



St. Luke Lutheran Church  
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Editor: Jo Klein

## St. Luke Lutheran Church

*Open doors, open hearts, open minds.*

# Parish Times January 2015

*May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.* I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Did you make a New Year's resolution this year? It is that time of year. If you did, have you stuck with it so far or is it already a good intention gone amuck? I have made many resolutions throughout my life...some I have kept faithfully, and others...well...I didn't do too well. I imagine each of us has a similar story.



That is one reason I love this passage from I Thessalonians. It reflects the promise found in the gospel so beautifully. In this passage we see a gorgeous blessing in which our God of peace sanctifies us ENTIRELY.... completely, totally, utterly, fully, lock, stock and barrel. In God, in Christ, we find ourselves fully sanctified, washed clean! Our gracious Lord takes care of this completely! The final line of this blessing emphasizes this fact saying, "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this." God will do this! In fact, in Christ, it is done! This is no New Year's resolution for the Lord; this is what he has done through his Son Jesus Christ through the cross and resurrection. It is done for you and me, completely, entirely. You can bet your life on it. And in this great promise, you can find deep, everlasting peace. Let it fill your heart and mind with that peace.

See you in worship as we give thanks to our God.

Pr. Dave



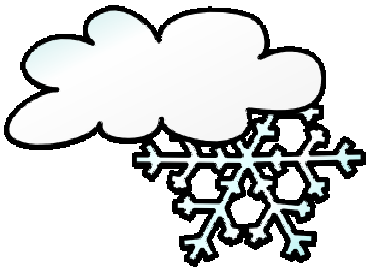
Our heartfelt thanks to our  
Bun Run volunteers for  
December: Mike Hegdahl,  
Joan Wilson, Ken McGrew.



**Ladies Night Out** – Ladies Night Out in January will take place on Tuesday, January 20th at Bennett's Chop & Railhouse – 1305 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St. at 5:30 p.m. Please notify Joyce Bluel (651-690-4614) if you are planning on attending by Sunday, January 11th so we have an idea of how many for the reservation.



Amelia was a great helper for Dec The Halls!



### **GIGANTIC Snow and Ice Storms**

Do you remember a couple of years ago when a GIGANTIC snow and ice storm led to the cancellation of Sunday worship? It is an historic fact! If that happens again on a Sunday and leaving your home is treacherous, a danger to life and limb, please stay home! I would rather see your smiling face in worship the next week than visit you in the hospital! Secondly, if the weather is absolutely horrific, forcing a cancellation of worship, Jo will put a message on the church phone stating that fact. We will also send an email out to all people who have email access, so please check email or call the church during inclement weather for worship related information. Pr. Dave

**Fun Fundraising Event For Our Youth!** We will be holding a Meat Raffle at the South St. Paul VFW, 111 Concord Exchange South, on Friday, January 16, 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Stop on by, purchase a chance to win some high quality meat, and spend an enjoyable evening of fellowship with all your St. Luke friends...and support our summer youth mission trip! See **YOU** there!

### **UnDec The Halls!**

We will be removing Christmas decorations on Sunday, Jan. 4, after worship. Many hands make light work...please join us!



**BOOK AND BAKE SALE:** We will be hosting a Book and Bake Sale in May. We need to start collecting books now. Please bring them to church. We will need both paperback and hardcover...all ages. If you would like to help coordinate (or even store a bag or two of books until spring), please contact Sue McNeill (coordinator). Any meetings we have this year will be to brainstorm about how we want to set this up, advertise, etc. This will also be a great event to announce Vacation Bible School. New events need new ideas and all are welcome.



### **Micro-lending Dinner and Meeting**

We will meet on Monday, January 19 at 6:30 for a delicious dinner, at a cost of \$5.00, followed by making micro-loans to people all around the world. Come for some delicious food, great fellowship and the joy of providing life-giving micro-loans to people across the world. All are welcome! Please sign up on the kiosk. If you have any questions, ask Pastor Dave.



### January Birthdays

- 1: Linda Funkhouser,  
Dusty Jensen
- 5: Dawn Peterson
- 9: Laurie Herrmann
- 10: Noah Fabie
- 13: Matthew Brummund,  
Judy Johnson,  
Kimberly Loewen
- 16: Nancy Hegdahl
- 17: Ruth Lindgren,  
Kathy Spray
- 27: Kevin Arndt
- 29: Norma Alexander
- 30: Sue McNeill
- 31: Kim Quist



### Usher Notes

Many thanks to our ushers for December: Eva Mac Niven, Jim Kroschel, Doug Nelson, Wanda Mathison, Larry and Carol Vigdal, Pam Ballis, Katy Eggert.

