



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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 Editor: Jo Klein

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Parish Times September 2010

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
 I Peter 4:10



Last month Kyle and I took 12 of our youth to workcamp in Centralia, Illinois. We were accompanied by 8 Japanese youth and their three adult chaperones. We joined together with about 400 other youth who traveled from four different countries (including the U.S.) and 14 different states. They all came to give, give of their talents, their sweat, and their hearts to help others. During the week we served, we helped repair 44 homes, putting in just under 10,000 volunteer hours.

We went to serve, but as so often happens, we found that we were often the ones being served. We received so much, and that is part of serving, that is part of giving. Life is really all about giving. In fact it is only through giving that we have life. Giving is the basis for life and new life. John 3:16 states this when it says, "For God so loved the world that he GAVE his only Son..." Giving fosters life and new life.

This month we will be talking about stewardship and giving. We will talk about the joy and life that springs from giving. At the conclusion of our stewardship emphasis we will have a celebratory feast on Sunday, September 26 right after worship. We will worship that day followed by the good people of St. Mark Lutheran Church serving us a delicious brunch. We want everyone to be there for this celebration, so mark down September 26 and come celebrate our giving and all we have received.

Pr. Dave

Confirmation News

Orientation for the new confirmation year will be at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 15. Parent(s) please come with your son/daughter. We will be sharing some important information.

On Sunday, September 19 after worship we will join the youth of St. Mark in cleaning up a portion of Highway 13. This is a confirmation service project, but all youth are invited. There could even be some ice cream waiting at the end of the road.... We will leave church at about 10:45 a.m. that morning. It should take about an hour to finish the job. Questions? Ask Pr. Dave.



Choir Notes:

- ◆ Heartfelt thanks we raise to God for the musical gifts of Emily Ireland and Jeff Kingsley who presented special music in the month of August.
- ◆ Join a singing or bell choir this year to answer the call to "Make a joyful noise!" Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings starting September 15, at 6:45 and 8:00 p.m. respectively. You can come straight from school or work for food and fellowship on September 15 at 6:00 p.m. to enjoy a potluck together before the first rehearsal! Both newcomers and seasoned singers/players are warmly welcomed!

Senior Week at Camp Onomia

Camp is not just for kids anymore! Camp Onomia has a great week of camp planned for adults, Sept. 19-23. Cost is \$150.00. It is a beautiful time to be at camp with the trees changing colors and a great time to experience some relaxation and fellowship. Pastor Jack Drier, former St. Luke pastor and long time friend of Camp O, will lead the Bible study for the week. For info and registration, call 320-532-3767.



September Birthdays

4 - KELLY JOHNSON
6 - AUDREY RONGSTAD, DELTAH NIEMI
9 - KEN MCGREW
10 - MICHAELA MCGOUGH, LUE ROTH
11 - JANE MCGREW, GENE SPRAY
12 - MIKE WALTER
17 - CONNOR BURCHILL-RILEY,
CORINN BURCHILL-RILEY
22 - JACK NODLER, CAROL VIGDAL
25 - NAHOKO PERSON
26 - SAMANTHA BRUMMUND
27 - GWEN BRUMMUND
29 - JORDAN BRANDT, ERIC ELLINGSON

Dear members of St. Luke Lutheran Church –

It is with tears of mixed emotions I tell you my last day is Sun, Sept 5, 2010. This decision to leave St. Luke was not an easy one to make. Pr. Dave can verify I have gulped back unexpected tears.

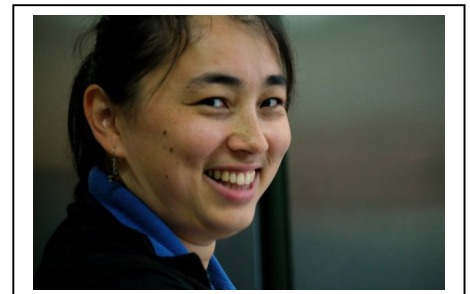
I applied for a new position because it was a dream possibility. I have been studying aural tradition, “paperless,” music and its use in worship for a few years. You have experienced it here as we processed into the sanctuary singing “Hosanna, Ho” on Palm Sunday this year and when you sang refrains and created drones for Psalm settings I composed last year. Imagine my amazement when I saw a congregation was actively seeking this style out! At first I applied with the hope their service was at a different time and I could serve both locations. Unfortunately, the services are at the same time. What moved me to apply is the reason I chose to accept. This position is a dream opportunity for my interests and gifts in leading the people’s worship song.

Thank you for being a great place where I could grow my musical skills and experiment with ideas about worship life. I will miss singing “Happy Birthday” to each and every one of you. For all the smiles, tears and hugs we have shared, I am grateful.

I hope the work begun as Minestrone Minstrels continues without my leadership. We are called to tend to the needs of all people: friends and strangers; food and shelter; spiritual and social. Whether we do this work in formal or informal ways, the church is a community who cares for each other. I know many blessings will be reaped on yourself and others when caring for each other with spirit.

I know God will bless St. Luke abundantly in unbelievable ways. The Spirit is alive here and nurtured by so many loving hearts. May we always listen for the Creator’s voice within our hearts and sit in His loving Presence of Peace.

