



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

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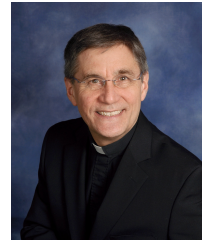
Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times

February 2015

Be still, and know that I am God! Psalm 46:10

While living in Tokyo, rush hour trains were something I tried to avoid. I usually went to work early just to avoid rush hour. Train cars become so crowded that if your arms are down at your side, you can't raise them up. If you have them raised, you cannot lower them. You'll hit someone. There is no room. A friend of mine was on a train that stopped at a station where everyone in the car got out to transfer to another train. Even though she didn't want to transfer, she was swept along with the crowd, unable to resist the surrounding mass of humanity. She eventually made it home, but by a totally unplanned, circuitous route, thanks to rush hour.



Sometimes life feels like a rush hour train in Tokyo, pushing, crushing, shoving, driving us forward, backward, sideways willy nilly. Demands on our time grow and at times we just click into autopilot, driven by outside forces.

I hope you take time to get off that train at regular intervals. I know that when I begin to feel worn out, dried out, it is most likely because I am not taking time for being still in prayer with the Lord. That is where I find my center again. That is the still center where the insane crushing, shoving, whirling stops. It is where I can breathe.

Take time for prayer and worship of the Lord. A very special time and place to do that is coming, February 18, which is Ash Wednesday. Our worship will be at 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday is a time to remember where we find true life. It is in the Lord. I also invite you to our mid-week Lenten worship services. One of the constants in those worship services will be Psalm 1, a beautiful psalm which reminds us that those who meditate on the Lord's teachings are like trees planted by streams of water. Those trees flourish. I pray that each of us may flourish in the same way.

See you in worship,

Pr. Dave



Ladies Night Out in February will take place on Tuesday, February 17th at O'Gara's, 164 Snelling Avenue N., at 5:30 p.m. Please notify Joyce Blueel (651-690-4614) if you are planning on attending by Sunday, February 8th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.

Ash Wednesday and Mid-Week Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday worship is on February 18 at 7:00 p.m. We will have five mid-week Lenten worship services from 6:45-7:30 on Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25. We will be taking time to breathe by prayer and worship of the Lord, who grants us breath, life and peace. You may begin preparation for these worship services by reading Psalm 1, meditating on it and opening yourself to God in prayer.



2014 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

General Fund Receipts:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Envelopes | \$138,999.00 |
| Loose Offering | \$ 2,859.75 |
| Thrivent Choice | \$ 3,515.00 |
| Use of Bldg/Other | <u>\$ 12,720.00</u> |
| | \$158,093.75 |

General Fund expenses: \$150,979.25

Last year's Designated Funds receipts were \$25,474. This includes Work Camp, Memorials, Kitchen Fund, Loaves and Fishes, etc. Payments from these funds were \$27,005.41.

Thank you for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure..."God's work, our hands"! Please see me with any questions, concerns, or for a copy of the Treasurer's Report.

--Ruth Carlson, St. Luke Treasurer



Our heartfelt thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for January: Doug and Jo Klein, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdhal, Joan Wilson.



&



BOOK AND BAKE SALE: We will be hosting a Book and Bake Sale in May. We need to start collecting books now. Please bring them to church. We will need both paperback and hardcover...all ages. If you would like to help coordinate (or even store a bag or two of books until spring), please contact Sue McNeill (coordinator). Any meetings we have this year will be to brainstorm about how we want to set this up, advertise, etc. This will also be a great event to announce Vacation Bible School. New events need new ideas and all are welcome.

Youth Workcamp Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction

On Saturday, February 28 at 6 p.m. our youth will hold a spaghetti dinner/silent auction fundraiser for the purpose of attending workcamp in July. 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. It is a beautiful, beautiful time of giving and growth for everyone involved, both homeowners and our youth. So please support our youth, help them to help others, help them to grow in faith by coming on Saturday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m. for some delicious spaghetti and an exciting auction full of fabulous items! Come hungry!



Loaves and Fishes

75 people were served dinner at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on December 22nd. Workers from St. Luke were Dave and Nahoko Person, Andy Person, John Person, Larry Litzkow, Joyce Bluel, Ann Verschoyle and Roger and Dianne Diestler.



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 Dybvig,
Volker Landenberger
- 24 Jeff Kinglsey
- 26 Karen Wasko
- 28 Sadie Pilgrim

February Readers:



- 1 Dan Vigdal
- 8 Beth Peterson
- 15 Joyce Bluel
- 22 Randi Friedl

Silent Auction

SOLD

We need YOUR contributions for the St. Luke Silent Auction on Feb. 28. This is a fund raiser for our youth to participate in their annual Group Workcamp mission trip. Please...we are grateful for ANY AUCTION ITEM you may wish to contribute to this worthy cause. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Pastor Dave at 651-698-9443. Here are just a few ideas, to get you going:

1. gift cards
2. themed gift baskets: soaps/lotions, coffees/teas, wine/cheeses...the possibilities are endless!
3. a handmade item: scarf, blanket, arts/crafts.....again, the sky is the limit!
4. a new item you purchase and donate to the auction
5. a monetary gift towards the purchase of a TV for the raffle
6. ...*whatever you wish to donate!*

We can't wait to see what treasures come in...thanks so much for your generosity!

*Anyone who is to find Christ
must first find the church.
How could anyone know
where Christ is and what faith
is in him unless he knew where
his believers are?
- Martin Luther*



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for January: Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Peter Klein, Joan Wilson, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot, Rob Herrmann. Our ushers for February will be: Gwen and Steve Brummund, Matthew Brummund, Lisa Vandrovec, Mike and Nancy Hegdhal, Linda Funkhouser.

