



Pastor's Corner

Manifesting the Kin-dom of God: Preparing the Way

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year. We observe four weeks of anticipation – each candle on our Advent Wreath representing the themes of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love, leading us to Christmas and the birth of Jesus. From there we continue through the year – Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and the Season After Pentecost. It's a cycle. A kind of rhythm. We live it out every year – through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus - and if we claim it, it shapes our lives. It is a cycle of hope.

Let's think about that for a moment – as Christians we carry in our hearts a rhythm of hope. Catholic mystic theologian Thomas Merton suggests that, "Advent is the 'sacrament' of the presence of God in the world." As Paul reminds us, the day is near: "We have been deep in the uncertainties of the night, but time works in a cycle and daytime is near."(Romans 13:12)

Each year during Advent we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. We anticipate the Holy breaking into our world and into our lives with the birth of Jesus. We sing about the Prince of Peace, the Mighty, Wonderful Counselor. Emmanuel. God with us. Given the place we find ourselves this December 2020, that proclamation takes a lot of imagination. It takes a lot of courage to proclaim that with the coming of Christ a world of peace and justice and righteousness reigns.

Professing that Christ is born into this broken hurting world is a radical act. This Advent we look towards the birth of the one who will change everything. Now is the time to re-claim that promise, a hope that rises once again. We are called to be hopeful and hope-filled people. We are called to witness to what the world can and should be. We are called, in fact, to manifest God's Kin-dom in the world, today.

**The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3)**

Advent blessings, Pastor Patti

WORSHIP

(Facebook Live at 9:30am on Sundays)

December 6 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 13 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 20 – 4th Sunday of Advent

December 24 – Christmas Eve

December 27 – 1st Sunday in Christmas

Agape Meals via Zoom at 5pm On Sundays

The practice of gathering in this way was begun when early Christian communities were being formed. This brief 30-minute gathering via Zoom is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our communal ties, offer thanks, and partake of bread and cup in remembrance of Jesus. **Please join us:**

Zoom invite: Join our Agape Meal Celebration

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81851076251?pwd=VjdzYmJuNlFEYnJUWllxTXNjU3Zhdz09>

Meeting ID: 818 5107 6251 Passcode: 765914

Welcome to our Virtual Worship Producer: Christopher Polanco!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Luke has been livestreaming and posting prerecorded worship services of the 9:30am Sunday worship on our Facebook page. We welcome our new, paid, AV virtual video producer **Christopher Polanco** to the St. Luke Staff. He has been training with John Kresl who has volunteered many hours every week to produce our Facebook and YouTube Sunday morning services since the 2nd week of March.

Chris is working with the pastors, Dan Hibbett, Gerry Reese, and individual musicians to assemble and edit prerecorded audio/video clips of the various elements of our worship services which are now available for viewing on the St. Luke website by clicking on the Facebook icon. We want to thank all of our families (parents and children) and adults who have led in the Prayers of the People and the Gospel Acclamations, including musical refrains for you to sing along with while watching from home. Our organist, Tom Skyler, has been recording solo organ selections for use as preludes and postludes in addition to Molly Wheeler's piano solos. Gerry Reese is working with Chris to continue to create master DVD's of these broadcasts which can be copied and given to seniors and shut-ins who don't have access to the internet. If you would like a copy, please call or email Leslie in the church office so that we can have them available for pick up or delivery by our visitation team or pastors.

St. Luke Ringers

The bells are on hold due to the governor's "freeze" on indoor gatherings which began on Wednesday, November 18. We were hoping to include a video tape of a live presentation for our November 22 Christ the King Sunday virtual service. Instead, we used a recording from the CD of last year's 2019 Christ the King service which included the bells.

Virtual Rejoice Choir in December

Our fourth virtual choir project entitled "Blessed is the Lord" by Dan Forrest will be included in our December 20 Sunday Advent service. I continue to record and edit individual vocal tracks before sending them to Jim Steele for final revisions. He compiles all the individual recordings into a master audio track, syncing and balancing them to create a blended choral sound. We have been creating the virtual choir video once a month during our weekly Thursday night choir zoom meetings. We will continue to incorporate prerecorded choir anthems from past "Musical Reflections" concerts and worship services into our Sunday morning Facebook worship broadcasts as appropriate.

DVD of 2018 Sacred Advent Concert

Since we cannot gather for a live Sacred Advent Concert this year, we will be presenting a DVD recording of the Rejoice Choir's 2018 presentation of the **"Gloria" by Mark Hayes on St. Luke's Facebook webpage at 4pm on Sunday, December 20.** This includes the same choir members who sang with Mark Hayes in Carnegie Hall in NYC the Monday following Thanksgiving that year. Please join us for this video performance and consider making a financial gift to St. Luke's Special Music Fund to continue supporting these annual concerts at St. Luke.

