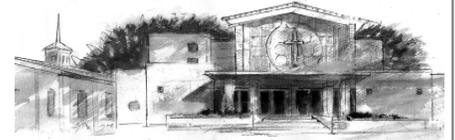


St. Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Menaul Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112
505.299.2621 Email: stluke@thuntek.net Website: stlukeabq.org

Rooted in God's Word, Serving in God's World



ST LUKE RADIANT

Schedule of Worship Services

Saturdays

5 PM *In-Person Worship service at St. Luke
5 PM Live-streamed Worship

Sundays

10:30 AM *In-Person Worship service at St. Luke
10:30 AM Recorded video Worship service available

Wednesdays

6:30 - 7 PM: Radiant Grace on Zoom: Scripture,
Prayer & Holy Communion



**All in-person worship services are taking place in the Fellowship Hall as our Sanctuary is being cleaned after the recent fire.*

** In-Person Worship - physically-distanced, bring your own mask, extra masks available if you forget.*

In this Issue:

Journeys with Jesus and
Pastor Christa &
Pastor Wayne p. 1
Vacation Bible Day Camp
(VBDC) p. 3
WMA Letter p. 4
Children & Youth
Education p. 5
St. Luke Women p. 6
For all Ages p. 6-7
VBDC Registration &
Health Form p. 9-12
Music Ministries p. 13
Wellness p. 14
St. Luke Preschool p. 15
Prayers of St. Luke p. 16
May Celebrations p. 17
Letters from the Global
Church p. 18
May calendar p. 19
Church Office p. 20

Journeys with Jesus

and Pastors Christa & Wayne

EATING MEAT SACRIFICED IN PAGAN TEMPLES, MASK-WEARING, & VACCINES?



ONE OF THE HOT-BUTTON ISSUES in St. Paul's day in Corinth was whether congregational members were permitted to eat meat (prime rib, filet mignon, T-bones etc.) that was sacrificed to idols in the nearby pagan temples. We might expect Paul to give a simple and straight forward answer, instead, he embarks on a complex response that is 3 chapters long!

AT FIRST GLANCE, this does not seem to be one of the most pressing issues in our church life today (nor for the participants in our I Corinthians class as well). Thank God, we've resolved at least one issue in the history of the church! Nevertheless, finding ourselves in these texts (I Corinthians 8,9 & 10) takes careful attention and creative imagination to hear God's words for our lives.

WHAT WAS THE SITUATION IN THE CONGREGATION? We think that there was an elite, well-educated, wealthy group in the congregation who wrote to Paul asking them

Continued next page

if they could indeed go to the local pagan temples and hobnob/network with the members of their social class (for birthdays, weddings, etc.) in the presence of the temple god or goddess. To eat at such an event was a social courtesy and to refuse to share the meal would be an affront to the host. The **elite's argument** was quite compelling:

- We are smart, well-educated and knowledgeable ("gnosis") people. We believe in one God and it makes absolutely no difference where we go and eat!
- **"I am free to do anything."** We have the authority, the right and freedom ("exousia") in Christ to do *anything* we please as Christians.
- Our fellow "weak" Corinthian Christians (who protest our dining habits in pagan temples) need to mature (in wisdom) and look to us as models (and not hinder our lifestyle).

PAUL'S RESPONSE IS INTRICATE and kind of surprising. Paul upbraids the elite (in chapter 9) for their mind-set, their **"puffed up" attitudes**, their haughtiness, their sense of self-importance, their conceit. He writes that their knowledge ("gnosis") can lead to arrogance. He says basically: Christ died for the weak and you can't even change your diet?!

I'VE GONE AHEAD OF MYSELF. Paul is well aware of the power of symbolic world of the surrounding dominant culture. Paul's concern is "the weak" Corinthian members will be sucked back into their former way of life, because "the elite" are so fixated on exercising their own rights and freedom.



SO PAUL CALLS THE "ELITE," the "strong" **to surrender what they understand as their legitimate rights** for the sake of the "weak" and not go to the temple to eat their steaks. He puts love and the community life above the elite's superior sense of knowledge (gnosis). "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up," he writes to them.

THESE TEXTS ARE SUPREMELY INTERESTING for today where tribes from various dominant cultures in our country proclaim their supreme knowledge (gnosis). One commentator writes that it's important to look at ourselves in the mirror and ask whether there are ways in which we are using our knowledge as a weapon rather than an instrument of love - whether it be in:

- Serene confidence in the latest scientific findings.
- Vehement surety in right/correct social causes.
- Bible thumping certainty.
- Intense certitude in a particular political party, identity politic, etc.

PAUL WORRIES ABOUT how the Corinthian church will fit into the surrounding culture. Between the lines, Paul asks: Where is the line between acceptable accommodation and unacceptable compromise? In what areas are Christians free and where does the church have to be wary of being held hostage by the standard of the most legalistic or narrow-minded members of the church? And where may the "elites" be using the church as a party platform to defend their own freedom, rights and privileges?

RECENTLY, THE BALANCE between freedom and restraint has been thrown out of whack in our country. And some say that Americans no longer have the vocabulary for why their freedom should be cramped, but they (maybe) respect people who freely choose to limit their liberty. I don't know ... BUT Paul knows. In the following chapter (9), he writes: "But we do not use this right" (10:12) and "But I have not used any of those rights" (10:15). He follows a Savior who did not "consider equality with God something to be grasped." A Savior who does not cling to the advantage of that status. Somehow, he believes that the **surrendering of one's rights** (in some cases) is the best way to follow Jesus.

I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD MEAN for Christians in Albuquerque today to consider Paul's example for the sake of the community?

Pastor Wayne

Think Summer Fun!!!

