



St. Luke Lutheran Church
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 Editor: Jo Klein

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Open doors, open hearts, open minds.

Parish Times March 2012

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 107:1

There are times when it is hard to give thanks. Last year on March 11 a horrendous tsunami swept over northeastern Japan killing over 22,000 people as it erased whole towns off the face of the earth. Thousands of people lost all of their possessions, home, job, even town. Three of those people who survived but lost everything are coming to St. Luke in March. They are the three high school students people donated money to support. The three are coming to say thank you for the loving kindness they have received. JELA, the Japanese foundation who sends the Japanese workcamp youth every year, will sponsor this trip for these three young high school students. The girls will be accompanied by the JELA director, Mr. Hiromi Morikawa and Dr. Lowell Gretebeck. There will be a “Thank Gathering” here at St. Luke on Thursday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. This will be open to all people. There will be a short program, including a “thank you” given by Chie Sato, one of the high school girls. She has written a very heart wrenching and touching thank you for all who have helped her and her family. It is unbelievable what they have been through. She will read it in Japanese with one of our youth “interpreting” by reading Chie’s words in English. St. Luke has been asked to provide the place as well as some coffee and treats for this event on March 22. Please come. Please provide some snacks if you are able. Then on Sunday, March 25 these three high school girls and Mr. Morikawa will worship with us. If you are able to come to both events, please do. Please give these girls a big hug and let them know that we love them and pray for their lives now and in the future.



--Pr. Dave



After several years of ushering for many different church services, Al Baird finds he must retire from that position. He has been a very reliable and faithful servant. Thank you, Al. We look forward to sharing coffee, cookies and time with you after Sunday services.



March Readers:
 4 – Jill Burchill
 11 – Sue McNeill
 18 – Katy Eggert
 25 – Wendy Bjorklund



Confirmation News

We will not have class on Wednesday, March 7 because we will be volunteering at Feed My Starving Children on Thursday, March 8 from 6:00-7:30 pm. I will be sharing more information about when to meet on Thursday. We will have class from 5:30-6:30 the next three Wednesdays, March 14, 21, 28.

--Pr. Dave



March Acolytes:

- 4 – Michaela McGough**
- 11 – Teagan Burchill Riley**
- 18 – Maggie Erickson**
- 25 – Charlie Gaarder**



Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for February: Carl Goers, Gwen and Steve Brummund, Lisa Vandrovec, Mike and Nancy Hegdahl, Linda Funkhouser, Tom Gaarder.

Our ushers for March will be: Eva Mac Niven, Connel McGough, Sam Elliott, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Dwight Paulson, Katy Eggert.



Ladies Night Out in March will take place on Tuesday, March 20th at O’Gara’s Bar & Grill 164 N. Snelling Ave. at 5:30 p.m. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) if you are planning on attending by Sunday, March 11th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.



March Birthdays

- 3 - ABIGAIL WINECKE
- 4 - CARL ELLIOTT
- 6 – CONNEL MCGOUGH, MARK STADEM
- 7 - JUDY SALABA, KEVIN BRANDT
- 10 – JOE LUTY, LOIS PORTER
- 12 - BETTY HOARD
- 13 - DAVID VERSCHOYLE
- 15 - DONALD ANNALA
- 16 – SUSAN LORENZ
- 18 - JACOB ARNDT, LISA VANDROVEC
- 19 - LUCY LIPSCOMB, SAM LIPSCOMB
- 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

Enjoy Davanni’s Pizza AND support our youth!

We are excited to announce a new venture for the youth Group Workcamp project: a fundraiser night at Davanni’s Pizza at Cleveland and Grand in St. Paul! Just come to Davanni’s Pizza on Monday, March 26 between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and 20% of your order will be donated to St. Luke! **IMPORTANT: this offer is only valid when you present the enclosed form with your order!** (Two forms provided herein; one for you and one for a friend!) So please remember to bring this form on March 26. Enjoy a fun night at Davanni’s Pizza with all of your St. Luke friends, and support our youth. Thank you!