With blessings of God’s never-ending love, hope and joy,
Conie Borchardt





Sunday School Families: The Sunday School Staff warmly welcomes you to Rally Day, Sept. 12! We have lots of fun things planned for the day, which culminates in a pig roast/potluck lunch at 11:30 a.m. (Please bring a dish to share.) It is sure to be a festive day for all!

Come! Join us for...

- fellowship
- refreshments
- live music
- board games

at
St. Luke Coffee House

**Open to all
just drop in!**

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

All ages welcome...

We'll see YOU September 24!



Many thanks to our Meals on Wheels volunteers for July: Al Baird and Ann Verschoyle, Bruce Magnuson, Audrey Rongstad, Eva Mac Niven, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Ralph and Ruth Wassman, Doug Lund, Heather Rissler, David Elliott, and Ken McGrew.

St. Luke is in need of a permanent driver to deliver Meals on Wheels. We provide volunteers the 4th Friday of every month from 10:45 a.m. to approximately noon. If you are interested, please contact Jane McGrew at 651-698-4569.

**Consecration Sunday is Coming
Sunday, September 26!**

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a Biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday, September 26. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship Pastor Dave will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday stewardship team and council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

St. Luke Church Council





Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for August: Carl Goers, Gwen and Steve Brummund, Lisa Vandrovec, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, Tom Gaarder.

Our ushers for September will be: Eva Mac Niven, Max Elliott, Sam Elliott, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Dwight Paulson and Katy Eggert.



Highlights of the August 9, 2010 council meeting:

-St. Luke is in need of another permanent driver for Meals on Wheels. If you are available the 4th Friday of every month from 10:45 a.m. until noon, please let Jane McGrew know!

-Thank you to all of the people that volunteered in our booth at Highland Fest! This event was considered a success!

-Due to lack of neighborhood involvement, St. Luke will no longer be hosting a National Night Out event. Thank you to those members that have participated!

-The new website is almost ready! Training will occur the week of August 16th, and the website will hopefully be up and running in September!

-Remember, council meetings are the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30. All are welcome!

News From Council President - Nancy Hegdahl



As I write my newsletter article for the month, it is with regret that I announce the resignation of Conie Borchardt, our organist/choir director, who has done an outstanding job of serving St. Luke over the past seven years. Conie and I have been friends for more years than that as we were colleagues in the library world before she came to St. Luke. I am sure many of you have heard the reference to "arm twisting" during my encouraging her to apply for the organist/choir director position. I am sad to lose a fine staff member and talented musician, and it has been a delight to watch how Conie has eagerly used her musical creativity and leadership to serve our music program so well. I will miss her wink every Sunday morning as she sits at the organ. I have told Conie that I am not going to say goodbye, as I know that we will always be connected through our mutual friendships. She still does live next door to the church, and I plan on seeing her and keeping up with the happenings in her life.

Conie's last day with us will be Sunday, September 5, but we will have a reception for her following the service on August 29. It is with warmest personal regards that the church council members and I wish Conie success as she assumes her new position at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

It has been a busy month for the church council, especially for Jeff Kingsley, our Worship Commissioner, and the executive committee, which is made up of Joyce Bluel, Julie Gaarder, Jane McGrew and I, and we can't forget the prayerful guidance of Pastor Dave. Job descriptions have been reworked, interviews have been held and budgets have been calculated, along with the redesign of our website. Jeff, Conie, and I sat down in early August to interview a new hand bell director, Leandra Hubka, who is a recent graduate of the University of St. Thomas. We were impressed with her enthusiasm and her impressive musical background; she attended our church service on August 8, where a number of bell choir members were introduced to her. At that time we also offered to Leandra not only the bell choir position but also the choir and organist position. Leandra has graciously accepted to join St. Luke as the new hand bell and choir director and will be formally introduced to the congregation on Rally Day. Please read more about Leandra in the newsletter. It will be an exciting year to have the hand bells return, so if you are interested in playing bells or singing in the choir be sure to introduce yourself to Leandra. And please join me in welcoming her to St. Luke.

We served approximately 120 people on July 26th for the Loaves and Fishes program. Volunteers were: Dwight Paulson, Larry Litzkow, Ann Verschoyle, Dorothy Zitterow, Jean Gilland and Joyce Bluel. Thank you, one and all.





**Camp Onomia Quilt Auction –
Saturday, September 18**

Camp Onomia is holding its 12th annual quilt auction on Saturday, September 18th at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie. 100+ beautiful quilts will be professionally auctioned off. There will also be a silent auction and bake sale. Quilt preview begins at 11:00 a.m. Auction time is 12:30 p.m. A lunch will be available at 11:00 until auction time. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is providing financial support. Check Onomia's website to view sampling of the quilts: www.camponomia.org Camp phone: 320-532-3767.

