



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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# St. Luke Lutheran Church

## Parish Times November 2008



*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 107:1*

It is November, the month of Thanksgiving. For what do you give thanks? I wonder if you are fully aware of the many blessings you have received.

When we lived and worked in Japan, one of my assignments was to oversee the three-year short-term lay missionary program there. Most of the short-term lay missionaries were young people who were right out of college and were away, really far away from their family for the first time in their lives. While in Japan for those three years, they couldn't simply go home for the weekend or on a whim, or when they felt lonely.

These young missionaries arrived in Japan in September and often began suffering from culture shock, homesickness, missing friends, among other things. But it became especially difficult for them at Thanksgiving and Christmas. It was then that they realized, in a very deep way, all that their family, friends and home meant to them. Nahoko and I always invited them and others to our home for a Thanksgiving dinner, with turkey and all the trimmings. We often had 20 people in our home for that occasion. Being so far from home, one could see and experience a deep, deep thanksgiving for all of the people and things we often took for granted back home. But one thing we all realized is that our loving God traveled with us, providing us with new friends, as well as a new family of God. We found we were blessed, and so, gave thanks.

How has God blessed you? What would you miss if you were far from home and family for three years? What blessings would you see anew? Think and pray about that. Then join with your St. Luke family at our Thanksgiving worship on the evening of Wednesday, November 26 at 7 p.m. Come, give thanks to our loving God.

Pr. Dave



**Our heartfelt appreciation to our Bun Run Volunteers for October: Mark McGough, Jeff Kingsley, Ken McGrew and Julie Ellingson.**

**"Now Thank We All Our God!"  
 Join us for  
 Thanksgiving Eve Worship,  
 Wednesday, Nov. 26,  
 7:00 p.m.**



**Congregational MEETING**

**Be sure to attend our semi-annual meeting on Sunday, Nov. 2 after worship. Let your voices be heard!**

## ELECTIONS, ELECTIONS, EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK



On November 2, 2008, at the semi-annual meeting, the congregation will be voting on elections to the 2009 council. One member of the Executive Committee, the Secretary, will be stepping down. Five commissioners will be leaving after two-year terms. I am asking each of you to consider running for a position on the church council. **THERE ARE NO SPECIAL SKILLS NEEDED TO BE ON THE COUNCIL.** Honest. To be on the Executive Committee, you must have previous experience as a commissioner on the council in past years. The position of **Secretary** is a key position. Currently, the Secretary handwrites the minutes during the meeting, and I have volunteered to type them out. I am willing to continue that system with our next Secretary. Hey, we'll provide the pencil and paper! Please consider running for Secretary. In fact, if you have previously been on the council, feel free to run for any position on the Executive Committee.

We will also be filling **5 empty commissioner positions** that will run from 2009 thru 2010. I've posted, at least twice, a proposal to decrease the number of commissioners on the council. While everyone may be in favor of that change to the Constitution, our bylaws require the change to be considered one more time (in May 2009) and then voted on in Nov. 2009. If it passes, the 2010 council will have fewer commissioners. However, this year, we are looking for 5 people to "step up" and fill the current openings. As a commissioner, you will be required to attend a meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. Depending on the agenda, the meetings last from 1-2 hrs. (a very small portion of your evening every 30-31 days). Once you choose a commission to represent, it is entirely up to you how active you are on that commission. The ideal would be to provide opportunities for our congregation members to share talents and time. You would be seeking volunteers for those projects. Again, no special skills for commissioners; just a willingness to serve your congregation.

We need your help in letting us know you are willing to serve. It is vital to fill these positions so that we always have a quorum to make decisions. We want you to share ideas and visions you have for our congregation. Your opinions are important. Your time and talents are needed. Please consider running for Secretary or commissioner. Thank you!

And please vote on Tuesday, November 4 in the national elections! **YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!!!!!!**



### **Notes from Conie:**

- ▶ "Gathered here in the mystery of this hour; Gathered here in one strong body; Gathered here in the struggle and the power; Spirit draw near." - Holly Phares. I learned this song straight from the composer during my California vacation. It's a wonderful invocation setting a mood for openness, creating a supportive place for faith to grow. It is much like our community here at St. Luke. I can't wait to share the tune of this with you so we can sing it together!
- ▶ Souper thanks go to Jo Klein, Nancy McGough, Conie Borchardt, and Christine Olson for providing a warm meal to confirmation students and choir members on Wednesday evenings. You too can feed the hungry. Sign up on the kiosk! If you have questions, see Conie or Al Baird, resident Souper Server.
- ▶ Choir rehearsal for Wednesday, Nov. 26 will be from 6:00 to 6:45, due to Thanksgiving worship at 7:00. There will be no soup supper.
- ▶ Making music at St. Luke is open to all living breathing beings (even that Katy Eggert!). Join the bell or adult choir. Or if you play an instrument, see Conie to see how you can be plugged into the music ministry at St. Luke.
- ▶ Choir of angels sing the praises of Emily Ireland who filled in on Oct. 5 and 12 at the worship leadership helm when Conie was on vacation; Kyle Zvejniek and guitar for filling out the musical sound on Oct. 12; Peter Klein who added a layer of inspired hand percussion; Deb Vigdal who led the choir on Oct. 12 in Conie's absence.



