



# Saint Luke Lutheran Church

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

## July 2024 Newsletter



### *The Pastor's Perspective*

*If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.*  
2 Corinthians 8:12

*We give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving.*  
from the Lutheran liturgy for Holy Communion

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us... We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, An opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.*  
Father Ken Untener

For a number of weeks now, our scripture readings in worship have included passages from 2 Corinthians. On June 30, we read from chapter 8, and verse 12 stood out to me: "If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has— not according to what one does not have." Paul is encouraging the Corinthian community to offer generous financial support to the church. He tells them their giving should not come from a sense of scarcity, but rather from a sense of abundance and possibility. You are asked to

### *July Volunteers*

Thanks for your participation!

#### **IN PERSON USHERS**

**First and Second Sundays:**

Volker Landenberger

**Third and Fourth Sundays:**

Mike and Nancy Hegdahl

#### **ONLINE USHERS**

1st Sunday: David Tews

2nd Sunday: Sue McNeill

3rd Sunday: Raulie Ruiz

4th Sunday: David Nedrelow

#### **OFFERING COUNTERS**

7 Katy Eggert

14 Kay Reich

21 Sue McNeill

28 Carol Hornung

#### **READERS**

7 Cristina Dredla

14 Christine Olson

21 Wendy Bjorklund

29 Laurie Smith

#### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

7 Cristina Dredla

14 Christine Olson

21 Wendy Bjorklund

29 Doug Klein

#### **COFFEE HOSTS**

7 Kay Reich

Robyn Rongstad

14 Christine Olson

Junella and Larry Litzkow

give only from what you have, not from what you don't have, Paul writes.

These words reminded me of a line from the liturgy for Holy Communion. During the prayer of thanksgiving at the table, we say that we give thanks to God "not as we ought but as we are able." Our praise is never enough— God is worthy of so much more— but we still give the praise we can, the best we can, as often as we can.

Whether it's our financial giving, our service to our neighbor, or our praise of God, what we have to offer can often feel inadequate. But God can work with what we bring, however imperfect or incomplete it is. I included above one more quote I find especially moving. It's from a homily by Father Ken Untener. It's worth reading the longer passage (found [here](#)), which is a powerful reminder that God's mission in the world extends beyond our lifetimes. We can never do it all, but what we *can* do is worth doing.

When you're feeling overwhelmed by how much you're *not* doing for the sake of the Gospel, you can come back to these reminders that you're only asked to do your part and to keep faith that God can do the rest.



Summer reaches its peak in July. Independence Day with its typical long weekend marks the midpoint of summer, which for many people means cookouts with friends and family in parks and backyards to observe our nation's birthday (fireworks optional!).

After spending a lot of time indoors during the colder months, we in the Upper Midwest are ready to spend more time outside, whether it's golfing, fishing, camping, swimming, waterskiing, or just having a cold drink and bite to eat "al fresco."

One recurring summer event at St. Luke is the Saturday morning farmers' market in our parking lot, which got off to a roaring start on June 8 and continues until Oct. 5 (closed July 6). It's a great way to eat healthy and eat local. Thanks to all of the volunteers who make the farmers' market happen.

Looking ahead to August, St. Luke will be inviting residents in our neighborhood to our "backyard" for National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 6. Last year's event was a big hit. It featured grilled

- 21 Wendy Bjorklund  
Laurie and Rob Herrmann
- 28 Jo and Doug Klein  
Jodi and Volker Landenberger

### ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Hegdahl



### Bun Run

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

### July Birthdays

- 7 Carol Hornung, Ian Walter
- 8 Joyce Bluel
- 15 Doug Wasko, Madison Munos
- 16 Wendy Bjorklund
- 23 Jo Klein
- 26 Jill Burchill, Tatum Herrmann
- 27 Violet Allen
- 28 Dan Grzywinski

### July Anniversaries

- 6 Kevin and MaryJo Brandt
- 13 Larry and Bev Eckstrom



**All are invited to Game Day at St. Luke,** the first and third Fridays of the month, July 5 and 19, 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

July Supper with Saints will be held on Thursday, July 25th at 5:30 pm at Bella Ciao, 3156 Century Ave N., Mahtomedi, MN 55110. Please let Joyce Bluel know by July 21 if you plan on attending so we have a number for the reservation.

food, pot-luck dishes, music performed by talented members of St. Luke, and visits by representatives of St. Paul Police and St. Paul Fire. If you can help, we'll need volunteers to make this event happen, or just attend for the fun of it.

Another summer event I'm looking forward to is Lutheran Night at the Twins game on Monday, Aug. 12. It was great fun last year, and we're planning to have a good time again this year. Join us! The tickets are \$39 each, and the seats are in Section 126 along left field, the same location as last year. If you're interested, let me know at church, or call or text me at 612-590-4184. I'll be paying the Twins, so you can pay me for your tickets. Either write a check to "David Tews" or pay me through Venmo—my Venmo ID is @David-Tews.

