



St. Luke Lutheran Church
 1807 Field Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55116
 Phone: 651-698-9443
www.saintlukechurch.org
 Editor: Jo Klein

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times August 2016

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. | John 4:7



There are many ways to express our love for one another. I see that all the time in our congregation. Our St. Luke youth are expressing their love in a very special way, in memory of Teagan Burchill Riley, who died last August. They are taking part in the Out of Darkness Twin Cities Walk to fight suicide and support those with suicidal thoughts. I have felt so inspired by them that I asked our church council for permission to take part in the walk also. The walk is on Sunday morning, September 18 from 10am to 12pm. Others from our congregation will also be participating in the walk to raise money. But we know that some people are unable to participate for a variety of reasons, but would like to take part in any way they are able. Because of that we have asked Rev. Karen Stevensen to lead worship and preach that Sunday. Rev. Stevensen is a professional counselor. She was here at St. Luke to offer support on the morning we shared the news of Teagan's death. I sought out her counseling too after Teagan's death. She is excellent. She is a person full of knowledge and the gospel who will link our two groups together that morning, those walking and those worshiping at St. Luke. Whether you walk that morning or worship at St. Luke, let us be of one mind, loving God and loving one another, with special thoughts, prayers and actions for those suffering in darkness.

Pr. Dave

P.S. If you would like to make a contribution, please let me know.



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for July: Joan Wilson, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot, Rob Herrmann.

Our ushers for August will be: Steve, Gwen, Matthew and Samantha Brummund, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, Michael Hoffman.



We warmly welcome you to Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 11th! We have lots of fun things planned for the day, which culminates in a potluck lunch at 11:00 a.m. (Please bring a dish to share.) It is sure to be a festive day for all...mark your calendars and plan on participating!



LOAVES AND FISHES

112 very hungry people enjoyed a delicious meal at Loaves and Fishes Program at St Matthew's Catholic Church on June 27th. Workers from St. Luke were Larry Litzkow, Joyce Bluel, and Roger and Dianne Diestler.



School Tools for Kids in Need

School Tools Drive: Sunday, July 23 through Sunday, August 14. School Tools is a school supplies drive for East Metro children from low-income and homeless families. The drive is sponsored by Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul (formerly St. Paul Area Council of Churches). Please donate some school supplies and help a child begin the new school year right! Watch for a list of suggested supplies in the July 30 and August 7 bulletins. If you have any questions, please talk to Wendy Bjorklund.

WINTER CLOTHING NEEDED

Larry and Junella Litzkow are collecting winter clothes on behalf of Larry's brother's church. All donations will be delivered to the Wounded Knee reservation in South Dakota. Clothing for all ages is needed. The collection deadline for the trip is August 14th. Please drop off your donations in the designated receptacle in the Social Hall. Please prayerfully consider your part in this very worthy cause. Thank you very much.



August Birthdays

- 2 Emma McGrew, Phillis Amlee
- 3 Kimberly Tyl
- 5 Sandra Berger
- 7 Donna Paulson
- 10 Phyllis Rice
- 14 Thor Burchill-Riley
- 18 Ralph Wassmann
- 20 Doug Klein, Cathy Erickson
- 21 Max Elliott
- 22 Dean Stadem
- 24 Sol Holmly
- 25 Jim Kroschel
- 26 Jay Peterson
- 28 Joan Johnson, Ray Johnson



August Anniversaries

- 4 Kurt & Holly Schultz: 1984
- 14 Kimberly & William Miller: 1984
- 16 Gene & Kathy Spray: 1986
- 30 Mary Dybvig & Ralph Skoe: 2009



My Neighbor is a Muslim

Beginning on September 25 we will be learning about Islam in Adult Forum. We will be using a curriculum provided by LSS. What do you know about Islam? Is it accurate and true? The LSS study is produced by Luther Seminary, with the input of a Muslim Imam. You can get your own copy either by going online to the LSS site or by picking up a copy here at St. Luke. Let's take a deeper look at the faith of Islam and hopefully come to a deeper understanding of our neighbors whom we are called to love.

August WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Readers:

- 7 Joyce Bluel
- 14 Laurie Herrmann
- 21 Wendy Bjorklund
- 28 Christine Olson

Communion:

- 7 Joyce Bluel
- 21 Wendy Bjorklund



August Acolytes:

- 7 Ava Herrmann
- 21 Alek Landenberger

Canoe Trip

If you are ready for BIG adventure and a lot of fun, sign up for the canoe trip. We leave on Thursday, August 18 in the late morning/early afternoon and come back on Monday, August 22. The cost is about \$75.00. If you have any questions, let me (Pr. Dave) know. Sign up on the kiosk and let's go on an adventure!