Virtual Christmas Eve Service

Our traditional Christmas Eve services this year will be combined into one, Facebook virtual service on **Thursday, December 24 from 4-5:30pm.** The service will begin with an extended prelude with a variety of musical numbers including vocal and instrumental solos, handbells, harp solo, children's piano solos, and a men's quartet. Our children's sermon will include a skit by Dave and Jonathan Maier. Traditional elements will include the entrance and lighting of the Christ candle and the Advent Wreath, congregational singing of Christmas carols, special music by the Rejoice Choir and Modern Worship Team, vocal solos, organ postlude, and a sermon by Pastor Patti Welch. Please join us with your family for this special observance of the humble birth of Jesus Christ in a Bethlehem manger

Holden Evening Vespers on Tuesday Nights:

Live stream: 7:00pm on December 1, 8, 15 and 22 on St. Luke's Facebook Page.

St. Luke Christmas Eve Service

► Facebook Premier at 4pm!

4:00pm – Musical Extravaganza Prelude

4:30pm – Worship Service of Word and Candlelight

- Children's Time

- Beloved Carols

- The Christmas Story

- A Candlelight Christmas: features St. Luke households!

St. Luke Christmas Eve – A Holy Meal

5:30pm – Agape Meal (Bread and Wine) on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81795477679?pwd=UXdyUWQ5K3VWQmdsOUphODZwak5lZz09>

Meeting ID: 817 9547 7679

Passcode: 368954

Join in our Candlelit Christmas Eve service!

Email a picture of yourself holding a lighted candle to our new Virtual Worship Coordinator: Chris Polanco candleitchristmas2020@gmail.com by the end of the day on **Sunday, December 20** to be featured in our Christmas Eve service.

If you'd like a candle from St. Luke, you can pick one up from the bin outside of the office door between Dec. 10 and Dec. 20.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who participated in Synod Assembly in November alongside Pastors Patti & Beth: Melody Drangstveit, Ron Witcosky and Karen Stabeno a

Much thanks to John Kresl, who created our beautiful virtual worship services! Over 8 months, John volunteered countless hours filming, uploading, downloading, mixing sound, and video editing so that we could enjoy our worship together via Facebook. Abundant thanks also to Joe Gantt, who joined in creating original and moving services. In November, St. Luke hired a part time Virtual Worship Coordinator, Chris Polanco, who is continuing to develop the beautiful work done by John and Joe, allowing them to simply worship again!

St. Luke thanks all who assisted with our "Giving Thanks" Parade, and all of our teachers who give their time so that our students (of all ages) may come to know God's love more fully!

And... Thanks to John Gaudette for the photos!



CONNECT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ST. LUKE COMMUNITY:

As we learn to connect in new ways, one such way is through sharing parts of our faith stories. Each month, St. Luke's Messenger features a different member sharing about God's call on their life.

To our St. Luke Community of Friends.

We wish you all a gracious Advent Season. This Advent season is different from any we have experienced in our lifetime. As Advent is a season of waiting, this year we are waiting for so much in our secular lives. When will a Covid 19 virus vaccine be deployed? When will it be safe to be with family and friends? When can children return to school? When will we see the beginnings of healing in the political divisions that currently plague our nation. But in our faith, we also have hope that comes with a promise wrapped in the Christmas message.

We both grew up in a Lutheran identity that was definitely ethnic-specific. When Margaret was asked one time when did we become Lutherans, she answered "We were conceived Lutheran." In our case it was Danish-Lutheran. At that time Pastors needed to be fluent in Danish so that they could conduct periodic services in Danish. Even within Danish Lutheranism there were two synods. We were on the side of the followers of N.S.F. Grundtvig, or the so-called "Happy Danes".

In 1962 the Grundtvigians of the AELC merged with three other Lutheran bodies to form the LCA, and in 1987, with the merger of ALC and LCA the ELCA was formed. Even today, 58 years after that first merger there is still a newsletter, *Church and Life*, published 10 times per year that carries on the Grundtvigian message.

Margaret grew up in Solvang, California, and Vern in Fredsville, Iowa. We met at Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa. This was the college and seminary for the 80 Grundtvigian congregations spread across the United States.

After college we moved to the Bay Area where we spent most of our adult lives. Vern taught school, general science and chemistry, for 16 years, and then spent 24 years with two companies in technical training and quality assurance. After our sons, Bradford and Erik, were in middle school, Margaret returned to college at Santa Clara University and became a certified paralegal. She had a very rewarding 25-year career where she specialized in probate and trust administration. During this time, we were members of Lutheran churches where we served as Sunday School and VBS teachers, and as members of Church Councils and Building Committees.

