



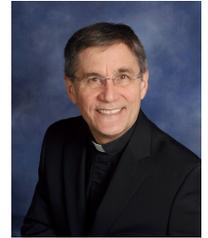
St. Luke Lutheran Church
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 St. Paul, MN 55116
 Phone: 651-698-9443
www.saintlukechurch.org
 Editor: Jo Klein

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times March 2015

Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:9



Have you ever noticed that the Bible begins and ends talking about trees (Revelation 22:2)? I love trees, but why does the Bible begin and end with them? What is so important about these trees? What is the meaning for us individually and for our world? Along this line, is there significance to the fact that the cross of Christ is referred to as a tree in some passages? What is the connection? During our mid-week Lenten worship services we will be meditating on what these trees in the Bible mean for our lives. The cross was an instrument of death, but in the Bible it is also seen as a tree of life. In fact there are pieces of biblical art that depict the cross of Christ filling the earth with life-filled leaves, providing nesting places for birds and other animals. How is the tree of the cross such a tree of life for you? What do these other trees signify? Come worship; as we take time to meditate on this, finding answers and mystery that draws us ever deeper into the heart of God. Our first of five Wednesday evening worship services is on Feb. 25 from 6:45-7:30. Come worship the Lord!

Pr. Dave



March Acolytes:

- 1 – Evan Nelson
- 15 – Matt Brummund



Loaves and Fishes

110 hungry people we served a delicious meal Monday evening January 26th at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. Workers from St. Luke were Pastor Dave Person, Joyce Bluel, Larry Litzkow, and Roger & Dianne Diestler. Anyone wishing to help sometime would be welcome; see Pastor Dave.



Ladies Night Out – Ladies Night Out in March will take place on Tuesday, March 24th at Degidio's – 425 W. 7th Street at 5:30 p.m. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) if you are planning on attending by Sunday, March 15th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation. **Please note due to St. Patrick's Day, Ladies Night Out is being held on the fourth Tuesday of the month.**

AUDIT

There will be an audit of the church financials on Sunday, March 1 after worship. This is an open meeting; your participation will be welcomed and appreciated.





Results of the 2014 Fall Bazaar

The Bazaar committee met on January 25th after worship to discuss the results of the 2014 Fall Bazaar. Gross sales were \$5,956.00 and after expenses the net proceeds were \$4,216.

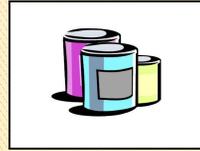
The committee voted to send \$100 to the Airport ministry \$1,000 to Camp Onomia, \$75 to Highland Leisure Age, \$250 to the Youth Work Camp Spaghetti Dinner to purchase a flat screen TV for its silent auction, and \$1,000 to sponsor the youth work camp, along with previous years proceeds this leaves a balance of \$17,040.61. The committee is also recommending using some of these funds to update the restrooms in the church. This will have to be approved by the church council.

2015 Fall Bazaar

It's never too early to start planning for the St. Luke Church Fall Bazaar!! As you have read in a previous article, this event raises quite a bit of money that can be used for things that we do not have in our regular budget. I would like to encourage all members to get involved, it is a great way to get to know your church family better and the money raised has been used for some very worthwhile projects.

The date for this year's Fall Bazaar is Saturday, October 10th. Listed below are the committee chairs, who have graciously volunteered again this year. If you are interested in working in these areas, please contact the chair(s) to volunteer your time and talent.

- Jo Klein: Rummage Sale
- Beth Peterson: Kitchen
- Bev Eckstrom: Bingo, Pumpkin Walk & Duck Pond
- Joan Wilson & Deb Vgdal: Bake Sale
- Pam Ballis: Publicity & General Store
- Dianne Diestler & Katy Eggert: Raffle
- Judy Salaba and Joyce Bluel: Crafts and Co-chairs



March is Minnesota FoodShare Month!

Each March, Minnesota FoodShare directs the March Campaign, the largest food drive in the state and restocks 300 food shelves across Minnesota. It recruits thousands of congregations, companies, schools and civic groups to run local food and fund drives to aid in the effort.

Minnesota FoodShare organizes a statewide media campaign to promote food shelf donations. It produces and distributes free promotional and educational resources for food drive organizers. It acts as a clearinghouse for cash donations and distributes the funds to participating Minnesota food shelves. Throughout the year, Minnesota FoodShare advocates on behalf of hungry Minnesota families with both state and federal lawmakers and educates the public about hunger in Minnesota.

