

the CHALLENGE



Fall Quarterly Edition! Feb - May - **Aug** - Nov

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NATIVE PLANT SPOTLIGHT

Blue Giant Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)

By Rev. Dr. Ane K Fitzgerald Interim Senior Pastor

I was leading a meeting with new members last September and for a quick "get to know you" question, I asked people what their favorite thing was about going back to school. What is it for you? Is it the new shoes, the new crayons or the new teacher?

What are your favorite things in the fall when we come back together as a church family? Is it the return of the choir, the education programs or the chance to be with people you missed over the summer? Whatever gets you excited about fall at St Luke, we love to have familiar and fresh faces participating in the life of the congregation.

As you open this autumn issue of the Challenge look for things that you might want to try for the first time. The Ministry Fair on September 10th will have tables with information and people to explain activities and programs. There will be good food and fun activities. We're also updating and adding photos to the church directory.



Beloved, let us welcome one another as we come together at church. Let us hug, high five, be merry and share God's blessings with one another.

Matthew 10:40-41.

Grace and peace, Pastor Ane

News and Upcoming Events



Native Spirituality - Sunday October 8th, Skeeter Scanlon will deliver the meditation for the day and lead an adult education class before worship at 9:15 am. In his own words:

" We all have our own journey... The spiritual life of one..."

My name is Ta-inyan Luta... The Altar that I honor is Lakota. I have participated in ceremonies out in South Dakota on Rosebud reservation at the Ironwood Hilltop and also at Crow Dogs paradise. I have also participated in Ceremonies of the Incas and the Aztecs. I have been invited to do it Temazcal with the Mayan. I am here in this lifetime to teach and to learn. What I need to concern myself with on a daily basis is what I can learn. Tókša akhé, Pilamaya, Mitakuye-Oyasin, Ta-inyan luta

Pine Ridge Sewing Group - The first week of October, Women from St Luke will travel to South Dakota. Typically the group brings sewing machines and supplies. They will partner with members of the Pine Ridge Community to make blankets. For more information please contact Cecy Faster, Peg Keenan or office@stluke.mn

St. Luke One-Day Women's Retreat - October 14, 9:45 AM to 4 PM.

"Belonging: What it Means to You" Location: Meadowbrook Farm 5850 County Road 155 Waconia, MN 55387 Bring a salad, bread, or dessert to share for lunch To save your spot, call or email the St. Luke church office by October 7.

Trunk or Treat - The last Sunday of October is this fun community chili pot luck, where adults decorate cars and kids dress in costume. Contact nora@stluke.mn to get involved.

Keep an eye out for building improvements at SLP.

Our desire to have an accessible and inviting environment is in the motivation for installing new doors on the upper level between the sanctuary and the office area. The new doors will be handicapped accessible and made of glass and chrome. See Cliff Buikema if you have questions or want to help with the project.

New Custodial Support

Katrina Anderson was hired in 2023 to support St Luke as a part-time hired custodian. If you have an interior project or work that needs to be addressed, please fill out a work order form and place it in her office mailbox, so she can attend to it on the clock.

We are lucky to have Katrina as a member of St Luke. As a member she volunteers to assist with childcare and Sunday school. This summer she participated in the Alaska Cultural Program.

Stepping into Life Giving Ministries

Do children make your heart sing?,

Would you like to learn stories of the Bible?

Maybe playing on Sunday would lift your spirits.

Is there an artistic part of your personality that you would like to express at church?,

Is there a sermon or adult study topic you would like to share?

Please email Ane@stluke.mn. She would love to find the place where your gifts are calling you and how they can be expressed at St Luke.

News and Upcoming Events

Adult Education

This fall Adult Ed features a series called The Reality of Immigration Today. Looking at humanizing the face and struggles of those who need to leave their homes because of oppression, our six week series will look at several angles regarding this complex issue.

Schedule:

Sept 17 – Overview and Introduction to the series and accompanying book read (Solito)

Sept 24 – Rev. John Fife joins us via Zoom to discuss modern boarder ministry

Oct 1 – Borderlinks Panel; discussion with those who have cared for immigrants from our southern border

- Oct 8 Forced Migration from a Native perspective with Skeeter Scanlon.
- Oct 15 In her own words, Equadorian immigrant, "Anna", joins us to share her story

Oct 22 – Trans Migration Project; Rev. Nora Elliott updates us on the work of supporting transgender migrants

Oct 29 – Book Study on Solito, by Javier Zamora Adult Ed meets on scheduled Sunday mornings beginning promptly at 9:15am.

