie Herrmann
11 Wendy Bjorklund
18 Mike Hegdahl
25 Katy Eggert

Communion:

4 Joyce Bluel
18 Jen Fredrickson

On All Saint's Day, Sunday, November 1, we will be remembering loved ones who have passed away this year. Please let secretary Jo Klein know, in written form or by email, (jojoklein@gmail.com) if you would like to remember a loved one during the All Saints service. We will ask families to bring a photo of their loved one that day, and to light a candle for them during the worship service. Let us remember with thanks those who have gone before us and rest in God's eternal love and salvation.

Confirmation News

We will have classes on Tuesdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27. We will also take part in the CROP walk on Sunday, October 11, leaving the church at 12:30 that day. If you have any questions please contact Pr. Dave.

Be sure to attend our semi-annual congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 1 after the service. Please plan to take part in this important meeting on the current and long-term goals of our church family.

Join others from across the Twin Cities on Sunday, Oct. 11 for the CROP Walk to raise funds for Church World Service and the Department of Indian Work Emergency Services. Help reach the fundraising goal of $30,000 to combat hunger around the world and around the block.

We will meet at church at 12:30 on Sunday, Oct. 11 so we can carpool to the Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul Bldg., 1671 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, where the walk begins. We'll register and begin walking at 1:00 pm. The walk takes about an hour. Then we'll return to church.

Did you know that hunger kills more people annually than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined? Join us, either by walking or by making a contribution. Look for a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Social Hall and/or talk to Wendy Bjorklund or Pr. Dave. Thank you!

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, Oct. 16th through Sunday, Oct. 18th.
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 extra for 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

October Birthdays

5 Laurie Smith
6 Eva Mac Niven
7 Alek Landenberger
8 Edward Czech
9 Mike Hegdahl
10 Ava Herrmann
11 Julianna Czech
12 Amy Drier
17 Wanda Mathison
18 Kim Miller
21 Steven Brummund,
Jack Holtz, Shirley Johnson
23 Kyle Zvejnieks
24 Zachary Moore
27 Zachary Stadem
31 Ann Annala, Michael Hoffman,
Margaret Vigdal

October Anniversaries

3 Adam And Julianna Czech: 2009
Mike And Deb Wobig: 2009
7 Kent And Beth Peterson: 1989
10 Mike And Nancy Hegdahl: 1992
12 Earl And Norma Alexander: 1946
16 Jay And Dawn Peterson: 1993
20 Sandi Gordon And Justin Long: 2012
21 Janell And Mike Walter: 2006
24 Doug And Jo Klein: 1981

Scholarships are available to any St. Luke member attending a Lutheran College. Deadline for the Spring semester 2016 is due to the church council no later than **November 1, 2015**. Please contact Ruth Carlson to get instructions and an application for qualification.

Fall **Bazaar Update**

Joyce Bluel & Judy Salaba, Committee Co-Chairs

Just a reminder, the Fall Bazaar is just 2 weeks away; mark your calendars for Saturday, October 10th.

Bring all of those gently used or unneeded items you cleaned out this summer to the Rummage Sale. This year we will again be accepting gently used and clean clothing. Also, we will NOT be accepting furniture, exercise equipment, appliances or electronics. You may bring them to church until **noon on October 4th**. If you have any questions, please call Jo Klein at (651) 343-9317.

Anyone willing to bake pies or other baked goods for the Bazaar please contact Joan Wilson (651) 253-6111 or Deb Vigdal (651) 681-086. It's a *delicious* way to support our bazaar! You will need to bring your baked goods to church on **Friday, October 9th between 6:00 and 8:00 pm.**

We will be accepting your handmade craft items for sale at the bazaar starting on **Wednesday, October 7th and Thursday, October 8th from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm and then Friday, October 9th from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm**. We ask that you bring your craft items ***no later than noon on Friday*** to allow enough time to prepare the displays. If you have any questions, please call Joyce Bluel at (651) 690-4614 or Judy Salaba (651) 698-8572.

