



April
2016

the CHALLENGE



From the Desk of

Rev. Anita Bradshaw

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Post-Easter and pre-summer: it is that time of the year in churches where we wrap things up and plan for the following program year, counting down the days to all that warm weather brings in Minnesota. St. Luke is adding one more thing to this time, and that is some formal beginning on our transition.

Beginning on Sunday, April 17, I will be offering a series of workshops to help set the stage for the conversations and work we will do together in discerning the future of St. Luke and preparing for the process of calling a new pastor. These workshops will take place in the 9:15 hour before worship for four consecutive Sundays. It is my hope that as many of you as possible will make a commitment to be at as many of the workshops as possible. They will give us a common language as we move forward. Here are the topics:

April 17: St. Luke is Not Alone, But How Did We Get Here: The Decline of Mainline Protestantism

April 24: The Life Cycle of a Congregation or How Do We Keep from Dying?: Being a Vital Church

May 1: It's a Generation Thing: We Really Do Have Multiple Worlds—and Worldviews—and It Ain't Easy

May 8: How Do You Grow a Church?

I look forward to seeing you every Sunday, but especially hope I will also see you at each workshop.

Blessings!
Anita

WORSHIP

- Sundays at 10:30am -

April 3

Communion: John Lee
Preaching: Lori Alford
Welcomer: Peter and Kathy Whatley
Greeters: Jim and Christina Gregory
Liturgist: Jill Engeswick
Ushers: Jane Wesson and Linda Thomson
Sound: Larry Stickler, Peter Whatley
Visitor Host: Peter Whatley

April 10

Announcements
Preaching: Anita Bradshaw
Welcomer: Connie Blodgett
Greeters: Nancy and Roger Anderson
Liturgist: Cel Smith
Ushers: Janie and Steve Warner
Sound: Mike Breckenridge

April 17

Preaching: Anita Bradshaw
Welcomer: Dickie Smith
Greeters: David and Judy Cline
Liturgist: Paul Winslow
Ushers: Frank Babka and Peter Whatley
Sound: Jim Gregory
Visitor Host: Peter Frederick & Carol Allis

April 24

Announcements
Preaching: Anita Bradshaw
Welcomer: Sue Kirchhoff
Greeters: Mary Lou Hoff and Ginny Larson
Liturgist: Peter Whatley
Ushers: Frank Babka and Peter Whatley
Sound: Ken Corens



Got Legos? Kwanzaa Church would appreciate donations of new or used Legos for STEM education. There's a bin in the back of the sanctuary to receive donations.

April Change for Change



Our Change for Change recipient for April is a new women's peacekeeping program of Nonviolent Peaceforce in South Sudan. NP works to promote and implement unarmed civilian protection as a tool for reducing violence and protecting people in situations of violent conflict. Civil war began in South Sudan in 2013, and has been particularly horrific for women and girls. One of NP's key strategies is the creation of Women's Peacekeeping Teams. Today there are over 300 women teams, and they would like to share their experiences and knowledge with other women in neighboring towns and villages.

St. Luke can help fund transportation and workshop opportunities for sharing experiences and best practices. Please give generously to make a real difference in the lives of these amazing women!

All coins and bill placed in the red envelope in the collection basket will go to the Change for Change recipient. You are also encouraged to write a check to St. Luke. This month put "women peacekeepers" in the memo line.

Change for Change Recap

In February we collected \$950 to benefit The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS). Heartfelt thanks to all who donated!

Session Slices

- from Session Meeting on March 15, 2016 -

Moderator - Rev. Anita Bradshaw

Great thanks to Kim Capel and crew for a wonderful intergenerational production last Sunday.

From Kwanzaa: Their 21st Century Academy after-school program for middle schoolers is in the process of planning their summer program and wondering about camping at St. Luke. Session is very interested in partnering with this group and asked Katie Williams to bring back specifics.

Director of Faith Formation Lori Alford gave us a review of all the work she's done for children, youth and families since December. She has had good participation by both the young people and their parents. She will do a monthly update in the *Challenge* so all members can be aware of programming. Lori will be the Camp Chaplain at Clearwater Forest the week of July 24-30.

Session accepted the slate of new members who plan to join on April 10.

There will be a Session Retreat held at the church on Saturday, April 16 in place of the April Session meeting. Anita will prepare the Session for the transition work she plans to do with the congregation.

Sunday, April 3 at 9:15 is "Conversations with Session," a chance to talk informally with members of Session.

Submitted by Jill Engeswick, Clerk of Session

Good to Know!