Our ushers for January will be: Roger Diestler, Doug Klein, Peter Klein, Joan Wilson, Bruce Magnuson, George Heriot, Rob Herrmann.



The 2015 offering envelopes are now available in the Social Hall. Please pick up your box as soon as possible to defray postage expenses. Thank you.

### January Readers:



- 4 Dan Vigdal
- 11 Laurie Herrmann
- 18 Wendy Bjorklund
- 25 Kimberly Tyl

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### One beautiful Sunday morning,

Reverend Barnard announces to his congregation, 'My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons..... a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$20 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver.'



THE BABY JESUS STARTS TEETHING.



### Winter Retreat Pancake Breakfast

The workcamp youth will serve a delicious breakfast after worship on Sunday, January 11. Come hungry! You will be served with smiles and mouth-watering food. All money raised will be used for the Winter Retreat at Camp Onomia. This is for ALL St. Luke members and the money raised will help supplement the costs for people. So make plans to go to the Winter Retreat on February 20-22 and give thanks to our youth as you eat delicious food!

**Come one, come all** to our ever-popular ALL MEMBER WINTER CHURCH RETREAT at Camp Onomia, Feb. 20-22. Young and old, parents or singles, all are welcome! Want to get away from your busy life, and just relax and have fun? Or do you want to have some great family time with your kids? There is something of everyone! To RSVP, please sign up on the kiosk asap. For further info, talk to Pastor Dave.



*To gather with God's people  
in united adoration of the  
Father is as necessary to the  
Christian life as prayer.  
- Martin Luther*

# Reading the Gospel of Mark



This is the year of Mark in the church liturgical calendar. What that means is that many of the Sunday gospel readings will come from Mark this year. With that in mind, I would like to invite you to take time this year to read through Mark several times. It is the shortest gospel of the four, so you could easily read it once a month if you wish. You will be amazed what you discover! The majority of scholars believe Mark was the first gospel put into writing, probably just before 70 A.D. The general theme of the book can be found in the first verse, which reads, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." The claim that Jesus is the Son of God is supported throughout Mark by constant references to his authority. As you read through Mark underline the word "authority" each time you come across it. Notice the context, how and why Mark is using it and the point he is making. It is interesting to note that Mark is framed by something being ripped or torn open. In 1:9 the heavens are torn open when Jesus is baptized and in 15:39 the temple curtain is torn open just as Jesus dies on the cross. That which separates us from God is ripped apart, never to separate us again. Mark often uses the word "immediately." Why? Underline it and note the context. What is Mark saying? Note when "fear" or "afraid" is used. The command Jesus uses the most throughout the four gospels is "Do not be afraid" or "Do not fear." What happens to people who are afraid? How are we freed from fear? (I John 4:16-18). Underline "Kingdom of God" and "Kingdom of Heaven." How are these used? What do they indicate? What are the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God like? Some Mark commentators emphasize the centrality of the Parable of the Sower (4:1-20). This parable seems important for understanding other parables (4:13). It also defines characters in the gospel. How do people in the gospel respond to Jesus, the sower of the Word of God? Are the Pharisees the first type of hearers? Some say the disciples are often portrayed as the second type. The third type is like the rich man (10:17-31) or Herod (6:14-29). The fourth could be the Gerasene demoniac (5:1-20) or the hemorrhaging woman (5:21-43). How does Mark present other people in the gospel? Mark is the only gospel that reports Jesus "sighed" – chapters 7 and 8. Why did he sigh? What does it mean? Mark is also the only gospel to mention a "streaker" (ha!) in 14:51. Why is he in there? Who is he? We are not sure. But it is an interesting piece of Mark to ponder. So pick it up, read slowly, prayerfully and attentively. Know that as you do, Jesus walks with you.



## Loaves and Fishes

**115 people were served dinner at St Matthew's Catholic Church on November 27th. Workers from St. Luke were Pastor Dave, Julie Gaarder, Joyce Bluel, Ann Verschoyle, Sandy Berger and Roger and Dianne Diestler.**



## January Acolytes:

4 – Maggie Erickson  
18 – Matt Brummund

*"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee." -Numbers 6:24*