

WELCOME TO
THE CHURCH OF
SAINT LUKE

September 19, 2021 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



17545 Huber Avenue N.W. • Clearwater, Minnesota 55320



Pastoral Emergencies 320-291-5678

Parish Office

Hours Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 am-3:00 pm
Fri. 8:30 am-12:00 pm

Phone 320-558-2124

Email office@churchofstlukes.com

Father Backer
Ext1 or fatherbacker@churchofstlukes.com

Website www.churchofstlukes.com

Prayer Line 320-558-6169

Trustees..... Judy Lashinski & Steve LaFond

Finance Council ChairpersonSteve Duncan

Pastoral Council Chairperson.....Tony Leither

Parish Staff

Parish AdministratorSue Miller

Ext 3 or admin@churchofstlukes.com

Director of Faith Formation Marilyn Popp

Ext 2 or stlukefaithandlife@gmail.com

MusicTammy Reinert

Mass Schedule

Weekend

Sat. 5:00 pm; Sun. 8:00 & 10:00 am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday—Friday 8:00 am

Saturday—9:00am

Chapel Hours

Sun.—Sat. 5:00 am to 9:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Fri 9:00 am—9:00 pm

Sacraments

Reconciliation

1/2 hour before Daily Mass Tues-Sat

Before weekend Masses:

Sat.- 4:15 PM; Sun.— 7:15 & 9:15 AM

And by appointment

Baptisms/Baptism Prep Classes

Prep class required before each baptism, please call parish office to make arrangements.

Weddings

Contact the parish office one year prior to your requested wedding date.

RCIA

Contact: Bruce Fladebo—320-260-3303
brucefladebo@gmail.com

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me." - Mk 9:35b-37a

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PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

How much does competition play in our lives? We hear in the Gospel this weekend that the disciples have been discussing among themselves, who was the greatest. They remain silent when Jesus asked what they were talking about. A part of my thoughts was, He already knew. Can you hear the disciples listing off all of the things they had done? Oh wait, truth be told, they knew things God had done through them. So often when we start talking ourselves up, we can exaggerate the truth to make ourselves look better. We also can make it sound like it was all our own effort. Again, truth be told, the gifts we have, the abilities we have, are all gifts from God.

I seem to remember when I was growing up (a long long time ago), that there was a focus on having everyone involved, having everyone work as a team, to have fun, and to be a good sport, win or loss. I was never gifted at sports, ever. So I never did well at any sport. Yes, I did hear things from the other kids now and then. Plus, being the last one picked for a team was always a message. I still remember the day I was 2nd to the last picked, I was so happy. However, I never heard anything from teachers or other adults. They always seemed to be encouraging.

How often today is competition pushed. Win, win, win!!! It's less about the team and more about the personal competition. It's less about the team winning, but me scoring the winning goal. It seems to be more about the individual than the team. It's about winning and not about good sportsmanship. I have heard stories about parents at their kids games yelling from the sidelines and just not behaving well. I hope this is not any of you, but I bet many of you know what I am talking about. Our world pushes to 'Look out for #1!' Sometimes at all cost. In some movies they have portrayed this. In some movies the high ego gets taken down a notch or two at the end. Trouble With The Curve, shows this well, the little guy, right before taking the ego of the other down, responds to the question "are you nervous?" with "No, it's just a game." There are so many things that are important in life. Very few of them have anything to do with winning a game. Caring for one another, showing love for one another, lifting up one another, these things are much more important.

Over the past few years we have heard about the Archdiocese Synod process and the upcoming Synod itself. Like many things in our world, the Synod too was delayed due to COVID shutdowns and precautions. But the time is NOW for your part. I hope you took a look at the information in last week's bulletin and that you plan to take part in the small groups here at St. Luke's.

