



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

1807 Field Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55116 | 651-698-9443 | saintlukechurch.org

February 2025 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Pr. Bristol Reading

Christ Shines Forever

Many years, I write about Lent for our February newsletter. But this year, Lent doesn't begin until March 5 (Ash Wednesday), so I can save that for next month. Throughout this month, we will continue through the Season after Epiphany. In this season, our scripture texts often highlight signs of God's presence, particularly as they are displayed in Jesus.

For example: we read the story of Jesus' baptism on January 12. In our contemporary practice of baptism, water becomes a symbol for the forgiveness and new life offered through Christ. We are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. We also read the story of Jesus turning water into wine on January 19. The church still uses wine as a symbol of God's presence. When we gather around the communion table, we remember that the breaking of Christ's body on the cross was also the inbreaking of redemption for all creation.

These symbols – water, bread and wine – are at the heart of Christian worship. They are meant to remind us of the ways God was present in the person of Jesus and is present among us still.

Another symbol of God's presence that is a common theme of scriptures in this season is light. At Christmastime, we read the opening of John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The

February Volunteers

**Thanks for
your participation!**

ONLINE USHERS

1st Sunday: David Tews
2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill
3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz
4th Sunday: David NedreLOW

IN PERSON USHERS

First and Second Sundays:

Doug Klein, Joan Wilson

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Kay Reich, Carol Horning

READERS

2 Christine Olson
9 Laurie Smith
16 Julie Ellingson
23 Wendy Bjorklund

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

2 Christine Olson
9 Kay Reich
16 Cristina Dredla
23 Wendy Bjorklund

ALTAR GUILD

Julie Gaarder

COFFEE HOSTS

2 Nancy White, Joan Wilson
9 Carol Vigdal, Mary Jo Brandt
16 Katy Eggert, Kay Reich
23 Joyce Bluel, Carol Horning,
Judy Salaba

light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:1-5). John reminds us that Jesus makes visible the invisible God (see John 1:18). Just as light enables us to see what’s around us, Jesus visibly shines out the glory of God.

There are two other scripture passages we’ll read this month that draw on this theme of light. The first will be read on February 2. Forty days after his birth, Jesus was presented for dedication at the temple. An elderly priest, Simeon, held the baby Jesus in his arms and prayed gratefully to God: “My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:30-32). Simeon knew he was holding the Light of the World! For centuries, the church has called this day “Candlemas” and used it as a time to bless candles, which can serve as a reminder that the light of Christ still shines out its salvation for all people.

The last Sunday after Epiphany returns to the theme of light. This year, that Sunday will fall on March 2, when we will read the story of Jesus’ transfiguration on the mountaintop (Luke 9:28-36). As the disciples watch, Jesus becomes radiant, dazzling with the divine glory. His face and clothes seem transformed into pure light (Transfiguration Sunday always makes me think of that line in Silent Night that describes the baby Jesus as the “Son of God, love’s pure light”). Of course, Jesus was always the embodiment of God’s glory. It’s just that, in this moment, the disciples are given the vision to perceive it. Transfiguration Sunday is another wonderful day to use the symbol of light in our worship and prayer.

We’ll continue to gather around the font and table each Sunday, lifting up these symbols of Christ’s presence: water, bread and wine. But maybe this month, a dark time of year in our hemisphere, you might also cherish the symbol of light. Whether it’s the gentle light of a lit candle, a flashlight carried on an evening walk, or even all those blinking Christmas lights that are still up around the neighborhood... let the light remind you that Christ shines forever! Thanks be to God!

Pr. Bristol

Lent begins on March 5: Ash Wednesday. Join us on March 5 at 6pm for an Ash Wednesday worship service with imposition of ashes. Every Wednesday during the season of Lent, we’ll have a simple soup supper beginning at 6 pm, followed by a service of Holden Evening Prayer. If you’re new to Holden Evening Prayer, it is a short, sung worship service with a meditative atmosphere designed for reflection at the end of the day. Wednesdays in Lent are 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, and 4/9. Each year, we invite the congregation to create “art cards,” 3 by 5 inch art pieces made with any media you’d like. In next month’s newsletter, we’ll offer some

COUNTERS

2 Katy Eggert
9 Julie Gaarder
16 Carol Hornung
23 Kay Reich



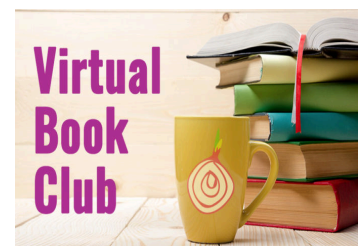
Bun Run

Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for February: Mike and Nancy Wobig, Volker Landenberger, Ken McGrew, Doug Klein..