Join us **Sunday, August 14** for a sermon with **Tiffany Easthom: a message of nonviolent alternatives to conflict in our world today.**

Tiffany Easthom is currently the Interim Executive Director at Nonviolent Peaceforce, a global non-profit working in nonviolent conflict prevention and resolution around the world. Prior to serving as the interim executive director, Tiffany was the Program Director for Nonviolent Peaceforce's Middle East program, Country Director in South Sudan and Sri Lanka. Tiffany holds a BA in Justice Studies and an MA Degree in Human Security and Peacebuilding from Royal Roads University in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. She also studied peacebuilding in the field in Uganda and served as Country Director for Peace Brigades International in Indonesia. Come see the leader of a Nobel Peace Prize Nominated organization share her story.

BLOOD DRIVE, AUG. 6!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for a Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, Aug. 6, 9am to 3pm, here at St. Luke Church! Donating blood is a simple thing to do, but can make a big difference in the lives of others. Did you know a single donation can save up to three lives? Studies show that every two seconds, someone needs a blood transfusion. More than 41,000 blood donations are needed every day. 5 million patients in the US need blood every year. Blood donated to Red Cross is available to ship to hospitals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You CAN make a difference! Registration is quick and easy. You may register by phone at 1-800-733-2767, or online at www.redcrossblood.org; enter sponsor code **St. Luke SP**. Every blood donor is given a mini-physical, checking the donor's temperature, blood pressure, pulse and hemoglobin to ensure it is safe for the donor to give blood. Eligibility questions: call 1-866-236-3276.



**American
Red Cross**

St. Luke's Farmers' Market

Our second annual Farmers Market is underway! We are working hard to make it even better than last year through more vendors and greater publicity. We will need some help throughout the summer, so please put it on your mental checklist to help out at least one Saturday this year. We will run through Saturday, October 1. The times are 8 a.m. to noon. Please help get out the word and plan on serving at the market. It is a beautiful way to serve our neighborhood and welcome people to our church.



POLICE - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

National Night Out

St. Luke is sponsoring National Night Out for our neighborhood on Tuesday, August 2 at 6:00 p.m. Come, meet neighbors, enjoy some food and good fellowship and live music with our neighbors.



Fall Bazaar Update

Joyce Bluel & Judy Salaba, Committee Co-Chairs

Just a reminder, the Fall Bazaar is just about 12 weeks away; mark your calendars for Saturday, October 8th.

Bring all of those gently used or unneeded items you cleaned out this summer to the Rummage Sale. **This year we will not be clothing.** Also, we will **NOT** be accepting furniture, exercise equipment, appliances or electronics. You may bring your items to church; starting on September 11th and place in Sunday school room nearest the offices.

Anyone willing to bake pies or other baked goods for the Bazaar please contact Joan Wilson (651) 253-6111 or Deb Vigdal (651) 681-0865. 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 Judy Salaba (651) 698-8572 or Joyce Bluel at (651) 690-4614.

The raffle tickets will be ready for distribution soon. The Raffle Committee could use help with collecting donations, selling raffle tickets and working the raffle table the day of the event. If you can help in any way, please contact Joyce Bluel (651) 690-4614 or Katy Eggert (651) 777-8796.

Back by popular demand will be the General Store. We are looking for donations of new or gently used items to be raffled off at the General Store.

This year bingo will be played in the Sunday School room directly across from the Library (the old Kiddie Room) from 10:00 to 11:30. The bingo games are open to everyone. Activities for the kids (fish/duck pond and pumpkin walk) will be held in the hallway outside the library with face painting taking place in the social hall near the front door.

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:

Rummage Sale	Chair: Jo Klein
Bake Sale	Co-chairs: Joan Wilson and Deb Vigdal
Kitchen	Chair: Beth Peterson
Kiddie Room	Chair: Bev Eckstrom
Raffle	Chair: Joyce Bluel and Katy Eggert
Crafts	Co-chairs: Judy Salaba and Joyce Bluel



Ladies Night Out –Ladies Night Out in August will take place on Tuesday, August 16th at Fabulous Ferns – 400 Selby Avenue in St. Paul at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in carpooling, please meet at church at 5:00 p.m. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) if you are planning on attending by Sunday, August 7th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.



