



St. Luke Lutheran Church
 1807 Field Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55116
 Phone: 651-698-9443
www.stluke-church.com

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Parish Times Volume III; Issue II, February 2007

We are very pleased to welcome Pastor Julia Thompson as our interim here at St. Luke Church!

From Pastor Julia: "I was born in Virginia, and grew up in Mississippi and Alabama, where we were some of the few Lutherans around. I went to college in Beloit, WI, managed to survive winter, and liked it enough to stay up here. I worked in Madison for a while, mostly at a battered women's shelter. Then I went to Luther Seminary. I did my internship in Slovakia, a small country in Eastern Europe. I served several congregations in the Twin Cities, and got a Master's degree in Early Church History. I have a daughter from China, LiJun, who just turned six."

We welcome Pastor Julia into our midst as a shepherd and guide for our ministry and thank her for her willingness to be with us during our time of transition. Let us together ask God's blessings on Pastor Julia and upon the work that we will do together in Christ's name.

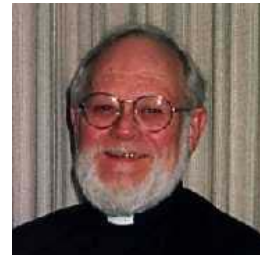


February Birthdays:

- 1 - ELLEN SCHULTZ
- 4 - MAGGIE ERICKSON
- 5 - KURT SCHULTZ
- 7 - SAMANTHA SMITH
- 9 - KIRBY PETERSON
- 10 - JUNELLA LITZKOW
- 11 - SUE GRZYWINSKI, PATRICK SCHERER
- 12 - ALEC SCHULTZ, CASSONDRRA JOHNSON
- 14 - DIANNE DIESTLER
- 16 - ANN VERSCHOYLE
- 22 - VANESSA JOHNSON
- 23 - WAYNE SILTBERG, MARY DYBVIG,
LORRENE CHLIAN
- 24 - JEFF KINGLSEY
- 26 - KAREN WASKO

You are invited to

Jack's Retirement Party!



Sunday, February 11th, 2007

*St. Luke Lutheran Church
 1807 Field Avenue, St. Paul,
 MN 55116*

Time: 1 - 5 p.m.

Program: 2 p.m.

Potluck Meal: 3:30 p.m.

Please bring a dish to share



Usher Notes...

Many thanks to our ushers for January:
Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Alex Klein, Abby Klein, Audrey McNamara, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot and Al Baird.

Our ushers for February will be:
Lee Johnson, Carl Goers, Gwen and Steve Brummund, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser and Tom Gaarder.



Come one, come all to our annual Girl Scout Chili Fest Fundraiser on Tuesday, February 27 at 5:30. It's great chili for a great cause, so please plan on joining us!



Spotlight on...Nancy McGough

I grew up in a small town in western New York called East Aurora. It's about 20 miles south of Buffalo. I was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church. I have fond memories of my mother teaching Vacation Bible School and Sunday School as well as the friendships that grew from my confirmation class.

I moved to MN after college in 1985 for a summer internship, with no intention of ever staying. But that summer I met my husband Mark and fell in love—with him!—and with the beauty of Minnesota and easily made this my home. We have three great kids, Connel, Colleen and Michaela.

I feel fortunate that our family has found St. Luke. (Thanks to a kind invitation from the Lorenz/Elliott family.) I find peace in the service, the inclusiveness of the community and the fact that St. Luke **is** truly a reflection of those that worship here. From the music, to preparing meals for Vacation Bible School, to taking care of the building, everyone seems to fluidly participate in the day-to-day life of the church. Further, I see our children flourish and they are beginning to understand how important faith and a church family can be in our lives.

My favorite thing to do is to be mom – so you'll always catch me talking about or doing something for, or with, my children. I also am co-teaching Sunday School with Alex Grzywinski, which has been a joy and I'm learning as much, if not more than the kids! I have worked for a home furnishing retailer, Room & Board, for 15 years. I lead the Human Resources team and find great satisfaction creating a work environment that encourages individuals to find their life's work.

