On Sunday, October 25, 2015 the following 10th graders will be getting confirmed. Please join us on Confirmation Sunday as we celebrate this important milestone in the faith journeys of our youth.

Alena Abrahamson
Ben Benshoof
Jessica Citron
Vinny Ehnstrom
Kate Figlmiller
Jake Gjerve
Grant Glazier
Jake Goecke
Amanda Gregory
Alex Haliburton
Andy Hawn
Tyler Heine
Rachel Henn
Zach Husaby
Alisia Johnson

Erin Junker
Hayley Karp
Abby Letourneau
Thomas Lindusky
Luke Maul
Tori Michaud
Conner McCauley
Avery Newton
Keegan Oberding
Branden Palacio
Jacob Schneider
Kaitlyn Shaver
Tahlia Solberg
Emily Solem
Noah Villas
A word from the Pastor….

Over the past two years, the elected and called leadership of St. Luke have been at work giving form to how our church operates. A church must operate in the world after all. Healthy and clear operating documents allow us to focus on what distinguishes us as a church from another non-profit.

The Council has done good work, work that has helped all of the staff including myself serve St. Luke more effectively. As a member, you will see the benefits of this process as you are asked to help give this work fullness by your involvement in advisory teams and other ministries of our church. This work was done on behalf of all of us.

Just as we would not build a house on sand, it is not wise to operate a business without an agreed upon and documented structure. If we aren’t clear on how we operate, we will not be able to respond in a clear manner when challenges come – and we’ll always have challenges because the church is part of the world and no one who enters is sinless.

The Gospel of Matthew ends the Beatitudes, with the story of the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-29). When Jesus laid out the Beatitudes to provide a way of interacting with one another to his followers, he did it so that the life we live as Christians is one that is built on a solid foundation.

The foundation is important - it protects us and allows us to operate freely, knowing how we relate to one another and what each of our responsibilities are.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ did not end with Matthew 7. Jesus did not come simply to bring order to the world. He came to redeem the world.

We operate in the world but the church also belongs to the kingdom of God. Our most important work is to proclaim Jesus Christ as good news for you. We do that when we worship, receiving the living Word of God through the Word—spoken, sung, proclaimed and through the giving of the sacraments. When we are consoling one another with the promises of God for us. When we are celebrating with one another the gifts that God has given us as individuals and community. We are being church.

Our structure will not save us, our pastors will not save us, that once again, is Christ’s job alone, but a clear and healthy structure will serve to direct us to God’s word. It will help us to be the church that does reside in the world.

Our mission is to Follow Jesus Christ and share His love with the world - and because of this work that has been done now, we will be able to do that faithfully as we look to where God is calling us.

In Christ,
Pr. Amanda
pr.amanda@stlukecg.com

Good-bye to Pastor Eric
St. Luke bid farewell to Pr. Eric Elkin on September 20. Pr. Elkin had been at St. Luke since May 2013. A reception was held between services where we celebrated his gifts and contributions to the growth of St. Luke - he will be missed.

Youth Ministry News
With just one week of Confirmation programming under my belt, I just wanted to share how impressed I am with the youth of our church. I was nervous about how I would be received by these kids, but they made me feel welcome and comfortable.

This speaks to the adaptability of our youth. They live in a world of constant change – new coaches every year, different teachers every hour, and unfortunately, numerous youth leaders the past few years.

In spite of all of these changes, let’s not forget the support structure that has been consistent. Many of our students have been led by the same volunteer guides for several years, and these guides have already been invaluable in providing me with direction. Most importantly, the passion I’ve seen in the parents shows me that the most consistent adults in the lives of our kids are also the most invested in the faith journeys of our kids.

I’m impressed with how God is working in the youth at St. Luke, and I’m happy to be inheriting a program that is in such a great place. I look forward to getting to know all of these kids, with a special emphasis on the post-Confirmation students.

Alex Johnson
ajohnson@stlukecg.com
Council News
September 21, 2015 Meeting Highlights
This column summarizes highlights of the most recently approved council meeting minutes.

Guest Presentation: Amy Loetz presented an update on the status of the preschool ministry. Thanks to Amy, this ministry is doing outstanding!

The preschool has 86 kids (capacity is 90, which is based on classroom size); 60 of the kids utilize the bus. The bus has been the biggest contributor to increasing attendance, because we pick up from daycare homes, which other preschools don’t do.

Amy and her team have completed the process to get us certified as a Nationally-accredited program, which gives us grant money, access to curriculum, connections to other Directors in the area, and bragging rights! The next step is the State Parent Aware Program, which will be done this year.

Amy also does a good job advocating with the school district to get support for special needs kids.

Personnel Team Update: The immediate need is to cover Children’s Ministry, and council discussed options that the team will be exploring. Amy and Alex are both stepping up to cover in the meantime. The team is also looking at the Outreach position to determine what the needs are, and if it should be a Council position, a staff position, a pastoral position, or some combination.