February Birthdays

1 Ellen Weis
5 Pastor Bristol Reading
9 Kirby Peterson
10 Junella Litzkow
11 Sue Grzywinski
16 Ann Verschoyle
17 David Nedrelow
21 Matthew Elfritz
23 Volker Landenberger
26 Karen Wasko

Online Bible Study All are welcome to our weekly online Bible Study on Wednesdays at 9:30am led by Pastor Bristol. We will discuss the scriptures for the forthcoming Sunday. The Zoom link is emailed to you every Monday. Join us!

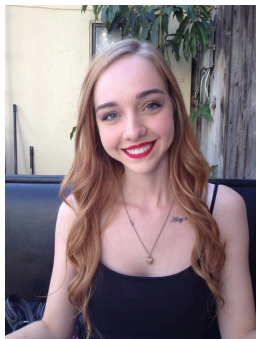


Book Club

We invite you to our St. Luke Book Club, on Sunday Feb. 16, 6:30pm, via Zoom, to discuss “One True Loves”, a best-selling novel by Taylor Jenkins Reid, “a breathtaking love story about a

themes to guide your art card creation. Please bring your art cards to Wednesday night worship to share with others if you'd like. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 13. You are invited to join us for 6pm service on both Maundy Thursday (April 17) and Good Friday (April 18). We will celebrate the resurrection with joy on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Member Spotlight on Cristina Dredla



I was born in Las Vegas, NV, in early March of 1994. I was the third and last of my mother's children, giving me one brother and one sister. I lived in Las Vegas until I was 19 years old, at which time I moved to Los Angeles, CA.

While living in Los Angeles, I began working as a receptionist at an interior design company and I loved it! By the end of my seven years at that company, I was the Director of Administration. I really enjoyed helping people to showcase their personalities through their homes.

At 26 years old, I decided it was time to move back to Las Vegas, NV. While I enjoyed not paying state taxes, I realized quickly that Las Vegas was not the place for me and moved to Hopkins, MN. A few weeks later, I found myself in Detroit, MI, where I lived for about nine months before returning home to Minnesota and I have been here since. I have no plans to move away!

I live in St. Paul with my fiancé, Jared, and our two pets, Miune and Roo. Miune is our orange cat and he is the light of my life. Roo is our very big black-and-white dog, and she keeps me outdoors. Luckily for me, she hates being out in the rain almost as much as I do, so I get to cut our walks short when it rains.

I work as a receptionist/chiropractic assistant at a small clinic in South Minneapolis and I have been there for about two and a half years. I really enjoy my work- particularly because of my flexible schedule and my wonderful coworkers. I also really enjoy helping people who have recently been injured to feel better.

woman unexpectedly forced to choose between the husband she has long thought dead and the fiancé who has finally brought her back to life."The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome; join us!



Notes from the Music Director

Happy February everyone!

In honor of Black History Month, I'll be featuring compositions and hymns by Black hymnists and composers like Charles A. Tindley, Thomas A. Dorsey and more throughout the month! Brief bios and more information about these artists will be posted on the music bulletin board.

Brush up your jokes, get your favorite songs in order because it's time to get ready for another Talent Show! So many of our congregation members have shown off their skills over the last two years and had a blast celebrating each other's unique style. Sign-up sheets and more info will be shared soon, so keep an eye out!

Easter Choir! Want to sing or ring but don't want to commit to a whole year? Join us for Easter choir rehearsals during the month of March! The choirs meet on Sundays. Bell choir rehearses 8:30am to 9:00am and Vocal choir rehearses 10:50am to 11:30am, We'll be practicing our pieces for Palm Sunday, (April

I recently started going back to school with the end-goal of becoming a nurse at a detox center for alcoholics and addicts. I am only taking one or two classes online per semester at St. Paul College but that is plenty to keep me busy a lot of the time!

I really enjoy being a member at St. Luke Lutheran Church. Pastor Bristol's teachings have me thinking all throughout the week how I can be a better Christian and therefore a better person. Everyone there has made me feel very welcome and I am honored to be a part of such a wonderful community.



Greetings from your church council Treasurer, Joyce Bluel. I am starting my fifth year as Treasurer at St Luke and have served in a variety of positions on council the past 23 years. As part of my duties as Treasurer I deposit contributions, pay bills and report the financial results to the council and the congregation. We meet once a month to discuss matters and make decisions for the church. At our last meeting we decided that for the months of March and April the jar donations will go to the food shelf at Neighborhood House. In future newsletters you will get to know the other members of your church council. We are open to hear concerns and/or ideas from the congregation to guide St Luke into the future.

13th), Good Friday (April 18th), and Easter Sunday (April 20th) each Sunday in March: March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd. Join us!

--Rebecca Ruiz



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, Friday February 7 and 21 at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!



Supper With Saints

The next Supper with Saints luncheon will take place on Saturday, February 15 at the Maplewood Outback Steakhouse at 12:00 noon. Please let Joyce Bluel know by February 9th if you intend on going so we have a number for the reservation.

Connect, Grow and Serve.