The more people we can get to take part in these small groups, the better information it will be to the Archbishop. I know being out here in Clearwater, so often you can feel like you are forgotten or are simply not heard. Here is your chance to be heard by the Archbishop. The Synod small group process is not about St Luke's, but the Archdiocese level and what the Archbishop and his staff should be focusing on or looking to improve in. But if you want them to know what Clearwater thinks, we need you to come and take part in this Synod.

There has been a lot of information put out over the last few years about the Synod. My fear is that too many will think it is for 'someone else' to do. Why not you? This is not a huge commitment. No great study involved. Simply giving your thoughts and input. This whole thing started very wide, with the general listening sections with the Archbishop to hear remarks. They have put those remarks together to come up with more of a focus for the Synod. I have seen a few things that the Archdiocese has put out in response to some of the feedback from the listening sections as well. Now it is time to move into the small group part of the Synod. To the best of my knowledge, each night of the small group will have different topics to discuss. A recorder will take notes from each group, again this information will all be brought together to narrow the focus and help guide the Archbishop. The next step is a meeting at the Deanery level, than the Synod itself.

I am asking all of you to play a role in the guiding of our local church. Let the Archbishop hear from as many people as possible. Please be a part of the small groups here at St Luke and invite a friend to join you. Sign up on line or in the gathering area to take part here at St Luke's. Let's all come together! Let's all do our part!

IF YOU DO ONE THING THIS FALL JOIN A SYNOD SMALL GROUP AT ST LUKES!

● Small groups will discuss the three focus areas that arose from feedback given in the Prayer and Listening events over the last two years.

Focus area #1: Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization.

Focus area #2: Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus' love and respond to his call.

Focus area #3: Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young.

Some topics we will brainstorm on: What can we do to make parishes more welcoming and accessible? How can we offer meaningful life-long formation for discipleship? How can we better assist parents in forming children as disciples who know and love Jesus and his Church?

● **Pray. Learn. Discuss. Respond:** Small groups of approximately 8 people will gather to -**Pray:** Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. - **Learn:** Experience the compelling truth of the Catholic faith in today's cultural context. - **Discuss:** Examine questions under each focus area, sharing perspectives among a small group of sisters and brothers in Christ. - **Respond:** Weigh in on how we as a Church might respond to these questions to help Archbishop determine priorities.

● **Facilitation:** A trained facilitator will promote a meaningful and charitable dialogue between group members.

● **Feedback:** Participants will complete an Individual Feedback Form. A trained scribe will submit the information, which will then be provided to your parish and Archbishop Hebda.

Who should attend?: Ages 15 through 100 plus!

● **Location/Dates:** All here at the Church of St Luke Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm. **September 26, Oct 3, Oct 10, Oct 17, Oct 24, Nov 7**

Faith and Family

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus again predict his passion, death, and Resurrection to his disciples. The setting here is important. Jesus and his disciples are preparing to journey through Galilee, a Jewish territory in which Jesus has already encountered problems with the Pharisees. Perhaps this is why Mark indicates that Jesus was trying to journey in secret. In predicting his passion, Jesus is acknowledging the danger they will face and is trying to prepare his disciples for it. Yet Mark tells us that the disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying and were afraid to ask what he meant. Such hesitation on the part of the disciples is not characteristic behavior. Peter had no fear about rebuking Jesus in last week's Gospel. Perhaps this is an indication that the disciples were aware that a new situation was emerging. Mark paints a vivid picture in today's Gospel. Having arrived at Capernaum, Jesus and his disciples enter a house. In this private place, Jesus asks his disciples about the argument they had while they were journeying. Again, the disciples are uncharacteristically silent and afraid to answer. They have been found out. Jesus then summons the Twelve, whom Mark identified earlier in his Gospel as those chosen by Jesus to preach and to drive out demons. To this select group of disciples, Jesus teaches that those who would be first in God's kingdom must be servants of all. Jesus then calls forward a child and teaches the Twelve that to receive a child in Jesus' name is to receive both Jesus and the One who sent him. We might easily fail to understand the significance of this action. In first-century Palestine, children were without status or power, possessing no legal rights. In this action, Jesus is teaching his disciples and us that when we serve the least ones among us, we serve Jesus himself. Who are the people without power or status in our society that Jesus is calling us to serve? Do we do so willingly? Jesus teaches that God's judgment of us will be based on this criterion alone. –Sunday Connection

Prayer for Generosity

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God,
Teach me true generosity.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve.