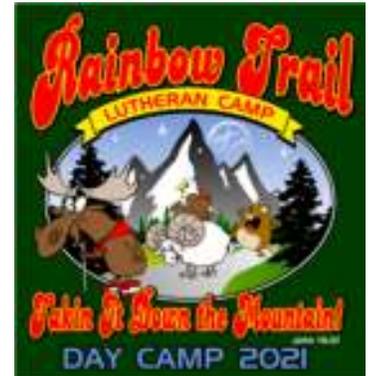
Rainbow Trail Vacation Bible Day Camp Is On Schedule

Vacation Bible Day Camp 2021

June 21 - 25

Taking It Down the Mountain!

[Jesus said] "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" - John 16:33



Featuring TWO options:

- * **Option A:** In-Person morning program (9 - 11:30 AM) at St. Luke church 9100 Menaul Blvd., ABQ 87112 for Kindergarten through 6th graders
- * **Option B:** In-Person evening program (5-8 PM) at Camino de Vida church 3907 Isleta Blvd SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105 for families of all ages - The evening program will incorporate hands-on service work on the grounds of the church, and a "Care of Creation" ecology component.

The energetic Rainbow Trail Counselors will soon join hands with us to present a vibrant and faith-formative day camp program for about 15 children at St. Luke in the morning and 30 or more participants at Camino de Vida in the evenings. We are excited to see how many of you will join in. With your help, children in our larger community will have a great experience this summer. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to spread the word about camp. You do make a difference!

We need YOU to work alongside our fantastic Rainbow Trail Staff and build community with us during either morning or evening program. We can't do it without you, so contact us today to help with: crafts & craft preparations, small group Bible stories, creation station, games & recreation, Covid-safety monitoring (help make sure kids and adults are following guidelines for safe interactions) and just to be a friendly helpful presence as needed!! (All Adults will be required to go through a Safe Gathering Training/Screening process). Contact Angie at the Church Office at 299-2621 or at stluke@thuntek.net, or Pastor Christa at pastorchristaABQ@gmail.com or Holly Trujillo at CY&F@stlukeabq.org today!

Please keep all the camp staff, volunteers and campers in your prayers during camp week.

May the friendships formed and all the activities bring joy.

May the hearts and minds of all filled with the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The St. Luke Church and Camino de Vida Church VBDC Planning Team

VBDC Registration Form & Health Form are on pages 9 - 12 and at our church website: StLukeABQ.org



From St. Luke Council and Worship, Music & the Arts Committee

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The St. Luke Council and Worship, Music and Arts (WMA) Committee have been spending a good deal of time since March 2020 dedicated to ensuring that the pandemic does not deter worship at St. Luke. With the leadership of our Pastors and the help of some phenomenal volunteers, like Greg Anderson (our online worship guru), we were able to begin online worship almost immediately when pandemic restrictions went into effect in March 2020. Then in June 2020, under the leadership of Shirley Smith (our top pandemic planner and usher), we were able to reinstate in-person worship. Pamela Franco, our Media Ministry Assistant, joined the team in February 2021 and has improved our website and added production capabilities that we are sure everyone enjoyed in the Lenten midweek service vignettes and Passion Sunday drama. Our Pastors, Pauleta, Nancy, and the Choral Scholars continue to ensure the Word, Sacrament, and music ministry continue undaunted.

WMA continues to evaluate how and when we will be able to return to our three-service worship construct, which we are committed to do as soon as feasible and prudent. However, based on the relatively limited number of usher corps volunteers, in combination with the special requirements for cleaning before services, contact tracing, capacity limits associated with the New Mexico Public Health Order, and CDC protocols enforcement, we are currently only able to support two services at St. Luke. Since June 2020, that has been the 5:00 PM Saturday Service and 10:30 AM Sunday Service with the 8:15 AM Sunday Service suspended.

During the April 15, 2021 Council meeting, WMA presented a proposal, that Council approved, to make temporary adjustments to our worship service construct for the 10-week period of Saturday, 12 June – Sunday, 15 August 2021. During this period, we would suspend the Saturday 5:00 PM Service and reinstate the 8:15 AM Sunday Service (outdoors in the courtyard). The Sunday 10:30 AM Service would be live streamed and recorded for posting on the website and we will use the "Now the Feast" liturgy for both services. Beginning the weekend of Saturday, 21 August and Sun, 22 August we hope to resume our normal three service St. Luke worship schedule of Saturday (5 PM) and Sunday (8:15 AM and 10:30 AM) Services. This assumes reduced pandemic-related restrictions that would allow us to support three services again. If we are unable to do that, we will maintain a two-service construct but return to that being Saturday 5:00 PM and Sunday 10:30 AM.

The main reason for this change is that the 8:15 Service has been suspended for almost a year since returning to in-person worship. Considering that, along with the popularity of the Summer Outdoor Courtyard Service on Sunday at 8:15 AM, we believe the timing is good to do this for the 10-week period mentioned above. We understand the importance of having three Services at St. Luke and we are pledged to return to that as soon as pandemic conditions allow us to do so safely. We appreciate the sacrifice this has required during the pandemic, first by those that normally attend 8:15 AM service and now for those who attend 5:00 PM service. We also want to thank the volunteers supporting in-person worship. Without them we would not be able to do even one service. Thank you for your understanding, past and present, as we have adjusted our service construct to cope with the pandemic.

If you have any questions and/or are interested in volunteering to be an usher to assist with worship services at St. Luke during the pandemic, please contact WMA at wma@stlukeabq.org. Thank you again for your faithfulness and patience as we work our way back to our three services.

Peace and blessings,

Ken Sorenson
Council President

The Rev. Christa von Zychlin
Pastor

The Rev. Wayne Nieminen
Pastor

Tom Berardinelli
WMA Chair

Children & Youth Education Opportunities

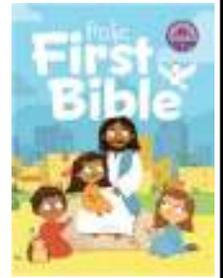
ST. LUKE ABQ 2021 FROLIC BABY BIBLE CLUB

Fourth Thursdays 5:30-6pm

Using the Frolic First Bible (*for parents & babies, birth – age three*)

30 minutes (*via Zoom until we can safely meet otherwise!*)

Bible songs, scripture, sharing and some silliness!



