



October
2021

the CHALLENGE



From the Desk of Brennan Blue

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Harvesting Joy

A month ago, as I sat down to write my monthly *Challenge* article, my body was humming with nervous anxiety. How would Come Together feel? Can we find creative ways to enjoy the blessings of choir, community, communion and so many other cherished traditions that we've long missed? And how will we support our oldest and youngest members along the way, each with their own unique needs and hopes?

Today, I can say with joy and confidence that we are finding ways to Come Together, celebrate community and support one another through it all – and what a joy that's been to share! It's been a delight to feel our Sanctuary humming with activity; to see our columbarium welcoming worshippers of all ages and stages; to hear choir singing together again; and to know that our children are basking in their new outdoor Sunday School classroom in the woods, made possible by our grounds restoration effort. It's true that some things are different. That some of us are different, in fact. Yet, we're still called and committed to come together through it all. For that, I give great thanks.

The Season Ahead

You may have noticed that we are loading up on special events this fall: outdoor fellowship, extra grounds workdays, a Blessing of the Animals service, youth activities, a labyrinth unveiling, and more. As you may have guessed, we aim to make the most of these warm weather weeks, not knowing for sure what the winter may hold. Here and now, there are safe and creative ways that we can gather to build beloved community while embracing our mission – and we're going to embrace these weeks with open arms. If there is a "time and season for every matter under the sun," as Ecclesiastes puts it, then it's important that we as a community embrace these seasons of easy (or easier) connection and

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harvest the joy around us. I encourage each of us to harvest some joy and community. And then harvest some more, storing enough for whatever the future may hold.

Speaking of the future, I'd like to take a moment here to share some **hopes and highlights for the coming months.**

- Our Social Justice Collaboration Team is well on the way to designating our outbound mission and giving commitments for 2021. We're on track to share forward over \$80,000 in outbound mission support this year!
- Later this month, you will each receive a special "look book" detailing the vision and scope of the new St. Luke Community Kitchen project that the Session has newly launch. I promise everyone a thorough overview of the project, space details, cost and timeline – as well as a thorough call to support this investment in the life and mission of St. Luke! In the meantime, I'd like to highlight two important dynamics of the project:

1. This is far more than an investment in the internal life of St. Luke. We've named this project the St. Luke Community Kitchen because we are intentionally investing in a flexible, modern space for our community and coalitional partners, in addition to our internal use. This project will deepen our commitment to be a gathering hub for all those in the West Metro area interested in joining together for peace, justice, compassion, spirituality and the arts.

2. The financial ask, in brief: we are looking to the St. Luke community to help raise \$60k to pull off this unique investment in our future. While the total project comes in at \$120k, we're already halfway there with a \$20k grant from the Presbytery and a \$40k gift from our Legacy Group made possible by the Ed and Judy Schuck Legacy gift. Any amount raised over and beyond our project expenses will go directly to the ICA Food Shelf.

- Finally, a reminder that your creative ideas, affirmations and constructive feedback are always welcome as we continue to navigate an uncommon season of ministry together. We aim to host a meaningful fall and Advent season together, which will include the return of the St. Luke Christmas Gift Making Workshop and our Fair-Trade Gift Fair. Creativity and mindful planning will continue to be paramount, though



Session Slices

From the Session Meeting of September 21, 2021

Highlights of Recent Services: Session members discussed Come Together Sunday as a good example of how we can have a children's sermon, hear the choir sing outdoors, and share coffee and treats safely. The memorial service for Greg Smith was beautiful with about 140 in attendance (plus church members viewing on-line), and food served outdoors. Our sincere thanks go to the staff, deacons, and others who have made these events seem so effortless.

Community Kitchen Update: Cliff and Brennan presented kitchen expansion plans to an enthusiastic adult education audience on September 19. St. Luke has received a \$20,000 grant from the Presbytery for the project, which is estimated to cost \$120,000. The Legacy Focus Group has newly committed \$40,000 from legacy funds for the kitchen project. Session voted unanimously to proceed with the project, with further details on fundraising and construction timelines to be presented soon. Our goal is to have a kitchen reopening in the spring!

Zoom vs. In-person: Session briefly discussed the benefits and drawbacks of meeting in-person or remotely. While we long for being in the same room together, we agreed that, for now, Zoom is safer and allows for those with small children or those traveling out-of-state to participate more easily.

