



March  
2016

# the CHALLENGE



From the Desk of

## Rev. Anita Bradshaw

We are in the midst of Lent and Easter is around the corner. And before long the days will be longer and—fingers crossed—warmer. It is a time of change in the seasons and in the church year. And as has been the case, it is a time of change at St. Luke.

I regularly hear from folks here “You are making us think,” or “I like trying new things,” or “I don’t really want things to be different.” Sometimes people are skeptical of change and then after seeing it say things like, “I didn’t think that would work, but it does.” I appreciate your honest and direct reactions, in any case.

I will continue to work on opening up ideas for consideration and experiments with new ways to do things. I see my job as Transitional Pastor as raising questions, offering new perspectives, and experimenting in this time of transition. I’m not asking you to like or decide to stick with all the ideas and changes, just to consider them. You have been very clear that you want St. Luke to thrive. I think there is great opportunity for that to happen, but it will mean doing many things in a new way.

But, that is what you have always done. Those of you who have been members for quite a while know that the way things are now are not the way they were 50 or 25 or even ten years ago. The world changes, people change, and that is part of being alive and thriving. Change is an ever-present part of our lives together. Without it, we die. With it, we thrive. The real question is, whether we take an active role in making the changes, just let things happen, or fight change with all we have.

As you have guessed, I am a strong proponent of us being the agents of change, bearing in mind the question, “What is God calling us to do?”

*(continued on next page)*

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# WORSHIP

## - Sundays at 10:30am -

### **March 6**

Communion  
Preaching: Rev. Don Samuels  
Welcomer: Maureen Henderson  
Greeters: Jane and Ted Wesson  
Liturgist: Molly Muniz  
Ushers: Jane Wesson and Linda Thomson  
Sound: Tim and Tyler Lowe  
Visitor Host: Carol Allis

### **March 13**

#### **Production: The Quilt-Makers Gift**

Announcements  
Welcomer: Carrie Lee  
Greeters: Marion McNurlen and Lane Ayres  
Liturgist: Jill Engeswick  
Ushers: Janie and Steve Warner  
Sound: Jim Gregory  
Visitor Host: Peter Frederick and Carol Allis

### **March 20 Palm Sunday**

Preaching: Anita Bradshaw  
Welcomer: Linda Thomson  
Greeters: Keith and Maureen Kostial  
Liturgist: Peter Whatley  
Ushers: Nancy Anderson, Don Ellenberger  
Sound: Ken Corens  
Visitor Host: Sue Kirchhoff

### **March 27 Easter Sunday**

Announcements  
Preaching: Anita Bradshaw  
Welcomer: Liz Heuser  
Greeters: Greg and Cel Smith  
Liturgist: Mark Taintor  
Ushers: Frank Babka and Peter Whatley  
Sound: Ken Corens  
Visitor Host: Tamara Rogers



*(continued)* If we keep our ears attuned and we open ourselves to possibility, with God, we will have a future that is one of faithfulness and exciting possibility. We might find ourselves asking, "How good can we stand it?" May it be so and may this time of Lent be one of renewal in your faith as individuals and for us all as a community.

## Change for Change

Minneapolis-based non-profit, "MicroGrants" is our Change for Change recipient for March. They award \$1000 grants to help qualified people increase their income through small business development or stable employment.



On Sunday March 6, we'll hear more about this from Minneapolis School Board member, former Minneapolis City Council member and ordained Lutheran pastor, Rev. Don Samuels.

St. Luke's goal for the month of March is to raise at least \$1000 to sponsor one grant. Please visit [www.MicroGrants.Net](http://www.MicroGrants.Net) for more information.

### **A note of Gratitude:**

Thank you for loaning us the lovely space for our son Jai Buikema's fundraiser. And for altering your schedule of events so that the fundraiser could take place on Thursday night. The event was well-attended and successful. Thank you to many of you St. Lukers who participated. I was reminded that St. Luke Church is a special place where everyone is valued for and encouraged to be themselves. I am so thankful that our children were able to grow up in such a loving and supportive community. *Submitted by Jo Schubert, Jai Buikema's mom*

## Session Slices

- from Session Meeting on February 16, 2016 -

Moderator - Rev. Anita Bradshaw

Annual year-end and statistical reports have been submitted to Presbytery, thanks to the good work of Anne and Darla.