2021 STORIES continues:

1. May 27 Baby Moses
2. June 24 Exodus

9. Sept. 23 Hannah & Samuel
10. Oct. 28 David & Goliath
11. Nov. 18 Daniel
12. Dec. 23 Jesus is Born

July & August break

January 2022

13. Jan. 27, 2022 Jonah

St. Luke ABQ **KIDS**

Radiant Salt & Light

Interactive ... for Ages 3 - 12

Wednesdays via ZOOM at 5-6:15 PM

BIBLE Story explorations through Songs, Science, Crafts, Games, and Blessings of St. Luke ABQ intergenerational friends & family. Contact Pastor Christa (pastorchristABQ@gmail.com) or Holly Trujillo for more information. New children/families always welcome.

Upcoming Themes: **May 5** - True Vine **May 12** - Love one another!!!

From Holy Week: Tin Cross Craft



*Mobilizing women to act boldly
on their faith in Jesus Christ.*



LAMPLIGHTERS

Thursday, May 6
2 PM via Zoom

We are reading the book, "Paul, Apostle to All the Nations," by Stephen J. Binz.

We will discuss chapters 13 through 18. Patty Wagner will be the leader. All women are invited to attend.

For more information call Gayle Carleton at 505-559-3012 or at Lamplighters@stlukeabq.org.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Presents: May Friendship Day

Friday, May 7, 9:30 AM via Zoom

Theme: Making Room at the Table, discerning true signs of growth that comes from deeper connections and relations between generations and to strengthen the bonds needed to meet the larger social injustices that plague women and their families. Contact Marilyn Stoops by May 5th at mstoops@swcp.com for the Zoom link.

All women are welcome to attend. BettyAnne Arner, Betty Begeal, and Gayle Carleton from St. Luke will be participating in the program.

WOMEN'S GATHER BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, May 25

10:00 AM via Zoom

Next study: "The journey of generations – Waiting to be unwrapped", found in May 2021 Gather Magazine, page 20. We'll look at the shared blessings that intergenerational relationships might bring us. This devotional is by The Rev. Violet Cucciniello Little, mission developer of The Welcome Church, an ELCA congregation under development in Philadelphia serving people in poverty.

All generations are invited to come, talk, listen and learn of the gifts we have to give and receive.

For Zoom link and to share a copy of the study, contact Bev Berardinelli at

WomensBibleStudy@stlukeABQ.org



Elders Alive

Tuesday, May 18

1:00 - 2:30 PM on Zoom

Our theme for this session is "Colorful Women in My Family History" in honor of Mother's Day in the month of May.

Pastor Christa will make a short presentation called "Shady Ladies of the Bible". Bring your stories, pictures or memorabilia about your mother/grandmother/aunt/sister and there are bonus points if you can add an interesting faith or spiritual connection!

Make sure to contact Judy Moore at EldersAlive@stlukeABQ.org if you want the Zoom link. If you have attended before, then you ARE on her list.



Invite a friend or neighbor and Zoom together with us.



1 Corinthians & The Cross Roads of Life

Led by Pastor Wayne
Wednesdays on Zoom (except on May 5th)

Two possible times to attend: 8 AM and Noon.

Zoom MEMBER ID for the 8 AM class:
85292801330

Zoom MEMBER ID for the Noon class:
84166009212



St. Luke Choir

Singing on Zoom
Wednesday, May 5
At 7:30 PM

St. Luke CAR Choir

Singing on Zoom
Sunday, May 16
3:00 PM, at the west parking lot

To participate in Choir Singing in Zoom and in Car Choir, contact Pauleta at MusicDirector@stlukeabq.org

St. Luke Mid-Week Radiant Grace

with Pastor Christa

Wednesdays at 6:30 - 7 PM
Zoom MEMBER ID: 88397086712



- * **Meditative song & scripture** with "Pray as You Go" (a gift for the wider Church, from the Jesuit community. See <https://pray-as-you-go.org/about/>)
- * **Prayer concerns & celebrations**
- * **Holy Communion** (*prepare your own bread & wine/grape juice*)

Our host is Christ, and all are welcome!

Pastoral Care & Conversations

Available by phone, by online visit, or by

"Courtyard Care"

(*out in the church Courtyard, six feet apart while wearing masks*). Contact Pastor Christa at pastorchristaABQ@gmail.com or Pastor Wayne at pastorwayneABQ@gmail.com.

From the Pastors:

"We would love to hear from you!"



BUCKET OF CHANGE

Your donations of change in May will benefit the

S.A.F.E. HOUSE

S.A.F.E. House focuses on survivors of intimate partner domestic violence. S.A.F.E. House provides shelter and services including case management, therapy for adults and children, enrichment classes, a children's program, and safety planning.

You may place your gifts in the Bucket at church or give online at StLukeABQ.org; click "Give Now," or send your donation to the church office by postal mail.

Thank you St. Luke family for your gift to Steelbridge Ministries: Bucket of Change in March 2021: \$ 253.27



Please join us for

TOGETHER WE GROW

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains 27th Annual Gala

Friday, May 7 at 7 PM

(log in 15 - 30 minutes before)

Celebrate growth and look forward in hope with us as we highlight the work we do!

For the Silent Auction, go to: <https://lfsrm2021gala.ggo.bid>

Highlights: art made by our kids in foster care, refugee-made artisanal items, ultimate staycations, and local businesses.

At this time LFSRM will award "Eagles Wings" to our partners around the Rocky Mountains - from Las Cruces to Albuquerque to Summit County to Denver. In Albuquerque, County Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty will be awarded for her advocacy and support for our refugee-resettlement work in New Mexico.

Purchase tickets at <https://lfsco.ejoinme.org/LFSRM2021Gala>

If this is your first year and you would simply like to tune in and learn more about LFSRM, we invite you to register for the First-Time Attendee Complementary Ticket.