October Birthdays

October 4	Kati Johanson	October 11	Sheila Roth	October 24	Julie Taintor
October 5	Steve Warner	October 12	Linda Thomson	October 25	Ariel Larin
October 6	Curt Hill	October 12	Saskia Nichols	October 25	Jim Thompson
October 6	Brennan Blue	October 14	Sarabeth Brandt	October 26	Drew Hicks
October 7	Gail Hall	October 14	Dennis Yockers	October 26	Julie Mall
October 7	Alayna Winters	October 15	DeAndre Sheppard	October 29	Miles Ramsey
October 9	Cathy Murphy	October 15	Jim Kendzel	October 30	Elizabeth Paulson
October 9	Jason Stevensen	October 16	Ruth Klepfer	October 30	Paul Winslow
October 10	Bobbi Pointer	October 16	Phyllis Kerr	October 30	Mary Sauter
October 10	TJ Worrell	October 19	Eli Schmidt		
October 10	Bob Zimmerman	October 20	Bill Berneking		
October 10	Matt Juricek	October 22	Isaiah Klepfer		
October 11	Anna Flekke	October 24	William Honey		

The Book Group

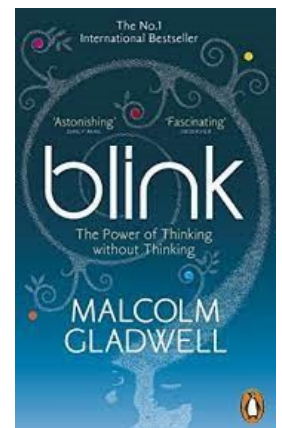
The book group will meet at 9:30, Wednesday, October 13, at church.

We will read and discuss *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell:

This is a book about how we think without thinking, about choices that seem to be made in an instant—in the blink of an eye—that actually aren't as simple as they seem. Why are some people brilliant decision makers, while others are consistently inept? Why do some people follow their instincts and win, while others end up stumbling into error? How do our brains really work—in the office, in the classroom, in the kitchen, and in the bedroom? And why are the best decisions often those that are impossible to explain to others? Read this insightful book for a better understanding.

We hope you can join us.

November 10 - *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd
December 8 - *Akin* by Emma Donoghue
January 12 - *Tears We Cannot Stop* by Michael Eric Dyson
February 9 - *Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey* by Kathleen Rooney
March 9 - *Sold on a Monday* by Kristina McMorris
April 13 - *Virgil Wander* by Leif Enger
May 11 - *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purcell
June 8 - *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguru



Women's Retreat

The Feisty Women of St. Luke Are Unstoppable!

St. Luke's feisty women aren't going to let Covid cancel another Women's Retreat! Instead of our usual weekend at Clearwater, we are going to gather safely at St. Luke and build connection and community in new ways.

- Bonfire song fest and story sharing - October 15 at 7:30 pm
- Breakfast and Feisty Women Program - October 16 in the morning
- Lunch, outdoor spiritual practices, and closing ceremony - October 16 in the afternoon



Open to any vaccinated St. Luker who identifies as a woman and is willing to mask and observe social distancing. Activities will be outside as much as possible. Registration forms are available from the church office or in the back of the church starting September 13 and are due back no later than October 8. Free will donations will be accepted to cover food costs. Childcare available on request.

Contact Adele Lennig Sullivan at adele_lennig@outlook.com if you have questions.

Donations Drive for DIW

Can You Help???

Did you know more Native people live in urban areas rather than on reservations? There are thousands of Native people living in the Twin Cities, and the Division of Indian Works (DIW) serves many of them. DIW, a long-time partner of St. Luke, recently reached out to ask for assistance as they prepare to re-open many of their services this fall. The pandemic hit Native communities hard, and the need to help families continues.

St. Luke is responding to this need by having a drive for specific items this fall. You can bring items to St. Luke on the **2nd Saturday** in October, November, and December: **Oct. 9, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11 from 11:30-1:30.**

And you are not limited to those days to donate items! Donations can also be dropped off at Sunday worship or when the church is open Mon-Thurs. 8:30-4:00 (table at the back left corner of the Garden Court).

You can also write a check to St. Luke with DIW in the memo line. And don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors who live in the western suburbs that we welcome them to join in this drive also!

Items Needed

Diapers size 3 to 7; pull-ups/training diapers
Baby Wipes
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Shampoo and Conditioner (full size bottles)
Lotion
Laundry Detergent
Fabuloso All Purpose Cleaner (purple)
Masks (paper)
Toothpaste



Thanks in advance for participating to meet these critical needs and continuing our partnership with DIW.

ICA - The Great Taste

THE *great* TASTE

THE SHOW MUST GO ON...LINE!