Being newer at St. Luke, and figuring out all of the tradition and connections has been a wonderful experience. It is both comfortable and spiritual. Thank you for welcoming us into this special community.

Singing with the Lutherans

Garrison Keillor, host of [A Prairie Home Companion](#)

I have made fun of Lutherans for years--who wouldn't if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offence, their constant guilt that burns like a pilot light, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them.

If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively "Lutheranless" place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear.

But if you do this among Lutherans they'll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road! Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage.

It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony. We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment.

I once sang the bass line of "Children of the Heavenly Father" in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it; and when we finished we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices.

By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: people, these Lutherans, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!



Our ever-popular Sunday School Retreat is scheduled for Feb. 23-25. There will be bible lessons, craft activities, swimming, fellowship, snow sledding (*if we have snow!!*), and of course, the famous "Untalent Show". It is sure to be a fun-filled weekend for all! Remember, registration deadline is Feb. 4. Don't miss it!



February Readers:
4 – Julie Ellingson
11 – Grant Mongin
18 – Audrey Rongstad
25 – Al Baird



Notes From Conie...



Many thanks to the voices that sang in praise at Pastor Jack's last service on Sun, Dec 31, 2006. The 35 young and experienced singers, regulars and those who returned for the special day are Hamline & Joan Johnson, Tim & Kris Rongstad, Deb, Stu, Dave & Drew Shepard, Nancy Hegdahl, Dorothy Zitterow, Shirley Johnson, Linda Funkhouser, Arlene Drier, Sue McNeill, Kent Peterson, Jo Klein, Barb Jensen, Julie Ellingson, Joan Wilson, Audrey McNamara, Wendy Bjorklund, Gwen Brummund, Sue Grzywinski, Jean Klotz, Deb Vigdal, Eva Mac Niven, Julie Gaarder, Helen Klein, Patty Stadem, Jeff Kingsley, Katy Eggert, Ann Vershoyle, Gwen Coates and Lorrene Chlian (with apologies for any left out!). It was truly a Joyful Noise!



Special thanks to Kaitlyn Wasko, granddaughter of Doug and Karen Wasko, who played the first movement of Haydn's Violin Concerto in G and Massenet's Meditation on Thais at our worship service on Sun, Jan 7. What an aural treat for us!



Kudos to the trumpet players at our Christmas Eve service: Peter Klein, Connel McGough, Andrew Stadem & Alec Schultz. Your music added so much to the service!



We are blessed with so much talent in our congregation! Please consider sharing your musical gifts with the adult choir or the bell choir, both rehearse on Wed evenings. Or if a regular commitment doesn't fit your schedule, consider playing special music on a Sunday. Contact Conie with your interest.



Exploring *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (Partially reprinted from **Seeds for the Parish**)
The ELCA commissioned our new hymnal to strengthen the overall pattern of our worship, while providing ample options for the unique expression of each worshipping assembly and congregation. When you page through the hymnal, you'll notice many options presented. For example, The Confession and Forgiveness on pg. 94 or the Thanksgiving for Baptism on pg. 97 are two choices to open a service. Both are appropriate at any time and we may consider using the Confession and Forgiveness during Lent and use Thanksgiving for Baptism during the Sundays of Easter or Christmas. At the end of our service, the last words of the liturgy are equally varied. Now we can say "Share the good news," "Remember the poor," or "Christ is with you" in addition to "Thanks be to God." With all these options, strong guidance is needed to shape the worship at St. Luke. Remember, worship is the work of the people ... that's you! Please consider your role and speak to Eva or Conie. Soli Deo Gloria!



Many thanks to our Meals on Wheels volunteers for December: Al Baird, Ann Verschoyle, Louis Billmeyer, Pastor Jack, Bill Klotz, Jane McGrew, Lee and Shirley Johnson, Eva Mac Niven, Bruce Magnuson, Betty Nelson, Audrey McNamara and Audrey Rongstad.



Eighty-seven hungry people were served for Loaves and Fishes on Monday, January 22. Many thanks to our workers: Larry Litzkow, Helen Bye, Audrey Rongstad and Eva Mac Niven. Thanks also to Donna Paulson for baking cookies.