



Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

February 2023 Newsletter



The Pastor's Perspective

Lent: Desert Places and Living Water

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. You can join us for worship that evening at 6:00 pm, and at the same time on Wednesdays in March for evening Vespers.

Many of this year's Lenten texts involve contrasting imagery of dry deserts and life-giving water. We'll read the story of Jesus' fasting in the barren wilderness (Matthew 4). We'll read the story of God providing water from a stone for thirsty Israelites wandering in the desert (Exodus 17). We'll read about Jesus' proclamation that he can provide "living water" from an eternal spring (John 4). We'll read the story of Jesus healing a blind man by sending him to immerse himself in a pool (John 9).

As you worship and pray throughout this season, notice how these themes connect to your life right now. What parts of your heart are feeling parched and in need of revival? When are times in your life that have felt like wilderness times of barrenness and dryness? And, on the other side, how do you experience the "living water" that is eternally available from God's spring? What quenches your spiritual thirst? What deep wells help nourish you in drought times?

You might try the practice of creating art cards as you reflect on these themes. Create a decorated index card following the "dry" prompt, or the "water" prompt – or both prompts! Bring your art cards to Wednesday evening vespers (6 pm, Feb 22- Mar 29) or Sunday mornings to share with others.

*February
Worship Volunteers
We are grateful for
your participation!*

USHERS

In Person:

First and Second Sundays:

Doug Klein

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Kay Reich

Online:

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David Nedrelow

OFFERING COUNTERS

5 Katy Eggert

12 Kay Reich

19 Julie Gaarder

26 Wendy Bjorklund

SCRIPTURE READERS

5 Christine Olson

12 Wendy Bjorklund

19 Julie Gaarder

26 Julie Ellingson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

5 Katy Eggert

19 Julie Gaarder

Art card prompts:

February 22 (Ash Wednesday): dust, healing water

March 1: desert, refreshment

March 8: empty, rebirth

March 15: thirsty, deep well

March 22: drought, overflowing

March 29: dry bones, living water

Here is a prayer, written by John van de Laar, you might use as we enter this season of Lent:

*You alone know, O God, the depth of the longing in our hearts;
the intensity of the thirst in our souls,
And in answer, you have come to us,
lived among us, taught and healed us,
demonstrated what the good life looks like;
Then died, to reveal the value of this life you offer.*

*You alone know, O God, what we need to satisfy our need,
to lead us to the life we instinctively seek,
And in answer, you have opened the door to life for us,
constantly whispered to us of your love and grace,
gently nudged us in the direction of our best life.*

*And so, now, as you come to us again,
as your life is proclaimed to us again,
we praise you Risen and Living One,
for the truly good life we find in you.
Amen.*

Blessings on your Lenten journey,
Pr. Bristol

A New Synod Initiative: Paid Summer Internships

The Saint Paul Area Synod is launching a new program that will create paid summer internships for youth. The internship program, funded by the Planting Hope Campaign, will support up to 10 paid internships per year for older high school and early college age students. Interns will be placed in faith-based agencies and non-profits, as well as congregations around the synod. This initiative is part of the synod's goal of raising up next generations of leaders by providing opportunities for vocational exploration and formation.

Pr. Bristol has the honor of serving as the coordinator of this new program. Please pray for her as she takes on this new project in addition to her ministry at St. Luke, and pray for the work of the wider church as we support and learn from our emerging leaders. You can keep up with what's happening at the synod and learn more about the program as it develops at: spas-elca.org/our-synod/news-events.



Loaves and Fishes

Our heartfelt thanks to our January volunteers; Christine Olson, Bev Gause, Claudia Melbye, Dave Tews and Larry Litzkow.

February Birthdays

- 5 Pastor Bristol Reading
Kurt Schultz
- 9 Kirby Peterson
- 10 Junella Litzkow
- 11 Sue Grzywinski
- 14 Dianne Diestler
- 16 Ann Verschoyle
- 17 David Nedrelov
- 23 Mary Dybvig
Volker Landenberger
- 26 Karen Wasko
- 28 Sadie Pilgrim



All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke, the first and third Fridays of the month, February 3 and 17, at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!