Contact: Emily at Emily.Ureste@lfsrm.org

St. Luke Congregation - If you are planning to attend, contact our St. Luke church office at 299-2621 or at stluke@thuntek.net and let us know. We will make a plan to attend virtually, together - and make a festive night of it.

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp and St. Luke & Camino de Vida Churches present

2021 VACATION BIBLE CAMP

June 21 - 25

Taking It Down the Mountain!

[Jesus said] "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" - John 16:33

In-Person Morning Program

For completed *Kindergarten - **12 years

9:00 - 11:30 AM, at St. Luke Lutheran Church

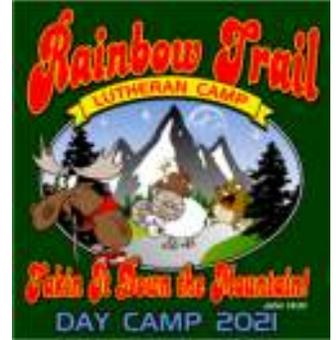
9100 Menaul Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112

Please fill-in this registration form and the attached health form.

Deadline to submit: Thursday, June 10

* younger children are welcome to participate with full-time participation of parent or grandparent

** mature 12 years olds and older welcome to register as helpers!



Arrival and Sign In: Please arrive at St. Luke at 8:50 a.m. each day (no earlier please as counselors and volunteers will not be available to supervise). Sign your child(ren) in at the SIGN-IN table. Please do not leave your child alone until they have been signed in and we have staff available to be responsible for their care.

Departure and Sign Out: Please pick up your child(ren) **PROMPTLY** and sign them out at 11:30 a.m. This year, because of COVID-19 safety measures, all VBDC participants will be dropped off and picked up by the same parent/guardian each day.

Everyday: Campers, led by our Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp young adult counselors, will participate in opening Sondance (the theme for the day is experienced through God's Word, songs, dramas, and many fun ways), Spirit-filled Bible Study, creative arts and crafts, inspirational worship & music. Healthy snacks, fun games and more are included.

Happy Camper (and Parent) Tips: Wear cool, comfortable clothes and shoes to run and play in, (please - no sandals or slip-on shoes), and **SUNSCREEN**. If anything special is needed for the next day, we will let you know at sign out.

COVID-19 Safety Measures: (may be revised as health guidelines change)

- ◆ All participants and volunteers must do one week of Health/Temperature checks prior to Day Camp. You will receive daily email reminders directly from Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp (RTLCL).
- ◆ Day Camp participants will be dropped off and picked up by the same parent/guardian each day. Before entering, each participant will have their temperature/wellness checked by a staff member or volunteer.
- ◆ RTLCL Staff and all Day Camp campers and volunteers will be masked at all times indoors and while singing.
- ◆ RTLCL Staff and all Day Camp campers and volunteers will be masked if within 6 feet of one another outdoors.
- ◆ All sanitization procedures mirrored from RTLCL's onsite entry/exit strategy: sanitize into an activity, sanitize all equipment used; sanitize out of all activities. All volunteers, campers, and staff will wash hands before meals.

For In-Person Evening Program for Families of All Ages

5:00 - 8:00 PM at Camino de Vida Church

3907 Isleta Blvd SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105

Please contact St. Luke Church at 505.299.2621 or at stluke@thuntek.net OR Camino de Vida Church at 505.514.9515 or at revgyela@gmail.com for more information

Camp 2021 Registration Form

for Vacation Bible Day Camp June 21-25, 2021 presented by
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp and St. Luke & Camino de Vida Churches

In-Person Morning Program: 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Camper's Name _____ Male _____ Female _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Age ____ Date of Birth (mo/day/year) ____/____/____ Grade Completed _____

Camper's Home Church _____ City _____

Name(s) of Parent(s)/ Guardian(s)

Home Phone _____ Daytime Phone _____ Emergency Phone _____

Email Address _____

Name(s) of person(s) who will drop-off and may pick up my child from Day Camp (*should be the same person each camp day*)

Relationship (i.e., parent, grandparent, etc.) _____

Consent: I give my child permission to take part in all Day Camp activities led by Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp (Camp) and the hosting congregation St. Luke Lutheran.

I agree the Camp, St. Luke Lutheran Church, and their personnel will not be held responsible for accidents or persons injured arising therefrom.

I give Camp and Church personnel permission to seek medical treatment for my child in case of injury or illness. (Refer to health form p.2) I agree to the 2021 COVID-19 Safety Measures as outlined on page 1, including daily temperature checks sent directly to Rainbow Trails Lutheran Camp.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Yes, I understand my photo or my child's photo may be taken for use in camp promotional literature.

I waive the right to inspect or approve the photo if used for such purposes.

Yes, I would like to receive information about Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp Programs

The registration and health history forms **MUST** be completed and given to the St. Luke Church Office **NO LATER** than **THURSDAY, June 10, 2021.**

2021 Day Camp Health History Form

This form needs to be completely filled out by a parent/guardian for each camper.
It will be kept by the Church staff.

Name _____
(last) (first) (middle initial)

Birth Date: _____ Age _____ Male _____ Female _____

Home Address _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Preferred Phone: (____) _____ Other Phone: (____) _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Preferred Phone: (____) _____ Other Phone: (____) _____

If unavailable in an emergency, please notify _____

Relationship _____ Phone: (____) _____

Do you carry medical/hospital insurance? Yes _____ No _____ If so, please indicate:
Carrier _____ Group/policy number _____

Name of Physician _____ Phone number (____) _____

Check if immunizations are current for Tetanus _____; DPT _____; Polio _____;
Measles (MMR) _____; Chicken Pox _____

Please check and date any of the following, which have occurred to the camper:

Conditions

_____ Frequent ear infections

_____ Heart disease/defect

_____ Convulsions/seizures

_____ Diabetes

_____ Bleeding/clotting disorders

_____ Allergies

(Food, medicines, etc.)