Come to another of our fantastically popular Ladies Night Out events on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at Plum's on Snelling and Randolph. If you wish to attend, please contact Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) as soon as possible. It should be a great evening, as usual...don't miss it!

CHURCH RENTAL POLICY

We welcome our members to use the church at no charge for personal parties: birthdays, baptisms, anniversaries, etc. However, if you would like to reserve a room for a business meeting, that may or may not include our members (i.e., profit or non-profit board meeting, organization meeting, etc.), you must submit a written request to Pastor, Jo Klein, or anyone on the Executive Committee (this year, Sue McNeill, Nancy Hegdahl, Joyce Bluel, Julie Gaarder, Dorothy Zitterow) so that it can be approved by the Council. The rental fee is a flat \$100. That is for a one-hour meeting or a seven-hour meeting. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Fee schedules for other events (weddings, etc.) are available in our office. There is no special form to use. A simple statement of who, what, when, how many, and member making request will be fine.



We would like to thank the following volunteers for delivering Meals on Wheels for the month of September:

- Alan Baird and Ann Verschoyle
- Lee and Shirley Johnson
- Eva Mac Niven
- Bruce Magnuson
- Audrey Rongstad
- Larry and Carol Vigdal
- Jane McGrew

Thank you!



Dec The Halls!

All are invited on Saturday, Nov. 29 at 5:00 to decorate our church home for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We'll begin with a potluck dinner, and then roll up our sleeves and dec the halls! Donations of Poinsettias to adorn our altar are greatly appreciated. Join us for this cherished, time-honored St. Luke tradition...it is sure to put you in a festive mood!



**Usher Notes...**

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

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



**November Readers:**

- 2-Katy Eggert
- 9-Barb Jensen
- 16-Julie Ellingson
- 23-Roger Diestler
- 30-Joyce Bluel

131 Hungry people were served supper for the Loaves and Fishes program on Monday, September 22. Many thanks to our workers: Larry Litzkow, Dwight Paulson, Pastor Person, Helen Bye, Ann Verschoyle and Eva Mac Niven. Thanks also to Audrey Rongstad and Donna Paulson for baking cookies.



## November Birthdays:



- 1 - KOU VANG
- 2 - JEFF FAUST
- 5 - SAM KIM
- 6 - PHYLLIS BILLMEYER
- 8 - THELMA KROSKY
- 13 - COLLEEN MCGOUGH
- 14 - JOSHUA VIGDAL
- 16 - BRENDA DREHMEL
- 17 - DWIGHT PAULSON, JOAN WILSON
- 18 - BRUCE MAGNUSON
- 23 - CHRISTINE SALABA
- 24 - KIRA FAUST
- 25 - BEN VIGDAL
- 26 - JANELL WALTER
- 27 - ADELINE BOICOURT

## November Anniversaries:



- 4 - PATRICIA AND PETER LEAHY: 1978,
- 9 - TRACY AND KEVIN ARNDT: 1991
- 12 - LARRY AND JANELLA LITZKOW: 1960
- 13 - CHUCK AND MI CHELLE KLEIN: 1976
- 15 - HAMLIN AND JOAN JOHNSON: 1947
- 24 - JEAN AND BILL KLOTZ: 1945
- 26 - JACK AND JOAN HOLTZ: 1960

## Valkommen!

All are invited to our

### First Annual Scandinavian Bake and Take on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9 to about 2.

Come and bake krumkaka, lefse and/or rosettes at church, then bring these treats back to your family to enjoy! Please bring any lefse, krumkaka or rosette equipment you may have, plus \$5.00 for materials.

Join us for an enjoyable and productive time of fellowship! Sign up on the kiosk ASAP. Questions or comments? Please feel free to contact Sue Grzywinski at 651-690-1483 or Nancy Hegdahl at 651-699-0499.



## SERVING BRUNCH

### TO ST. MARK'S CONGREGATION

On Nov. 23, 2008, St. Luke will return the favor to St. Mark by serving brunch to their congregation. The Stewardship Commission is looking for volunteers to do the following: prepare the food at St. Luke on Sat., Nov. 22; bake the food at St. Mark's on Sun. Nov. 23; complete any set up needed; serve the food, and clean-up after brunch. Please contact Sue McNeill at [ssmcneill@hotmail.com](mailto:ssmcneill@hotmail.com) or by phone [work 612-596-4011] [home 651-688-8176] by Sunday, Nov. 16. Here's a great chance to be part of a brand new "tradition" and share your time and talents. St. Mark's people did such a NICE job; I'm sure we are up to the challenge to return their generosity in kind.



