



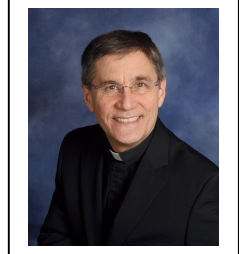
St. Luke Lutheran Church
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St. Luke Lutheran Church

Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times December 2013

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:2b, 6



Christmas! Am I the only one, or is it also hard for you to believe Christmas is almost here...

The children squeal with delight while some adults moan. There is so much to do! I hope we do not lose sight of the main reason for Christmas and that is the coming of our Savior, Jesus, God's Son, the Prince of Peace. Don't let the commercial pressures of society squeeze out the peace found in this joyous time. Come and worship our Savior born for you. We will worship on Christmas Eve at 6:05 p.m. and Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m. Also on Christmas Eve, thirty minutes before the service, from 5:30-6:00 p.m., we will observe a "blue" Christmas time of prayer. This is a time of meditation and prayer especially for people who, for whatever reason, find it hard to feel the joy of Christmas. Maybe they have lost a loved one and this is the first Christmas without that person. Maybe they are suffering from some other tragedy in their life or are just in the middle of a blue funk. Whatever the reason, all are welcome! From 5:30-6:00 p.m., we will have a large, clear glass bowl of water setting on a table just in front of the altar. There will also be a number of clear transparency plastic strips and blue markers. We invite you to write a prayer, thought or feeling on the transparency, then place it in the water, offering it to God. The water will dissolve what you have written; turning the water a tint of blue, but you and God will know the contents. Then please take some time for quiet meditation. When the Christmas Eve service begins at 6:05, we will place the bowl on the altar as an offering of prayers. For a child is born FOR YOU, our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Pr. Dave

December Acolytes:

- 1: Zach Moore
- 8: Candlelight, 7p:
Michaela McGough, Emma McGrew
- 15: Zach Moore
- 24: Christmas Eve, 6p:
Maggie Erickson, Matt Brummund



Volunteer at the Operation Christmas Child Warehouse!

Join our confirmation students and Pastor Dave in volunteering at the OCC warehouse in Bloomington on Wednesday, Dec. 11 from 4-6 pm. We will be preparing shoebox gifts for shipment to places all over the world. If you would like to join us or ask for more information, please let Pastor Dave know!

Need to pick up a special gift for a teacher, co-worker or favorite aunt? You will find just the right things among the wide variety of one-of-a-kind, handcrafted treasures at the north end of the Social Hall....check it out soon!





Musings from the Music Director

Dear Members of
St. Luke Lutheran Church,

I want to thank you very much for welcoming me into your church family with open arms. Sunday, November 3, 2013, marked the one year anniversary of my being hired to serve as the organist/choir/bell choir director at St. Luke Lutheran Church. I am truly blessed to be working with such talented singers and bell ringers and others who are willing to share their musical gifts during worship services. Jo Klein is an exceptionally organized office administrator who efficiently keeps the clerical aspects of this congregation working smoothly. As a pastor's daughter, my father served as my spiritual leader. When he died a year ago, I felt like I not only lost a father, I lost the strong spiritual force in my life. Thank goodness, God heard my prayers and led me to St. Luke. Not only am I allowed to share my God-given musical gifts every Sunday, I also gained an authentic, honest, Grace-filled, pastor. Thank you, Pastor Dave!

As we enter the time of **adventus** (**Advent**), the "coming," I look forward to working with the members of the Chancel Choir and the Bell Choir to musically prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is my honor and privilege to work with the Chancel and Bell Choir members who volunteer their time and talents every week to praise God through music.

Again, thank you for making me feel so welcome at St. Luke Lutheran Church.

Blessings,

Cammy Horne

President's Corner

As Jo so sweetly reminded me, this is my last article....for a while. December will be a busy month for all of us. Advent is coming and all the music, lights, and decorations that come with it. I hope you'll help decorate the church this year and attend the potluck. The newest choir season is beginning and now is the time to show up on Wednesdays at 7 pm to share your joyful song with all of us, or at 8 pm to ring a bell. Easier than you might think! I love Christmas and all that it stands for. My favorite moment is always singing "Silent Night" and holding a candle in the dark with all of you. So jump right in. You have so much to share and the whole congregation benefits from your gift of time.

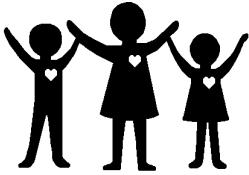
Each time I serve as President, I am so blessed to have the support of the congregation, the Pastor, and a wonderful council. I want to thank each council member for being dedicated to the tasks at hand in keeping our church family home safe and improving the facilities. Thank you to Pastor Dave for guidance and an ear to hear my thoughts before I share them with others. Jo needs a big hug for helping me get organized and keeping me on deadline. But most of all, thank you to my church family for entrusting me with representing our congregation during our 100th Anniversary. It was a special time for me.