So, during the month of March, we will be collecting donations of food and money for those in need. Checks can be made out to St. Luke with a notation of "food drive" in the memo line. Thanks for all of your help!



Our heartfelt thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for February: Ken McGrew, Doug and Jo Klein, Julie Ellingson.

We need lilies and/or flowering plants for our annual Easter garden display. Can you help? Every bloom counts. Let's make this our most glorious display ever! Please bring your floral offerings to church on 11:00 on Saturday, April 4. Please feel free to stay and help with arranging the flowers to decorate the Easter cross. You may take your flowers home to enjoy after the 9:30 Easter Sunday Service.





March Birthdays

- 3 Abigail Winecke
- 4 Carl Elliott
- 6 Connel MCGough
Mark Stadem
- 7 Judy Salaba
- 10 Joe Luty
Amelia Mathis
Lois Porter
- 12 Betty Hoard
- 13 David Verschoyle
- 15 Donald Annala
- 16 Susan Lorenz
- 18 Jacob Arndt
Larry Eckstrom
Lisa Vandrovec
- 22 Alex Klein
- 24 Michael Fabie
- 26 Sheridan Moore
- 31 Julie Gaarder
Robyn Rongstad
Ralph Skoe



March Anniversaries

- 12 Mike Amundson and
Kimberly Tyl: 2004
- 19 Sue and Dan
Grzywinski: 1977

March Worship

Assistants:

Readers:

- 1: Wendy Bjorklund
- 8: Beth Peterson
- 15: Laurie Herrmann
- 22: Barb Jensen
- 29: Laurie Smith

Communion:

- 1: Wendy Bjorklund
- 15: Joan Wilson

First Communion Classes

On Sundays, March 15 and 22, I will be leading a first communion class for our non-communing children during the Sunday School hour. If you and your child are interested in these classes, please talk with me. We will be making our own first communion cups out of clay while learning the meaning of communion and the love God shows through the bread and the wine. Then on Easter morning (April 20), your child will use the cup they have made to receive their first communion. They will then take that cup home as a remembrance. Please talk with me, Pastor Dave, if you are interested.



HOLY COMMUNION



Micro-lending: The Story of One St. Luke Micro-Loan Recipient

Dildora was born in 1985. She was born and raised in a family of a simple farmer in northern Tajikistan. After finishing her secondary education, Dildora could not go to university, and was unable to get a higher education. Because her husband makes only a small income, after her marriage Dildora started her own business raising cattle and sewing women's clothing. Dildora has been working in animal husbandry for more than 8 years; she fattens cattle and sheep and sells milk, meat, and wool to the locals. She has gradually developed her business and improved her quality of life. She has 4 children who are still small. Her husband is a migrant worker in the Russian Federation. Dildora plans to use her loan to repair her cowshed and barn, and in this way hopes to improve her living conditions. (from the Kiva website)

At St. Luke we have made micro-loans to 165 people in 41 countries around the world. Dildora is one of them. We have received a total of \$2,950.00 in donations to micro-lending from St. Luke members. This money does not come from the general fund. It comes from individual donations for this purpose. We loan it out, it is repaid, then we loan it out again, and it is repaid, and so on. This beautiful cycle has continued through the years. Because of this cycle, the power of our donations of \$2,950 has grown exponentially. Through these past years our loans have totaled \$18,150! A mustard seed is flowering into a life-giving tree reaching from St. Luke around the world (Matthew 13:31-32)!



Usher Notes

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



&



BOOK AND BAKE SALE:

We will be hosting a Book and Bake Sale in May. We need to start collecting books now. Please bring them to church. We will need both paperback and hardcover...all ages. If you would like to help coordinate (or even store a bag or two of books until spring), please contact Sue McNeill (coordinator).

Any meetings we have this year will be to brainstorm about how we want to set this up, advertise, etc. This will also be a great event to announce Vacation Bible School. New events need new ideas and all are welcome.



Maleah Mathis

I was born in Seoul, Korea on May 10, 1975 and adopted by David and Sandy Pilgrim when I was 7 years old. My older brother, Ben, lives in Minneapolis, and my younger brother, Andy, lives in Miami.

I attended Moundview High School and Century College, and was confirmed at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. I work in the collections department at Front Line Assets Strategies.

