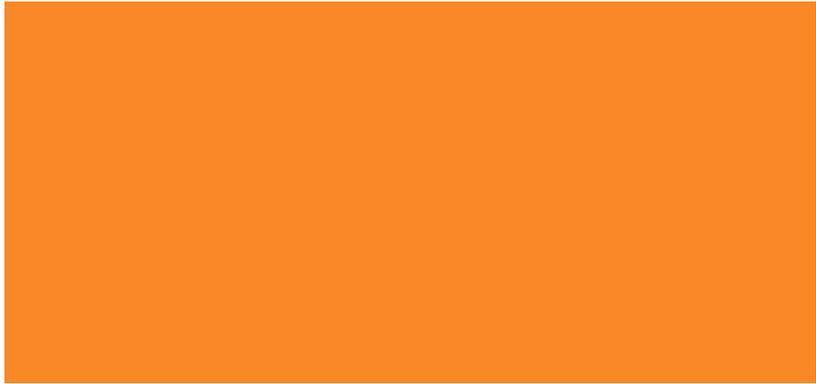




October
2016



the CHALLENGE



From the Desk of
Rev. Dr. Anita Bradshaw

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Worship
Muslim Neighbors
- 3 Birthdays
- 4 Future
Interfaith
- 5 Adult Education
Choir Performance
- 6 Session Slices
Legacy
- 7 Youth
- 8 Mental Illness
Notables
- 9 Homeless Youth
Calendar

There is a theory that has been tested many times and written about at length – the more choices we have the less we are satisfied. This seems to fly in the face of conventional wisdom and certainly bucks the overwhelming trend of consumerism in American culture. Many years ago (2004 to be exact), Barry Schwartz, a professor of Social Theory and Social Action at Swarthmore College, published a book that became a classic in organizational and religious circles, *The Paradox of Choice: Why More is Less – How the Culture of Abundance Robs Us of Satisfaction*. In the book, Schwartz discusses why individuals and organizations are not happy or cohesive or easy to engage in because they offer too many choices and try to be all things to all people.

Other authors have picked up on Schwartz’s themes and as recently as late August yet another blogger, Eric Geiger, who writes on church-related matters, returned to Schwartz to talk about two situations that arise in churches that actually work to defeat their success and accomplishment of a mission.

The first situation is that offering a multitude of options for involvement, programming, outreach and events creates paralysis in the congregation. There are too many possibilities and it overwhelms people and they tend to give up trying to engage.

Continued on page 3

Worship

Sundays at 10:30 am

October 2

Preaching: Jermaine Ross
Greeters: Dick & Nancy Rademacher
Liturgist: Linda Thomson
Ushers: Jane Wesson & Linda Thomson
Sound: Ken Corens
Visitor Host: Peter Whatley

October 9

Preaching: Peter Frederick
Greeters: Linda Thomson, Darrell Schmidt
Liturgist: Don Davies
Ushers: Janie & Steve Warner
Sound: Tim and Tyler Lowe
Visitor Host: Hannah Ungerman

October 16

Preaching: Denise Dunbar-Perkins
Greeters: Susan Belz, Janet Kramer-Barr
Liturgist: Solveig Lee
Ushers: Nancy Anderson & Don Ellenberger
Sound: Larry Stickler
Visitor Host: Sarah Swan

October 23

Preaching: Anita Bradshaw
Greeters: Chip, Laura and Tess Goodall
Liturgist: Chip Goodall
Ushers: Frank Babka & Peter Whatley
Sound: Mike Breckenridge
Visitor Host: Tamara Rogers

October 30

Preaching: Anita Bradshaw
Greeters: Curt Hill, Arlene Jullie
Liturgist: Christina Gregory
Ushers: Frank Babka & Peter Whatley
Sound: Jim Gregory
Visitor Host: Sue Kirchhoff

Meet our Muslim Neighbors



November 13, 9:15 am in the West Room. During the Islamic sacred month of Ramadan this past summer, several St. Lukers participated in a traditional Iftar, or fast-breaking meal and prayer service at Northwest Islamic Center to promote understanding and relationship. We were so impressed by the stories of the youth about their faith and practices, that we invited them to come to St. Luke! What is a habib and why do I choose to wear one? What faith aspects of Christianity and Islam are shared? (MUCH more than you think.) Youth and adults, come meet and learn more about our Muslim neighbors.