1913 to 2013 and Beyond

100 Year Anniversary – Returning to our Roots

Next year St. Luke celebrates 100 years of ministry! As part of that celebration, I would like us to put a new emphasis on evangelism, reaching out to our neighbors with the loving Word of Jesus Christ. There is a feeling among some people that St. Luke is a church in decline. I think it is time to turn that on its head. 100 years ago St. Luke was begun with almost no resources other than a strong faith in God. Now 100 years later, thanks to the faith of many, we have a beautiful building, a strong core congregation and financial resources. We have a strong base on which to build and strengthen this church. And we have faith in our Lord Jesus, who declares that He is making all things new. It is time to once again reach out in faith, trusting in our God while standing on the strong shoulders of those who came before us. The church council is working on ways for us to reach out to people around us. Let us all take time to reach out to neighbors who do not have a home church and invite them to St. Luke. Like 100 years ago, let us be a church constantly reaching out to our neighbors with the love of Christ.

Spotlight on...Amy



My full name is Amy Lou Drier. I was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota at Southdale hospital on October 12, 1968. My parents are Arlene and Pastor Jack Drier. I have two siblings, Jennifer and Eric. I am, and always will be, the youngest. When I was fifteen we moved to Highland Park and my Dad became the new pastor at Saint Luke. He remained the pastor for about twenty-one years.

I grew up in so many ways right before the eyes of many members that are still here today, and some that have sadly passed away. It was at Saint Luke where I learned that church wasn't just about showing up on Sunday.

I have two children, Sheridan and Zachary Moore. They amaze and challenge me every day. I find being a parent very humbling and have learned to be a good listener, and a better negotiator. Choices are important to young minds, but I have found that sometimes, "Because I am the mom and I say so!" is the solution to gain a peaceful moment.

I work for a non profit, fair trade organization called Global Mamas. Global Mamas is a womens small business venture that imports batik and recycled hand painted jewelry from Ghana. I have worked for Global Mamas for seven years. I am also the "lucky" manager of a wine bar in Minneapolis. I have worked in the restaurant business for 23 years. I have learned a lot about how to motivate people.

My hobbies include hanging out with my kids, running, and reading. I really enjoy cleaning and organizing, but only when I am completely rested, which is pretty much never. I enjoy being busy and am not very good at sitting still.

I always try to look at the bright side and find the good in people. Saint Luke has many wonderful qualities that I am proud to be a part of. It is a place where different people come together to worship, love, and reach out to people in need. I grew up at Saint Luke and am comforted knowing that my children will do the same.



News from the President Joyce Bluel

Lent began with our Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd. Have you decided to give something up for Lent? Instead of giving up something why not try to mark the forty days of Lent by placing a quarter each day in a coin folder, which adds up to \$10.00. At the end of Lent you may then put it in the offering plate. This is an easy way to add to our general fund and also reinforce the practice of stewardship. The coin folders will be available at the Welcome Center in the social hall. Even though we are already a week or two into Lent, it is not too late to start!

March is also Food Share Month; did you know that from 2008 to 2010, visits to food shelves increased by 62% statewide, according to Hunger Solutions? In the nine-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, the jump was an even more startling 97%. So, please contribute what you can, either in the form of nonperishable food items or dollars.

The results of the 2011 Fall Bazaar are in and we made \$4,749.27 after expenses. This is up from last year by approximately \$680.00, not bad in this economy. Our volunteers met on Sunday, February 5th to set the date for 2011 and to decide on how to spend our proceeds. The 2012 Fall Bazaar will be held on Saturday, October 13th this year. Here are some of the decisions that were made as to how to spend the proceeds from 2011 and prior years; a benevolence of \$1,000.00 will go to Camp Onomia; \$266.00 for a TV for the youth work camp spaghetti dinner raffle; \$100.00 to the airport ministry; \$75.00 matching funds for Leisure Age; and up to \$1,000.00 in matching funds for the youth work camp. Other ideas that need further research and church council approval were; wooden mail cubbies for members, reupholstering the chairs in the library and the replacement of the grungy Rubbermaid serving cart in the kitchen with a stainless steel one.

This has been and continues to be a good fundraising event for St. Luke and is a great opportunity for all to participate. The proceeds from this event have enabled us to purchase things that we would normally not have the budget for in the general fund. Thanks to all of our volunteers and your continued support.



