

Homer Midtlyng - What my faith and St. Luke mean to me? What my faith tells me is that, as a sinner, I can take comfort in knowing that grace and forgiveness are mine for the asking. They are God's gift to me. St. Luke is where my spiritual appetite and needs are met. What are those needs? The key needs are to worship along with the words of love, grace and forgiveness, coupled with song and fellowship.

Nicole Leonard - 6 years ago, I moved from Thousand Oaks, CA to Spokane, WA to attend Whitworth University. I didn't think about what I'd be leaving behind or what I'd find in Spokane, mostly because I figured after 4 years of college I'd probably be going back to California. Not only was I blessed to find an amazing university that led me on my career path, but I found a second home in Spokane. I started volunteering at the church as a Confirmation helper which eventually led to being part of the youth group team for middle school and high school. Only after a week or so of attending St. Luke, I'd have families and people saying hello and checking in on me and my life on Sundays. Those same families would invite me to their houses for holidays when I couldn't go home, or have me for dinner just because. I didn't know that I could feel so welcomed in place so far away from where I grew up. St. Luke isn't just the place where I come to worship, St. Luke is my home away from home. It's where I met my honorary grandpa, my place where I can turn to in times of struggles and in times of celebration, and it's the people of St. Luke who make it feel like my home too. My faith was pretty solid before coming to St. Luke; but, I wouldn't be where I am today without the constant messages, events, and people of St. Luke who challenge me, encourage me, and support me in my faith journey through life.

Dave & Stefanie Reinke - "For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them." - Matthew 18:20

We came to St. Luke over 8 years ago searching for a place to bring our toddler on Sunday mornings, to baptize our soon to be born second child and maybe meet some friends to fill the loneliness of moving to a new city. When we found our place at St. Luke we never imagined the plan the Lord had in place for our young, growing family. The Lord truly knows our hearts and knows exactly what we need, even when we don't. We found not just a place to worship on Sunday mornings, drop our kids off for an hour of fun at Sunday School, and a place to later baptize our 3rd child... we found a home. Through worshiping with our brothers & sisters in Christ at St. Luke, our family has been blessed with friendship, guidance, and an abundance of love and grace. Our kids have met some of their best friends through Sunday School and have come to think of St. Luke's walls as their second home. St. Luke has provided us with a strong family faith, our closest friends that are like family, mentor parents we can look

up to and learn from, memories to last a lifetime, and even a job that allows us to spread the Lord's light & love to the hearts of children every day. We came looking for a place to worship on Sunday mornings and have found a home. As we look at our own kids and the kids of St. Luke, we pray we can continue His work in sharing God's love & grace and also His love for our home with even more children and families. Our family is forever grateful for God's plans in leading us to St. Luke, all that it has provided us, and the love we receive every Sunday morning from His people here.

Brent Klinke-What my faith and St. Luke Lutheran Church mean to me:

My faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ means everything to me. I could not be the person I am today without my faith. My faith guides me in everything I do. I know I stumble and fall all the time, but by the grace of God I know my sins are forgiven. Coming to St. Luke Lutheran Church gives me the knowledge I need to hear that my sins are forgiven day after day. I find strength and hope all the time when hearing the gospel and sermons. I enjoy all my brothers and sister in Christ I meet and get to know. St. Luke Lutheran Church has always been a great place for my family and me.

Heather Klinke- I grew up a wandering Christian. I experienced many varieties of church from Baptist to Jehovah Witness and most of what is in between. We never found a home that fit, so on Sunday mornings we would take long drives through the country and experience God's creation. We would say grace before every meal and the Lord's Prayer before bed. And at that time, that was enough. Then I met and married a LIFELONG Lutheran and going to church EVERY SUNDAY was a way of life. For many years it was something that was expected to be done on Sunday mornings. Then we had our two sons and we started coming to St. Luke. The boys started Sunday school and Brent and I became Sunday school teachers. I became aware of what coming to church meant. It reinforces and strengthens my faith that Jesus died for a sinner like me and through him we are born anew. After a long week or any kind of week, I come to church to HEAR the word, TAKE the sacraments and SHARE in fellowship. It is my weekly reset button.

Psalm 51:10 – “Create in me a clean heart, O Lord and renew a right spirit within me.”