From the Desk of Anita Bradshaw, *continued*

October Birthdays

Oct 1 Will Brandt
Oct 4 Linda Christianson
Oct 4 Kati Johanson
Oct 5 Beth Potter
Oct 5 Steve Warner
Oct 6 Curt Hill
Oct 7 Gail Hall
Oct 7 Alayna Winters
Oct 9 Lisa Hurt
Oct 9 Cathy Murphy
Oct 10 Laura Hanson
Oct 10 Bobbi Pointer
Oct 10 TJ Worrell
Oct 10 Bob Zimmerman
Oct 11 Anna Flekke
Oct 11 Sheila Roth
Oct 12 Saskia Nichols
Oct 12 Linda Thomson
Oct 14 Sarabeth Brandt
Oct 15 DeAndre Sheppard
Oct 16 Lois Jordan
Oct 16 Ruth Klepfer
Oct 19 Dylan Richardson
Oct 19 Eli Schmidt
Oct 20 Bill Berneking
Oct 21 David Prosser
Oct 22 Isaiah Klepfer
Oct 23 Maureen Kostial
Oct 24 Julie Taintor
Oct 25 Ariel Larin
Oct 25 Jim Thompson
Oct 26 Drew Hicks
Oct 26 Julie Mall
Oct 28 Shirley Bartee
Oct 28 Evan Komis
Oct 29 Miles Ramsey
Oct 30 Paul Winslow
Oct 31 Chris Horgan

It is better to have a few areas of focus and program options done well and easy to engage in, than a smorgasbord of program possibilities. You have heard me say more than once that St. Luke has too many focus groups and too many areas of focus. It is overwhelming and it hurts our ability to effectively engage people.

The result of paralysis leads to the second situation, and that is regret. If people do make it through the maze of options, they tend to then wonder if they made the right choice or if they should have done something else. This leads to dissatisfaction with the choice made and a regret that they didn't choose something else.

Part of what will happen in the Conversations for the Future is looking at where the areas that people have passion for are at St. Luke today and how can we narrow the options to a few issues or concerns that we can effectively do something. God calls us to be witnesses, but God doesn't expect that we will be a witness or the provider of solutions or even make a dent in every issue that plagues our world. We are limited in our resources, people and money, and we need to be good stewards of what we do have.

More is less. We are called to discern what St. Luke is called to do and be by God in this place and in this time. Let us choose wisely so as to utilize all the gifts we have been blessed with well.

Grace and Peace,
Anita



In his farewell address as President in 1961, General Dwight D. Eisenhower eloquently implored us to “realize that America's leadership and prestige depend, not merely upon our unmatched material progress, riches, and military strength, but on how we use our power in the interests of world peace and human betterment.” Eisenhower said, “Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.”

Conversations for the Future



As previously announced, as part of the pastoral transition we will have three conversations as part of worship aimed at gathering the ideas of the congregation about the future of St. Luke. These are very important conversations to help the Session in determining goals, vision, and mission that guide St. Luke and the PNC process to search for the next pastor.

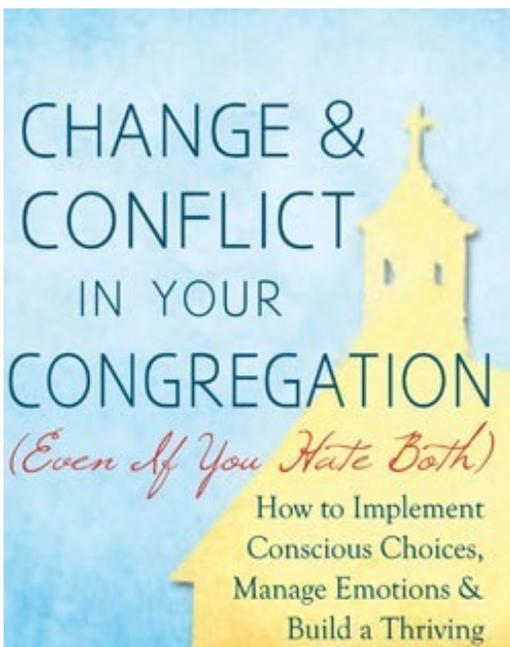
These conversations will take place on Sundays, October 23 and 30, as well as November 13. These are holy conversations. We will begin worship as usual each Sunday at 10:30 am and in place of the sermon, we will talk with one another guided by a process called Appreciative Inquiry. Following the conversation,

we will conclude worship with the prayers and usual ending. Please plan to stay a bit longer each of these Sundays, but we will end no later than 11:45 am.