Technology Team Update: The team has done an excellent job of getting our PCs, sound booth tech, video tech, file backups, and related upgrades up and running. They continue to work on glitches that come up. They are also working on a Computer Usage Policy, Records Retention Policy, and other procedures that are necessary to keep things running smoothly.

Finance Report: Giving has been low (typical for August), but expenditures have also been low, so we’re running close to budget. Obtaining a breakeven financial result will rely on strong giving in the last four months of the year.

Lori Hintz, Council Communicator
Contact Lori at lhintz@comcast.net or 651-459-1222, ext. 40

Early Childhood Ministry News
September went by so fast. The children are settling in to their classrooms and it is so great to see them learning to make new friends. We really enjoy hearing all the excited voices of the children. For some of you, school is a new experience. Please feel free to contact me at anytime for any questions you may have!

In October, we will enjoy our field trip to Afton Apple Orchard. It is a great location that does a special program for preschoolers. The children always have a great time. The dates are October 6 and October 7. Please see field trip permission form for more information.

November 4—6 is conference time. Notes will go home soon with further information and how to sign up. Please remember when you send in snack for school that it is 100% juice. Watch the labels carefully! If your child is sick from school please call in to the office. Transportation students should also call the transportation line and let the bus drivers know too!

Upcoming Calendar Dates:
October 15 & 16: No School for MEA

Blessings,
Amy Loetz
aloetz@stlukecg.com

Fall Worship Ministries
Worship ministries—Ushering, Greeting, serving Communion—are all easy ways to serve God and be a blessing to the congregation of St. Luke. Time commitment is minimal.

Want to serve, but can’t commit to a set schedule? All ministries could use substitutes—your help is always welcome—whenever it works with your schedule.

Please see or contact Barb Forthun—at Info Desk or outreach@stlukecg.com.

Get to know ST. LUKE

Come to the NEW MEMBER CLASS on Sunday, October 11 (rescheduled from September), at 11:30 am, Room Mary. For questions, contact Barb Forthun—at Info Desk or outreach@stlukecg.com.

Lori Hintz, Council Communicator
Contact Lori at lhintz@comcast.net or 651-459-1222, ext. 40

St. Luke Parking Lot—
Watch for details!

Trunk or Treat
Wed., Oct. 28, 6 pm
The Boutique invites the community into St. Luke and creates a fun fellowship opportunity for St. Luke members and friends. There are a variety of activities where you can help - contact Melinda Weber at melinda.weber@comcast.net or 651-458-0256.

- Set up volunteers, men, youth and trucks needed, Nov 1, noon to 2:30
- Display volunteers Nov 2 – 4, 6-9PM
- Staff for the boutique while open doing various activities such as cashiers, greeters and customer shopping assistants
- Donations of baked goods, delivered on Nov 4—6
- Clean-up/ Tear down, men, youth and trucks needed Nov 7, 4-6PM

New crafters are invited – contact Melinda.
And of course, all are invited to shop and have lunch!
<table>
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<th>Sun</th>
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| **October 2015**

Dates as of 9/22/15. Call office to confirm schedules (651-459-1222, x21).

1
9:30—11:00 am Women’s Bible Study (Mary)
1 pm Prayer Shawl Group (Caribou)
3 pm Brunkow Small Group (Mary)
7 pm Band (Sanct.)

2

3

4 Worship/Holy Communion/C.S.
9:00 & 10:30 am
11:30 Baptism Class
7:00 pm Confirmation Stole Making

5 6:30-8:00 pm
SCOUTS (FH, Mary)
7:00 pm Informational Meeting—Look to the Future (Sanct.)

6 5:00—7:00 pm
Loaves & Fishes (Faith Lutheran Church-St Paul)
6:30-9:00 pm
SCOUTS (FH)

7 7 pm Worship / Holy Communion
10:00 am Walkabout Bible Study (Mary)
6:00-7:00 6th/7th Confirmation
6 pm Church School
6:20 pm Faithful Men (Mary)
7:00 pm Rejoice Choir (Mary)
7—8:45 pm 8th/9th Confirmation

8 6 am Faith Brewing (Coffee Area)
9:30—11:00 am Women’s Bible Study (Mary)
3 pm Brunkow Small Group (Mary)
7 pm Band (Sanct.)

