

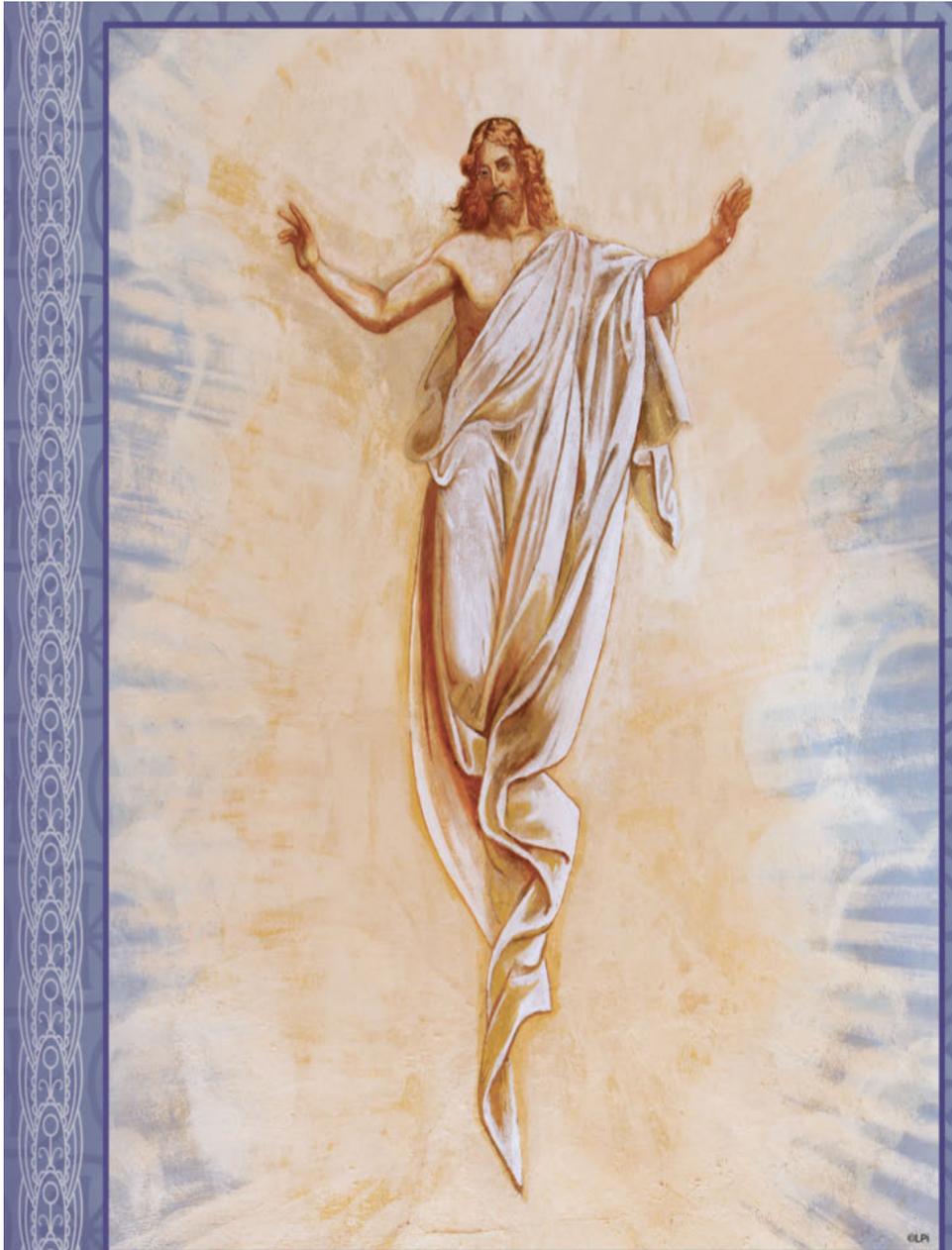
# WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF SAINT LUKE



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

Father Dennis Backer, Pastor

**Pastoral Emergencies 320-291-5678**



## 1st SUNDAY of Advent

"Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." - Lk 21:27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

### 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** .....  
Ext 1 or fatherbacker@churchofstlukes.com

**Website** ..... www.churchofstlukes.com

**Prayer Line** ..... 320-558-6169

**Trustees**..... Judy Lashinski & Steve LaFond

**Finance Council Chairperson** .....Steve Duncan

**Pastoral Council Chairperson**.....Tony Leither

### Parish Staff

**Parish Administrator** .....Sue Miller

Ext 3 or admin@churchofstlukes.com

**Director of Faith Formation** ..... Marilyn Popp

Ext 2 or stlukefaithandlife@gmail.com

**Music** .....Tammy 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

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# PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.