In preparation for these conversations, I invite you to review or listen, if you missed them on the first time around, the four sermons I preached on January 10, 17, 24, and 31 and the four workshops I did in the spring on the transition process and the reality of churches and St. Luke today. The links to the sermons can be found on our website at: <http://www.stluke.mn/sermons/>. The recordings of and the slides accompanying the workshops can be found at: <http://www.stluke.mn/adults/>.

I look forward to having holy conversation with you to help us all prepare for the future of St. Luke.

Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning Event



Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning Event to be Held at St. Luke on October 27 at 7:00 pm.

Change and Conflict within Religious Communities -- Interfaith conversation featuring Rev. Anita L. Bradshaw, Rabbi Norman Cohen, Imam Hamdy El-Sawaf, and Rev. Sosan Flynn.

Change and conflict within religious communities are experienced by people in all faith traditions. How they address this change and conflict is inevitably influenced by theologies found in their respective traditions. Rev. Anita L. Bradshaw's *Change and Conflict in Your Congregation* is a guidebook to help Christian congregations navigate change and channel conflict into a stronger sense of mission and community. In this program, Rev. Bradshaw will summarize some of the principal ideas in her book and receive brief responses from Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist religious leaders who will also speak about conflict resolution in their communities. For more information: <http://www.stthomas.edu/jpc/programs/publicevents/change-and-conflict-within-religious-communities.html>

Adult Education

The Achievement/Opportunity Gap: Racism and Its Consequences

Sunday, October 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 9:15 am in the West Room

October 2: What's Behind the (Achievement) Opportunity Gap in Minneapolis?

Contributing factors and historical context of disparities for African Americans in Minnesota
Rev. Jermaine Ross Allam, Oak Grove Presbyterian and Kwanzaa Community Church

October 9: What is it like for African American Youth in the Cities?

Real stories of youth up against the barriers to success in school
Val Honey, Jennings Community School and St. Luke Elder

October 16: What is Our Involvement?

The Opportunity Gap for Privileged Whites:
Processing our Learning
Peter Frederick, teacher of American Cultures and Black History

October 23: What Can We Do?

Current efforts in North Minneapolis and possible St. Luke Involvement
Sondra Samuels, CEO, Northside Achievement Zone

Submitted by Katie Williams, Families and Children in Crisis Focus Group



One World Community Choir Performance



One World Community Friends and Family Choir Performance

Please join us for an informal, high energy Performance!

WHEN: Monday, October 24, 2016

TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 pm

WHERE: St. Luke Presbyterian Church.

Light refreshments served afterward.

Questions? Contact Rod Fisher, Nancy Fisher, Dick Oberg or Ann Davies

Session Slices

Session met on September 19, 2016. Lori Alford gave us an update about the Youth and Children's ministry. Things are off to a good start. There will be fundraising to help offset costs for confirmands and others to go to Ghost Ranch for a week in July. The first fund raiser will be a Spaghetti Dinner at 6:00 pm on November 9. The youth will lead Los Posadas during worship on December 11. Lori has a meeting set with leaders from a local temple and mosque to plan for our summer Peace Camp.

Jeff Klepfer and Molly Muniz met to discuss Building and Grounds needs. They determined that all of the following areas fall under the B & G Focus Group: Technology, Building, Grounds, Art and a few other miscellaneous items. Jeff will propose ways to better manage these areas. Don spoke about setting our budget with line items for emergencies and replacements. We did some brainstorming about ways to lower our overall budget, so we have more money for other things.

Anita reported that there continues to be progress on the plan for paving the parking lots with the Minnetonka School District. Session voted to renew Anita's contract for January 2016 - December 2017 with the same compensation plan and with a clause for a 60 day written notification to nullify the contract that can be executed by either party.

The "Conversations for the Future" will be held during worship on October 23, 30 and November 13. These will lay the groundwork for finding our new pastor. Lori Cocking and Jill Engeswick will arrange to meet with Presbytery to begin plans for the Pastor Nominating Committee. The Session is available to talk to members during our Congregational Conversation on November 20.

St. Luke Legacy Program

The vision of the St. Luke Legacy Program is to provide a means for members and friends to invest in the future of St. Luke and its outreach to the community, the nation and the world. The scope of the Legacy Program is to develop incremental or one-time giving from members throughout their lifetimes above and beyond annual giving for the general budget in order to support particular areas of the church's ministry, outreach and mission.