We both retired on the same day in 2005. Our sons, Bradford and Erik, attended PLU followed by graduate school and by this time both had settled in the Portland area with their families. It was an easy decision to move, as Margaret says, "to where the fun is", and be with our sons and their families. Joining St. Luke was also an easy decision. Our first connection was in 1993, when we attended the wedding of Kristin Ford and David Martinson. David had grown up with our sons in our Santa Clara, California, neighborhood. Bradford and his family, after living on the East Coast, moved to Beaverton and became members of St. Luke in 1999. While still living in California, with each visit we made we had a Sunday visit to St. Luke.

Shortly after joining St. Luke in 2005, Margaret became active in WELCA serving as treasurer and president. Vern taught Confirmation class for six years, and he has been part of the Environmental Stewardship team since its founding in 2008. One of the most meaningful experiences for Vern has been attending the Wednesday Men's Breakfast Bible Study (now meeting on Tuesdays via ZOOM). Studying the context within which the scriptures were written has led to a deeper understanding and a stronger faith.

St. Luke is remarkable for its tradition of social outreach which exemplifies "God's work. Our hands." Even more remarkable is the current personal introspection that we are doing within our community. Bing Swigart was leading discussions on racism long before our nation has taken up this issue following the killing of George Floyd. Book groups, small group ministries, and Adult Ed have studied a variety of books on white fragility and racism. All of this will lead to a church that can be more relevant in our multi-cultural society. We cherish our ethnic heritage, but this must not be a barrier to a welcoming church.

The brightness and promise of Christmas will not be diminished by our current situation of physical distancing. May we all be blessed by this wonderful season of love and hope. Merry Christmas.



~ Margaret and Vern Johnson

Isn't That Special! So, What's So Special About St. Luke?

Why I Give

Many years ago, in fact, 40 years ago, my wife Georgann and I moved into the Garden Home neighborhood. We enrolled our kids in Smith School. We figured we should find a nearby church so the kids could go to Sunday school. My wife asked Judy Wicklund (who was in the Smith PTA), if she knew of a nearby Lutheran Church. We were married at Portsmouth Trinity Lutheran 8 years before but had not found a Church. Judy was a member of St Luke and suggested we attend and see what we think. We contemplated and prayed how do we know it was the church for us. While reading the Bible I came across a verse that caught my eye. Exodus 20:23 **"And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone"**



The first Sunday we visited St. Luke, we opened the main doors and saw a giant altar of stone. I knew we had found the right church guided by the hand of God. The next week both Pastor Bentz and Pastor Lundby came to our home and invited us to join St Luke. The congregation was so welcoming. We knew several people from Smith School like Sue and Dave Ramus, Joan Rohrer, Roger and Judy Wicklund, John and Karen Buehler, and Jon and RuJeanne Anderson, who Georgie knew from her High school. I knew Ole Johnson and Glenn Fors as my teachers at PCC. Always good to see a familiar friendly face.

Our kids enjoyed Sunday School. In fact, Georgann and I taught together with Sue and Dave Ramus for several years. Sue and Georgann started the Wednesday night dinners. After about a year I attended a Property Committee meeting because I could use my skills to help with projects. Don Larios asked if I would head the Committee and I did for several decades, up until Dan Gott took over last year.

My son Rian joined the Bell Choir at 12 years old until he moved out of town 25 years later. My younger son Blaine and his wife Tai have taught for many years and helped with the Grauer Back to School Project. My grandsons, Liam and Owen, attend Sunday School.

I would often work at the church in the evenings. One night, Bea Severson's husband, Orv, came to help me remodel the Choir loft. I did not even have to ask for assistance. There is always somebody willing to help. Roy Pearson taught me about fine woodworking. He said a good craftsman knows how to hide his mistakes.

Oh, I had a few theological questions for Pastor Bentz, like what is the difference between Missouri Synod and ELCA? He responded "BEER" and told me the Swedish Lutherans would never serve beer at the church picnic, but for the German Lutherans, it is a must have!

Are you wondering why I am mentioning all these names? Well, it's because what makes St. Luke special is the people! They are friendly, caring, giving, and helpful. If you don't think St. Luke is special, just look what the new virtual worship team does with online services on Facebook. We get to see the talented members of this congregation, pastors, and staff each week. There are also a ton of small groups to join that cater to a multitude of interests.