Look for more information in the coming months about our Spring offering "So, You Have Realized, You Are Going to Die". This series will not only feature presentations about end of life planning and care, but also dive into the big question of, "what happens after we die?"

The Adult Ed Focus Group presents two series a year and members are welcome to sign up for another Sunday to present on a topic of their choice/interest.

All sessions are offered as hybrid through Zoom. Please contact office@stluke.mn for information about how to connect to our Adult Ed sessions remotely. Previous Adult Ed sessions are available on our YouTube channel, <u>youtube.com/Stl.ukePresbyterianChurchMN</u>. Members can schedule additional mods after this series concludes, by contacting Rev. Nora Elliott at nora@stluke.mn.

Transitional Pastor Updates

Later this fall St Luke will begin a process of discerning and refining the heart of our mission and ministry. There will be small group discussions and paper and pencil activities to help gather this information.

Once this mission study is complete, the next step will be to develop Ministry Information Form that describes St Luke and what kind of pastor would be a good fit for our congregation. This second phase will happen in 2024.

Know Your Neighbor

By Chris Sullivan

Carol Allis



Here is one of her poems:

Early in life, Carol Allis suffered privations common to intelligent girls in the fifties. Raised by a single mom and abandoned by her father and born on the wrong side of the tracks in Rochester, MN, she grew up poor and feeling like a wallflower. She blossomed though when she attended St. Olaf College. Even if she did not feel like she fit in – "I wasn't blond, wasn't rich, and wasn't Scandinavian." – living in an all-girl dorm with other lively and bright women opened her world of possibilities. Girls could be whoever they wanted to be.

After school, her education continued in an oppressive marriage, in which she "failed to be a good, little Christian wife." She grew in strength, confidence, and competence, however, and pursued a lifetime in public service. Finally at the age of forty, she landed a job doing what she most wanted to do: write. Since then, she has published two books and raised two children.

In 2008, her son Chris recommended that she join "that renegade church" in Wayzata.

Why don't we use & more often? Too much either/or Not enough both/and A lot of but Burns a lot of bridges Doesn't it We need more &

February 14, 2022

Know Your Neighbor

By Chris Sullivan

Doug and Nancy Anderson



Once Nancy Anderson was a social worker, specializing in adoption and foster care, which she found auite rewarding but also stressful and challenging. Adoption services include consulting with adoptive families. After one adoption she was able to communicate regularly with both the birth mother and the adoptive family. When the time was right, the family asked Nancy to arrange a meeting with the adoptive mother. Both sides invited Nancy to be present, which she accepted as a significant honor.

On the Monday after she retired, she began caring for her granddaughter Piper, now sixteen years old. Nancy

advised her once to give careful thought to any action that might have permanent effects, getting a tattoo for example. Piper said she intended to get one symbolizing Nancy. If anything happened to her, Piper wanted wear a permanent mark on her body, indicating how important Nancy was to her. How does a grandmother say no to that? She has a similar loving relationship with her grandson Holden. Teenagers do not share secrets with grandparents in the absence of a great deal of trust.

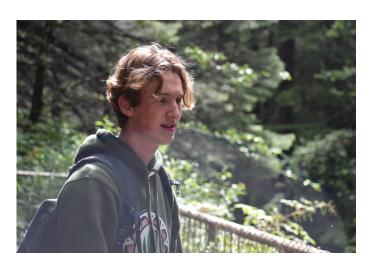
Family is also paramount in Doug's life as well. Working as a teacher prepared him well for both parenting and coaching. His calendar was determined by the lessons and sports participation of his two boys, Spencer and Grant. During the ten year gap between caring for children and caring for grandchildren, he and Nancy traveled. Seeing Machu Picchu and Rome stand out in his memory. And they go to Florida every year. St. Luke makes him feel very welcome and has given him many opportunities to contribute his time. Doing so has sharpened his sense of how important justice work is, specifically on climate and gender issues. Because he relishes being outside and seeing things grow, he gardens. Occasionally he hunts pheasant, partly because it affords walking outside. His equanimity is on display when he says, "If you see one, that's great. And if you don't see one, that's great too."

Youth and Families



Eyes were opened, limits were pushed, and deeper understanding of native cultures were found.











Full story of our Youth Community Connections Trip: Alaska, available at YouTube.com/StLukePresbyterianChurchMN









Hundreds of miles from home, we found peace unlike other. Thank You Juneau!





www.stluke.mn

What's been happening

After many years in the dreaming, our Minister of Music was thrilled to bring us a sermon series on the Theology of Broadway this summer! With guest musicians each week, we delved into the sacred essence hidden within the secular of Jesus Christ Superstar, Wicked, and Rent...