To give without counting the cost,

To fight heedless of wounds,

To labor without seeking rest,

To sacrifice myself without thought of any reward

Save the knowledge that I have done your will.

Amen.

Looking for a ministry in which you can serve the Lord by serving others? Consider volunteering to be a Catechist and help our young people to come to know our Lord and their Catholic Faith. Any adult of any age is welcome. The best gift we can give our youth is Jesus. Email stlukefaithandlife@gmail.com or call the Formation office.



Synod Prayer—Year of St. Joseph:

Heavenly Father, who gave St. Joseph to Jesus and Mary as protector and guide, grant that our Archdiocesan Synod, under his protection and guidance, may help us discern your direction for our

Church. May we listen as he listened, trust as he trusted, obey as he obeyed, receive as he received, love as he loved, and share in his life of devotion to Jesus and Mary. Amen. St. Joseph, pray for us.

Baptism

Attendance at a one hour Baptismal Preparation Program is **required** and parish registration is expected. Please call the parish office a minimum of 2 months prior to your desired date for baptism to register for the Baptismal Preparation classes.

Weddings

Contact the parish office *one year prior* to your requested wedding date and set up an appointment with Father Backer Marriage Preparation classes and a retreat are required.

Fall Adult Studies to begin later this fall/early winter: This fall at the Church of St Luke we will have numerous opportunities for everyone to participate in a small group for the Archdiocesan Synod. This will take roughly 6-8 weeks as various times will be offered to give everyone the opportunity to attend a session. Then around the middle of October we will begin our fall studies. Watch for more details in the up coming weeks.

Catechist and Youth Leaders Retreat: All are welcome to attend this retreat put on by our deanery. It will be on Saturday, September 25th at the Church of St Henry beginning with a 9:00am Mass and ending with Adoration at 3:00pm. The keynote speaker is well known National Youth leader, Jim Beckman. Jim serves as the executive director of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. A graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville in 1987, Jim has served in various roles of leadership for national, regional, and local ministry ever since. Jim also is the executive director of Impact Center, a nonprofit dedicated to leadership development in the Catholic Church and serves as an adjunct professor for the Augustine Institute, teaching on leadership and discipleship. He and his wife, Meg, live in Oklahoma City with their five children.

Calling all youth 8th -12th grade to REVIVE Youth Night! Let's get together and head to St Michael Catholic for our area deanery Youth event on October 2nd from 7:00-9:30 pm. We will begin with Mass, there will be a dynamic Speaker, John Boyle, worship band: In the Name and Adoration. The night will be centered around John 4:4-15 "Living Water" – Just like the woman at the well, God is calling us to a life with Him, and that abundant life and relationship with Him can begin now.

Discernment Opportunity for Young Women September 24-26 at Christ the King Retreat Center, Buffalo We are pleased to announce that Fiat Ministries Discernment Retreat is coming to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Single women age 18-28 who are seeking to do God's will are invited to attend. Religious sisters from various orders assist at the retreat by giving talks, leading small groups, giving their testimonies, and providing a joyful witness of what it means to be a consecrated Religious Sister. The Fiat Discernment Retreat seeks to foster prayer, self-knowledge, and authentic discernment in young women to re-center their focus back on God and the universal call to holiness. The cost of the retreat is \$100, which includes meals, lodging, and materials. Registration and more information can be found at fiatministries.org.