On April 8, 2008, I married my husband, Phroah. We have one daughter, Amelia, born March 10, 2010. We have another daughter on the way, Alivia, due April 25.

I enjoy going out for Sushi, Sunday Fun Days with my family, play dates with the cousins, and taking Amelia to her swimming lessons. We recently bought a travel trailer, which we use at the family cabin in Brainerd, Minnesota...we love it there. We also love to visit my parents at their vacation home in Mexico.

My grandparents, Bill and Jean Klotz, first brought me to St. Luke. I have a long history here. My father's father, Walter Pilgrim, served as Pastor at St. Luke from 1929 to 1940. My mother's mother, Jean Klotz, was the daughter of Julia Nelson, who was a charter member when St. Luke Church was established in 1913.

The best thing about St. Luke is that everyone is so friendly; they invite you in. I really enjoy the social time after worship. As for areas of improvement, I would like to see more activities for toddlers and grade school children.

My wish and hope for St. Luke is continued growth; more young families, and an expanded Sunday School program...to build a bright future at the same church of my beloved grandma, Jean Klotz.

January General Fund

Receipts \$10,322.00
Expenses \$11,803.31

Please see me with questions, concerns, or a copy of the Treasurer's Report.

Thanks,
Ruth Carlson, SLLC Treasurer



Coffee Fellowship Hosts

I am very grateful for all the coffee fellowship hosts that have gone above and beyond typical hosting duties these past few weeks. During the weeks that St Mark's has shared our worship, all the volunteers have provided extra cookies, bars, cheese and crackers or fruit. They have stayed longer and washed more coffee cups than ever before. It has been delightful to share our worship and fellowship with everyone. So, to the Fellowship Hosts who volunteered their time during this period: **THANK YOU!**

-Dianne Diestler, Coffee Fellowship Coordinator



Musings from the Music Director Karleen Jung

From Lent into Holy Week

Throughout the month of March as Lent continues, we, ourselves, continue to try to turn ourselves away from the distractions of this world and back to God and the promises God has given us through Jesus' saving act.

This month, I'd especially like to look to the end of March to that time we call Holy Week. During this week, which begins March 29th, the worship we experience is unlike any others during the entire church year.

It begins with Palm Sunday, that day when we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. But why was Jesus entering Jerusalem? We already know the answer. It was to die on the cross—to participate in a saving act that allowed our sins to be washed clean, so that we might be restored back into right relationship with God. This happened on the Friday we call *Good*.

Yet, this isn't all that happened. On the day before his death, Jesus met with his disciples and gave them a command—in Latin, a *mandatum*. Thus, why we call that day *Maundy* Thursday. The command was that we love another as Jesus loved us—a command embodied in the washing of his disciples' feet. At the same time, Jesus also instituted the Lord's Supper—a meal that we eat regularly, that promises forgiveness of sins and where Christ is present, here and now, with us.

I urge you this year to follow the unique path of Holy Week by participating in every worship opportunity from Palm Sunday, through Maundy Thursday, to Good Friday. Only by walking along side Christ can we fully comprehend the meaning of Easter and truly live as God's resurrected people, as celebrated in this recent hymn:

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

*Words and Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
Copyright © 2001 Kingsway Thankyou Music*

Study notes for Sundays in March

Below are some notes for your study and meditation on the Sunday gospel readings in March. Please take out your home Bible, read the gospel lesson, along with the notes for that reading, then meditate on it in preparation for Sunday worship. If people find this helpful, I will continue it in the months to come. The main sources I have used are studies by Rev. Brian Stoffregen, Working Preacher and my own notes. If you need a new Bible, you can find them at most bookstores, especially at the Luther Seminary bookstore (usually 25% off). The translation we use in worship is the NRSV (New Revised Standard Version). The NIV (New International Version) is also good. "The Message" is a more "modern," colloquial version of the Bible. –Pr. Dave