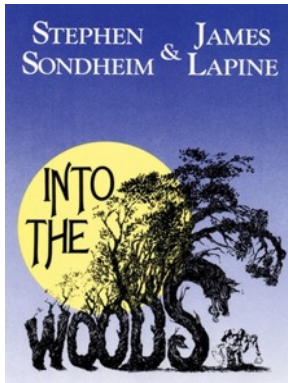
Library Corner: Check out books for Earth Day! There are books for all ages on the display counter about the environment, worms & compost, and green living. See the stluke.mn under "announcements" for details. Books can be checked out for three weeks. Please return the item to the black bin within that time frame so that others may use them. *Submitted by Julie Mall*

The Origin of Mother's Day: Julia Ward Howe is best known for writing the patriotic words to the Battle Hymn of the Republic, but was horrified by the carnage of the Civil War. In 1870, Howe issued a manifesto for peace at international peace conferences in London and Paris and issued a Mother's Day Proclamation in which she urged women and mothers not to let their sons kill the sons of other women. In 1872, she began promoting the idea of a "Mother's Day for Peace" to be celebrated on June 2, honoring peace, motherhood and womanhood. Here's an excerpt from her proclamation of 1870:

Arise then...women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts! Whether your baptism be of water or of tears! Say firmly: "We will not have questions answered by irrelevant agencies, our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn, all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We, the women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

Submitted by Linda Thomson

Events at St. Luke



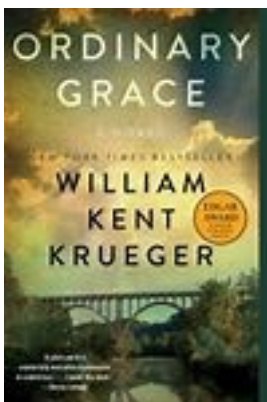
Reel to Real Movie Night: “Into the Woods” - Friday, April 1, 6:00 - 8:30 pm in the West Room. Pizza and fruit are served, donations accepted. Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine take the original Broadway production (not Disney’s version) and artfully intertwine several well-known fairy tale characters into a surprisingly funny but thought-provoking musical. For ages 10 and up.

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 transportation and lunch preferences.



Women’s Gathering: Ministry in the Making - April 10 at 6 pm at the home of Nancy Kizilos-Clift. All who identify as women are welcome to come for fellowship and to share your wishes for a women's ministry at St. Luke. If you are able, bring appetizers or treats to share. RSVPs are helpful but not necessary. Contact NancyKC@me.com (or 612-730-5552) for address and RSVP.

Exhibition on Racism - Tuesday, April 12 Join us at 10:30 am for a guided tour of, **“Faith INaction,”** at the United Theological Center in New Brighton. This art exhibition explores the response of people of faith to racism. After the tour we’ll attend the chapel service with Rev. John Lee at 11:30, with lunch in the cafeteria afterwards. Meet at St. Luke at 9:30 to carpool. Sign-up deadline is April 5, indicate transportation preference.



The St. Luke book group — Wednesday, April 13, at 9:30 am at the home of Nancy Anderson, 763-541-0244. We are reading *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger: "This story touches your heart and spirit in ways not to be forgotten. It's a wonder of heartfelt writing." Next up on May 11: *Leaving Time* by Jodi Picoult, at St. Luke hosted by June Maple. All are welcome.

Events at St. Luke, con't

Gathering of Neighborhoods – Sunday April 17 at 11:30 am. Plan to stay after worship for a light lunch, greeting old friends and meeting new ones as deacons host a congregational gathering. We'll sit by "neighborhoods"—geographic, by *winter* residence. Donations accepted. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

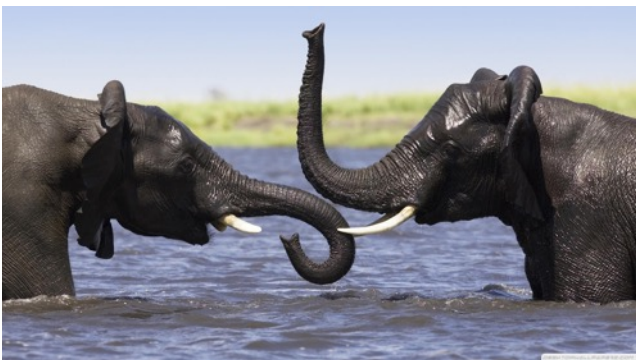


“Welcome Spring!” Sunday, April 24, 3-5pm with Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra Performance at Wayzata Community Church. Meet up afterwards at Lunds & Byerly's Kitchen in Folkestone, 250 Superior Blvd. Please email the office to sign up, indicating transportation preference. All are welcome.

Annual St. Luke Men's Retreat: April 30 -May 1 at St. John's Abbey Guesthouse, Collegeville, MN. Men of all ages are invited, that we might learn from each other across generations. We'll leave in car pools from St. Luke Saturday at 7:30am and return Sunday around noon. Enjoy three outstanding healthy meals. Single, double, and suite rooms offered for \$80 - \$110. Scholarships available.



St. Luke Creative Arts Camp: June 20 – July 1, “The Council of the Wild Whales and Elephants” We will be joining the singing whales and trumpeting elephants this year in celebrating life and healthy relationships.



Volunteers are welcome in the areas of playground, first aid, crafts, and set-up/clean-up. Contact Nancy Olmsted. Donations for scholarships are welcome.