**Our heartfelt appreciation to
our Bun Run Volunteers
August: Ken McGrew, Jeff
Kingsley, Julie Ellingson,
Nancy Hegdahl.**



**September Readers:
5: Joyce Bluel
12: Katy Eggert
19: Sue McNeill
26: Wendy Bjorklund**



**Fall Bazaar Update –
Joyce Bluel, Committee Chair**

Fall Bazaar Update – Joyce Bluel, Committee Chair

Just a reminder, the Fall Bazaar is just 7 weeks away; mark your calendars for Saturday, October 16th.

Bring all of those gently used or unneeded items you cleaned out this summer to the White Elephant Sale. You may bring them to church; starting on September 12th and place in the corner of the Social Hall labeled "White Elephant" on the North West side of church.

Anyone willing to bake pies or other baked goods for the Bazaar please contact Dorothy Zitterow (698-9219) or Joan Wilson (253-6111). It's a *delicious* way to support our bazaar!

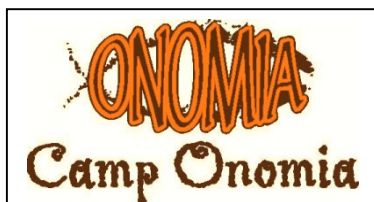
Do you sew, knit, crochet or like to make handmade gifts? If you are planning on making crafts for the Bazaar, we would like to know in advance, please contact Margaret Vigdal at 683-0917 or Joyce Bluel at 690-4614.

The raffle tickets will be ready for distribution soon. The Raffle Committee could use help with mailings, phone calls, and collecting donations. If you can help in any way, please contact either Nancy Hegdahl (699-0499) or Joyce Bluel (690-4614).

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:

White Elephant Co-chairs: Jo Klein & David Elliott
Bake Sale Co-chairs: Dorothy Zitterow & Joan Wilson
Publicity Chair: Carol Vigdal
Kitchen Chair: Sandi Gordon
Kiddie Room Co-chairs: Barb Jensen & Alex Grzywinski
Raffle Co-chairs: Nancy Hegdahl & Joyce Bluel
Crafts Co-chairs: Margaret Vigdal & Joyce Bluel

Reminder to sign up on the kiosk for the Ladies Retreat at Camp Onomia on Sept. 24 through Sept. 26. A \$10.00 deposit is required and sponsorship is available for anyone wanting to attend. Please see Julie Gaarder for details.



Hello!

My name is Leandra Hubka and I am the new choir and handbell choir director at St. Luke. I am so excited to make music with you this coming year! I graduated from the University of St. Thomas this past May with a BA in Music and Catholic Studies. My main instrument is classical guitar, but I have sung in choirs for many years, rung in the St. Thomas handbell choir, and directed various musical ensembles. This past summer, I rang in and attended the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Area VII Conference and directed a singing group for Free Arts MN, a non-profit organization that provides art opportunities to disadvantaged kids.

In addition to directing at St. Luke, I will also be teaching guitar at the St. Paul Guitar Studio, working on producing my first CD (featuring classical guitar), and performing in various concerts. I have been extremely blessed to be so involved in music and look forward to sharing my passion for it with St. Luke!

Joyfully,
Leandra Hubka



Ladies Night Out – Ladies Night Out in September will take place on Tuesday, September 21st at Lucky 13's in Mendota 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, September 12th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.



Spotlight on...Dianne

I am the youngest of 7 siblings: 4 brothers and 2 sisters. I was the only one of my family born in a hospital. All the other siblings were born at home.

I grew up on a farm north of Park Rapids and just south of Itasca State Park. I began school in a one-room country school and attended there for 6 years. Then I went to Park Rapids. Roger and I were in the same class at school and started dating when we were juniors in high school and were married in 1963. We have 4 children: Shereen, Todd, Kelly and Scott. We also have 5 grandchildren.

As a child I went with my parents and family to church in a small country church: Arago Lutheran Church. Then around 1958 we went to St John's Lutheran Church in Park Rapids. This is the church where Roger and I were married.

In high school I worked summers as a waitress. I later worked at St. Joseph's Hospital in Park Rapids as a Medical Records Technician. Then for many years I was MOM to our four kids. In 1990 I began working at Farmer's Insurance for Doug Wasko. When Doug retired I stayed on at Farmers and I am still working there.

My interests include knitting, counted cross-stitch and spending time with my family. I also like to read detective mysteries and enjoy the Janet Evanovich books.

We joined St. Luke in 1964. I believe we started coming to St. Luke when Pastor Al Hock visited our home and invited Roger to play baseball.

We found that St. Luke became our family. We liked the idea that St. Luke is a small congregation and we have always felt very comfortable here.

I have previously served as a Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher. I am currently on the church council and I am the Coffee Fellowship Coordinator.

The best quality of St. Luke is the fact that we are a smaller congregation and that everyone knows and cares so much for each other.

However, we do need to find more young families to come and worship with us. When there is a new person worshipping with us we all need to make them feel welcome.

I hope St. Luke will be around for many years to come. God has provided us for many years and I pray that He will continue to see that St. Luke is around for a very long time.



GAMES DAYS RETURN beginning on Friday, Sept. 3 at 12:30 p.m. for an enjoyable afternoon of snacks, fun and games. See bulletins for specifics. Join us!