March 1: Mark 8:31-38 – Second Sunday in Lent

These verses signal a new beginning in the Gospel of Mark. Up until chapter 8 the emphasis has been on Jesus' authority and power. He casts out demons, heals people, commands the weather, etc, all with power and authority. Beginning with chapter 8 the emphasis changes to his suffering and death, and he calls us to follow! This is the first of three times that Jesus tells his disciples of his suffering, death and resurrection (the other two are found in Mark 9:30-32; Mark 10:32-34). The disciples only seem to hear the suffering and death portion, not the resurrection news. Upon hearing this, Peter rebukes Jesus (In Mark the word "rebuke" is often used by Jesus when he casts out unclean spirits). In so doing is Peter putting himself above Jesus? Does Peter want to be the leader, the teacher, and not the follower? Or are good intentions just leading him down the wrong road? How often are we like Peter? Are we faster to voice our thoughts/opinions than to listen (James 1:19)? Jesus rebukes Peter. Why does Jesus call Peter Satan? Jesus says Peter has his mind set on human things rather than the way of God. Is it possible for Peter (us) to change? How does that happen? What does it mean to be a follower of Christ? Jesus says we must deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus. How do you do that? Jesus then tells us about saving our life (8:35), the benefit (8:36), life's price (8:37), Son of Man ashamed (8:36), some standing here (9:1). What is Jesus saying to us? Take time to meditate on this or other thoughts that come to you as you read this passage. Please do this to prepare for worship on March 1.

March 8: John 2:13-22 – Third Sunday in Lent

Read John 2:13-22. This reading is basically divided into two parts, the cleansing of the temple and Jesus talking about the destruction of the temple (The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D., and has not been rebuilt since that time.). The animals sold at the temple played an important role for worship in those days. They were necessary for sacrifices. Mary and Joseph made a sacrifice after Jesus was born (Luke 2:22-24). People couldn't easily take a cow, sheep or bird along during their pilgrimages to the temple in Jerusalem. So they purchased a sacrificial animal when they arrived at the temple. Some people traveled a long way! Also, money changers were needed to change the Roman money (which had the blasphemous image and inscription of the Caesar on it). This could never be brought into the temple, so it was necessary to have money changers! However, I have heard it said that there were so many animals and money changers around the temple grounds that the Gentiles who wished to worship (and were only allowed in the outer courts), had a difficult time getting in. All the animals and money changers were making it impossible for people to worship! Jesus made a whip, turned over tables, and drove everyone out, yelling, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" Watching him, the disciples recalled Psalm 69:9, "Zeal for your house will consume me." Had "business" become more important than worship of God? Can that happen in the church? What is central for you? Are there things that interfere with our worship of God? Jesus

(March 8 continued)

then talks about the Temple, referring to the temple of his body (I Corinthians 6:19). After his resurrection, does Jesus become the new temple? In what way? How does or doesn't this affect your worship or view of worship?

March 15: John 3:14-21 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Read the Gospel reading, better yet, read John 3:1-21. This is the final portion of Nicodemus' evening visit to Jesus (John 3:1-21). The gospel reading section begins by referring to Moses lifting up a serpent (Numbers 21:4-9). This happened soon after the Exodus (Moses leading the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt) when the people were impatient wandering around in the wilderness and complaining. The Lord sent poisonous snakes that bit the people. They repented and asked for help. The Lord told Moses to make a snake and lift it up on a stick. Anyone who looked at the snake, even though bit, would live. In a similar way Christ was lifted up on the cross. People focusing on Jesus in faith are saved. In 16 we have the famous verse that Martin Luther said was like the gospel within the gospel. The word "love" here is "agape" in the Greek (there are four kinds of love in Greek, agape being one of them). In seminary, my Gospel of John professor said that this love (agape) is not an emotion that arises, but rather part of the will; it is a conquest. For example, no one loves their enemies, but through agape love our emotions to hate our enemies are defeated. Agape love is the power to love the unlovable, people we do not like (Matthew 5:43ff). It is not a natural instinct, rather something we receive from the Holy Spirit. Agape love is:

1. unmotivated and spontaneous, there is no worthiness in the recipient, but agape love, loves all.
2. It is indifferent to human value. It loves even the unattractive.
3. It is creative, making the object precious, valuable.
4. It is the initiator of fellowship with God.

In I John 4:16 it says, "God is love" (agape). God is this love. In John 3:16 it says, "For God so loved the world..." In the Gospel of John, the "world" is often used for that which stands in opposition to God (John 17:10-19, specifically 14-16). God loves even the unlovable; even that which stands in opposition to God. Also in 16 it says God GAVE his only Son. It is a gift! (Romans 3: 21ff; Ephesians 2:8). In the Gospel of John, salvation or judgment happens now, when you believe or reject God's Word (verse 18-19, also 3:36; 5:24). Light and darkness is another theme we see in John, beginning with the first chapter (1:1-9). Light chases out the darkness. Jesus is light (1:9; 8:12). What darkness can Jesus chase out of your life? Sometimes it is scary exposing the darkness in our lives, yet when we do, the light of Christ shows us we have nothing to fear (I John 4:18).