Yet, as the final note faded, a sense of longing for more lingered in our hearts, craving another chapter of this enchanting journey.

If you missed it, the symphony lives on through the recordings on our website, stluke.mn.





The story does not end here! Keep your senses attuned for a few more special offerings coming this fall, Les Misérables on Sep 24 and Frozen on Oct 29!

Columbarium Happy Hour

If you missed our annual columbarium happy hour event, you missed out! Thanks to those who helped setup and host a fun and lovely social event with our saints. You made this event shine brighter than a halo on a sunny day.





Here's to the ones who missed out - don't worry, we'll save you a spot for next year's happy hour extravaganza. But for now, let's cherish the memories we made, the jokes we shared, and the bonds we strengthened.

What's been happening

Tribute to Anne Duering



In the hush of our hearts, there exists a void that only the enigmatic, compassionate presence of Anne can fill. Her retirement marks not an end but a transformation of her legacy. Her allure - a gentle charm that whispered of selflessness and grace, now leaves an indelible mark upon our souls. In her absence, we are reminded of the extraordinary, the selfless, forever revered, and deeply missed Anne Duering.



Garden



Food for the native food shelf and immersion for crop EcoClub.

What's been happening

Summer Dance Party



St. Lukers embrace the magic of a joyous evening as laughter intertwined with melodies and dance. Together they wove memories that shall forever dance in our hearts.

Pastor Ane, Louise Mattson Director of (DIW) Judy Gregg & Senator Kelly Morrison

meet at St. Luke Presbyterian to discuss Mental Health Care in Minnesota.

Weedy Worship



The Weedy Worship group after tending to the garden and pulling away the unwanted to make space for life's beauty, is seen here, basking in the embrace of communal worship and song, after their work is done.

Welcome Smeeta

Peace & Puppets



In the delicate balance between justice and peace, our folk group wove tales of understanding, inspiring a world where harmony and equality entwine.



Our New Office Administrator works : Mon - Thurs (9:00 - 2:00) | Fri - (9:00 - 1:00). To get to know her some, please stop by and say hi or visit the staff page at stluke.mn.

BeFrienders

Listen! Can you hear it?

Simon and Garfunkel singing Bridge Over Troubled Waters... "when you're weary, feeling small, when tears are in your eyes, I'll dry them all. I'm on your side when times get rough and friends just can't be found. Like a bridge over troubled water..."

BeFrienders are trained to be that bridge. We listen without judging. We honor confidentiality. We listen without giving advice. We listen so you can gain perspective to solve your own problems or to share your pain or sadness. Or we would just listen to whatever you want to talk about. BeFrienders listen to people who may be experiencing times such as:

- Grieving the loss of a loved one.
- Sadness that can go with aging.
- Loneliness.
- Major decisions.
- Major life changes.
- Illness.
- Problems with family member...
- or any other time you just want someone to listen without interrupting or advising.

If you would like to meet with a BeFriender or want more information, you may call Janie Warner (612-747-1373) or Ginny Larson (952-210-8388). You may also ask any BeFriender if they are free and could meet for coffee or in the privacy of the church.

2023 BeFrienders:

David Bishop Ben van Lierop Marcia Yockers Lynn Cox Nancy Rademacher Mary Lou Hoff Ken Ribe Ginny Larson Janie Warner



St. Luke Leadership and Communications

GENERAL QUESTIONS Rev. Ane Fitzgerald, Senior Interim Pastor Email Smeeta at office@stluke.mn 952-473-7378, ane@stluke.mn Rev. Nora P. Elliott (she/they), Associate Pastor 952-473-7378, nora@stluke.mn 801-556-1881 cell David Hovick Lohman (he/him), Minister of Music Notify office@stluke.mn to receive david@stluke.mn Alayna Winters (she/her), Childcare Worker Smeeta Antony (she/her), Office Administrator 952-473-7378, office@stluke.mn **Darla Monson, Finance Secretary** 952-473-7378, darla@stluke.mn or finance@stluke.mn Katrina Anderson, Custodian custodian@stluke.mn Joe Anderson & Brenda Davis, Sunday Morning Custodians Phyllis Messenger (she/her), Clerk of Session, pmesseng@umn.edu, 612-790-5587 **Connie Branson, Moderator of Deacons** Ginny Larson (952-210-8388) and Janie Warner (612-747-1373), BeFriender Coordinators

Every member and friend is a minister of God's love and justice.

WEB ADDRESS

www.stluke.mn

weekly emails or to join the prayer chain.

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.