Creative Arts and Nature Camp will occur at St. Luke this summer. There has been some confusion and conflict among members about the facts regarding camp. Anita and Don Davies met with the Camp leaders prior to the meeting. Session voted to re-affirm our commitment to the camp, its leaders and the hope for another excellent experience for the children, youth and adults who participate. Anita included a letter of explanation and clarification in recent email to the congregation.

Music Director Curtis Kettler will be resigning this Spring in order to work full time at SW Christian High School and build his Magpies and Ravens program. We will officially recognize Curtis' contributions on May 22, 2016.

The job of communications manager has been assumed by Molly Muniz in a temporary employment role since Megan's resignation.

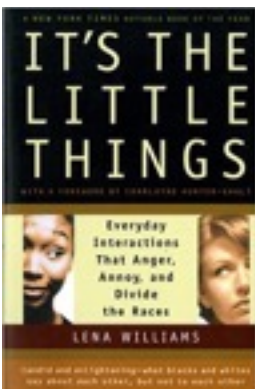
Transition workshops will be scheduled during the Spirited Learning time Sunday mornings in April and May. They will be led by Anita and will prepare us for our future. She will review these topics with Session prior to the workshops during a Saturday retreat.

It was reported that the fundraiser for Jai that was held at St. Luke, raised over \$14,000 and additional money was raised on-line. The Buikemas were very thankful for all the support.

*Submitted by Jill Engeswick, Clerk of Session*

## Resources

Latin America Focus Group continues to have fair trade coffee for sale, at \$10 per lb. See Frank Babka or Jeanne Meyer if interested. An honest cuppa joe might do you well.



Did you know that there is a “hair thing” between the black and white people? I didn’t until I read *It's The Little Things; Everyday Interactions That Anger, Annoy, and Divide the Races* by Lena Williams. Here it is: A white woman with long hair gets on an elevator. (This is not the beginning of a socially marginal joke.) She runs her fingers through her long, straight hair. At the next floor, a black woman exits the elevator angry. The white woman thinks she’s just fluffing out her hair a little. The black woman thinks she flaunting an arbitrary and white social standard of beauty black women with kinky hair can’t attain. Is the white woman being insensitive? Is the black woman being hypersensitive? Who knows? It doesn’t matter because it’s real. The book is in our church library so check it out. *Submitted by Chris Sullivan*

# Events at St. Luke

## All welcome at Quilt-Maker's Gift

**Rehearsals!** *Tuesdays or Thursdays 6:30 - 8:00* There a part for you in The Quilt-Maker's Gift. Come to church during any scheduled rehearsal and help us make ten hand-tied blankets for those in need.



**Women's Potluck Dinner at St. Luke - Sunday March 6.** Join other wonderful women at 6:00 pm for dinner and great conversation. Please bring a main dish, salad/ side to serve at least eight people. A few people can bring dessert, but we need plenty of "real food." Bring a game to share if you'd like to stay after dinner and play! RSVP to



Nancy Kizilos-Clift [nancykc@me.com](mailto:nancykc@me.com) or 612-730-5552.

**The Fiddler on the Roof - Friday March 18 - 7pm - Wayzata** Community Church. This beloved musical tells of villagers in 1905 on the eve of the Russian Revolution. Please email our church office to sign up. Carpoolers leave St. Luke at 6:15. It's Presented by The Good Works Community Theater and featuring soaring songs such as "Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker" and "Tradition," it promises to be a great night out!



**Seasoned Lukers visit Museum of Russian Art - Tuesday, April 5.** Meet at church at 9:45 to carpool (Diamond Lake Rd & 35W). The special exhibit will be Olexa Bulavitsky: Immigrant Experiences and Ukrainian – American Art. After one-hour tour, we're off to Moscow on the Hill in St. Paul for lunch. Sign-up by March 29. Please indicate carpooling and lunch.