March 22: John 12:20-33 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Please read the gospel for this Sunday. The Greeks mentioned here were either seekers or Jews of Greek origin. They came for the Passover Festival (John 12:1). The reason Philip and Andrew are specifically mentioned may be that they have Greek names, and so the Greeks sought them out. The Greeks wished to see Jesus. Andrew and Philip told Jesus this. Could it be that the Greeks are mentioned because in John 12:19b the Pharisees say, "Look, the world has gone after him (Jesus)!" Do the Greeks represent "the world" going after Jesus? This also ties in with what Jesus said in 12:32, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." Has that "drawing all people" begun with the Greeks seeking out Jesus? This also ties into last Sunday's reading when Jesus talked about Moses lifting up the serpent on the stick and in the same way, the Son of Man (Jesus) being lifted up. It is interesting that in the Greek language, the word "lift up" used here and in 32 also means "to exalt." Whether Jesus actually meets the Greeks

(March 22 continued)

or not, we are not sure. He begins to speak about his upcoming suffering and death in terms of a seed falling to earth and dying. However, the “dying” is not the end. In fact it leads to the bearing of much fruit. Then, like the Mark 8:31-38 reading from the second Sunday in Lent (see above), Jesus talks about the necessity of his followers losing their lives, dying to their own wants and desires and following him. One year my confirmation students asked if this meant that we are to literally kill ourselves. I said no, but one way to think about it is to live fully for Jesus first and foremost. There we see life. How can we do that in our daily lives? After this Jesus speaks of being troubled as he journeys to the cross. Like anyone, Jesus did not want to suffer and die. It troubled him. We see this coming to a peak in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42). Jesus knows suffering and pain. He knows what you go through in suffering and pain. He has experienced it first hand. “This hour” refers to the crucifixion (Mark 14:35; Matthew 26:45). Jesus asks that God glorify his name and then we hear God the Father say, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The word “glory” in John refers to Jesus’ saving work, which includes the cross. How do we see the glory of Jesus in and through the crucifixion? In verse 30 Jesus says, “Now is the judgment of the world...” As was stated above, in the notes for the 4th Sunday of Lent, in John salvation and judgment take place right now, here, in belief or rejection of the gospel. “The ruler of this world” is Satan. It is Jesus who drives him out, as Martin Luther says, defeating sin, death and the devil. It is through faith in Jesus that we too take part in this victory.

March 29: Mark 11:1-11, Palm Sunday

Congregations celebrate Palm Sunday in two basic ways: 1. Beginning the worship waving palms celebrating Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, then reading the passion story of his suffering and death, 2. Simply celebrating his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, then remembering the passion of Jesus on Good Friday. This year, St. Luke will follow #2. So I will only include a few notes on Mark 11:1-11. Please read it. This is the beginning of the plot played out in the parable of the Wicked Tenants, which Jesus tells in Mark 12:1-11. Read the parable. Why do you think Jesus told the parable? The writer of the Gospel of Mark often uses the word “immediately.” Where do you see that word in the Palm Sunday passage? Why do you think he uses it? Jesus directs two of his disciples to go ahead to find a colt that had never been ridden and bring it to him. They do as he commanded. It is said that when pilgrims approached Jerusalem in those days, they approached on foot. For Jesus to ride in, especially on a donkey or colt, brought immediate attention. People of that time, anxious for the Messiah, knew well what was written in Zechariah 9:9, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” They most likely also remembered Solomon riding on a donkey to be anointed as the king (I Kings 1:38-40). What were they thinking as Jesus approached and in the days to come? Spreading coats and branches on the street before Jesus was a way of showing honor to the one entering. Could this be the king? Hosanna!! (Hosanna was originally a Hebrew invocation to God meaning, “O Save.” Later it was used as a cry of great joy.) Some going ahead of Jesus shouted and declared, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Psalm 118:26). They also declared, “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!” The messiah was to come from the line of David. It would make ordinary people sit up, take notice and ask, “Who is this guy? What is everyone talking about? Is the messianic king here?” Yes...the king has arrived! He will soon be crowned...with thorns.

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