Annual Audit

There will be an audit of the church financials on Sunday, February 12 after worship. This is an open meeting. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

Lent/Holy Week Schedule

The liturgical season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22, 2023. Then we follow a 40-day journey to Holy Week as we accompany Jesus through the final days of his ministry on his way to the cross. Join us for worship in-person or online at the following times this Lent/Easter season:

Ash Wednesday: Feb 22, 6 pm

Midweek Vespers:

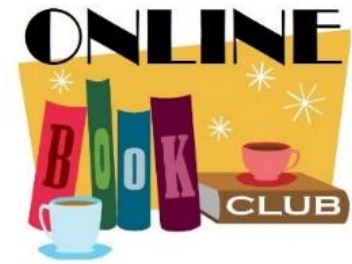
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 6 pm

Palm Sunday: April 2, 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday: April 6, 6 pm

Good Friday: April 7, 6 pm

Easter Sunday: April 9, 9:30 am



Join us for Book Club.....
on Sunday, Feb. 26, 6:30pm via Zoom to discuss “The Book Thief” by Markus Zusak: “The extraordinary, beloved WWII novel about the ability of books to feed the soul even in the darkest of times.” “The Book Thief deserves a place on the same shelf with The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank and Elie Wiesel’s Night. It seems poised to become a classic.” The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome!



Make-Your-Own Paschal Candle Workshop

Saturday, April 1, 10:00 am

Suggested donation: \$5

Materials provided

The Paschal Candle is a beautiful Christian tradition of introducing a new decorated wax candle at Easter. It is burned throughout the season of Easter, until Pentecost, or even throughout the whole year. During this workshop, we’ll decorate white pillar candles with the traditional symbols of a cross, numerals for the year, and an alpha and omega, and then we’ll add clove ‘nails.’ Your paschal candle will enrich the celebration of Easter in your home.



Notes from the Music Director

To celebrate Black History Month, we’ll be featuring a different black composer or hymnist each week. Check out the bulletin to see who we’re highlighting and read a short bio. From preludes to offertories, we’ll explore beyond our hymnal!

-Rebecca Ruiz



I am honored to serve on the church council as your president and am grateful to have such capable and hardworking people serving with me on the council—Volker Landenberger (vice president), Joyce Bluel (treasurer), Kay Reich (secretary), Mike Hegdahl, Carol Hornung, and Doug Nelson. Thanks also to Nancy Hegdahl, Wendy Bjorklund, and Jill Burchill, who ended their service on the council at the end of last year.

St. Luke has seen many changes over the past year, the biggest of which is undoubtedly welcoming Pastor Bristol and her family to our congregation. Pastor Bristol has been a blessing to St. Luke. She has enriched our spiritual life through worship and through the care she brings to each of us as individuals. She has also been a strong leader whether in planning events or



working together to address the challenges we face. Thank you, Pastor Bristol!

Another change for us is welcoming Metronet as a tenant in our library room in the east wing of our building. I hope some of you had a chance to check out their space and meet Ann Walker Smalley, the Metronet director, at their open house on Jan. 22.

Here are a few things that are coming up in the next couple of months:

- On Feb. 25, Pastor Bristol and I will be attending a Toolkit for Congregational Leaders and Conference Assemblies at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley. It's a chance for us to meet the clergy and leaders from other churches in the St. Paul Area Synod of the ELCA. The "toolkit" consists of workshops where we can gain knowledge and skills to become better leaders.
- There's an Easter flower sale in February, and a spring flower sale in March, both through Gerten's (see Joyce Bluel for details).
- March is Minnesota Foodshare month. We'll be collecting food and cash donations to support the Francis Basket Food Market, located in the Sibley Manor Apartments and operated by Neighborhood House. Along with the March newsletter, we'll include a wish list of items that families need the most.

And finally, for anyone who is hearing impaired, we have two hearing-assistance devices on the table in the entrance to the sanctuary. They're pretty easy to use but ask an usher if you need some help figuring it out.

Yours in Christ,
David Tews

Easter Flowers

St. Luke will once again participate in the Online Gertens Fundraiser for Easter flowers. Online site will open sometime around February 6th. Watch the bulletin for further details. St. Luke will receive 30% of all plant sales and 15% of all plant card sales. Proceeds will go to support the ministries of our congregation. **Orders need to be completed by 10 PM on Thursday, March 2.** NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Your order will be ready for pick up on/after April 5 at St. Luke Lutheran Church. If you would like to leave your plant at church for inclusion in our Easter Garden, please let Joyce know. If you have any questions, please contact your fundraiser chair: Joyce Bluel, jbluel@comcast.net.



Here is a sunny throwback photo to warm our hearts and minds in these cold winter days!
Can't you just feel the glorious sunshine?
Here's to warmer days ahead!

Connect, Grow and Serve.