105 Hungry people braved the not-so-nice weather on January 23rd to receive supper at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on the west side under the Loaves and Fishes program. Workers were Pastor Dave, Thor and Teagan Burchill Riley, Karl and Charlie Gaarder, Kirby Peterson, Joyce Bluel, Jean Gilland, Ann Verschoyle and Eva Mac Niven. Audrey and Robyn Rongstad also helped by baking cookies.



**100 Year Anniversary
Planning Committee**

St. Luke will be celebrating its 100 year anniversary in 2013, which will be here before we know it. Now is the time to put together a planning committee to begin preparations. We need your ideas and talents to make this anniversary celebration a great one! **Please sign up on the kiosk today.** A kickoff meeting will be called as soon as we have a group of volunteers ready, willing and able to serve.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship

Join us for the Wednesday evening Lenten worship services on February 29, March 7, 14, 21, and 28. They last just 30 minutes, from 6:40-7:10. Join us as we meditate on Jesus' answer to a scribe who asks, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answers, "Hear O Israel: the Lord our God the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." We will meditate on a part of Jesus' answer during each of our worship services. Join us.

Feb. 29: The encounter between Jesus and the scribe still resonates today. How would we have responded to the scribe's question? Does the covenant with God truly form the bedrock of our own lives?

March 7: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart." True obedience and understanding come from the heart. How can we respond to God's love from the depths of our hearts?"

March 14: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your soul." Our souls thirst for the living God. When trouble comes and faith waivers, in whom do we place our hope?

March 21: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your mind." Solomon prayed to God for an understanding mind, able to discern good from evil. How can we use our minds to walk in faithfulness to Christ?

March 28: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your strength." Christ took upon himself the weakness of the cross to triumph in strength over the grave. Truly, God is our strength and our salvation.

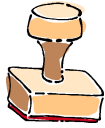


Thank you to our Bun Run volunteers for February: Jeff Kingsley, Ken McGrew, Joan Wilson, and Nancy Hegdahl.



Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children

Join our confirmation students in volunteering at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan (about a 15 minute drive from church) on Thursday, March 8 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. It is easy, fun, and will help feed about 5,000 children. What a blessing! Join us by signing up on the kiosk.



Stamping With Sue

Sue McNeill announces a Stampin' Up! technique class on **March 31** from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. For \$5, you will make 3 cards using different techniques and receive a collectible technique card. RSVP by 5:00 p.m. the Wednesday before class so a kit can be prepared for you. Email: ssmcneill@hotmail.com; work 612-596-4011; home 651-688-8176. No experience necessary. All are welcome!

Second Annual "Neighbors Together"

As part of St. Luke's outreach into our neighborhood, we are holding our second annual "Neighbors Together" project on Saturday, June 9. We will be inviting our neighbors to join us in doing some small home repair jobs around the neighborhood. It is a way to get to know our neighbors, for them to come to know us, in other words, a way to create relationships. We will be doing some basic carpentry work, painting, landscaping and other basic repairs. Please set aside this one Saturday, June 9 in your schedule to help us reach out to our neighbors in Christian love.



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 St. Francis Basket. There will be a table set up in the fellowship hall for food donations. Checks can be made out to St. Luke with a notation of "food drive" in the memo line. If you have any questions, please talk with Joan Wilson. Thanks for all of your help!

Attention Parents: Early Communion Preparation Classes will be held in the next few weeks. St. Luke Church has a tradition that a child is eligible whenever



the parents and the pastor believe that the child is ready. Pastor Dave will be leading first communion classes on Sunday mornings, March 4, 11 and 18 during Sunday School. (10:15 to 11:15) Upon completion of these classes the children will receive their first communion on Easter Sunday, April 8. Please talk with Pastor Dave if you are interested in this class.

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

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41 Cleveland Ave. S. (at Grand Avenue), St. Paul, 55105

Fundraiser Night for St. Luke Lutheran Church Youth
to raise funds for our Group Workcamp Mission Trip.
Bring this ticket in with you and present it when ordering on
Monday, March 26, between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
and 20% of your total order before sales tax will be donated to our group!

Dollar amount of order: _____ **Order number:** _____

Not good on delivered orders. Customers may call ahead order in advance and present ticket on arrival.

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