Thursday, October 14, 2021

7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL

All are welcome! Join us online as we support our neighbors and learn more about the impact being made in our community every day by incredible people *like you*.

ICA
Your Local
FOODSHELF

Tickets available at
icafoodshelf.org/taste
or 952-279-0280

Host your own

THE
great
TASTE
Presented by ALERUS & DORAN

WATCH PARTY!

How to:

1. Register for free at icataste.org
2. Invite your family & friends over on October 14 to watch The Great Taste program!
3. Take pictures of your watch party and post on social media using #TGT2021



ICA Currant Needs

ICA Food Shelf Current Needs

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Baby wipes
- Bar soap
- Dish soap
- Other hygiene items



Youth and Families

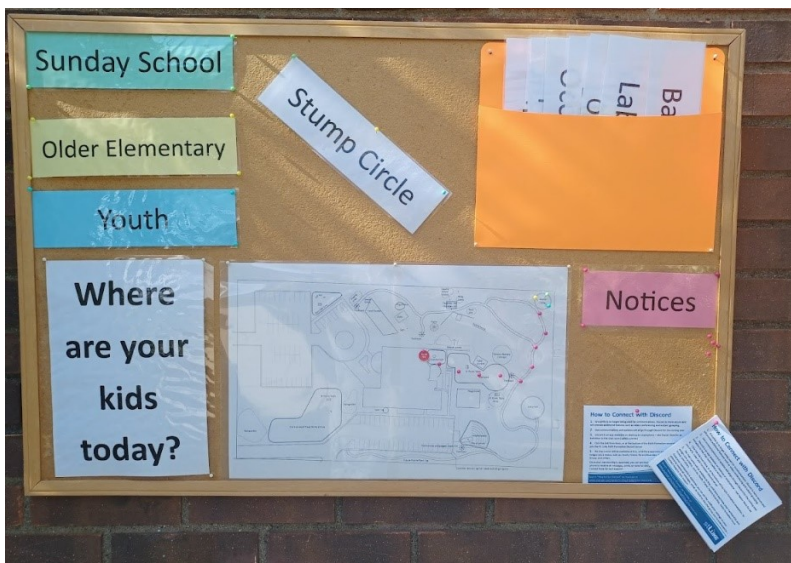
After a year of electronic ministry, what a JOY it has been to be BACK TOGETHER!



Outdoor Sunday School during worship is our new normal and the stump circle in the woods is a new sacred space where children of all ages hear and embody the life-giving stories of Jesus' ministry, while playing and making memories together.



Cooper and friends recreate Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan



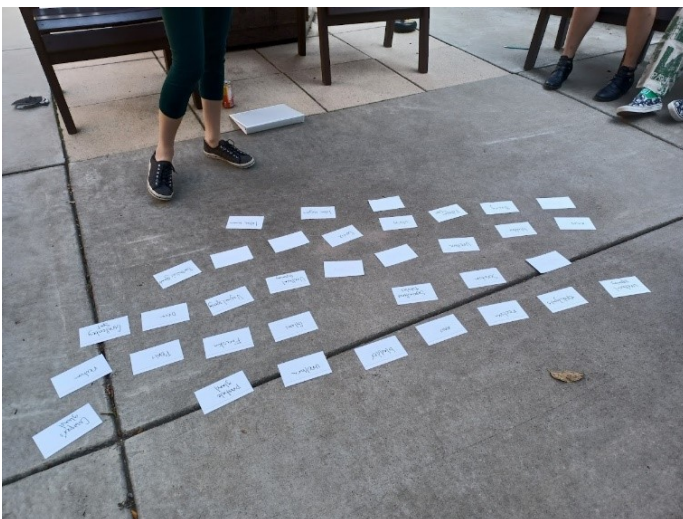
New this year, a bulletin board out on the columbarium plaza to let parents/guardians know...Where are Your Kids Today? Featuring handy-dandy map of the property with markers leading the way and a notices section with important take-aways.

Our Whole Lives, a comprehensive values and human sexuality program is off to the races!

With seven in our Senior OWL class, seven in our Middle OWL, eight in the NEW Little OWL class for 1st – 3rd grade, Elementary OWL beginning in January for 4th – 6th grade, and our Parent Support Group meets the first Sunday of each month after worship (where parents/guardians can bring their questions/concerns/ joys and find support from Pastor Nora and the other OWL facilitators, as they endeavor to be “Askable” parents and guardians able to receive any questions from their children with grace and compassion), young family members many generations are learning and growing together.



