



# Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

## September 2022 Newsletter



### *The Pastor's Perspective*

#### **Life-Changing Generosity**

This fall, we're going to put some intentional focus into building a culture of generosity at St. Luke. We worship a God of abundance, and generosity is part of our faithful response to God's provision in our lives. It's also part of our commitment to one another. As a congregation, we can do more together than we could ever do apart. In my life, I have learned more about generosity by being a recipient of it than a practitioner of it. Here are two examples.

In my early twenties, I served as an AmeriCorps fellow working with school kids in Oakland, California. My student loans from graduate school were in deferral and I was on food stamps, yet I still struggled to make ends meet. Even small crises in my life could derail my fragile financial state. Thankfully, I was part of an amazing small group of peers through my church who became my support system. When my roommate needed to move out a few months early and I found myself unable to afford rent, members of my small group let me stay with them for months. When my Honda needed repairs that I couldn't afford, the mechanic told me an anonymous donor had already paid my bill, and I knew my it was my small group that had stepped up. Their collective generosity was life-changing for me during a vulnerable time in my life.

While that experience was personal and direct, I have also experienced the generosity of the church in other ways. When I entered the candidacy process to become a pastor, I had to leave my fulltime job and move to another city to attend seminary for a few years. I was fortunate to receive a Fund for Leaders scholarship through the ELCA that covered my seminary tuition. The ELCA Fund for Leaders was created by the 1997 churchwide assembly, who boldly invested in future leaders of the church that they didn't even know yet. The first Fund for Leaders class was eight people. Today,

### ***September Ushers***

#### **In Person:**

First and Second Sundays:

Judy Salaba

Third and Fourth Sundays:

Mary Jo Brandt

Carol Vigdal

#### **Online:**

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David Nedrelow



### ***Loaves and Fishes***

Our heartfelt thanks to our August Loaves and Fishes volunteers: Christine Olson, Volker and Alek Landenberger, David Tews and Larry Litzkow.

### ***September Bun Run***



Many thanks to our Bun Run volunteers for September: Julie Ellingson, Mike Hegdahl, Ken McGrew, Volker Landenberger.

more than one thousand people, including me, have received scholarships through the fund. The ultimate goal is a future in which all ELCA seminary candidates can graduate without the burden of debt. What a vision of abundance!

These are just two stories of the ways I have been supported by the generosity of faithful Christians, both friends and strangers. I can tell you how my life has been changed by these acts of generosity, but I also know that the people who offered this generosity were changed for the better as well. Living generously – however that looks for each one of us – grows our faith, nourishes our spirits, and connects us to our community. I'm still growing in my own practice of generosity, so I am grateful for these examples from my own life that taught me what generosity can look like and the difference it can make. I look forward to hearing some of your generosity stories, how you have both offered and received generosity in life-changing ways.

I'm grateful for all of you! Thank you for being examples of generosity and faithfulness.

Pr. Bristol

PS. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Fund for Leaders.



### ***Notes from the Music Director***

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Jazz Vespers services this past summer - it was fun to brush off a skill I haven't used in a while and to sing hymns in new ways! And now that September is here, it's time to start ringing and singing again! Choir rehearsals will be meeting on Sunday mornings beginning September 18 - Bells at 8:30 am and Vocal choir at 10:45.

If you're curious about choir but aren't sure if you'd like to join, you're welcome to sit in any Sunday **or** you can come to **Singing Club** on September 7th at 7pm! Singing club is casual unison- and part-singing for the choir-curious - bring a friend or invite someone you know who likes to sing. Favorite hymns, maybe a classic tune and some round singing are all part of the fun!

And for those curious about ringing, I'll have the bells set up in the double classroom on Rally Day after service, so feel free to come in, ask questions and maybe even give it a try! Did you know you don't need to read music to ring? Most of us use color coding or L/R marks to know when and what hand to ring! Because we must rely on each other to ring, bell choir has a feeling of unspoken camaraderie and bonding that is unique to itself. All levels and ages welcome!

I look forward to the choral year ahead and am excited to continue sharing in music with St. Luke!