The raffle tickets have been distributed and will be available for sale the day of the bazaar. Top prizes include a flat screen TV, a Cub Foods and Target gift certificates, and much, much more! We will also accept any new prize donations from our members, and we will be collecting additional prizes from the businesses we have solicited. The drawing will be held at 2:30 PM. If you are interested in helping with the raffle please contact Dianne Diestler (651) 699-4938 or Katy Eggert (651) 777-8796.

The proceeds from this event have been used to make some substantial changes both to our church building and to people's lives through donations to charities. This is also a way for us to reach out and give our neighbors a chance to get to know us better. There is something for everyone to get involved with, just contact one of the following chairs:

Rummage Sale	Chair: Jo Klein
Bake Sale	Co-chairs: Joan Wilson & Deb Vigdal
Kitchen	Chair: Beth Peterson
Kiddie Room	Chair: Bev Eckstrom
Raffle	Chair: Dianne Diestler & Katy Eggert
Publicity:	Chair: Pam Ballis
Crafts	Co-chairs: Judy Salaba & Joyce Bluel

Hello St. Luke's Members,

Thank you so much for supporting the Farmers' Market this summer. It was a blessing to the church and to the neighborhood.

The beginning was challenging. We didn't have firm commitments from our vendors and for several weeks we had two vegetable vendors that showed up, alone, and brought what they could harvest early to the market. Without them, the market couldn't have begun.

The process of getting a license and then a permit to expand beyond 5 vendors was more difficult than we expected it to be, and getting a credit card/EBT terminal (EBT is the current equivalent of food stamps, which is credited to a debit card) took much longer than anyone expected. We were able to accept credit cards at the market on August 8th and ran our first EBT card successfully on our own machine September 5th. I am so grateful to the Highland Business Association for allowing us to use their terminal for 10 weeks.

This venture has definitely been a "village" effort. People from the congregation worked with city offices to obtain our license/permit (even our city council person, Chris Tolbert got involved), solicited sponsors for the market (which help to offset the cost of doing the market), corresponded with our vendors, leafleted the neighborhood and handed out flyers at the Highland Fest to generate customer traffic, volunteered to "host" the market, and came to the market to shop. There were hundreds of hours donated by members of our congregation. I want to especially thank Pr. Dave and members of our Farmers' Market committee (Nancy Hegdahl, Sue McNeill and Rob Herrmann) for the time they willingly contributed to make this market "go."

The end result has been a success, I think. We have many, many repeat customers. We hear every week how happy people are that the market is at St. Luke with all of our available parking. We now have 5 vendors that participate consistently. We have others who want to partner with us next year, so we will grow. And, every week, we have EBT users who shop our market. The benefit to our neighborhood has always been our focus, and we certainly have provided that.

So, thank you so much for suggesting the market, supporting it, working it and praying for it. I am looking forward to next summer's market. I hope I can count on your continued support. Next year will be easier … we've learned a lot!

God's blessings to you all,
Wendy Bjorklund

♬ ♬ Musings ♬ ♬
from the Music Director

Dear Members of St. Luke,

I would like to formally introduce myself and share a little of my background. I am the new Music Director here at St. Luke. I am so excited to be a part of this wonderful community, and look forward to making music with all of you. I am currently attending the University of Minnesota; finishing my last year in the Master of Music program. Next Spring I will have obtained a Master's Degree in Flute Performance.

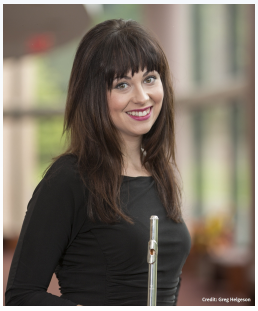
I have played flute since the age of six, piano since five, and started taking voice lessons at twelve. A few years ago, I picked up the organ and began a position as an Interim Organist at my previous church. I held a position as a contemporary Band Leader as well. Through that experience I realized I wanted to incorporate music ministry as a part of my life. My favorite part of being involved in church music is having the ability to share the gifts God gave me. I enjoy creating a positive worship experience through the joy of music.