Diseases

_____ Chicken Pox

_____ Measles

_____ German Measles

_____ Mumps

_____ Asthma

Allergies

_____ Hay Fever

_____ Ivy Poisoning, etc.

_____ Insect Stings

_____ Penicillin

_____ Other drugs

_____ Other

Please explain below any of those checked above.

Will your child need to take a medication during Day Camp? _____

_____ Collected by the Day Camp Coordinator

Contact the St. Luke church office to make arrangements to leave inhaler, EpiPen, or other needed medicine for camp staff to administer in case of emergency.

(OVER)

Suggestions, any activity restrictions, or health-related information for camp personnel:

Consent: My child has permission to participate in all camp activities, except as noted above.

In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the medical personnel, selected by the camp director and second staff member accompanying my child, to order X-rays, routine tests and treatment for the health of my child. I hereby give permission to the physician, selected by the camp personnel, to hospitalize or secure proper treatment (including surgery, injection, and/or anesthesia) for my child as named above.

Parent/Guardian

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature of

Witness _____ Date _____



GOD OF WONDERS ...

The universe declares your MAJESTY!

By Pauleta Hendrickson, Director of Music Ministries

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN TIME STANDS STILL. I often feel that when I am singing. Athletes call it “being in the zone.” For months now, it’s been hard to be in the zone, to just be in the moment - fully present - fully connected to what is happening right then, right now. Last week, I had such a moment.

BEFORE EASTER, Anne Morawski asked me to provide some music for the Synod Earth Day Prayer Service. The service was planned using the new hymnal supplement, All Creation Sings. She gave me a selection of hymns from which to choose and asked me to select a postlude. I chose Before the Waters Nourished Earth because of the first verse: “Before the waters nourished earth or night imagined morning, a Love conceived the universe and reveled in its forming.” Wow! The rest of the song is just as stunning.

THESE WORDS LED ME to my choice for the Postlude, God of Wonders, written by Marc Byrd and Steve Hindalong. God of Wonders is part of the contemporary Worship canon of music. However, it isn’t “contemporary” in that it was written and first performed in 2000. (I have to admit, anything since the mid-80’s feels contemporary to me!) It’s been popular ever since. The first time I heard the song was shortly after the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster in 2003. Hymnary.org tells this story:

NASA ASTRONAUTS don’t wake up to a regular alarm. Friends and family choose music, and NASA ensures those songs are played good and loud to wake up those in space. On Day 6 of the STS-107 research mission, crew member and commander Rick Husband woke up to the song “God of Wonders.” Writer and producer Steve Hindalong wanted the lyrics to be “really broad, really big and vast,” and what better place to hear those lyrics than in the expanse of space? But the second verse would have its own meaning, for as the space shuttle Columbia re-entered the atmosphere, it disintegrated, resulting in the tragic deaths of Husband and his entire crew. “As I stumble in the darkness, I will call your name by night” would be words of comfort and hope for a grieving community. Even in the expanse, God is near. The simplicity and applicability of the lyrics and music have helped this song become well-loved, oft-sung hymn of praise. It has been recorded about 100 times by various artists and was nominated for a Dove Song of the Year award.

SO, I SAT OUTSIDE UNDER A PONDEROSA PINE, with my guitar in my lap, my dog by my side... totally in the zone and singing...

Lord of all creation
Of water earth and sky
The heavens are Your tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on high

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy
Lord of heaven and earth

Early in the morning
I will celebrate the light
When I stumble in the darkness
I will call Your name by night

Hallelujah (to the Lord of heaven and earth)
You are holy

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy
Precious God reveal Your heart to me
O God, hold me hold me
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy

Hallelujah (to the Lord of heaven and earth)

CCLI Song #3118757 Reprinted with permission. CCLI License # 1150539



SEASONAL ALLERGIES

Gayle Carleton, Wellness Ministry Committee Member

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING SNEEZING, itchy eyes and nose, and/or throat congestion, you may have seasonal allergies. 36 million Americans have seasonal allergy issues. Symptoms can often come on suddenly and last for a few weeks to a few months. The trigger is commonly pollen released by trees, grasses, and weeds. Seasonal allergies often show up in the spring, fall, and during windy weather but can happen whenever there is a release of pollen.

REDUCING EXPOSURE to the allergen is the best way to lighten the symptoms:

- ◆ Keep windows closed
- ◆ Remove your shoes when you go indoors
- ◆ Wash your hands and face often
- ◆ Take a shower after being outdoors
- ◆ Bathe and wash your hair before going to bed
- ◆ Bathe pets often if they go out and in

POLLEN COUNTS ARE REPORTED daily in the newspaper and on TV weather reports. If the pollen counts are high try to reduce your outdoor activities. Avoid mowing grass or trimming trees or bushes during allergy season. In Albuquerque the pollen season lasts from March 1st through October 1st.

INDOORS, KEEP YOUR HOME, car, and office dusted and vacuumed. Use a damp cloth for dusting and use a vacuum with a HEPA filter. Upholstered furniture and car seats also need to be vacuumed. In addition to laundering bed sheets weekly; blankets, comforters, and bedspreads need to be laundered often, as well. Avoid hanging clothing and bedding out of doors during

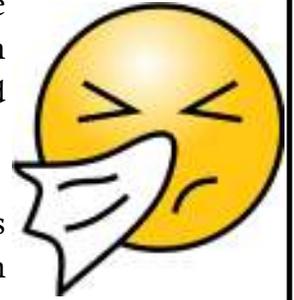
pollination season. Home heating and cooling system filters need to be replaced periodically.

CHOOSE LANDSCAPE options keeping pollination patterns in mind. Plant flowering plants that are pollinated by insects rather than by the wind. In New Mexico cacti and succulents are an option for people with seasonal allergies. Check with your local ordinances to learn which plants are not allowed in your area.