Welcome to President Nancy Hegdah! She brings a wealth of experience to this position and we will all benefit from her years as a church member and council member. Welcome to all the other new faces on the council; and, to those of us who signed on for another year.....here we go again!!!!!!

Blessings to each of you for the rest of this special year and for 2014 and years to come. You have been my church family for over 50 years and are the people most dear to me.

--Sue McNeill

As the holiday season approaches, the Sunday School students and Sheridan Moore would like to extend an invitation to everyone to attend our Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15 during the worship service. Come, hear the joyous Christmas message as only children can tell it!



As is the St. Luke tradition, we will be collecting donations for Christmas Baskets, which will be distributed to members of our community. If you would like to make a monetary contribution to filling these baskets, please indicate "Christmas Basket" on the memo line of your check. Thank you!



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for November: Matthew Brummund, Gwen and Steve Brummund, Lisa Vandrovec, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, Tom Gaarder. Our ushers for December will be: Eva Mac Niven, Jim Kroschel, Doug Nelson, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Pam Ballis, Katy Eggert.

O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

*Join us as we celebrate
Advent and Christmas!*

Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday School
Christmas Program**
Sunday, December 15, 9:00 a.m.
(As part of our Sunday service)

Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, December 24
Blue Christmas Meditation: 5:30 p.m.
Worship: 6:05 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship
Wednesday, December 25, 9:00 a.m.



What Happened to the Grocery Carts?

We have temporarily replaced the grocery carts for storing food shelf items with a little thing we like to call the "Food Pantry". It is located by the kiosk near the back door. It allows us to better display the food we have on hand that could be offered to individuals or families from our congregation and/or neighborhood when needed. When bringing in items, please place them in a bag on the floor next to the kiosk and we will take care of getting them on the shelves.

When the pantry becomes too full, we will bag items up and take them to the food shelf. During our Minnesota Food share Month of March we will certainly bring back out the carts for you to use for your donations. **Just a reminder, please do not donate food items that have expired or have been opened.** Thank you.

--Social Action Committee



162 Hungry people were served an evening meal on October 28 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on the West Side. Workers were Pastor Dave, Larry Litzkow, Joyce Bluel, Ann Verschoyle and Eva Mac Niven.



Ladies Night Out – Ladies Night Out in January will actually be a **movie night** at Church on Tuesday, January 21st at 5:30 p.m. We will start off with a delicious supper followed by a showing of a movie. All women are welcome!!! Please let Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) know if you are planning on attending by Sunday, January 12th, so that we know how much food to prepare. Cost of supper will be determined and split among the participants the night of the event.



The 2014 offering booklets will be available in the Social Hall soon. Please pick up your box as soon as possible to defray postage expenses. Thank you.

Spotlight on... Wanda Lou Mathison



I was born at home in El Paso, WI, October 17, 1937 to Leonard (Smoky) and Bessie Bell Peterson. My grandfather Andrew also lived with us. Before I was born my father was nicknamed Smoky because he worked logging and cutting lumber, which caused a lot of smoke. He played the violin in a band when my mother first met him. He was hard of hearing from an infection by the time I was born. My grandfather and father were first generation immigrants from Norway. By the time I was born they both were bricklayers and farmers. My father helped build the Catholic grade school in Ellsworth, WI. My mother was a homemaker and during hard times worked as a domestic on Summit Avenue in St. Paul. I had one older sister Marilyn, and have one younger sister Sharon, and one younger brother Jim.

I went to a one-room schoolhouse for grade school in El Paso, and was bussed to Ellsworth high school. Sometimes if I missed the bus I would have to get a ride home with the milkman. We lived in a house with a potbelly stove, an outhouse and outside pump. However, we did have the luxury of electricity. I remember when I woke up in the winter the glass of water by the bedside was frozen. We had an old Model T.

I went to church at South Rush River Lutheran Church (lots of Norwegians!). My favorite Hymns then and now are "What a Friend We have in Jesus" and "Amazing Grace".

I have many memories of living in the country. We used to ride the pigs; they would run into the small opening in the barn and knock us off. We had a flood once and our wooden bathtub, which had our name on it, was found 20 miles away and was returned. We also belonged to 4H. We went swimming in Rush River. Once I had to save my friend Ann (who said she could swim!) from drowning; we almost both drowned that day. In the winter we would use a piece of cardboard as a sled to go down the school hill.

I worked in the summers in "the cities", as we called the Twin Cities, when I was as young as twelve years old, as a nanny and housekeeper. I worked for \$10 a week, and room and board.

When I graduated from high school I came to St. Paul and worked at Field & Slick, once a high-end department store in downtown St. Paul, in the bookkeeping department. I also worked as a domestic for a short time for Dr. Foley, the inventor of the Foley catheter.