April Birthdays

April 2 Jerry Cox
April 6 Jim Gregory
April 7 Judy Nelson
April 8 Mary Lou Hoff
April 8 Rod Komis
April 8 Jeanne Meyer
April 10 Cameron Marks
April 10 Wilhelmina Nichols
April 12 Karen Rader
April 13 Josh Pounder
April 14 Evan Staples
April 16 Jim Phillips
April 16 Louise Smith
April 16 Jane Williams
April 18 Jan Malone
April 20 Jo Schubert
April 21 Johan van Lierop
April 24 Keonna Sheppard
April 26 Jean Clarke
April 26 Evan Williams
April 29 Marissa Crannell

Faith Formation Update

Lent has been a full experience for Youth and Children. Thanks to all who helped make these events happen! Here's a snapshot of how each group engaged in this liturgical season:

Reflection Stations (children Pre-K through 5th grade and their youth mentors, during worship)

- Lenten Lapbooks – we created a way to mark the 40 days of Lent. Each book contained ways to engage in almsgiving, prayer, and fasting throughout this season. There is also a “hidden” surprise recipe for Easter morning.
- We experienced what it is like to be the outcast invited to a lavish feast – only to learn that ALL are the beloved of God and welcome at the table of love.
- Children engaged in prayer with their bodies through some yoga and meditation.
- All of us wrestled with the question of “How do we *see*?” Using the history of the famous hymn *Amazing Grace*, we explored what ways our seeing has been changed.

Youth Lock-ins

- Our February Lock-in opened with an exercise on food insecurity, followed by packing food at “Feed My Starving Children.” We reflected on our Lenten themes of almsgiving, prayer and fasting through the lens of our night of packing.
- The March Lock-In focused on the Palm/Passion stories of Holy Week. Youth practiced for the Reader’s Theater telling of the story in worship Palm Sunday and discussed similarities and differences in the four gospels of that story. They created a labyrinth for the church to use as we grow in our spiritual practices, then walked it themselves as a form of prayer. Finally, we shared the deepest of who we are by playing our favorite songs and telling what they mean to us.



Our Whole Lives

- Our meetings have been challenging and fruitful as we take on the difficult tasks of defining healthy behavior in the midst of a culture that promotes something very different. The OWL curriculum spends the time needed to break through myths and misinformation. We dealt with social media and texting boundaries and also had proper conversations about abstinence, masturbation and lovemaking. The OWL values help us create the toolbox of what is best for young adolescents. Information does not mean permission, rather it builds confidence in knowing what behavior is healthy and when it may be best not to engage.

Dates to remember for April: OWL on April 15 and Youth Lock-In April 22. Reflection Stations will be available April 3 through May 15. Please contact lori@stluke.mn with questions.

Ways to Serve

Our local ICA Foodshelf has had a busy year helping thousands of families put food on the table. Here are three ways to help:



1. Pick up a brown paper bag from the entryway at church and fill it with the suggested items. Return the bag to church and we'll relay it.
2. Volunteer at ICA Food Shelf. Other volunteers describe the work as "incredibly gratifying." There are immediate needs in Client Support (helping people shop), Food Logistics (sorting food), and Food Rescue (transporting food from local grocery stores.)
3. Send a monetary donation. Contact ICA at 952-279-0283 or visit www.ICAFoodshelf.org.

Families Moving Forward



St. Luke will host four homeless families with children May 1-8. We provide meals, overnight shelter, and hospitality. Our guests arrive at 6 pm Sunday, stay overnight, and leave in the early morning each day. St. Luke's classrooms function as sleeping rooms and our sanctuary as a dining room. This effort requires the help of about 60 volunteers. Here are the ways you can connect and serve:

1. Be a Dinner Host. Prepare a portion of the pre-planned meal at home and bring it to the church for dinner at 6:30 p.m. Hosts serve, eat with our guests and clean up.
2. Sleep overnight. These Co-Hosts arrive at 7 pm and leave the next morning at 7:15 am, (9:15 am on Saturday). They oversee evening activities, socialize with the families, and help people get out the door in the morning. Overnight Hosts sleep in their sleeping bags on cots, with each host in one of the upstairs offices.
3. Host Activities. Each evening several Activity Hosts (youths, adults, and/or families) volunteer from 7-8 pm to socialize with the families and play with the children. Use our games/sporting equipment or bring your own. Organize a group activity or get to know our guests individually.
4. Help with set-up or clean-up. We need help moving supplies from storage, setting up sleeping rooms, and even doing laundry at the end of the week.

The sign up is online. Contact any of these people for more information: Carol Allis, Doug Anderson, Mary Moulton, Peter Frederick, and Harding Van Schaack. Families Moving Forward is a shelter program of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative.

ST. LUKE STAFF & COMMUNICATIONS

313 Members, Ministers

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

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Anne@StLuke.Mn

Ben Miller, Custodian/Sexton

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

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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 May newsletter is 2pm, April 21 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