### Congregational Members Invited!

#### "Give Me This Day"

A dementia training, sponsored by Right at Home, a non-medical home care agency, will be held in our church building on Monday evening, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Beginning at 6 p.m., a light supper will be served followed by a two-hour presentation from 7-9 p.m. The presenter will be Cheryl Biel, RN,C and will cover the early warning signs of dementia, different types and causes of dementia, the progression of the disease process, losses associated with the disease, as well as skills that are retained long into the disease process. All are welcome. RSVP for supper and program or program only to Owen at 952-854-6122 no later than November 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Bazaar Update

Thanks to all the hard work and planning by the white elephant, bake sale, raffle, kitchen, publicity and craft committees, another successful Fall Bazaar was held on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. We were blessed this year with a beautiful fall day, the rain held off until after the bazaar was over.

This is a great fund-raising effort and fellowship opportunity for our church and community and could not be done without the dedication and hard work of **all** of our members.

A good time was had by all that attended. The food was delicious, all of the bake sale items went and many bargains were available in the white elephant rooms. The kiddie room was a big hit again this year. It is amazing the talent this congregation has when it comes to baking and crafting, we had a good quantity of items to offer the shoppers, with plenty left over for holiday shopping!!!

Committee chairs: White Elephant Room – Jo Klein & David Elliott, Bake Sale – Audrey McNamara, Raffle – Julie Gaarder, Kitchen – Sandi Gordon, Kiddie Room – Barb Jensen & Alex Grzywinski and Publicity – Carol Vigdal

Thanks again for your support!!

2008 Fall Bazaar Chairs  
Joyce Bluel and Margaret Vigdal

### **Third Quarter Givings Report:**

Adopted Budget:	\$120,447.60
Pledges:	\$83,877.89
Envelopes Received:	\$86,639.75

**The third quarter giving statements** are now available in the Social Hall. Please pick up your statement today to help defray postage expenses. Thank you.



### Operation Christmas Child

St. Luke again will be collecting shoeboxes full of gifts for children in need all over the world that will be distributed through Operation Christmas Child. Beginning Sunday, October 26, brochures will be available in Fellowship Hall that include lists of items appropriate for the boxes, along with labels for the boxes themselves. All boxes must be delivered to the church by Sunday, November 23 so that they can be delivered to a collection site by Monday, November 24. This is a great project for families to do together and it's a gift that will bring great joy to its recipient.

Please consider participating! See Wendy Bjorklund for any questions.



## Spotlight on...Jason Grom

I was born in Marinette, WI on July 13, 1978. My Mom and Dad & Grandma and Grandpa live in Marinette. All of them have lived there their whole lives. My older sister (Kirsten) and husband (Dan) live in Green Bay. They have three children - Drew: 10, Mackenzie: 7, Miah: 3. My younger sister (Megan) and her husband (Matt) live in New Berlin, WI and have a 5-month-old son, Jake. Our family is close; therefore I spend many weekends in Wisconsin with them at our family cottage or Badger games.

I graduated from Marinette High in 1996, UW-Madison in 2000 (Economics) and Marquette University in 2006 (MBA).

I had been a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Marinette through college, and then transferred to Holy Cross in Menomonee Falls, WI until moving here.

I am the Director of Training and Performance Enablement in the Financial Services Center at Ameriprise Financial. My team trains and coaches a group of approximately 100 financial advisors who help clients over the phone who live in areas where a physical advisor office may not exist or otherwise may be best served over the phone instead of in person.

I enjoy golf, hunting, fishing and sports in general - softball, basketball, and football. I also love going to Badger games with family and friends - On Wisconsin! (& Go Pack Go)!

I joined St. Luke this year. I found St. Luke when looking for a church after moving to St. Paul from Menomonee Falls, WI in February. Everyone was extremely friendly when I first visited! Coming from a church with around 2600 members in Menomonee Falls, I was looking for a church that was a little smaller, like Zion, where I grew up.

I am involved at St. Luke with softball and worship right now. I hope to get more involved with some of the community support programs and possibly share my musical talents at some point.

The best aspect of St. Luke is that the people are extremely welcoming to everyone and very positive - demonstrating their thankfulness in being so blessed.

In terms of an area for improvement, while it might be a challenge for a church of our size, I did like the availability of Thursday evening services at my church in Menomonee Falls in case I was not in town for the weekend.

What do I wish and hope for St. Luke Church in the years to come? To continue growth in fulfilling God's mission every day...and to be softball champions of the St. Paul Church League.

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