I married my husband Felton V. Mathison, a St. Paul Police officer in 1957. He was a member of the St. Luke church. I worked for a life Insurance company in downtown St. Paul. We have 3 children, Bradley, Brian, and Lynda and 2 grandchildren, Brandon and Amanda. I worked at Unisys as a cashier in the cafeteria and went to school as a nurse's aid and had training at Bethesda Hospital, then went to school as a lab technologist.

I was married 23 years, before my husband died of Lymphoma in 1978. I graduated from lab technology school that year. I had to get a job right away. I worked at the Roseville bank in customer service for 10 years. When the bank was bought out, I decided to become a home health aid temporarily for the Highland Block Nurse Program...I worked there for 21 years. I had just retired about a year before my critical car accident. With the prayers of everyone I'm recovering.

These days I go to exercise at the JCC 5 days a week, doing Silver Sneakers and stretch yoga. At church I usher, go to Bible study, help out with coffee hour and decorate the church planters for Christmas. I enjoy having visitors and shopping. I'm trying to find some new hobbies to do. The thing I miss the most is not being able to drive. It would be nice if there were more younger members and that people would do more outreach to those who are homebound, ill or lonely, with a singing group or friendly visits.



December Birthdays

4 - OLIVIA PETERSON
5 - HELEN BYE, DOUGLAS NELSON
9 - MARK MCGOUGH
10 - BILL KLOTZ
16 - MARY FAUST
18 - HOLLY SCHULTZ
22 - SANDER & TREVOR JOHNSON
23 - DEBORAH VIGDAL
26 - LORI NAKAMURA
27 - CAMMY HORNE
30 - ROGER DIESTLER



December Anniversaries

3 - DWIGHT & DONNA PAULSON: 1966
17 - DOUG & KAREN WASKO: 1960
28 - SHANTEL & KYLE ZVEJNIEKS: 2008
29 - ANNE AND JOHN FABIE: 1984

Dec The Halls!

All are invited on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 11:00 a.m. to decorate our church home for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We'll begin with a potluck lunch, 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!





Fall Bazaar – Preliminary Report
Joyce Bluel – Co-chair

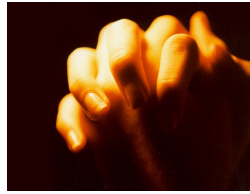
We still have many lovely craft items available for your holiday shopping. Items went half price beginning November 10th. We will continue to sell items until after the candlelight service, December 8th. As of October 31st, we have sales totaling \$5,632.25 and after expenses we have made \$4,242.19.

In the next month or so we will meet to decide how to spend these proceeds. Last year we gave our benevolences to Camp Onomia, the Youth Work Camp, the Airport Ministry, Highland Leisure Age, a flat screen TV for the youth camp spaghetti dinner raffle. We also purchased three storage cabinets to be used by Highland Friendship Club, and a new food processor to make cole slaw for Loaves and Fishes

If you have ideas of how you think we should spend these proceeds, feel free to contact any committee chair, Judy Salaba, Sue Grzywinski or myself. You are also welcome to come to our meeting, just watch the bulletin for date and time.



Thank you to our Bun Run volunteers for November: Julie Ellingson, Bill and Kathy Laramy, Doug and Jo Klein, Joan Wilson, Mike Hegdahl.



Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. --Colossians 4:2

Below are some prayer and action priorities for this year:

1. Let us pray for our members every week. They are listed in the bulletin. Take it home and make it a priority to lift them up in prayer. Don't be afraid to let them know that you are praying for them.
2. Let us pray we receive four new families this year. This isn't just so we have more members. It is so we can spread the good news of Jesus Christ to more people through word and deed. Please make this prayer a priority and when you see new people come to worship, greet them with Christian love, THEN talk with your friends. Make greeting new people your priority. Pray and reach out with love.
3. Pray for our children and youth. But don't just pray for them, also show them Christian love. Be a loving auntie or uncle to them. Give them a hug. Call them by name to say hi and listen to what they have to say. Studies have shown that when children have loving adults outside of their family involved in their lives, they are much more likely to succeed and do well throughout life. You can make a huge difference in a child's life by simply showing them a little love. Isn't that what we are called to do? Pray for them, love them. Then become a secret prayer partner for a child. Anyone can do it, young or old. The sign up sheet is on the kiosk.

--Pr. Dave

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

O Come, All Ye Faithful! Join us for our time-honored Advent Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 7:00 p.m., in which we celebrate the Advent season with many beloved hymns. Please bring 2 dozen cookies to share, if possible, for the fellowship time following the service.



December Readers:



- 1 – Mike Hegdahl
- 8 – Laurie Herrmann
- 15 – Wendy Bjorklund
- 22 – Beth Peterson
- 24 – Barb Jensen
- 25 – Pastor Dave
- 29 – Jill Burchill



Confirmation News

We will have class on Dec. 4, 11, and 18. There will not be class on Dec. 25, Christmas Day, or January 1. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!