I have always been a regular giver to St. Luke but wish I could give more. My donations are not only money but my time and talents, too. I know regular giving keeps St. Luke up to date with benevolence and helps run the operations of the church. **I hope you continue to give to St. Luke to keep it "Special".** Please pray about it and see how you can help. ~ **St. Luke member, Mark Dustan**



~ **Mark and Georgann Dustan**

Connecting Online

Twitter - Follow St. Luke: @StLuke_Church

► Right now, you may amplify our daily devotions with the links that are provided in our Twitter feed. It's easy and it shows more about who we are as a congregation with daily lay and pastoral messages we can share.

Instagram - Find us at [st_luke_portland](#)

► This is a wonderful way to share photos and comment on them, as well as share photos as part of your story.

#GodsWorkOurHands

#WorshipConnectServe

#FindStLukeLutheranAndFollowUs2020

Coffee Time

Gather for fellowship and discussion related to the sermon or for a special update or event. **Sundays at 10:30am**

Zoom invite:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89410016496?pwd=QWNGMytQUFIUQVdIMUw5a1NjQnJJQT09>

Meeting ID: 894 1001 6496

Passcode: 712869

Every Women's Bible Study Circle

Sunday, December 6, 6:30-8:00pm

Zoom link: <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/8376302680>

Community Conversations Around Race

Join us on Saturday mornings: **December 12 at 10am** to process current events and race. Facilitated by Bing Swigart, each session features a different, timely theme and creates a safe space for discussion and questions. For more information email:

communityconversationsaroundrace@stlukechurch.com.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912685293?pwd=K3NzcTZKYUZydEx6M2xSRmxtbmsvUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 1268 5293

Passcode: 983763

Sarah Circle: Monday, December 7, 9:30~11:00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4386280314?pwd=TWkzWkFMalhFc3JiUmpVcFQzYkjhZD09>

Meeting ID: 438 628 0314

Passcode: Sarah

By phone: 253 215 8782 USM

Meeting ID: 438 628 0314

Passcode: 365531

Women's Bible Study ~ Tuesdays at 8am

<https://zoom.us/j/501766676?pwd=N1RKSTRTRU96NDdzeE9Ga2ZDeUpMQT09>

Meeting ID: 501 766 676

Password: 378366

Men's Breakfast Bible Study ~ Mondays at 11am!

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/6169686873?pwd=V3J6c25tYjNKTUFVWktYd1UvK2NNdz09>

Meeting ID: 616 968 6873

Password: Sunshine

Second Sunday Book Group ~ 10:45am

December 13 - Evvie Drake Starts Over by Linda Holmes

January 10 - Reader's Choice

Contact: Caryl Walker

ADULT EDUCATION

Prepare the Way of the Lord: An Inner Approach
Befriending the Darkness

Most people do not know what they mean by "darkness" except that they want to stay out of it...When, despite all my best efforts, the lights have gone off in my life (literally or figuratively, take your pick), plunging me into the kind of darkness that turns my knees to water, nonetheless I have not died.

Jesus was born in a cave and rose from the dead in a cove...I learned that caves made the best stables in Jesus' day...Resurrection is always announced with Easter lilies, the sound of trumpets, bright streaming light. But it did not happen that way. If it happened in a cave, it happened in complete silence, in absolute darkness, with the smell of damp stone and dug earth in the air...new life starts in the dark.

Barbara Brown Taylor, "*Learning to Walk in the Dark*"

For more from Learning to Walk in the Dark:

<http://drive.google.com/file/d/1L5FvVnoEDCX60pFT7c0Ty9fNOZ-CEHT/view?usp=sharing>

I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name. ~ Isaiah 45:3

Begin an internal journey of healing into the quiet and dark places of our own hearts, a journey that heals by bringing down the mountains of our expectations and raising up our valleys of the shadows.

Guest facilitator Mark Lesniewski, MA in Contemplative Psychotherapy: Retreat Leader, and Meditation Instructor and Spiritual Director at the Franciscan Spiritual Center, will lead us in guided reflections, silent meditation, sacred sharing of our journeys.

Join us **Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16 and 23** from 7-8pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84100097293?pwd=V2t2UHIHS2FsMUtJbTVPZIE4ZEw1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 841 0009 7293

Passcode: 289957

St. Luke Church Family Christmas: "Secret Santa Project"



"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

NRSV Isaiah 9:6

The Advent Season is Coming!

The time of year to celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus!

Christ is born with us even in pandemic times, weaving us into one extended church family of faith.

St. Luke households are invited to come together on Christmas Day with our "St. Luke Church Family Christmas" and participation in the Secret Santa Project.

To participate you can sign-up at:

www.stlukechurch.com/christmas-with-st-luke

or contact:

Jane Chan: yuenandjane@msn.com

503-380-8115

In Christ, God has made us family – so this Christmas, let's be family for one another! Join us for a Secret Santa ministry of prayer, note writing, and a gift that culminates in a gift exchange and Secret Santa reveal on Christmas Day!