TALK WITH YOUR HEALTH CARE provider to find out which is the best way to manage your seasonal allergies. There may be natural complementary health approaches that may work for you, or there may be over-the-counter or prescription medications that would be best for you.

References:

City of Albuquerque Air Quality Bureau: <https://www.cabq.gov/airquality/todays-status/pollen>
NIH: National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health



Wellness Committee Members:

BettyAnne Arner (chair)

Gayle Carleton

Sandy Williams Clark

Twila Randolph

Karen Carlson

Lorna Hansen

Cheryl Folkes



It goes without saying that this school year has been quite the adventure!

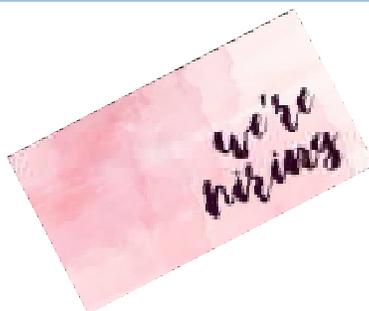
Here we are ten months later and we couldn't be more encouraged!

- COVID restrictions we have been adhering to since August are beginning to lift a bit, as communicated by the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) in the state of New Mexico.
- Children, their families, and preschool staff continue to be safe, healthy, and well.
- Kind and generous monetary donations have been made which have allowed the preschool to remain open and financially stable.
- Strong partnerships with families have allowed us to successfully navigate COVID restrictions and protocol.
- Incredible staff team work has served to further strengthen us.
- Children are happily learning and growing.
- Our summer camp classes are nearly full.
- Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is strong.
- Older siblings, along with parents who are teachers have expressed their happiness about returning to onsite learning at their schools.

We continue to be blessed by your prayers and support!

This year, members of the Preschool Committee have done some seriously heavy lifting! Thank you to Vanessa Anderson, Diane Follstaedt, Mary Beth Garrett, Dick Lynch, Brent Meyer, Stephen Montgomery, Daleen Olson, Sally Quintana, Judy Stocum, Nancy Tarman, Pastor Wayne, and Michelle Barba for their time, expertise, wisdom, and dedication!

we
are
most
thankful
for you



We are excited to announce that we have hired three educational assistants who will start the new school year with us in August! As encouraging as this is, we still need two more. If you know someone who is passionate about working with young children and their families, please let them know about us! For more information, contact Lori at 505-292-8812 or stlukesc@thuntek.net

Prayers of St. Luke Church Family

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.” - Romans 12:15

For Those Who Mourn

We pray for the Irving family on the death of Jan Irving on April 3rd, 2021 following the death of her husband Max in May 2020.

For Those in Need of Strength, Help, Healing, Comfort

We pray for Vinit & family & friends as they go thru dire situations with food, work, health and COVID (Christian friends of Barb & Terry Shirrod in India); Aristeo (preschool teacher Kathy's father) and Steve for healing; Carole (daughter-in-law of Lois Sherwood); substitute postman Leo, his wife, and children; Walt McCoy, now in 24-hour care (uncle of Barbara Exley); Rosie Johnson (friend of Bev Berardinelli), her daughter Alice and friend Dede; Daleen Olson; Richard Peters & family (cousins of Daleen Olson); Pastor Julie LaHam; Ernesto (Dorela Cole's grandson); Richard (friend of Marina Mauney); John; Joyce; Audrey, George & Millie Brewer & daughter Kristie; Carrie; Janis; Bill & Mary Ann Arnold; Bonnie Paine; Bill; Roger (son of Magda Renteria).

We pray for Susan Walters as she settles in her new home with her daughter and family in Seattle, WA; and for Lois Hall, as she plans to move closer to family in Virginia in May.

We pray for homebound members: Polly Brodbeck, Melda Burns, Billie Cooper, Dottie Donohoe, Karin Duda, Phoebe English, Lucille Few, Howard Romme, Lois Sherwood, Ardys Theophillus, Donald Vlasaty.

We pray for all students in schools, online learning or in-person, especially for our St. Luke Preschool and Director Lori Erven for continued health and wellness of staff, students and their families.

We pray for all children separated from their loved ones.

We lift up in prayer our pastors Christa & Wayne as they minister to us. (*God said*, “And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” – Jeremiah 3:15).

We lift up in prayer our church leaders - the Council.

For the Wider Church

We pray for Lutheran Family Services in Albuquerque; Luther House NM/CNM; Navajo Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, AZ; and missionaries sent by God all over the world. We pray for St. Luke church's shared Vacation Bible Camp 2021 with Camino de Vida church.

We pray for all Christian churches, especially St. Luke & Camino de Vida; the persecuted church; and the churches & citizens of Myanmar, that they maintain a peaceful, yet persistent, witness for the end of military rule, release of political prisoners, and the return of a freely elected government.

We pray also for the church in India as they comfort and help others in their struggle against COVID-19.

For Our Country

We pray for more rain/snow in New Mexico; for our farmers; and for our oil & gas industry & for the livelihoods & public education that depend on it. We pray for first responders, medics and food growers / transporters / grocers.

We pray for our military and government. We pray for God's will and for the preservation of our freedom & US Constitution.

