



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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Parish Times

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Thoughts From Pastor Juli....

I attended the St. Paul Area Synod Assembly the first weekend in June, and really enjoyed it. There were presentations and displays about all the ministries and activities of the synod, and lots of excited and interesting people.

I have been/will be presenting short snippets about some of these items in the pre-service announcements. However, there is one issue that was complex and serious enough that I wanted to address it in a written forum. There were a series of resolutions addressing same gender relationships and ordination, hinging on a case of a pastor in Atlanta. Enclosed in this newsletter is an information sheet giving some of the background, which was distributed at the synod.

As some of you know, this is an issue that keeps coming up within the church. The ELCA only recently completed a study on the subject. One of the authors of that study was Professor Terry Fretheim of Luther Seminary, who gave a presentation for local pastors to discuss the results. There was a lot said, but what stuck with me was one comment Dr. Fretheim made. "The results of this study aren't satisfactory to either side, but that isn't a flaw. It's a reflection of the fact that the church doesn't yet know its own mind on this issue. This is a time of discernment for the church, and the most important thing that we can bring out of it is the ability to continue to live together as church, while still disagreeing on a major issue."

The ELCA is in the first stages of another period of study and discernment, and I would have preferred to wait for the process to finish, but events in Atlanta have forced an earlier action. The three resolutions were brought forward at this assembly, and at synod assemblies across the country.

Bishop Rogness has a little speech he gives every year, about his deep discomfort with the resolution process. Issues are brought forward, three people speak for and three against, and a vote is taken. No matter what, on divisive issues, half of the assembly leaves angry and feeling like losers, which doesn't do much for our life together. He has often steered us into table talks and discussions rather than votes, and he was open that he wished he could have done so with this issue as well. However since that wasn't an option, the assembly voted to support the resolutions. (The first and second ones; the third was withdrawn in the interest of time, as it has already passed in many other synods.)

Knowing that St. Luke is a Reconciling in Christ congregation, I voted to support them. I was most moved by the argument that this will bring parity to both sides of the issue. No congregation will be forced to call a pastor in a same sex relationship, no pastor will be pressured to conceal his or her life from a congregation. All of the resolutions are still subject to the decisions of the greater church following the current discussion process, and any future legislative action.

I am more than willing to discuss this with anyone who wants to talk to me about it, just let me know.



July Readers:

1 – Julie Ellingson

8 – Katy Eggert

15 – Eva Mac Niven

22 – Wendy Bjorklund

29 – Maggie Erickson



Many thanks to our Meals on Wheels volunteers for May 25: Al Baird, Ann Verschoyle, Louis Billmeyer, Eva Mac Niven, Bruce Magnuson, Jane McGrew, Betty Nelson, Audrey Rongstad and Ralph Wassmann.



"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism." ~Erma Bombeck

July Birthdays:



- 3 - NICK JOHNSON
- 5 - BRIAN SALABA
- 8 - JOYCE BLUEL
- 9 - NANCY MCGOUGH
- 10 - DOROTHY FELIX, CYNDY STADEM
- 13 - ROGER AMLEE
- 14 - AL BAIRD, BERNICE SHORE
- 15 - DOUG WASKO
- 16 - WENDY BJORKLUND
- 18 - DICK HOLTZ
- 20 - PETER KLEIN, GAVIN JOHNSON,
DALLAS ERICKSON
- 22 - OLLIE COE
- 23 - JO KLEIN
- 26 - JILL BURCHILL
- 27 - RICH MILLER, ERICK ERICKSON
- 28 - DAN GRZYWINSKI
- 30 - JASON WOODFORD

July Anniversaries:



- 6 - KEVIN AND MARYJO BRANDT: 1991
- 7 - JEFF AND MARY FAUST
- 10 - ANDREA AND SCOTT DIESTLER: 1999,
AUDREY AND LEROY RONGSTAD: 1953
- 19 - RICHARD AND PAULA SILTBERG: 1975
- 22 - GWEN AND RICHARD COATES: 1961



Notes From Conie...

ALL (that's right, each and every one of you!) are invited to attend a Worship and Music Meeting on Sunday, July 15 after the service. If you have any thoughts, concerns and/or suggestions about our hymn selections or our liturgy, this is the perfect opportunity for you to speak up and be heard...do join us!

Please note: our church web site now has a new domain name... you will no longer find it at stluke-church.com.