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**Preparing the Manger** Where do you fall in the "Christmas-songs-in-November" debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There's no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it's not everyone's cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger. Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It's hard to miss that point — Lent doesn't even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master. It's harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — "advent" — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, "so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap." So let us not forget — our master's advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger. - Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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## KC's Pork Chop Sale

KC's are having a fundraiser for the Holy Spirit Academy Essay Contest. Pre-seasoned, frozen pork chops come packaged -- 2 for \$10.00 or 5 for \$20.00. E-mail, text or call Ron Shatek at [RDSHADRACK@gmail.com](mailto:RDSHADRACK@gmail.com) or 715-279-1844.

A warm thank you to the KCs for the fall Coats for Kids collection. The parish donated 24 kids coats and 39 adult coats as well as some mittens and boots.

The coats were taken to the Free Store in Annandale to give away to those who needed them. The KCs also donated boxes of new winter coats to distribute to those who need them this winter. Thank you for your help and support. God bless and stay warm, Marlene Imholte and Free Store volunteers.



SYNOD 2022

**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.

## V I S I O N   S T A T E M E N T

*The Church of St. Luke is a Catholic Community, centered in Christ through baptism and formed by the Eucharist.  
We strive to always be a community where every heart is touched by our Christian fellowship.*

## Faith and Family

Today is the beginning of Advent and, ironically in our society, the increase in busyness with shopping, parties, baking and decorating. In today's Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples against the fatigue that can emerge if one becomes consumed by the anxieties of daily life. We as families are too familiar with the kind of fatigue Jesus refers to in this gospel reading. We may be concerned about a family member's health, our job security, our children's education, or become overwhelmed with all the daily duties before us. All these are important matters. Jesus does not promise an end to daily worries and fears, but he does teach his disciples that they will have the strength to withstand anxiety if they stay focused on him, remaining vigilant for his return and praying for strength to endure all tribulations. Through prayer, God helps us stay focused on that which is most important in our lives. As a family think about the tradition of making New Year's resolutions in preparation for the new calendar year. Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the new Church year! That's because during the season of Advent our Gospel readings ask us to consider what is most important to us, as we prepare for Jesus' coming at his birth and at the end of time. We can take this time to consider resolutions or doing something special for the Lord this advent season. Making some advent resolutions might help us as families to stay focused so that we will be prepared to receive the salvation we celebrate at Jesus' birth and anticipate at Jesus' second coming. Take time to pray together this advent season. One good way to prepare for Christmas is to do a Jesse Tree together. This is about bringing a tree branch into the house and putting it in a pot of soil. Each day of Advent you read a Scripture passage about our salvation history and place a special ornament on the tree.



"Pray the rosary! Blessed be that monotony of the Hail Marys which purifies the monotony of your sins." -St. Josemaría Escrivá

**Wonderfully Real Advent Retreat** Saturday, December 11, 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Church of Saint Henry, Monticello. Ladies, you are invited to a "Wonderfully Real Retreat" for women of all ages. Come with your daughter (ages 5 and older), come alone, come with your closest friends! The retreat will be jam-packed with faith, fellowship, and fun activities for all ages! Cost is \$40 for adults and \$10 for children. Register and learn more at [wonderfullyreal.eventbrite.com](http://wonderfullyreal.eventbrite.com).

**Advent** Today marks the beginning of the new liturgical year and is also the beginning of Advent. Advent is the season in the church in which we watch and wait for the Birth of Jesus. Take some time to prepare your heart for the coming of Christ this Advent season. [Formed.org](http://Formed.org) will have many opportunities for you to read or listen to and ponder. There will also be devotional material for you to pick up in the gathering area.

## 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.

**Adult Advent Study Wednesday Evening Study Group** has started with *Rejoice! Finding Your Place in the Advent Story*. It's not too late to attend this Study on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. After Thanksgiving break (no Faith Formation this Wednesday) we'll meet December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. "Experience a more peaceful, more joyful, and more meaningful Advent than ever before. What does God want this Advent? Simple. He wants you. He want a personal encounter with you. This year, as we journey through Advent with *Rejoice! Finding Your Place in the Advent Story*, we'll learn about the places, people, and events that shaped the story of the very first Advent and shape our own lives today. *Rejoice!* will help you open your heart to the peace and joy of the Advent season as you prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas. We look forward to journeying with you."

**Wednesday Morning Women's Group** started on Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> 8:45 a.m., but you can still join! We will be doing Lectio Mass readings with *Advent Rejoice!* See above for description; this is an hour-long study. We will serve coffee and water (no breakfast this year).