**The Book Group - Wednesday March 9, 9:30am.** Join us at the home of Liz Heuser in Minnetonka,. We are reading *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. Other scheduled books are *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger at the home of Judy Leatham (April 13) and *Leaving Time* by Jodi Picoult (May 11). All are welcome, please RSVP with the office.  
*Submitted by Liz Heuser*



## March Birthdays

Mar 1 Dave Ryks  
Mar 1 Hanna Stratman  
Mar 2 Lois Benton  
Mar 3 Carol Allis  
Mar 3 Julienne Ness  
Mar 3 Emily Warner  
Mar 5 Carol Hayden  
Mar 5 Harry Lee  
Mar 6 Jim Gresham  
Mar 6 Colleen Shaskin  
Mar 7 Emily Jensrud  
Mar 7 Kathryn Lozada  
Mar 8 Daniel Gilson  
Mar 8 Todd Pointer  
Mar 8 Katie Taintor  
Mar 12 Jan Emerson  
Mar 12 Ruth Ann Stricker  
Mar 13 Mary Moulton  
Mar 14 Garrett Winters  
Mar 15 Connie Branson  
Mar 15 Johnathon Larson  
Mar 15 Reeve Schumacher  
Mar 16 Joe Hayden  
Mar 16 Kim Ratz  
Mar 17 Miguel Bottoli  
Mar 17 Mike Manning  
Mar 17 Leah Spranger  
Mar 18 Nancy E. Anderson  
Mar 19 Mason Jennings  
Mar 20 Rebecca MacKenzie  
Mar 20 Tom Phelps  
Mar 21 Adele Sullivan  
Mar 23 Jerry Nystuen  
Mar 24 Torii Schmidt  
Mar 24 Christiaan van Lierop  
Mar 25 Sharon Grostephan  
Mar 27 Tammy Rogers



# Faith Formation Update

## Reflection Station Recap

Each Sunday, when the children and youth leave worship, they meet in the East Room to work together, learning stories and values that are important to St. Luke. One highlight was a talk from Katie Williams about her faith,



belonging and the Sanctuary movement at St. Luke. In early February, kids made Lenten books that walk through lent with the themes of praying, fasting and alms-giving.

On February 22, children and youth had the opportunity to play out the story of Luke 5:27-32, in which Jesus dines with society's outcasts, knowing that all are "beloved."



In March, we're looking forward to more time integrated with adults. The production of The Quilt-Maker's Gift will be March 13 and Palm Sunday will feature a "reader's theater" retelling of the Passion Story.

## Youth Group Highlights



In January the youth group did a 2-part series on racism, including watching and discussing the movie *Selma*. The youth summed it up perfectly, saying, "Why did people ever get treated this way?" Another remarked, "If you look at the news...I don't think these problems have actually been solved."

In February the youth group met to tackle food insecurity, addressing eight typical barriers to food supplies. They then went to Feed My Starving Children and packed food for 90 minutes. Returning to church, they talked about how these activities fit into our Lenten themes of alms-giving, fasting and love.



At the March 18 lock-in the youth will discuss Easter, resurrection and reinvention for today's times. Why do pop-stars reinvent themselves? What is accomplished? Is there an innate craving for resurrection? How does God move through our lives as created—or recreated—people?

## Spirited Learning

St. Luke's participation and offerings have been tremendous.

About 30 people participated in discussion on the book *The New Jim Crow*. For a new take on a tough topic, the moderator, Lori Alford, requested a focus on personal and spiritual responsibility.

St. Lukers also gathered to watch the movie *Ghandi*, splitting it into two evenings to allow more time for discussion. They were inspired by the ideal and *practice* of non-violence.

The 3-part series on Syrian Refugees was also fascinating—yet disturbing. Half of the Syrian population is now displaced. Let us hold them all in our prayers.

On March 6 at 9:15am, Minnesota resident Jay Shahidi will continue his enlightening narrative of Iran and its history.

## Electric Lift Report From Legacy Focus Group

Our lift project is nearly complete! We will do a formal dedication later in the spring but the lift is functional and already in use. Special thanks to all who helped with planning, painting and cleaning, especially Cliff Buikema, our architect.

# ST. LUKE STAFF & COMMUNICATIONS

## **315 Members, Ministers**

**Rev. Anita Bradshaw**, Transitional Pastor  
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**Molly Muniz**, Communication Manager  
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**Mary Lou Hoff & Ginny Larson**, BeFriender  
Coordinators 952-920-1976 and 952-210-8388

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am-4:00 pm

## **OFFICE FAX**

952-473-7370

## **MAILING ADDRESS**

3121 Groveland School Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55391

## **WEB ADDRESS**

[www.stluke.mn](http://www.stluke.mn)

## **NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE**

“The Challenge” is published once a month. The deadline for submitting articles for the April newsletter is: 2pm, March 17 to office@stluke.mn

St. Luke Presbyterian Church  
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St. Luke is a joyful, inclusive and compassionate community on a spiritual journey seeking to do justice, make peace, act mercifully, and walk humbly with God