

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF **SAINT LUKE**

2nd Sunday of Advent - December 5, 2021



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

Father Dennis Backer, Pastor



2nd SUNDAY of Advent

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths." - Lk 3:4

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

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@churchofslukes.com

Father Backer Ext 1 or fatherbacker@churchofslukes.com

Website www.churchofslukes.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@churchofslukes.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

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
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PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

The second candle is lit. This time of year just seems to go by so fast, even as we try and slow down and prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas. It sometimes seems to go by so fast because we have so much to get done and just feels like we are running out of time. I am really trying to do better at making sure I am taking extra time to pray. I feel like I rebooted when I was gone for retreat/pilgrimage. Not that I ever stopped, but we all know at times we pray better than at other times.

I hope you have been trying to stay focused on Advent, maybe by using some of the resources we have in the gathering area, or something web based. Many will send a daily email, so you are being reminded each day. I would like to remind you to not let the commercialization of Christmas distract you from what Christmas is really about. I will admit, I personally have a hard time decorating for Christmas. I did put a tree up for a few years after I got here. A fake tree, since our insurance does not allow a real tree, that could dry and become a fire hazard with the lights. I have my wonderful Nativity set that I have at times put that out. It really does help me to reflect. I find it hard when I do not do a lot of entertaining at this time of year, that it is just me seeing it. Plus, I must say with some of my sacred rescues, I have a space issue. I have the wonderful advantage of praying the Breviary. This is the prayer of the Church that all priest promise to pray faithfully 5 times a day. As the Church seasons change, so does the focus of the prayers in the Breviary.

I don't know how much decorating you do for Christmas. WOW, I have seen some that go all out!! This year we did not get an early snow (there- I said the word), so it made it much easier to put up outdoor decorations. Last Sunday night I had dinner with dear friends. I could not believe how many of their neighbors had lights up. It just seems to get dark so soon this time of year and until now I have not had too many nights out. As I pick up penance services and other events, my schedule will change a lot. I am sure I will be treated to more displays. I know some families will take the kids out for a drive to look at the lights. I miss 'Clearwater Lights' being only a block and a half away, I enjoyed them again and again. I still remember the first year I spotted the display that was synchronized to the radio.

There are so many traditions that come up around Advent and Christmas. I hope you or your family have some wonderful traditions. I still have my old Christmas Stocking that I had as a kid. I believe there is a 50 year old piece of hard candy still stuck at the bottom. The two have become one. If you have a new family, what traditions will you share with your children? I know that this can be stressful for a newly married couple if both families always do Christmas Day. This year I may not be able to join my family for Christmas Day, since it falls on Saturday. We will have Christmas Day Mass at 10:00am, but I will also have Saturday night confessions at 4:00pm and Mass at 5:00pm for Holy Family Sunday. It does not leave a lot of time for a hour drive down and hour drive back. Plus, I often am very tired after the Christmas Masses and moving right into weekend Masses. So don't worry about inviting me over, I will enjoy the calm and quiet of the rectory.

Please don't skip right to Christmas, enjoy this time of Advent as a season by itself, not just a lead up to Christmas.

Blessing on your Advent.
Fr Backer

Holy Day of obligation December 8th: The Immaculate Conception Holy Day is Wednesday December 8th. Mass will be offered at 8:00am and 7:00pm here at St Luke. This is the day we celebrate the conception of Mary, who was uniquely born without original sin. We remember this special day because our heavenly mother was conceived and we remember her "yes" to God in being the arch of the Covenant, Jesus.

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



PARISH & COMMUNITY EVENTS 3

Faith and Family

Advent is a beautiful season in many ways. It is an opportunity to draw closer to Christ both personally and as a family. There are many wonderful traditions that can be implemented to help keep this season a time of reflection and centered on the birth of Christ. There are many beautiful feast days to celebrate during Advent as well. The feast of St Nicholas is celebrated on December 6. Take some time to read about St Nick's life, or to teach your family about him. After reading about St Nick and his generosity to children, have them place their shoes by the front door or the fireplace, if you have one, on the eve of the feast and wait for the saint's 'visit'. The tradition is that when the children wake in the morning their shoes are filled with candies and other small items. In European countries St Nicholas will visit the homes of families and join them for prayer time. He will bless the children and will leave oranges and coins for each one. Another feast day celebration is December 7th, the feast of St Ambrose, the patron saint of candle makers. December 8th is the Immaculate Conception of Mary. A great way to celebrate is to give a gift to someone who is expecting a child or to a pregnancy center for those in need. And a wonderful way to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, on December 12th, is to serve a Mexican meal and decorate with poinsettias or roses in your home. Then on December 13th, the feast of St Lucy, whose name means light, decorate your house with lights and have a candlelit meal. It is the best time of year to celebrate our beautiful Catholic faith as a family, so pray that the Lord helps each of us to find the time to prepare our homes and hearts for Christ.