FORMED: Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Check it out, there is so much for all ages to help us grow in our faith this Lenten season. Get signed up. SIGN UP FREE AT: FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Tuesday, September 21st

8:00 am Steve & Ellen Joeswack

Wednesday, September 22nd

8:00 am † Donald Popp

Thursday, September 23rd

8:00 am † Delphine Quast

Friday, September 24th

8:00 am † James Kevin Walz

Saturday, September 25th

9:00 am Kevin & Holly Lenk

Saturday, September 25th

5:00 pm † Arthur Gendreau

Sunday, September 26th

8:00 am † Clarence Dockendorf

10:00 am Parishioners

Minister's Schedule For Sept. 25th & 26th

The Ministry Heads will be
Contacting Volunteers to Minister.

Faith Formation:

It is hard to believe that fall is just around the corner. Our Faith formation program will begin on September 29th at 6:45-8:00pm for youth going into **first grade this fall through 10th grade**. We ask that 11-12th grade youth attend free of charge to study the Word of God or to help in areas needed. The registration form and letter outlining the program will be sent home via email and is also on the website. Reminder: sacramental prep for first Eucharist begins in first grade and is a two-year program. Confirmation prep begins in 9th grade and is also a two-year program.

"GOD BLESS AMERICA" -- That's what we're praying for when we gather each Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Please join us in the Parish Center as we pray for God's protection over our country, His guidance in all decisions made by our government leaders, and prayers for an end of abortion and the COVID-19 & the Delta variant virus. There is also a time to pray for individual intentions from those attending. All are welcome!!

Stay in the Know: Get The Catholic Spirit — for free! Be in-the-know with news from your Catholic community and the Church around the world. Get The Catholic Spirit, the award-winning newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, in your home. Free subscriptions for parishioners are available via each parish. Contact your parish office to be added to the mailing list. Or purchase an annual subscription for yourself or a friend at TheCatholicSpirit.com.

Archdiocesan Candlelight Rosary Procession Friday, October 1, 6:30 p.m. at the Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul. Join in praying the rosary as we process from the State Capitol to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Gather at the MN State Capitol approach at 6:30 p.m., for the procession which will begin at 7 p.m. We will conclude with Marian prayers, Eucharistic Adoration, and Benediction at the Cathedral. See more information at minnesotarosaryprocessions.org.



Congratulations and welcome to Freya Dawn Nelson daughter of Joshua & Rachel who was baptized here at St. Lukes.



Church of St. Luke's Holiday Sale

Thursday - Sunday, October 21st - October 24th: Thursday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.,

Sunday 9 - noon. **Drop off** new or gently used ,

Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas decorations, or any other holiday decorations, in the Parish Center

Thursday - Wednesday, October 14th - 20th, during office hours and weekend Mass times.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (Catholic Version) "I will never leave you or forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5). If you or someone you love is grieving the loss of a child to abortion, come and experience the healing mercy of Jesus Christ on our confidential weekend retreat. The Next Rachel's Vineyard Twin Citites' retreat is November 5 - 7, 2021. For more information contact Nancy at rachels@rvineyardmn.org, call 763-250-9313, or see www.rvineyardmn.org.

Notice: Festival -Wrap-Up Meeting
Tuesday, October 12th 7:00pm
All festival chairpersons are asked to attend this meeting!

The Church of St. Luke thanks **Big Lake Hardware Hank & Rental** for advertising in our church bulletin. Please patronize this local business. We're grateful for their support.



Readings for the week of September 19, 2021

Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 [6b]/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Mt 9:9-13

Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8 [1b]/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4 [5]/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13 [cf. 10d]/Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 [9a]/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

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St. Luke's Calendar

Tuesday, September 21st

8:00 am Quilting

6:30 -8:00 pm "God Bless America" Prayer Time

Thursday, September 23rd

7:00 pm KCs Meeting

Friday, September 24th

9:00 am — 9:00 pm Adoration

Registration

Welcome to the Church of St. Luke. Please call the parish office to become a registered member.

Prayer Line 558-6169



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