-Rebecca Ruiz

### ***September Counters***

4 Katy Eggert  
11 Kay Reich  
18 Sue McNeill  
25 Wendy Bjorklund  
Thank you for stepping up!

### ***September Birthdays***

3 Victor Landenberger  
6 Audrey Rongstad  
9 Ken McGrew  
10 Aiden Johnson  
11 Jane McGrew  
12 Mike Walter  
17 Connor Burchill Riley  
Corinn Burchill Riley  
22 Carol Vigdal  
25 Nahoko Person  
26 Verdel Humburg  
29 Jordan Brandt  
Eric Ellingson

### ***September Anniversaries***

19 Amy Drier/Gary Nelson,  
2015

### ***September Worship Assistants***

#### **Readers**

4 Kay Reich  
11 Mike Hegdahl  
18 Wendy Bjorklund  
25 Laurie Smith

#### **Communion Assistants**

4 Kay Reich  
18 Wendy Bjorklund



***All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke***, the first and third Fridays of the month, September 2 and 16, at 12:30pm. Bring a snack to share and your favorite game and settle down to an afternoon of fun...join us!



## ***Blessing of the Animals - Sunday, Sept. 25, 12 pm***

In the fall, we commemorate the life and ministry of St. Francis of Assisi, whose legacy inspires us to gentle love and respect of all living creatures. In the spirit of Francis, we'll gather for a short service of prayer and thanksgiving on the St. Luke lawn at noon on Sunday, Sept. 25. You'll have time after 9:30 am worship to fetch your critter friends from home. They are welcome to join us for the outdoor service and receive a blessing from Pr. Bristol. Thanks be to God for all the joy and companion animals bring to our lives!

## ***Rally Day***

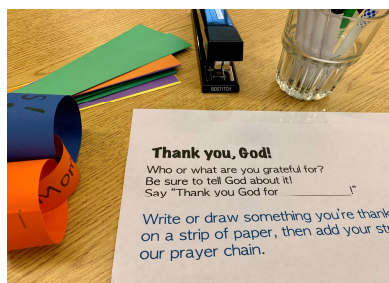
will take place on Sunday, September 11! This special day will include:  
>**Back-to-School Blessings** During worship on Sunday, September 11, Pr. Bristol will offer prayers for anyone heading to school this fall. *Students:* bring your backpack to church for a blessing. *Teachers:* bring something physical that represents your work, like a laptop or planner, for a blessing. *Parents of kiddos in childcare:* bring something like their bottle bag or diaper bag for a blessing. Anyone who wants to receive a special back-to-school blessing is welcome to participate!

## >**The Launch of Faith Formation for Kids, 8:45 am on Sundays**

For the past month, St. Luke kids have been able to visit fun, tactile learning stations before worship and during coffee hour after worship. They've built cardboard neighborhoods, added their names to the family tree of faith, and uncovered secret messages of love from God. Want to check out any of those stations again? They'll all be back for Rally Day, September 11! Young of age and young at heart are welcome to check them out before or after worship. Then, let's keep the fun going this fall! On Sunday mornings, parents and kiddos will gather at 8:45 am in the small classroom for about 20-30 minutes of faith formation. We'll tell stories from the Bible, sing songs, and explore hands-on learning activities. All our kids, of any age, are welcome -- parents, too. We'll all learn and grow in faith together! Special thanks to Sue McNeill who has been planning and leading Sunday School at St. Luke for many years, including online throughout the pandemic! She'll continue helping Pr. Bristol with Sunday School this fall as we return to the building.

....and a **POTLUCK LUNCH** to follow!

Join us for time-honored tradition at St. Luke!



## ***St. Luke/St. Mark Ladies Night Out***

is held on the 4th Thursday of the month. The next outing will be September 22nd at 5:30 pm; location to be determined. Please call Joyce Bluel at 651-690-4614 by September 18th if interested in attending so a reservation can be made.



## ***Join us for Book Club***

on Sunday, Sept. 18, 6:30pm via Zoom to discuss "Stillwater" by Minnesota author Nicole Lea Helget. Set in Stillwater in the mid-19th century, Helget's novel presents a portrait of America's still-developing frontier in the years before statehood and the Civil War. "Lyrical and humorous [with] gorgeous prose . . . A rich and intricate novel full of compassion for these pioneers and the place they live." — *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. The Zoom invite will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome!

***Connect, Grow and Serve.***