Besides music I enjoy cooking/baking, reading, jogging, and spending time with my friends and family (including my cat, Murmur.).

I encourage members to introduce themselves! I would love to get to know all of you! I also encourage members who want to share musical gifts to contact me, join the choir/bell choir, or to consult the sign-up sheet I plan on posting. I encourage all of you to put your musical talents to use!

Once again, I am very excited to be a part of your church community, and look forward to starting a new chapter in my life as your music director!

Blessings,
Katie Anne Kohler



Adult Forum

Adult Forum will take place on October 4 and 18. We will be studying the Lord's Prayer in the library right after worship. Grab a treat and some coffee and come on in!

St Mark Lutheran invites the community to their Grand Reopening Celebration! Saturday, October 3rd from 2 to 4pm. Thanks to the first responders, friends, neighbors and entire community, they are back in their building after their devastating fire in December, 2014. St. Mark is very grateful to all the people and organizations for their help and support. Come for fellowship and refreshments, and to view the renovated section of their church.

OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

In preparing this small commentary, I used Preaching Mark's Gospel by Richard Jensen, Working Preacher, and my own notes. I only prepared one commentary this month. It seems there is little or no interest in this kind of thing. If that is NOT true, please let me know and I will continue.
Pr. Dave

October 4: Mark 10:2-16

Our gospel reading begins today with the Pharisees coming to test Jesus. They wanted to trap him. They do this by asking him about divorce. They ask him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Jesus turns the tables on them and asked them what Moses said. The Pharisees reply, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." Notice that they said the MAN could divorce the woman. It was a one-way street. Back in those times, there were basically two main thoughts about divorce. One said that a man could only divorce his wife in the case of adultery (but the husband could commit adultery with no consequences). The other was that a man could divorce his wife on a whim, for a bad meal, if she didn't clean the house well enough, he wanted to marry someone else, etc. He could simply write out a certificate of dismissal and it was over. Because of this, divorce for the most trivial reasons was quite common at this time. This was great for the man, a possible death sentence for the woman. If she couldn't return to her family home, she would be reduced to begging or prostitution to stay alive. As we think about this passage, it is good to note the greater context in which we find it. In this greater context Jesus is talking about the proper treatment of the weak and disenfranchised. In 9:33-37 he talks about the way of following him, which is to become a servant of all, welcoming a little child in his name, those with no power or rights. In 9:38-41 he speaks of the alien exorciser and the "little ones." We then come to our divorce passage, which is followed by those who attempt to stop children, people with no power or rights, from going to Jesus. Jesus commanded to let them come. In Jesus' day, women had absolutely no rights and were treated like possessions to be used and thrown away at a whim. Jesus said no to this. He reminds the Pharisees of what God said at the very beginning about two becoming one. It wasn't about some cold, unfeeling law, but rather spoke of the beauty and depth of relationship. God meant for marriage to be something in which people became one, a living relationship that could not be divided, inseparable. Marriage is something to be entered into for life, not something to be dissolved simply because it is inconvenient. Marriage is not law, but a covenant based upon commitment, trust, and love. To speak of it simply as law is to take the heart out of marriage. And so Jesus challenges the Pharisee's view of divorce by telling them that through their cold-hearted rules they break the very fabric of creation. That is sin. We live in a very different situation now. But divorce still exists and causes deep pain. Some divorce may be for the best, yet it is still painful. Ask anyone who has been through divorce and I imagine you will hear a story of pain. Many people carry that pain and guilt for years, even feeling that they are no longer welcome in the church. Nothing could be further from the truth. We have all sinned and fallen short. The good news is that Jesus is full of forgiveness, and just as he calls the children, he calls each of us, full of forgiveness and new life.