Come one, come all to our ever-popular ALL MEMBER WINTER CHURCH RETREAT at Camp Onomia, Feb. 20-22. Young and old, parents or singles, all are welcome! Want to get away from your busy life, and just relax and have fun? Or do you want to have some great family time with your kids? There is something of everyone! To RSVP, please sign up on the kiosk asap. For further info, talk to Pastor Dave.



February Acolytes:

- 1 Zach Moore
- 15 Sami Brummund




**In the
Spotlight**
Kimberly Tyl



My first time at St. Luke was in May '97 for a Mother's Day banquet. My mother Mary Dybvig, Grandmother and I were invited by Lucy Rosenberg from Rockwood Apartments, where my grandmother had just moved. It was a beautiful banquet that included a wonderful spiritual lesson through clown ministry. It was all done by candlelight due to a power outage from a thunderstorm. I felt immediately connected to the St. Luke family and a few months later my mother and I joined. Key word "family": the relationships and bonds I have with people at St. Luke mean the world to me. The connections are genuine and lasting. There was a time when I sought a church community closer to my Eagan neighborhood; however, there is no comparison to the love and sincerity of our St. Luke family. I love our pastor, our congregation, our worship, our fellowship and the many opportunities we have to serve.

52 years ago, I was born in New York. At age 6, my parents and I moved to Germany where I attended German school (through mid 6th grade). This experience has shaped my life in many ways; predominantly in adapting to change and universally accepting others. Germany in the 70's still had many recent memories of WWII. I grew up with a key appreciation of cultures and valuing differences. My German girlfriend and her family took me with them to their Baptist church where I attended Sunday school.

In 1974, we moved to St. Paul where, at age 12, I learned the struggles of becoming a young "American" teenager. My mother taught at St. Paul Academy, so I was able to go to SPA for a few years and catch up on my English. The next year my parents separated. I feared going to an orphanage, as that is what I learned in Germany and from Oliver Twist. Luckily, that didn't happen. Around 8th grade, I went to confirmation class at the House of Hope Presbyterian church. I longed for authentic connections with other kids my age. Through my interests in swimming, I met friends from Faith Lutheran church in St. Paul. I soon became active in their youth program. Those were good times: learning about Jesus, going on several camping trips and ministering monthly at the Red Wing detention center. In the middle of 10th grade, after swim season of course, I transferred to St. Paul Central High School where I felt included and excelled. In that time frame, I gained a stepdad and 2 stepsisters. The blending of families would happen twice more.

At 16, I began working at the downtown St. Paul YMCA. The "Y" was my home away from home – my many hats included: lifeguard, swim instructor, camp counselor, and bus driver. Many kids in our day camp were Laotian. I could relate to the language barrier and cultural differences that these young kids were experiencing.

Fast forwarding a bit... After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse in Health Education, I became a program director at the North Community YMCA in North Minneapolis. Long story short, although I loved the YMCA, it was time for a change. I became certified in computer programming and eventually landed at Northwest Airlines in 1989. I've been with the airline ever since, through ups and downs, mergers and lay-offs. My job now at the airline is all about 'Managing Change' – and there is plenty of opportunity to embrace change post Delta merger. My life experiences have prepared me well.

In 1995, God gifted me with my best friend Mike Amundson who is now my husband (met at NWA). We were married at St. Luke and are coming up on our 11th anniversary already. Our dog Lucy demonstrates God's unconditional love every day. I want to do the same.

I'm often moved at St. Luke church services. The message of God's love and forgiveness, His blessings and promise, the beautiful music, His word - I could go on - touches me deeply. I am so grateful that St. Luke has been there for our family. I look forward to continue growing my faith and relationships at St. Luke and walking together with our amazing God.



Musings from the Music Director Karleen Jung

Preparing for Lent

In mid-February—on the 18th—we begin the season of Lent with worship on Ash Wednesday. On this day, we are called to turn back once again to God, to put aside those things that may distract our focus on God, to take on new habits that bring us closer to God, and, especially, to fully reflect on what it means for us to be baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. Psalm 51 is traditionally used on this day... "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

The worship texts for the five Sundays in Lent then guide us into repentance—or to return to God—and hear, once again, the purity of the Good News, understanding that God's work in us continues regardless of how far along we are in our baptismal journey.

When we take the time to step back from the world, to refocus on God, we make space for God to do something in us. Lent is not intended to be an overly somber or depressing time, but a time for us, as God's people, to slow down a bit and listen for God's Word in our lives.

It's no accident that Lent falls during that transition from winter into spring, from darkness into light, from cold into warmth, and from death into life. I'm reminded of the following hymn in the ELW...

Seed That in Earth is Dying (ELW 330)

Seed that in earth is dying grows into ears of grain.
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel turn into golden wine.
God, through this mystery grant us faith in our deepest darkness,
life in our night and death.

We were baptized in Jesus, into his death and grave,
to resurrection's promise: praise and eternal life.
Heaven's own praises begin here where you yourself are near us,
deep in our night and death.

Seed that in earth is dying rises to bear much fruit.
Christ, as we meet at your table, give us the bread of life.
Lord, we do thank and adore you! Unceasing praise of the ages
rises from night and death.

A special thanks to members of the St. Luke's chancel and hand bell choirs for their work during the Advent and Christmas season. I'm always so impressed and grateful for the level of commitment I experience with those who seek to join together to bring beauty into our worship. Thanks to all of you and to the congregation for your expressed appreciation to our choir members!