**Men's Group** Pray and prepare for Sunday Mass with the Mass readings on Saturday mornings. At 7:00 a.m. we will meet in the Adoration Chapel to pray the rosary. At 7:30 a.m. we will discuss the Sunday readings in the parish hall. All men are welcome to attend. No need for sign up, just come.

**Children's Liturgy** Young people ages 3 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to participate in Children's Liturgy during the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. This is a wonderful opportunity for our little ones to hear the Word of God so they can understand it and apply it. The children are dismissed from Mass just before the readings and return during the offertory. Parents, plan on bringing your young ones to Mass to participate in this wonderful opportunity.

**FORMED** Our parish has a FORMED subscription, which means you can access all its great content for FREE. Check it out! There is so much - movies, bible studies, talks - for all ages to help us grow in our faith. It's especially helpful for encouraging our families to focus on the "Reason for the Season"! Get signed up! SIGN UP FREE AT: [FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP](http://FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP).

## MISSION STATEMENT

"We, the community of St. Luke, come together to worship with joy and unity, to guide our children in faith, to show compassion and love towards others, and to work together as a parish family, so that we may be instrumental in building a meaningful and everlasting community to God by sharing our time and talents and following our Lord Jesus Christ."

## Mass Schedule & Intentions

Tuesday, November 30th

8:00 am Anthony Kantor

Wednesday, December 1st

8:00 am † Jan Wicks

Thursday, December 2nd

8:00 am † Frank Mason

Friday, December 3rd

8:00 am † Fr. Tim Nolan

Saturday, December 4th

9:00 am † Merrill Hinkemeyer

Saturday, December 4th

5:00 pm † Neda Donat

Sunday, December 5th

8:00 am † Donald Neis

10:00 am parishioners

### Minister's Schedule For December 4th & 5th

The Ministry Heads will be  
Contacting Volunteers to Minister.

**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](http://TheCatholicSpirit.com).

**Natural Family Planning (NFP)** Classes teach couples the Church-approved methods on how to achieve or postpone pregnancy while embracing the beauty of God's gift of sexuality. For a complete list of classes offered throughout the Archdiocese, visit [archspm.org/family](http://archspm.org/family) or call 651.291.4489.



### Music Ministry Notes

"Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord" by sharing your musical talents in St. Luke's Music Ministry. We are in need of vocalists and pianists for the Christmas season and would love to have you join us. Contact Tammy if you'd like to know **more!** Call or text: 907-232-8548.

*You've celebrated a few anniversaries... maybe MANY. You've been through some ups and downs and you have learned a lot about each other. But what if there's more to your marriage than you've ever realized?* Experience a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and discover the beauty of your relationship. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are Feb 11-13, 2022 in Buffalo, MN and May 6-8, 2022 in Buffalo, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [twincitieswwme.org](http://twincitieswwme.org) or contact Brent & Tracy at [applications@twincitieswwme.org](mailto:applications@twincitieswwme.org) or 612-756-8720.

### Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

Sunday:	Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday:	Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/ Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/ Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/ Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

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St. Luke's Craft and Cookie Stroll December 4<sup>th</sup> is approaching quickly! This is one of the largest Youth fundraisers. In the past the sale started at 9:00 a.m. and by 10:30 we were nearly all out of the specialty cookies and candies. Please think about what type of Christmas goodie you can make. We need lots of goodies to make this a successful sale. Please sign up in the gathering area to bring 5 dozen of your favorite Christmas treat. If you have containers such as ice cream pails we can use those as well.



**Crafters Wanted!** We also sell crafts that parishioners have made. Please think about what you can make and donate to be sold at this wonderful Christmas-season event held right here at St. Luke's. There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering area.

**St. Ignatius 2021 Christ Child Luncheon Drive Thru**  
New hot-dish and dessert choices-including gluten-free, new sizes ,easy order/pay online.

*Pre-order/pay online* by Sunday, Nov. 28th [stignatiusmn.com](http://stignatiusmn.com)  
Pick up on Friday, Dec. 3rd between 2 and 6pm in front of St. Ignatius.

Meals are prepared by Cottage Gourmet / desserts by Hannah's EnJOYables.

Each 8x8 frozen hot dish serves 4 & includes bread.

Dessert Choices also in 8x8 pans. Caramels also available!

The cost is a free-will offering, but suggested retail prices are listed on-line.

All proceeds go to three separate Pro-life Charities.

Please call Pam Peterson if you have questions or need help ordering. (320-274-8074)

Sponsored by St. Ignatius Council of Catholic Women

### St. Luke's Calendar

Tuesday, November 30th

8:30 am Quilting

Wednesday, December 1st

6:45 pm Faith Formation

Friday, December 2nd

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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