Advent Candle bearers: Would you and your family like to bring up the advent candle for the advent wreath a Sunday in Advent? Please see the sign up list in the gathering area to place your name on the list. We'd love to have you help!

Food Shelf: Please remember those within our community who are in need of food and personal hygiene items and bring an item and place it in the baskets that will be in the entry of the sanctuary. Our little ones will bring the food items up as they come back from children's liturgy. . “*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*” Matt 25:35

Children's Liturgy Young people ages 3 through 2nd 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.

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.

Serving at Mass: Serve the Lord by serving at Mass! We invite you to consider helping at Mass by serving in a ministry. We would love to have you serve as a greeter before Mass, an usher, or in the Hospitality area after Mass. We are in need of someone to head up the hospitality ministry so that we can have coffee and treats after Mass. You can also become a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Altar Server for those in 4th grade and older, and be a part of the audio/visual team. This is a great way to serve the Lord and you can serve in some areas as a family! Consider it! Contact the office if you would like to be a part of serving in some way. Thank you for your “yes”.

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.

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

Young Adult Winter Weekend: January 7-9, North Shore. Join young adults from around the Twin Cities and beyond to connect in the relaxed atmosphere of Lutsen Mountains and Cascade Lodge. This 3-day winter getaway offers options to downhill ski, snowboard, cross country ski, snowshoe, or lounge at Cascade Lodge and Lutsen Mountains, on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Casual talks about our Catholic faith and the Theology of the Body will be inserted into our evenings and travel time in addition to Mass and Eucharistic Adoration for the group. General registration by Dec. 17 cost is \$250. Learn more and register for this weekend put on by Into the Deep at idretreats.org.

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, December 7th
8:00 am Trevor Johnson
Wednesday, December 8th
8:00 am †Al Notch
7:00 pm Parishioners
Thursday, December 9th
8:00 am †Jan Wicks
Friday, December 10th
8:00 am †Father Jim Deegan
Saturday, December 11th
9:00 am †Eugene Brinkman
Saturday, December 11th
5:00 pm Parishioners
Sunday, December 12th
8:00 am †Mark Stein
10:00 am †Aniceta Lahr

Minister's Schedule For December 11 & 12

The Ministry Heads will be
Contacting Volunteers to Minister.

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.

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.

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 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.



Congratulations to newly baptized Flora Lynn Kiefer, daughter of Adam and Teresa Kiefer. Welcome to our church family!



Thank you to Michelle Gapinski, Hope and Rory Amundson, Sherry Schmidt, Lisa Neuman and Lisa and Claire Staudinger for helping serve the meals to the Youth and team for the NET retreat. The youth in 7th through 10th grade had a wonderful day of fun, fellowship, food and most importantly learning about Christ. This couldn't happen without your "yes" in helping.

Thank You! Our 6th grade class helped out at the 10:00am Mass today. It is always such a joy to see our young people serving the Lord during Mass.

St Luke Craft and Cookie Stroll: Thank you to all who helped make the cookie stroll and craft sale a success by bringing in Christmas treats and crafts. Also, thanks to those who helped set up and then also came and purchased items.



Readings for the week of December 5, 2021

Sunday:	Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/ Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/ Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/ Lk 3:10-18

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St. Luke's Calendar

Monday, December 6th
6:30 pm Cavins Bible Study
Tuesday, December 7th
8:30 am Quilting
Wednesday, December 8th
6:45 pm Faith Formation
Thursday, December 9th
7:00 pm Liturgy Meeting

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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 Ron Shatek, Grand Knight
 rdshadrack@gmail.com
 715-279-1844
 KofC meeting reminder:
 4th Thursday each month

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