For example, the St. Luke Legacy Program through the efforts of Marc Well Nagel, established the columbarium. The Legacy Program will also continue to fund and maintain the columbarium and the grounds. Also, through generous memorials, bequeathal and giving from our members and friends, the Legacy Program has also funded Scholarships for our St. Luke youth, provided funds for our new elevator lift, funded the sanctuary sound system and purchased Orff and other musical instruments.

The St. Luke Legacy Program asks you to include St. Luke in your will or annual giving. Your tax deductible gift to this valuable endowment will help us achieve St. Luke's mission of caring for our community and the world. Please contact me or a Legacy committee member for more information. Thank you.

Randy Schumacher-Member

Connie Branson and Donald Davies - Co-Chairs

Children and Youth at St. Luke

By now you have likely seen the changes in worship as we have added a new nursery and children's space to the sanctuary. Most reports have shared that the renewed energy of having our young people present feels wonderful, but for those who are still questioning, here are some helpful hints:



There will be extra noise in the sanctuary. We will do our best to keep the level at a minimum, but we also suggest adopting an attitude of blessing. That noise comes from children who will be the next leaders of this institution. Others who have changed to this style of integration saw a decrease in the noise as the children became more accustomed to the routine. If they feel welcome and integrated in the present, it opens a pathway to being welcomed and integrated in the future as adults.

It may be visually distracting. Here's the best thing about our sanctuary – our chairs move! Choose a place to sit or move your chair so that you may keep your attention where you would like it to be. Join us! We welcome your presence at the art table, desert box, or whatever the stations may be at any time. Come explore like a kid what the scripture means to you. Maybe you'd even care to sit on the carpet with the toddlers and play together quietly.

Note also that our Confirmation students have begun their year-long journey. They meet as a class from 10:00-10:30 am (prior to worship) then join worship to be full participants of our community. Immediately following worship, we debrief the service and learn ways to incorporate our morning's learnings into everyday life.

Calendar items to be aware of in the next few months for Children and Youth are:

Confirmation Retreat, October 7-8

6th-7th grade and 8th-12th grade Youth Groups meet Friday, October 28, 6:00-10:00 pm

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Ghost Ranch, Wednesday, November 9, 6:00-8:00 pm

Thanks to all for a great start to this program year!

Lori



Mental Illness and the Faith Community's Response

November 11-12, 2016
SPRINGHOUSE MINISTRY CENTER, 610 WEST 28TH ST,
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55408

1 in 5 Americans live with a mental health condition. Many times they are stigmatized, feared and shunned. Others suffer silently, afraid to share their stories or unable to access the resources they need. As communities of faith, how do we address these issues and minister to those who need help? How can we turn our faith communities into safe havens where those struggling with mental health issues feel welcomed, loved and cared for?



Join us to explore these questions and more. Keynote speaker and UCC pastor Sarah Griffith Lund, who has a depth of experience with mental health issues, will dispel the major myths and teach us how to build communities of faith that are welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged. Mental health experts and community partners will give us the knowledge, tools, and resources needed to provide this important ministry in our diverse contexts. Together we will explore the vital role for communities of faith in mental health.

Register here: <http://www.uppermidwestcc.org/#!/sarah-lund-fcc-mn/wkd54>

Notables

Haiti Outreach Annual Fall Gala Saturday October 1 at the Minikahda Club, 3205 Excelsior Blvd. in Minneapolis. RSVP at www.HaitiOutreach.org.

Understanding Race and Racism and Your Poser as a Voter Free and Open to the Public 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Thursday, October 6, 2016. Glen Lake Activity Center, 14350 Excelsior Boulevard, Minnetonka (at Woodhill)

Hermanos Hermanos will meet Saturday, October 8 from 7:30 - 9:00 am at the Sheraton Hotel, Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka.

Women Connecting (Women's Gathering) will meet Sunday, October 9 at 6:00 pm. 25335 Smithtown Road, Excelsior. RSVP appreciated. nolmst@gmail.com. 612-597-6715

Homeless Youth

Invisible, unseen and unnoticed, an estimated 4,000 youths are homeless in Minnesota on any given night. Where are they? How do we not see them? Our youth “sleep” in places such as port-a-potties, buses, light rail trains, in the woods...or they couch hop...while still making it to school and jobs, managing to blend in and remain “invisible.”



Chain Reaction Theatre Project is proud to present the world premiere production, “Invisible,” written and directed by Shelley Smith. “Invisible,” based on true stories, is an inspirational, powerful and thought-provoking performance portraying the courageous journeys of five tenacious suburban youths battling homelessness.