On Christmas Day at 10am, we join together on Zoom to sing carols, exchange gifts, play games, and be family together! We ask all Secret Santas to participate for at least the first half hour, but all are welcome to join in the fun for as long as it lasts!

Go to our website to learn more and to sign up!

<https://www.stlukechurch.com/christmas-with-st-luke.html>

Fifty and Beyond (FAB) Planning Team The Year 2020 in Review

We have missed you! A lot!! But as it has been said, "We must separate now, so when we reconvene, no one is missing." So until we meet again, we share with you our year in review:

January 15th, a potluck and the movie, "**The Straight Story**." A good time was had by all.

February 11th, eleven people attend our **Valentine's Party**, where we enjoyed fellowship, food and a LOVE guessing game. Everyone left with a prize!

CANCELLED, but NOT FORGOTTEN:

March 31st: Potluck and Chantal Carpenter on **How to Get A Good Night's Rest During Our Golden Years**.

April 15th: A bus trip to the **Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens** in Washington.

May: **Crystal Springs Rhododendron Gardens** in Portland.

June: **Preacher's Rock in The Dalles**. Jason Lee preached to the Chinook Indians, who did not understand him, but politely listened. This is a historic fort site.

July: **Annual Northwest Pilot Project (NWPP) picnic**. In lieu of hosting our traditional summer picnic for NWPP clients, we provided them with special goodie bags (as shown in the September *messenger*).

We are hoping that we will be doing all of those activities in 2021! And we have the following suggestions for future activities: **Trees**, an Italian restaurant in Tigard; **Vertical Café and Gold Room** on Barbur where everything on the menu is PLANT based; a return trip to the **Merry Go Round in Albany**; **talks** on **Shiatsu massage, Tai Chi, how to have the best posture; trip to a local mosque**, and a talk from **Harris Zafar**, who is involved in the Muslim Education Trust.

But now, gentle reader, let us hear from you! **What would you like to do when we can again gather together? These suggestions can be in the nature of service, social and/or educational.**

PLEASE CONTACT A FAB MEMBER OR THE CHURCH OFFICE.

Remember, from Matthew 18:20: "**For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.**"

Missing you and wishing you all a joyful season.

From the FAB planning team: Bea Severson, Carol Greene, Dan Gott, Ellie Moe, Gary Miniszewski, Marsha Swantz and Nancy Feldman

SERVE



The Giving Tree

Each year during the holiday season, St. Luke has a gift giving service event called The Giving Tree. Gift tags are created for individuals served by two different local agencies: refugee families served through Lutheran Community Services, as well the small children and babies who are residents of the Letty Owings Center. We want to carry on this tradition – but this year it will look a little bit different. There is a SignUpGenius link where members can log on and sign up to purchase one of the gifts listed: visit:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4aaaa72ea0fbc61-christmas>

There are requests for both gifts and gift cards. All gifts should be new. For those who do not have computers or do not feel comfortable with this signup method – there will be the option of emailing or calling Jeff Ross – the lay coordinator for this ministry. He will help you select a gift to purchase. **All gifts should be gift-wrapped and returned with a tag attached identifying what the gift is and who it is for. We will collect these gifts at St. Luke during the week of December 8-11.** There will be a box outside the narthex doors from 9am-4pm where you can drop off your gift. Questions about the Giving Tree? Please contact Jeff Ross: jeffross12359@gmail.com or 503-460-7503.

"Give Thanks Parade"

"Thank you, thank you, thank you", was the response from the extremely grateful Neighborhood House staff Monday morning after 1,109 pounds (7 overflowing shopping carts!) of grocery items were delivered to their pantry. This was from the enormous outpouring of generosity of our members.



"Give Thanks" Drive-by Sunday, November 22

Grauer Back to School UPDATE!!

Our Grauer Back to School team has now finished our distribution for 2020! Working with the local schools, we were able to distribute 400 backpacks and nearly 300 coats and T-shirts to students in need! We are very thankful for all of those volunteers who helped make this a reality by setting up coat racks, hanging coats, filling coat orders, and taking deliveries to our neighborhood schools.

A huge shoutout of thanks to the entire Grauer Ministry Team and these additional volunteers: Gayle Baack, Jane, Yuen and Josiah Chan, June Bremmer, Kate Schweitzer, Nancy and Michael Tieman, Gary and Susan Tremper, Kristin and Genna Bialobok, David Medford, and Earl Cahoe. We couldn't have done it without you!