Now that we're getting some breaks from the unrelenting rains of June, it's time to go full speed into summer!

Yours in Christ, David Tews

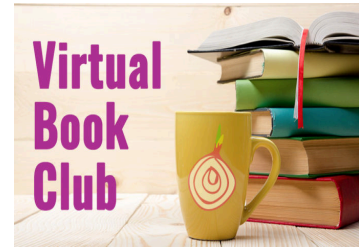


### ***St. Luke's Farmers' Market***

The St. Luke's Farmers' Market tenth season is in full swing and extends through Saturday, October 5, 8am to 1pm. If you would like to volunteer at the market, you may sign up to work an early shift (7:30am to 10:30am), a late shift (10:30am to 1:30pm), or a double shift (7:30am to 1:30pm). In addition to the market co-managers, 4 volunteers are needed during market hours to cover our bread table and entrance tent, along with helping to set up and take down the market. Without your help, this important ministry to our community cannot continue. Which Saturday(s) can you "work the market"? For more information, please contact Wendy Bjorklund at [wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:wlbjorklund@stcloudstate.edu) or 651-357-5742.

### ***School Tools for Kids in Need***

Announcing our annual School Tools Drive at St. Luke! Items may be dropped off at St. Luke every Sunday until August 18. Or you may place a check in the offering plate, made out to Interfaith Action with "School Tools" in the memo line. Or you may donate online at [www.interfaithaction.org/school-tools-drive](http://www.interfaithaction.org/school-tools-drive). 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. Please donate some school supplies and help a child begin the new school year right! Needed supplies include backpacks, three-ring binders, loose leaf paper, folders, calculators, spiral/composition notebooks, pencils, pens, markers, colored



### ***Book Club***

Join us for St. Luke Book Club, Friday, August 16, 6:30pm, via Zoom, to discuss "The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed out of the Window and Disappeared", a best selling novel by Jonas Jonasson. "This quirky novel is a sly, satirical look back at international relations in the 20th century through the eyes of an old man who has seen it all." --Library Journal. The Zoom info will be emailed to you shortly before the meeting. All are welcome; join us!



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

I hope everyone is having a lovely summer! As the summer continues, I will keep sharing favorite classical pieces on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. I hope you enjoyed the Brahms and Schumann selections. Here's hoping to some Chopin, Debussy and a couple lesser known composers as we round out the summer.

Speaking of this season, often people talk about the "song of the summer" or tracks to put on your summer playlist...I wonder if anyone has any Psalms they would put on their Summer Scripture Playlist? I think Psalm 104 is a good one and I'll close out with verses 2-3: "You wrap

pencils, erasers, highlighters, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks and bottles, scissors and rulers, facial tissue, school boxes, and hand sanitizer. Detailed flyer available on the back table in the sanctuary. Thanks for your participation in this worthy cause!



### ***National Night Out***

We are looking for volunteers to help at the National Night Out event being hosted by St. Luke on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The event begins at 5:00 p.m., so we need people to set up tables and chairs between 4:30 and 5:00. We will also need helpers to take down and put away the tables and chairs after the event is over (this would be sometime after 8:00 p.m.) If your neighborhood does not celebrate National Night Out, why not come to church, and help us welcome and get to know our church neighbors? We will be providing hamburgers, hotdogs and water; all we ask is that you bring a dish to share. Live entertainment will once again be provided by a talented group of musicians. Come join the fun. If you can help in set up and/or clean up, please contact Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614). Thanks!

### ***Dementia Friendly Worship Services***

Special service for people with memory loss and their caregivers.

#### **St. Odilia Catholic Community**

3495 North Victoria St. Shoreview, 55126

651-484-6681

2024 dates: 7/11 and 9/21 at 1:30pm

#### **St. Mary of the Lake**

4741 Bald Eagle Avenue, White Bear Lake, 55110

651-429-7771

2024/25 dates: 8/22, 10/5, 2/20, 4/10 at 1:30pm

yourself with light as a cloak and stretch out the heavens like a tent. You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above; you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind."



**Announcing another Craft and Chat...plus potluck lunch!** Do you crochet, knit, sew, embroider, scrapbook, or create in some other way? Craft and Chat is for you! Pack up your current project and bring it over to work on after worship on Sunday, July 14 (around 11am). There are no group projects or rules about what you may work on; just a time for people to share, show off, and perhaps learn new skills from fellow crafters. This may be the motivation you need to finally finish that afghan you've been working on (or the like)! Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome...invite a friend or two! Join us for a relaxing, enjoyable afternoon with friends!

*Connect, Grow and Serve.*