It is now:

www.saintlukechurch.us



Attention, women:

The Fall Women's Retreat at Camp Onomia is scheduled for the weekend of September 14-16. Please indicate your desire to participate in this enjoyable activity by signing up on the kiosk by **July 15**. The cost is \$69.00, the same as last year, and there is a \$6.00 charge if you desire to rent linens. Camperships are available! It's easy and confidential; to apply, simply contact Julie Gaarder at 690-0117. It's a great weekend get-away of shopping, crafting, fellowship and simply relaxing...join us!



Usher Notes...

Many thanks to our ushers for June: Eva Mac Niven, Grant Mongin, Carl Elliott, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Dwight Paulson and Katy Eggert. **Our ushers for July will be:** Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Abby Klein, Alex Klein, Audrey McNamara, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot and Al Baird



Let's Play Ball! (PLEASE NOTE TIME AND LOCATION CHANGE!) All are invited to play in some friendly, informal Sunday afternoon softball scrimmages with Immanuel, St. Mark and Pilgrim churches. This is a co-ed league; we welcome all adults and any youth entering 9th grade or older. We will be playing every Sunday at **6:30** through July 29 at Groveland field (**St. Clair and Cleveland**). (Excluding 4th of July).

For the last three Sundays in July the games will be structured as follows:

July 15: Pilgrim vs. St. Mark; Immanuel vs. St. Luke
July 22: Pilgrim vs. St. Luke; Immanuel vs. St. mark
July 29: Pilgrim vs. Immanuel; St. Mark vs. St. Luke

Really, what an enjoyable way to spend a Sunday summer evening...it's great fun to play...and great fun to cheer your team on to victory...mark your calendars and plan on joining us!



Spotlight on...Patty Stadem

I have been a member of St. Luke for 43 years. My parents, Hamline and Joan Johnson, lived in St. Paul many, many years ago, then moved to Bloomington where they currently reside and have for many years. They belonged to St. Luke when they lived here and continued after the move because of Pastor Al Hock and Martha. This brings us to my brother Morris, sisters Kathy and Cyndy and myself who were all baptized and confirmed at St. Luke with Pastor Hock. During my younger years at St. Luke I sang numerous special songs for church services. One very fond memory I have is of Christmas Eve services singing "Away In A Manger" annually from age 3 through high school. Some of the "old-timers" may recall this. When Pastor Jack came to St. Luke we continued on because we also enjoyed his leadership. Pastor Jack married Mark and I, and baptized our son Andrew and daughter Kayla. Andrew is now also one of the most recent confirmed members of St. Luke by Pastor Juli. I am a kindergarten teacher of 20 years and still love it, and I am a graduate of Augsburg College with my bachelor's degree and from Mankato State with my masters. I love kids and music! My favorite hymn is really hard to choose because I have so many, so I currently enjoy selecting hymns for our church services. However if I had to choose a favorite or two, I would say "Borning Cry", and "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve". I am also a member of the choir; it is very fun and fulfilling to share in the musical talents of others. I like belonging to St. Luke because of family ties, traditions and being a part of a small community. I hope St. Luke continues to flourish as a church for many years!



Mission Profile Committee Update

The Mission Profile Committee (MPC) is continuing to explore our neighborhood and community through conversations with local organizations and leaders. This month we will also be involving all confirmed congregational members by sending out a survey that is a part of the Mission Profile. The results will be compiled to aid the MPC when completing the questionnaire for the final document. This part of the Mission Profile will be used by the synod to help match our strengths, priorities and needs with candidates that have filled out the same questionnaire. When you receive the questionnaire, please take time to fill it out and return it. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 612-616-6820 or sandi.gordon@gmail.com.
Sandi Gordon, Congregational President

Vacation Bible School is July 23-27! Plans are underway and coming together well. **HOWEVER**, please know that we are always in need of helpers every night of the week...so if you have not yet volunteered for a specific job, not to worry: if you just show up, trust us, we will put your time and energies to good use!

Included in this newsletter are two VBS promotional flyers. Why? Because it is our fervent hope that you will take the initiative and hand these out to friends and neighbors with children. About a third of our students each year are nonmembers...*and most of these families heard about our program through word of mouth.* Think of it! A personal invitation can be such a positive and powerful thing. Please, we ask you to do your part to promote our fantastic VBS program. Thank you!