The team has made the decision not to distribute shoes this year – believing there is not a safe way to accomplish this in the midst of Covid restrictions. We are now enthusiastically preparing for Grauer 2021!

West Women's and Children's Shelter:

Big need right now for twin extra-long sheets and women's coats!

Contact: Gerry Foote

peaceleaves@comcast.net

cell: 503-706-8736 or home: 503-245-3832



Social Concerns Update

At the November Zoom meeting of the Social Concerns Committee, we voted to transfer funds held in our Social Concerns account for allocations to our two Multi-generational Projects as requested:

- \$8,000 - Community Table
- \$10,000 - Grauer Back to School Project

We also allocated your remaining and budgeted 2020 benevolence offerings as follows:

Hunger/Food Insecurity

- \$2,000 - SW Neighborhood House Food Pantry

Immigration/Refugee Support

- \$500-Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice
- \$500-SOAR-Immigration Legal Services
- \$2000- Al-Masri refugee family for dental care assistance

Community Health

- \$500-Cascade AIDS Project

Advocacy

- \$150-Disability Rights Oregon
- \$150- ACLU Foundation, Count Every Vote Project

In terms of Christmas-related benevolence, we made these commitments on your behalf, with individual Committee members taking the lead with each:

- \$1,050- Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas for Christmas Wreaths (gift rather than purchase due to pandemic) - 30 wreaths with distribution at quantities to be determined in conversation with Letty Owings Center, NW Pilot Project, and West Women's and Children's Shelter.
- \$2,000 - House of Zion Christmas Program, Woodburn, Oregon
- \$1,000 - West Women's and Children's Shelter Christmas gifts
- \$1,000- Maplewood School Helping Hands

\$2,000 in a designated gift from members of congregation was sent via Social Concerns to West Women's and Children's Center (not reflected in overall Social Concerns allocations).

St. Luke's Giving Tree this year is coordinated by Jeff Ross with a process involving "Sign-Up Genius" as well as emails/phone call to Jeff Ross for donations. Gifts to be distributed to Letty Owings and Lutheran Community Services NW. Instructions in Weekly Update. Need for volunteers for one week to monitor drop off of gifts.

We also discussed and confirmed rationale/timeline for distribution of Benson Family Foundation funding for 2020 which will take place via a Zoom meeting of the Social Concerns Committee on December 10.

We are continually grateful to the St. Luke congregation for your ongoing financial commitments to our neighbors, in particular during these uncertain pandemic times when there is so much human suffering and additional assistance needed.

Thank you for your offerings and your trust in our Committee to allocate benevolence consistent with our congregational guidelines.

Our Social Concerns Committee's Annual Report will be submitted for inclusion in the St. Luke Lutheran Church 2020 Annual Report.

A separate report will also be submitted to the Benson family and to the St. Luke Lutheran Church Annual Report for our allocation of the 2020 Benson Family Foundation grants made in December.
God's Peace through Justice,

Michael Ford Chair, Social Concerns Committee



IN THE FAMILY

PRAYERS: Prayers for the departed: Beth Iverson, mother of **Marilyn Hudson**; Clara "Honey" Evans, mother of **Susan Grabe**; Brian, father of **Keith Cunningham-Parmeter**; the family of **Mary Thumma** (age 103); Mary Baich, mother of **Stephanie Halvorson**; Ramon Esquevel, son-in-law of **Bea Severson**.

Lisa Lynham (breast cancer), **Carrie Laurence** (surgery), **Patty Farrell**, David Hayne's mother, **Priscilla** (stroke), **Joanne Haynes** (recovering from knee surgery), **Patricia Cupper**, (fall), Maripat Hensel's mother, **Jane Hensel** (home from hospital with new pacemaker!), Jim Hensel's mother; Dale Benson's brother **Jordan Benson** (cancer) and sister **Carol** and her husband (cancer), **Lawrence** and **Sandra Carasco**, **Becky Branson and family** as they grieve the death of niece Jenny Branson and prayers of healing for husband **George Branson** as he recovers from hip replacement surgery, **David Osenberg** (cancer treatment), **John Jessen**, **Barb Dahlgren**, **Annette** (stroke) and **Paul** (caregiver), parents of Kim Weber, **Hal Yackley**, **Daniel Alrick**, **Georgann Dustan**, **Gary Hofsommer**, **Henry Heuer** (leukemia), **Will Heuer**, **Wendy Metz**, **Bonnie Brunk**, **Dottie Inman**, **Dee Mills**, **Harry Flesher**, **Jeremy Eckhardt**, and those incarcerated.

NEW MEMBERS IN 2020 ~ WELCOME!