Our heartfelt thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for July: Doug and Jo Klein, Larry Litzkow, Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl, Joan Wilson.



Musings from the Music Director

Dear Members of St. Luke,

As the summer comes to an end, I would like to remind all of you that choir and bell choir start in September. I would also like to extend an invitation to all who are interested! We welcome all levels. As long as you have a love for music and want to spread God's word then you are welcome! We always have a great time. Please contact me if you are interested or have any questions: kohle091@umn.edu

Blessings,
Katie

As many of you remember, August 20th is the first anniversary of our dear Teagan's passing. Our family would like to thank our unprecedented church family for your amazing support during her funeral and the past year. We have felt your love! No better church family exists. We are truly blessed and grateful to have family such as St. Luke. Please pray for us on the 20th, and remember Teagan. She was a unique, strong, brave and totally unafraid to be herself. Please continue to support laws for people who suffer from mental illness, in her name. Also, the High Bridge continues to be a suicide hot spot. Some "Feel Good" groups have been started, but nothing for the support of a net under the bridge. Most high bridges in cities have nets, but so far, St. Paul has not joined them. Please write directly to Mayor Coleman to encourage this change. Blessing to you all.

Jill, Corinn, Connor and Thor



Teagan's self-portrait in the BWCA...she's looking down on us! -Jill

Commentaries for the August Gospel Readings

Please find the commentaries for the August gospel readings below. For resources I used "Preaching Luke's Gospel" by Richard Jensen, "Luke" by David Tiede and my own notes. Please read the gospel as well as the notes found below, and then take time for prayer as you prepare for worship each Sunday. If you have any questions or comments about the gospel lesson, I would LOVE to hear them. Let's grow in and through God's Word!

August 7, Luke 12:32-40

The first verse of this reading is one of my all-time favorites, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." The Kingdom of God is a gift! Not only that, it is our Father's (God's) GOOD PLEASURE to GIVE you the kingdom! God *wants* to give you the kingdom. Our heavenly father can't wait to give it to you. You can just see our Father smiling, joyously, as he gives you the kingdom! Through this gift of God, the gift of the kingdom of God, life has a new firm, foundation. We see our life and the kingdom as a gift, through an eternal lens that lifts us beyond the immediate. Dr. David Tiede writes that this first verse is the theme for the whole section of Luke (Luke 12:1-13:21). Take a few minutes to read this whole section of Luke with this verse in mind. The theme of possessions comes up next (verse 33). Because of the richness of the gift of the kingdom, we are to sell our possessions. In other words, our foundation is not found in earthly possessions, but in the giftedness of God, which includes the gift of the kingdom. That is where true riches are found (12:31). They are found in our Lord. Beginning with verse 35 Luke plunges into eschatological imagery ("end times" is a simplified definition of "eschatology"). We (the disciples of the Lord) are to be dressed and ready for the return of our master, Jesus. Upon his return, we will be ready to open the door for him. Then he will come and *serve us* at a feast! Yes, you read that right. Our Lord *serves us* a feast....another gift! When this will happen, we do not know. It is at an unexpected hour (in Matthew 24:36 Jesus says only God the Father knows when that day and hour will come – don't believe people who "predict" the end of the world.) Our hope is found in God, who showers us with gifts, including the kingdom of God. Keep your eyes and hearts in him! The Lord is where our true riches and life are found.

August 14, Luke 12:49-56

Here we see a time of judgment. Jesus talks about fulfilling the will of God. He is the agent of God (the Son of God) who comes to bring fire to earth. Throughout the Bible, fire is a term used to denote judgment. For example, we see it in the Book of Jeremiah when God declares to Jeremiah, "Behold, I am making my words in your mouth a fire, and this people wood, and the fire shall devour them!" (Jeremiah 5:14). The people of that time had turned from God and so knew judgment. Jesus too declares that he brings fire. This is the fire of judgment as well as the fire brought about by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2: 1-4). The baptism that Jesus talks about here is most likely the "baptism" of his death. We see Jesus use this kind of imagery for baptism in Mark 10:38 as well.