Performance Schedule:

- Oct 15, 7 pm, St. David's Episcopal Church, 13000 St David's Rd, Hopkins
- Oct 20, 7 pm, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, 2200 W Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington
- Oct 21, 7 pm, Transfiguration Lutheran Church, 11000 France Ave S., Bloomington
- Oct 23, 7 pm, Crown of Glory Lutheran Church, 1141 Cardinal St., Chaska
- Oct 27, 7 pm, Community of the Cross Lutheran Church, 10701 Bloomington Ferry Rd., Bloomington

October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Women's Retreat 10:00 AM Confirmation 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Seasoned Lukers - Planning Mtg	26 Women to Pine Ridge 6:00 PM New Member Exploration/Dinner 7:00 PM One World Community Choir 7:00 PM Sustainability Focus Group 7:30 PM AA	27 Women to Pine Ridge 6:00 PM Human Resources FG	28 Women to Pine Ridge 6:00 PM Worship FG 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	29 Women to Pine Ridge 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Depression, Anxiety and Grief Support Group	30 Women to Pine Ridge 4:00 PM People Serving People	1
2 9:15 AM Adult Education: Opportunity Gap 10:30 AM Worship w/Communion and Conversation	3 12:00 PM FMF mtg 7:00 PM One World Community Choir 7:30 PM AA	4	5 7:00 PM ACA Study Group 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Depression, Anxiety and Grief Support Group	7 6:00 PM Confirmation Retreat	8 Confirmation Retreat 7:30 AM Hermanos
9 9:15 AM Adult Education: Opportunity Gap 10:00 AM Confirmation 10:30 AM Worship 1:30 PM St. Luke-St. Nicholas Free Garage Sale 6:00 PM Women Connecting	10 9:00 AM FMF mtg 7:00 PM One World Community Choir 7:30 PM AA	11 1:30 PM Membership FG 6:00 PM Spirited Learning FG	12 9:30 AM The Book Group 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Depression, Anxiety and Grief Support Group	14 4:00 PM People Serving People	15
16 9:15 AM Adult Education: Opportunity Gap 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM BeFriends	17 9:00 AM FMF mtg 6:45 PM Session Meeting 7:00 PM One World Community Choir 7:30 PM AA	18 6:30 PM Peace and Justice FG	19 7:00 PM ACA Study Group 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 2:00 PM Challenge Deadline 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Depression, Anxiety and Grief Support Group	21	22
23 9:15 AM Adult Education: Opportunity Gap 10:30 AM Worship and Conversation	24 9:00 AM FMF mtg 7:00 PM One World Community Choir Performance 7:00 PM Sustainability Focus Group 7:30 PM AA	25 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Human Resources FG	26 6:00 PM Worship FG 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:30 PM Men's Lunch 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Anita Bradshaw 7:00 PM Depression, Anxiety and Grief Support Group	28 4:00 PM People Serving People 6:00 PM Youth Group	29
30 Adult Education: Roots of Racism Families Moving Forward 10:00 AM Confirmation	31 Families Moving Forward 7:30 PM AA	1 Families Moving Forward 9:30 AM Bible Study	2 Families Moving Forward 7:00 PM ACA Study Group 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 Families Moving Forward 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Depression, Anxiety and Grief Support Group	4 Families Moving Forward	5 Families Moving Forward

ST. LUKE STAFF & COMMUNICATIONS

317 Members, Ministers

Rev. Anita Bradshaw, Transitional Pastor
952-473-7378, Anita@StLuke.Mn
612-791-8217 (pastoral emergency only)

Lori Alford, Director of Faith Formation
612-298-2958, lori@StLuke.Mn

Bob Haskin, Pastoral Associate
952-476-7323, Bob@StLuke.Mn

Kate Niemisto, Accompanist
Kate@StLuke.Mn

David Lohman, Music Director
david@StLuke.Mn

Darla Monson, Bookkeeper
952-473-7378, Darla@StLuke.mn or
Finance@StLuke.Mn

Anne Deuring, Secretary
952-473-7378, office@stluke.mn or
Anne@StLuke.Mn

Louis Munn, Building Manager/Sexton
952-473-7378

Jessica Wood, Communication Manager
612-207-7534, Jessica@StLuke.Mn

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

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

“The Challenge” is published once a month.
The deadline for submitting articles for the
November newsletter is 2 pm, October 20
to office@stluke.mn.

St. Luke Presbyterian Church
3121 Groveland School Road
Minnetonka, MN 55391

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.