Little OWLs learning about body positivity and consent.



Senior OWL competing to find the answers to complex anatomy questions

Trunk or Treat

Noon to 1:00 pm, October 31, lower parking lot

Halloween is on a Sunday this year and it's also the week our Little OWLs complete the 1st-3rd grade program! To celebrate we're inviting kids of all ages to dress in costume and join us after worship for a Trunk or Treat event!

Are you interested in decorating the trunk of your car and handing out treats to kids? Come help us celebrate the season and add some joy to our children's and grandchildren's lives after a bummer of a Halloween last year.

Contact nora@stluke.mn for more details



Gift Making

Do you remember The Gift Making Workshop, one of St. Luke's most joyful events?

Well, it's back. Different in some ways but the same in others. In a time of epidemic, the changes will maximize the safety of the participants. Children will have the opportunity to create gifts for others in a way that promotes the creativity of the child and preserves the surprise of an unexpected gift. And it happens only because volunteers step up and work the work and enjoy the joys. There are many ways to join the fun. If you are interested, please communicate with Chris Sullivan at either 612-616-5059 or andromeda88@comcast.net.



Adult Education

Sundays at 9:15 am in the East Room or on Zoom

A Zoom link – listed below – will be live from the East Room where Zoom participants will be projected onto the wall, so if you're not comfortable attending AE in person, you can still stay connected to our engaging AE sessions. We're also going to be reconfiguring the room for physical distancing and accommodating the zoom audience. Follow our [Facebook](#) for updates!

October 10: Member, mother, and licensed therapist Emily Staples leads a forum dedicated to coping with the tensions that can arise from anti-mask and anti-vax beliefs.

October 24: Retired minister Bill Chadwick leads a forum highlighting his new book and healing stories.

Join us live or via [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 849 5696 8408 Password: peace

October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM Little OWL 9:15 AM New Member Class 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM BeFrienders 3:00 PM Senior OWL 5:00 PM Youth Dinner 6:00 PM Middle OWL	27 7:30 PM AA	28	29	30 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Depression & Anxiety Support	1	2 9:00 AM Grounds renewal service day 1:00 PM Daisy Troop
3 World Communion Sunday 9:00 AM Little OWL 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Fledging OWLets	4 7:30 PM AA	5	6	7 4:15 PM Group Violin Class 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Depression & Anxiety Support	8	9 7:45 AM Hermanos
10 9:00 AM Little OWL 9:15 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM Senior OWL 5:00 PM Women Connecting 5:00 PM Youth Dinner 6:00 PM Middle OWL	11 7:30 PM AA	12 6:30 PM Earth Stewards	13 9:30 AM The Book Group	14 4:15 PM Group Violin Class 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Depression & Anxiety Support	15 7:00 AM Women's Retreat	16 7:00 AM Women's Retreat 9:00 AM Grounds renewal service day
17 7:00 AM Women's Retreat 9:00 AM Little OWL 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Family Picnic and Sunday Club Games 6:00 PM Middle OWL	18 7:30 PM AA	19 6:45 PM Session Meeting	20	21 2:00 PM Challenge Deadline 4:15 PM Group Violin Class 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Depression & Anxiety Support	22	23
24 9:00 AM Little OWL 9:15 AM Adult Education 10:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM Senior OWL 5:00 PM Youth Dinner 6:00 PM Middle OWL	25 7:30 PM AA	26	27	28 4:15 PM Group Violin Class 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Depression & Anxiety Support	29 4:00 PM People Serving People	30
31 Reformation Sunday 9:00 AM Little OWL 10:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM Trunk or Treating	1 All Saints Day 7:30 PM AA	2 Municipal General Election	3	4 4:15 PM Group Violin Class 7:00 PM ACA 7:00 PM Depression & Anxiety Support	5	6 9:00 AM Grounds renewal service day 1:00 PM Daisy Troop

St. Luke Staff and Communications

Every member and friend, Ministers

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Jill Engeswick (she/hers), **BeFriendsers/Dementia Friends Coord.**

952-426-2831, jillengeswick@gmail.com

Joe Anderson & Brenda Davis, Sunday Morning Custodians

Anna Flekke, Childcare Worker (she/hers)

St. Luke Presbyterian Church
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GENERAL QUESTIONS

Email Anne at office@stluke.mn

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WEB ADDRESS

www.stluke.mn

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

The Challenge is published monthly.

The deadline for submitting articles
for the November newsletter is:

2:00 pm, October 21

to office@stluke.mn

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.