Dr. David Tiede writes, "Jesus now speaks of the fire of his word and the baptism which constrains him. He is interpreting his own mission in sharply prophetic terms, and the peril of judgment is deeply felt. Neither Jesus' contemporaries nor the Christian reader should be deluded. Even God's will to save and to fulfill the promises confronts and exposes resistance and rejection and provokes deep divisions." Dr. Tiede continues, "Of course Luke proclaims Jesus as God's act of peace for the earth (see 1:79; 2:14, 29; 7:50; 8:48; 10:5; 19:38; 24:36 (some manuscripts); Acts 9:31; 10:36!), but when rejected, Jesus will bring destruction rather than peace (see 19:41-44). The two-edged sword of the word and mission of God which Jesus bears will cut Israel to the quick. Those who would reduce Jesus to a sentimental savior of a doting God have not come to terms with the depth of divine passion, of the wrath and love of God which is revealed in Jesus' word, will, and obedience even unto death."

August 21, Luke 13:10-17

We come now to the story of the healing of a woman on the Sabbath. Jesus is teaching in the synagogue when he sees a woman who is crippled, bent over for eighteen years. Jesus called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." Then he does something extremely shocking for that time and place. He touches her. A man, especially a rabbi, a teacher, should NEVER touch a woman who is not a member of his family. That is absolutely forbidden. But Jesus lays *both* of his hands on her and she is cured immediately. She stood straight up for the first time in 18 years and began praising God. She knew the source of her healing and the appropriate thing to do: give thanks. The leader of the synagogue, on the other hand, instead of seeing reason for praise, only felt indignation toward Jesus. The law stated a person was not to do any work on the Sabbath and so Jesus broke that law. He could have cured her on any other day. Yet he chose to do it on the Sabbath. This was against the law. But Jesus comes back with a stinging rebuke, calling them hypocrites. They take care of their animals on the Sabbath. Shouldn't we do the same for our brothers and sisters of the faith? Jesus calls the woman "a daughter of Abraham," just as he called Zacchaeus "a son of Abraham." In other words, she is a woman of the promise, an heir to the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah. As Rev. Richard Jensen writes, "A woman who is bound with a bent-over back and a man who is a tax collector (read sinner!) are recipients of grace because they are heirs of the promise made to Abraham. God's promises are good! They do not fail. God's promises, however, can be taken for granted. They can be presumed upon. They can be wrenched from the human need of repentance in God's sight. This is John the Baptist's warning as he prepares Abraham's people for the coming of Abraham's heir. "Repent," John cries. "Bear fruit worthy of repentance!" he thunders. "Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham" (Luke 3:8). The heirs of the promise to Abraham and Sarah are to live in repentance and forgiveness. That's a strong theme in Luke's Gospel." Finally, we see that Jesus sets this woman free from Satan's bondage. Dr. Tiede writes, "Jesus is challenging the dominion of Satan, and those who are piously defending the Sabbath have not discerned what is happening. More is at stake here than mere human religiosity. Jesus has suggested that his critics are in danger of aiding Satan in his reign of bondage."

August 28, Luke 14:1, 7-14

As I read this Bible passage I was reminded of some of the eastern cultures I lived in and visited. In Japan it was important to know where and where not to sit when invited to a home or banquet. There were certain places of honor and to sit there would be extremely disrespectful and rude. You would be asked to move and it could be embarrassing. In India we attended a festival and as honored guests we were given a flower lei to wear. They were beautiful. But we were told before receiving them that we were to put them around our neck, smile, say thank you, then take them off immediately. To wear them throughout the evening would be like saying you are better than everyone else! Living in an egalitarian society, these rules or customs may seem a bit foreign or odd to us. Yet, we surely wouldn't sit at the table of honor at a wedding reception (with the Bride and Groom) unless invited! Jesus is talking about the same kind of thing here, only in relation to the feast in the Kingdom of God. In verse 11 Jesus says, "For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Once again, we hear this theme of the "great reversal" that echoes throughout Luke. Remember Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:52)? The lowly shall be lifted up and the exalted brought down. In verses 12-14 we hear Jesus' radical and precedent shattering words. As Rev. Jensen writes, "When we humans invite people to a banquet we are not to invite only those who can repay us. Grace is always free. It comes without strings attached. God's invitation is graceful. It invites those who cannot repay." Here too we see the second great reversal theme of the Magnificat: "God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:53). As Rev. Jensen writes, "We are at the very heart of Luke's Gospel here! Jesus Christ has come from God with an invitation to the sinful and needy folk on earth. This is what God is about in Jesus!" It is also what we are called to be about as disciples of Jesus.

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