Ashley Lindsay
Patty Farrell
Sandra and Lawrence Carasco
Pastor Melissa Redd
Lee and Pastor Patti Welch

GOD'S PEOPLE PRAYING.....



For prayers in emergency, specific events in your life (happy or sad) or in any case you feel the need for others to be praying with you, St. Luke has Prayer Chains that take **phone calls day and night**.

The church office or one of our pastors:
 503-246-2325

Day calls: (8am ~ 5pm) **Rujeanne Anderson**
 503- 297-2246

Night calls: (after 5pm) **Carol Greene**
 503-245-4189

Calls Are Confidential.



Karl Metz	12/1	Frederick Greb	12/17
Krag Petterson	12/1	Lauren Patrick	12/18
Lee Sickler	12/1	Elmer Skurdahl	12/18
Sean Meurisse	12/1	Connor Haynes	12/18
Debbie Elsner	12/2	Vic Wolf	12/19
Megan Ellertson	12/2	Geoff Frasier	12/20
John Jessen	12/2	Grant Babb	12/20
Kristin Bialobok	12/4	Mark Wood	12/20
Brecken Iverson	12/5	Jaden Flicker	12/21
Gigi Schweitzer	12/5	Laurel Skinner	12/22
Mary Davis	12/6	Erika Orchard	12/22
Frances Crandall	12/6	Noah Grabe	12/23
Louise Nuss	12/6	Ruth Shelly	12/23
Judy Bayley	12/7	Dave Scheele	12/23
Lauren Swigart	12/7	Beverly Skinner	12/23
Jennifer Novack	12/7	Bob Metz	12/24
Kate LeBlanc	12/7	Carol Cryder	12/24
Carol Greene	12/8	Bill Metz	12/24
Christine Patrick	12/8	Rosaline Adibonou	12/24
Grant Andersen	12/8	Owen Schlechter	12/24
Nolan Couch	12/9	Karen Becker	12/24
Vivian Wood	12/10	Comfort Adibonou	12/24
Susan Westin	12/10	Claire Arthur	12/24
Tina Fabbro	12/11	Zach Zuckerman	12/26
Donald Markman	12/11	Tammy Witcosky	12/26
Brandt Gehrs	12/11	Dan Hibbett	12/27
Ron Witcosky	12/12	Kasey Flicker	12/27
Catherine Skinner	12/12	Tanner Watts	12/27
Kristin Holmberg	12/12	Jeff Munson	12/27
Carrie Laurence	12/12	Nancy Scheele	12/27
Gabriel Novack	12/12	Gary Mann	12/28
Stephanie Halvorson	12/14	Ami Halvorson	12/29
Maira Chin	12/14	Karla Whitfield	12/30
Nathan Selander	12/14	Travis Eddy	12/30
June Bremmer	12/15	Jeremy Nuss	12/31

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER?

Each month, "The Messenger" (St. Luke newsletter), is posted to the church website, a link is sent via MailChimp directly to our members and papers copies are sent via the U.S. post office. If you are comfortable receiving the newsletter electronically please help us to save on paper, ink and postage costs. **Contact the church office if we can sign you up for digital only:**
office@stlukechurch.com Thanks!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Dear St. Luke Friends,

While this is typically a Children's Page designed for families and kids, keep reading! This month's post is our crafty and fabric loving adults.

Advent is a time of preparation. In my world, the action of preparation instills in me hope, just like the person who sews sees the result of their handiwork immerge one stitch at a time. For me, this translates into my kitchen and into children's ministry. From baking in my own kitchen to event planning for family festivals, my hope immerges out of the core of planning and prepping – knowing all those steps of preparation will ensure the end result of participants' happiness and satisfaction, and more importantly, hope that those familial roots planted in the children and their grownups grow just a little bit deeper.

During this time of distance and separation, there are still little ways we can still prepare, and through these acts of love, hope. Hope for the return of togetherness, hope for the return of traditions like our beloved Advent festival.

I invite you to help prepare for the future of St. Luke's Children's Ministry and in so doing may your world be made just a little brighter, just a bit more hopeful.

Here are some sweet - small but vital - ways, you can help. If you have buttons that you do not want, please consider gifting these to Children's Ministry. (Buttons preferred without shanks, but we'll will happily accept any type).

For those who have remnant fabrics, especially festive Christmas designs, please consider gifting these, please: pre-cut into 9 inch by .75 inch strips. We'll even be glad to accept upcycled strips of the same dimensions made from old plaid flannel shirts, cloth napkins, and tablecloths.

These buttons and fabric strips will be lovingly stored for our next Advent Festival for craft stations/ideas like you see below. Feel free to store at home and bring to church at a later point, OR you can schedule a drop off with the church office and place your item in a bin marked Children's Ministry in the Ministry Center area. I would recommend, due to the Governor's pause, the best way to drop off is by first calling the office.