9

10 10:30—11:30 am Bookends @ Norris Square

11 Worship/C.S.
9:00 (HC) & 10:30 am
11:30 am New Member Class/Lunch
6—8 pm Feed My Starving Children @ Bielenberg, Wdby.
6:00 pm Confirmation Pictures & Rehearsal

12 9:00—11:30 am Quilting (Mary)
6:30-8:00 pm
SCOUTS (FH, Mary)

13 6:30 pm Property Team
6:30-9:00 pm
SCOUTS (FH)

14 7 pm Worship
10:00 am Walkabout Bible Study (Mary)
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
6:00-7:00 6th/7th Confirmation
6 pm Church School
6:20 pm Faithful Men (Mary)
7:00 pm Rejoice Choir (Mary)
7—8:45 pm 8th/9th Confirmation

15 No School
9:30—11:00 am Women’s Bible Study (Mary)
3 pm Brunkow Small Group (Mary)
7 pm Band (Sanct.)

16 No School

17

18 Worship/Holy Communion / C.S.
9:00 & 10:30 am

19 9:00—11:30 am Quilting (Mary)
8:00 pm
SCOUTS (FH)

20 6:30-9:00 pm
SCOUTS (FH)
6:45 pm - 9:00 pm
Council Mtg (Mary)

21 7 pm Worship / Holy Communion
10:00 am Walkabout Bible Study (Mary)
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
6:00-7:00 6th/7th Confirmation
6 pm Church School
6:20 pm Faithful Men (Mary)
7:00 pm Rejoice Choir (Mary)
7—8:45 pm 8th/9th Confirmation

22 9:30—11:00 am Women’s Bible Study (Mary)
3 pm Brunkow Small Group (Mary)

23

24 9 am—noon Creative Passions (Mary)

25 Worship Confirmation Sunday
9:00 (HC) & 10:30 am
1:30—6:30 pm K&S Recital (Sanct.)

26 6:30-8:00 pm
SCOUTS (FH, Mary)

27 6:30-9:00 pm
SCOUTS (FH)

28 7 pm Worship
10:00 am Walkabout Bible Study (Mary)
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
6:00-7:00 6th/7th Confirmation
6 pm Trunk or Treat
6:20 pm Faithful Men (Mary)
7:00 pm Rejoice Choir (Mary)
7—8:45 pm 8th/9th Confirmation

29 9:30—11:00 am Women’s Bible Study (Mary)
3 pm Brunkow Small Group (Mary)
6—7:30 pm FMSC
7 pm Band (Sanct.)

30

31
Take a book, leave a book—

"Little Library"—see the book box in front of the church—free to anyone.

Send in your donations to $1/2/3/4/6!  This was our 17th year of raising funds for community support.  Thanks to your support, $6,105.20 was raised for the Friends in Need Food Shelf, the Food Shelf’s Emergency Crisis Fund, bringing our total donations to $112,874.61.

John Brunkow for the Committee

NOTE to Ushers & Communion Assistants:
Published schedule is the same as September—please notify Barb Forthun (outreach@stlukecg.com) if you need to reschedule.  THANKS for serving St. Luke!
September Leadership Changes
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

I Corinthians 7:17: “Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.”

Hebrews 13:8: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Dear St. Luke Members and Friends,

We’ve been through a lot of changes the last few weeks. Many of the ‘whys’ cannot be answered, and we appreciate your understanding that legalities and confidentialities of personnel issues prohibit those involved from discussing them. The Council and Pastor Eric have been open about the facts we can share, including that the decisions to leave, and when to leave, were both entirely Pastor Eric’s choosing. So, as we focus on the path forward, we are reminded that, although shepherds of the church change, Jesus never does, and He further reminds us that we each have our own ministry in the church.

Following are answers to the most frequent questions we’ve received:

Q: What will Pastor Amanda’s role be now?
A: Pastor Amanda is a called pastor to St. Luke and will remain in that role. We will bring in an interim Pastor to work alongside Pastor Amanda while we work on the next steps to determine St. Luke’s Pastoral needs.

Q: Will the interim be a Pastor we have had in the past?
A: Most likely no; the St. Paul Synod will work with us to assign someone who has experience in dealing with congregations going through changes in leadership.

Q: Who will be running confirmation?
A: Confirmation will be in the very capable hands of Alex Johnson - Youth Minister, and Pastor Amanda.

Q: Who will be running Children’s Ministry and Church School?
A: Children’s Ministry/Church School is being covered short term by a very experienced team of teachers, Amy Loetz, Youth Minister Alex Johnson, and Pastor Amanda. Finding a permanent solution for this position is one of our immediate priorities, along with find a Sr. Pastor.

Q: When will the call process start for new Senior Pastor?
A: We have met with St. Paul Synod representative, Lamont Koerner, Assistant to the Bishop for Vital Congregations, and he will work with us to bring in an Interim Pastor. The Interim Pastor will guide us through the call process. The call process will start with completing a congregational profile to determine what type of call we will make, then the Call Committee will be nominated by Council, and the Synod will begin lining up candidates for us. According to Lamont, it is at minimum a year-long process. Lamont will be at the October 5 Informational Meeting to explain the process in more detail.

We will continue to provide regular updates at church, in the weekly email update, and the monthly newsletter. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

In Christ,

Lori Hintz, Communicator (lahintz@comcast.net), on behalf of:

Melinda Weber, President; Paul Beard, Vice President; Steve Palacio, Past President; Amanda Olson de Castillo, Pastor; Terry Fraser, Finance; Greg Jeseritz, Technology; and Mike Goecke, Personnel.

23 September 2015