Summer Staff Positions Available at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp

805 S Shields St., Fort Collins, CO 80521-3541
(970) 493-5258; www.SkyRanchColorado.org

- ♦ Summer Registrar: work 30-40 hours/week
- ♦ Weekend Cook: must be at least 18 yrs old; work Friday dinner through Sunday lunch
- ♦ Male Counselors: must have graduated from high school at least one year ago
- ♦ Offsite Guide: must be at least 21 yrs old

Contact Jeff at Jeff@SkyRanchColorado.org

Moved/Moving

Susan Walters
12332 2nd Ave. NE
Seattle, WA 98125
(206) 755-1565



Lois J. Hall (moving May 24th)
9801 Harmony Woods Way, Apt. 211
Richmond, VA 23233

Birthdays

- 01 Marvin Plugge
- 05 Michael O'Dell
- 07 Steve Garrett
- 08 Albrecht Walters
- 10 John English
Bert Tise
- 15 Magda Renteria
- 17 Les Anderson
Joyce Mills
- 23 Genevieve Parriot
- 24 Lori Erven
- 26 Hal Wagon
- 28 Patrick Knapp
- 29 Charles Exley
- 30 Mary Voelz



Ordination Anniversary

May 21
49th anniversary
of the ordination of
The Rev. Ben Larzelere

Youth Baptism Anniversary

- 13 Halen Walters
- 14 Haddie Wagnild

Wedding Anniversary

- 05 Greg & Barbara Hascheke
- 11 Jim & Dianne Otto
- 16 Bill & Betsy Abel
- 26 Brent & Dawn Meyer

In-Worship Worship Assistants for May

By Shirley Smith, Coordinator

Saturday, May 1

Shirley Smith, Jean & Chris Hollowwa

Sunday, May 2

Tom Berardinelli, Patty & Kevin Wagner

Saturday, May 8

Shirley Smith, Jean and Chris Hollowwa

Sunday, May 9

Tom Berardinelli, David & Diane Follstaedt

Saturday, May 15

Shirley Smith, Lorna Hansen

Sunday, May 16

Tom Berardinelli, Sandy & Charles Clark

Saturday, May 22

Shirley Smith, Lorna Hansen

Sunday, May 23

Tom Berardinelli, Marina Mauney

Saturday, May 29

Shirley Smith, Jean & Chris Hollowwa

Sunday, May 30

Tom Berardinelli, Joyce Mills

Faith Stepping Stone Ministry

Faith Stepping Stone - Graduation

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."
- Jeremiah 29:11

We will honor and lift up our graduates in prayer at our

worship services on **May 15 & 16.**



Please contact the church office at (505) 299-2621 or at StLuke@thuntek.net to submit names and high school /college /university /program (& one or two photos if you'd like to share) of any graduates, high school and beyond.

Letters from Around the Global Church



From India

Dear Christa,

I hope you all are doing well and are safe. The surge of COVID has engulfed Delhi region in which I too got infected. It took me another twenty days to recover. In the meanwhile the number of infections increased to 29,000 per day (on record). The medical system collapsed mainly due to the dearth of oxygen and beds. Hundreds have died due to this. Many of our closest friends, relatives and colleagues have died in this scourge of nature.

Four of us in the Brotherhood House were infected in the second wave including our cook. I was fortunate to get a bed and oxygen in the hospital on April 2 and got discharged on April 12. Brother S. recovered in home-quarantine but it was dangerous for him. Our cook A. is young and has recovered in his home; and another one AV (now 20 years old) is down since last one week, quarantined in his room in the Brotherhood. Alas, Bishop Collin Theodore, 75 years old, succumbed on 15 April in the hospital. As we all were quarantined, the parish priest did the last rites in the presence of Collin's nephew at the crematorium.

Situation is no better in other parts of the world. Yet in all this crisis and tragedies we praise God for his many kindnesses we experience each day. "Life is His gift for which we need to be grateful each day."

Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Sincerely, M.

Through Hong Kong Connections...

Dear Friend,

He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Easter greetings to you! How are you and yours? Thinking of you ...

I did not get my Easter letter out on time. There have been many needs lately. In fact, I did not get home last night until after 10pm. Very grateful for the privilege of serving God through serving others.

Easter is my most favorite day, more even than Christmas ... Especially during this difficult time, how wonderful to know the God we believe in is a Living God and Resurrected Lord!

I still do the things similar like before what I shared with you. Just need to be more careful! Recently, it seems more people get sick with cancer. Patients and their families need more counselling, support and care! I am able to serve those who are in need here because of your faithful support in both prayer and finances. Thank you very much even more for your generous and sacrificial giving to God's work through me during this pandemic time!

At this year, Easter Sunday and Chinese Qingming Festival fall into the same day (April 4). Qingming is traditional Tomb Sweeping day in the Chinese culture. How interesting: One is to remember and mourn the dead, the Other celebrates the Living One from the dead! A dear sister whose husband just diagnosed with cancer, recent writes me, says, "During this difficult time, I again experience His mercy, grace and strength. Each trial is to revive and restore our faith and trust. He allows this happen and at the same time, I trust He will provide what we need" This is the power of our faith in Christ Jesus, the resurrected and living Lord!

Please do take good care & Pray !!!

Thanks for your understanding and being with me in spirit! Your partnership is greatly needed and appreciated!

Blessings to you and yours! -- XW

From India

(via Barbara & Terry Shirrod)

Vinit is a friend of ours who lives in India. He and his parents are Christian - which is not that common in India since most people are Hindu. We met Vinit on a cruise ship as that is where he normally works.

As you probably know, India is truly struggling with the Covid-19 virus right now. It is running rampant in that country; they don't have enough vaccines; the hospitals are over-run and lacking oxygen for the Covid patients; etc.

Vinit's relatives and friends have been infected. He and his parents, thankfully, have not. They stay in their home, only going out to get necessary food items - which are now becoming scarce. He is very worried, of course, especially about his parents AND even more so because they cannot get the vaccine. I told him that we would keep them all in our prayers. Another concern is that Vinit is out of work because the cruise ships have not recalled their staff, and he has not heard yet when he will be able to get back to his job.

Vinit is normally one of the most upbeat, charming, energetic, happy young men Terry and I have ever known. When we read his latest email, it was so sad; I almost cried.

So, would you please add: Vinit and his family to your prayers??