Sending you all much gratitude ... and hope, Kim

Photo Source: Pinterest

Scrap Ribbon Tree Ornaments Examples:

Fabric Needed, Pre-Cut into 9-inch by .75-inch strips



Button Craft Examples:



Children's Ministry Contact:

Kim Weber: childrensministry@stlukechurch.com

PLEASE NOTE:

No Sunday Classes:

December 27

January 3

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



Middle School Ministries/Confirmation
Seeking to Immerse Middle Schoolers
In the Love of God

Gatherings: Dec. 6, 13, & 20
@ 11am on Zoom

Contact Joan Snyder:
vanderweele@comcast.net

Late December service opportunity:
college student care packs!
Stay tuned for more!

ST. LUKE YOUTH NEWS

SLY IN DECEMBER

Join us for the first three Sundays in December in Zoom SLY Sunday. It is great to see those that tune in each week and it keeps us up to date on what is happening in your lives! We miss seeing you in person, but are very thankful there is a way we can meet online each week!



THANK YOU, LAUREL!!

A huge shout out to Laurel Skinner for leading our first ever Zoom SLY game night in November! We had a blast and it couldn't have happened without the high energy and creativity that Laurel brings to everything she does! We love you Laurel!



SLY CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 20 – Zoom in at our regular 11am meeting time to celebrate the season with your SLY friends and leaders! December 27 and January 3: NO SLY Sunday - Christmas Break

★Save This Week: June 20-26, 2021
Probable Summer Service Trip Dates

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1 style="color: blue;">DECEMBER 2020</h1> <p><i>(Please note all meetings/events are virtual)</i></p>						
 <p>St. Luke LUTHERAN CHURCH</p> <p style="color: blue; font-size: 1.2em;">Worship † Connect † Serve</p>		<p>1</p> <p>7:00am Men's Bible Study 8:00am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm Holden Evening Vespers 7:00pm Committee Night</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4:00pm Prayer Pause 4:45pm Conversations from the Heart</p> <p>7:00~8:00pm <u>Adult Education:</u> Prepare The Way of the Lord</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00pm Communications Team 7:30pm Choir Mtg.</p>	4	5
<p>6</p> <p>2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:30am Worship 10:15am 5th grade 10:30am Coffee Time Pre-K (3 years) ~ 1st grade <u>Parent Group</u> 11:00am: 2nd ~ 4th grades MSM and SLY 5:00pm Agape Meal 6:30pm Every Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am Sarah Circle</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00am Men's Bible Study 8:00am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm <u>Finance Committee</u> 7:00pm Holden Evening Vespers</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4:00pm Prayer Pause 7:00~8:00pm <u>Adult Education:</u> Prepare The Way of the Lord</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Mtg.</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Community Conversation Around Race</p>
<p>13</p> <p>3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:30am Worship 10:15am 5th grade 10:30am Coffee Time Pre-K (3 years) ~ 1st grade <u>Parent Group</u> 10:45am Second Sunday Book Group 11:00am: 2nd ~ 4th grades MSM and SLY 4:00pm Portland Symphonic Choir 5:00pm Agape Meal</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00pm Stephen's Ministry</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;"><u>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</u></p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00am Men's Bible Study 8:00am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Council Mtg. 7:00pm Holden Evening Vespers</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4:00pm Prayer Pause 7:00~8:00pm <u>Adult Education:</u> Prepare The Way of the Lord</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Mtg.</p>	18	19
<p>20</p> <p>4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9:30am Worship <u>No Classes/Coffee Time</u> 4:00pm Choir Christmas Concert! 5:00pm Agape Meal</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Winter Begins</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00am Men's Bible Study 8:00am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Holden Evening Vespers</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4:00pm Prayer Pause 7:00~8:00pm <u>Adult Education:</u> Prepare The Way of the Lord</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:00 – 5:30pm Virtual Christmas Eve 5:30pm Agape Meal</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Merry Christmas! 10:00am Secret Santa Reveal</p>	<p>26</p> <p><u>2:00-3:30pm</u> Community Table Food Box Distribution</p>
<p>27</p> <p>1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 9:30am Worship <u>No Classes</u> 10:30am Coffee Hour 5:00pm Agape Meal</p>	28	<p>29</p> <p><u>7:00am</u> Men's Bible Study <u>8:00am</u> Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>30</p> <p>4:00pm Prayer Pause</p>	<p>31</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S EVE Closed at 12noon</p>	<p>January 1, 2021 HAPPY NEW YEAR! BUILDINGS CLOSED</p>	