May 2021

All ministry & committee meetings held on Zoom



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 Synod Assembly continues 'til 1pm 5pm In-Person Worship at St Luke 5pm Live stream worship	
2 10:30am In-Person Worship at St Luke Recorded worship service available	3 <i>Pastors out of office May 3 - 6</i>	4 2:30pm Staff mtg 6:30pm WMA	5 9:15am & 11am Prek Music 5-6:15pm Kids' Salt & Light 6:30pm Radiant Grace-Zoom communion & prayer 7:30pm Choir	6 <i>National Day of Prayer</i> 9:15am & 11am Prek Music 2-3:30pm Lamplighters	7 9:30am Church Women United 9:45am Prek Worship: Jesus & the children 7pm Lutheran Family Serv. Gale online	8 5pm In-Person Worship at St Luke 5pm Live stream Worship	
9 <i>Mothers' Day</i> 10:30am In-Person Worship at St Luke Recorded worship service available	10	11 1-1:45pm Elders Alive Planning 4:30pm Wellness Comm.	12 8am & 12 Noon 1 Corinthians: Cross Roads of Life 9:15am & 11am Prek Music 5-6:15pm Kids' Salt & Light 6:30pm Radiant Grace-Zoom communion & prayer	13 <i>Ascension of Our Lord</i> 9:15am & 11am Prek Music 1:30 pm Finance Comm. 7pm Preschool Comm	14	15 5pm In-Person Worship & Stepping Stone Graduation at St Luke 5pm Live stream Worship	
16 10:30am In-Person Worship & Stepping Stone Graduation at St Luke Recorded worship service available 3pm Car choir—west parking lot	17	18 1-2:30pm Elders Alive: Event celebrating Mothers 2:30pm Staff mtg 6:30pm Choral Scholars' rehearsal	19 8am & 12 Noon 1 Corinthians: Cross Roads of Life 6:30pm Radiant Grace-Zoom communion & prayer	20 <i>Last day of Preschool</i> 6pm Council 7pm Rocky Mountain Synod: Better Together	21	22 5pm In-Person Worship at St Luke and Confirmation enrollment 5pm Live stream Worship	
23 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 10:30am In-Person Worship at St Luke and Confirmation enrollment Recorded service available	24	25 9:45am Prek Worship: Jesus & the children 10am Women's GATHER Bible Study	26 8am & 12 Noon 1 Corinthians: Cross Roads of Life 6:30pm Radiant Grace-Zoom Communion & prayer	27 5:30-6pm Frolic Baby Bible Club - BABY MOSES	28	29 5pm In-Person Worship at St Luke 5pm Live stream Worship	
30 <i>Holy Trinity</i> 10:30am In-Person Worship at St Luke Recorded worship service available	31 <i>Memorial Day</i> Church office closed		<p>The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. – Numbers 6:24-26</p>				



ST. LUKE CHURCH OFFICE

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! – Psalm 90:17

Contact church staff at: 505.299.2621 or at stluke@thuntek.net.

Altar Flowers for May

May 15-16: Given in memory of Wilma Buddrius
One arrangement for each of the weekends of May 1-2, May 8-9, May 22-23, and May 29-30 is available for offering.
If you would like to offer the altar flowers in May or any other month, please contact the church office.
Donation: \$35 per arrangement

Did You Know that We have a Prayer Chain Ministry?



If you or someone you know needs prayers, please contact Angie at the church office by email or phone call.

Needed:

A Prayer Chain Ministry coordinator who will: receive prayer requests & send them to the Prayer Chain; receive/ask for updates to the prayer requests; and maintain confidentiality. If you would like to be considered, please contact Pastor Christa or Angie at the church office.

Thank You for Work in April

- * Sandy & Charles Clark - cleaning the Memorial Garden in preparation for Ed Walters' Committal service
- * Mike Sanchez - trimming the bushes at the entrance of the admin. bldg.; fertilizing; eradicating weeds; watering
- * Property Comm. - continued work in restoring the church building; making sure light timers and bulbs are working properly.

Any Changes

- to your Mailing address?
- to your Phone contact?
- to your Email address?
- to your household information?

Please send any changes to the church office by postal mail, email or phone call. Thank you.

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, *Presiding Bishop*
 The Rev. James Gonia, *Synod Bishop*
 The Rev. Christa von Zychlin, D.Min., *Pastor*
 The Rev. Wayne L. Nieminen, Ph.D., *Pastor*
 Pauleta Hendrickson, *Director of Music Ministries*
 Nancy Granert, *Organist*
 Clara Byom, *Saturday Music Leader*
 Angelica Miller, *Office Manager & Horizon newsletter Editor*
 Michelle Barba, *Bookkeeper*
 Pamela Franco, *Media Ministry Assistant*
 Manville Enterprises, *Custodial Services*
 Music Scholars (*university students*): Agustin Arredondo,
 Johnathan Cain, Gabriela Di Pomazio,
 Brianna Joyce, Molly Rosenshein

St. Luke Preschool

Phone: (505) 292-8812
 E-mail: stlukesc@thuntek.net
 Website: www.stlukepreschool.org
 Lori Erven, *Director*

Church Council *(Email: Council@StLukeabq.org)*

Ken Sorenson: *President, Executive Comm., Constitution Review. (Email: Council.President@StLukeabq.org)*
 Karen Carlson: *Vice-President; Executive Comm., Wellness*
 Judy Moore: *Treasurer, Executive Comm., Finance, Budget, Personnel, Stewardship, Elders Alive*
 Charles Clark: *Secretary, Executive Comm., Men's Bible Study, Yard Upkeep volunteer*
 Ginny Fisher: *Worship, Music & the Arts*
 Cheryl Folkes: *Wellness*
 Steve Garrett: *Personnel Comm. Chair*
 Frank Johnson
 Rebecca Shore
 Nancy Tarman: *Elders Alive, Preschool, Advocacy*

Horizon Newsletter

is a monthly publication of ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 9100 Menaul Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112
 Phone (505) 299-2621
 E-mail: stluke@thuntek.net / Website: stlukeabq.org

Publication Deadlines: *Please send articles/items to the church office, c/o Angie Miller at stluke@thuntek.net.*

- Articles for the monthly **Horizon** newsletter: deadline - 15th of the month
- Items for the weekly **St. Luke GPS**: - noon on Wednesday before upcoming weekend service
- *Deadlines subject to change during holidays.*