Loren Pemberton - My faith is what I need to live by and look forward to for salvation. It is trusting in God's word that is preached on Sunday mornings. The fellowship at St Luke strengthens my faith walk, as we support each other in joys and sorrows and uplifting each other in prayer

Nancy Pemberton - The past 36 years have brought change and growth to myself and my church family. My family grew from one child to three with a wonderful husband

to share in this growth. From bible studies where babies were passed around the room to bible studies where those same children were at confirmation. Fellowship opportunities where lasting friendships were made. Many changes have occurred over the years, but the one thing that hasn't changed is my trust in the Lord and the home I have at St Luke. This is family, a gift from above.

Allison Brier - What my faith and St Luke Lutheran church mean to me.

My faith is an individual experience, but it ties me into the greater body of Christ. From 1st Corinthians 12:13 "...for we are all baptized by one Spirit into one body". Understanding that we are all tied together in faith is a very powerful thought and helps sustain me daily.

St. Luke has been part of our family's foundation of faith for 18 years and I have felt blessed that my children were able to start their faith formation in such a "crowd of witnesses". St. Luke is my church home and is the central place where my faith grows, thanks be to God!

Jack Strand - My entire faith base is associated with St. Luke Lutheran Church. I attended Sunday School at Whitworth Grade School before the original sanctuary was built. I was confirmed at St. Luke in 1962 and we were married in what is now the Genesis Room. Both my children were baptized and confirmed at St. Luke. Our daughter was married in the current sanctuary and our grandchildren were baptized in said building.

Yes, St. Luke is a very important part of our lives. We have seen many changes and many people come and go and sometimes come back again. There have been many good times and some not so good, but through it all, one thing seems to remain the same; the faith of our congregation. Faith in the Lord, faith in the church and faith in one another.

I am blessed to be a member of St. Luke and to be involved in another building project. Whether you are a longtime member or a new one, I am sure you can see the Lord at work in this place! I hope all are as excited as I to see what can be accomplished when faith, fellowship and generosity are working together for a common goal.

Sunni Stand - I did not grow up in a Lutheran church...or any church for that matter. In high school I attended St. Luke on occasion with the young man who was to become my future husband. Jack's parents were members and he and he had been confirmed and was active in the youth group. When we decided to make our commitment to each

other, I knew I wanted to be married at St. Luke...in the beautiful, tiny, original sanctuary, which is now the Genesis Room! I didn't realize at that time that my faith was growing deeper every day. We had our children baptized at St. Luke and they were both confirmed.

Through the last 50+ years, the changes and growth in our church has been truly amazing. Though I have been a longtime member, one of my greatest witnesses to faith was my mother. In the year 2000 at the age of 73, the Lord welcomed her into his flock and membership at St. Luke! Her faith and joy shown and she enjoyed her last 13 years of life worshipping, volunteering and meeting other members of her St. Luke family.

My walk with the Lord and love of this church continues to grow and this new sanctuary project is only one more proof that God is alive and working in the lives of this community and our members!

Duane Ulleland - My faith is not my own doing - it is a gift from God through which he brings me salvation, peace and joy. I am assured that nothing in all creation can separate me from God's love in Jesus Christ. Being encompassed by his loving grace I am called to share that grace and love with others. St. Luke is where I am privileged to hear that good news of God's grace and am encouraged in the walk of faith in the company of other followers of Jesus.

Crystal Austin - I was born into a Christian family and grew in faith as a child coming to know God as my Savior. As I got older I nourished my spiritual growth building a personal relationship with Christ.

I married my husband in 2002 and together we were on a mission to join a church, to find a place to worship and as Pastor Jim says, "Freeload on God's grace." Not one church we visited seemed to speak to our hearts like St. Luke did. We have family that attend St. Luke, but as a couple, we felt fed in scripture and each week went by with more grace when we attended. At the time, as we waited for our family to grow, and after years of visiting, we joined St. Luke.

Through the trials and triumphs of this life: losing loved one, our foster daughter, surgeries, cancer, illnesses, the birth of two daughters, baptisms, Sunday School, different events... Having a place of worship and all the people who genuinely care and lift each other in Christ just speaks to my heart. St. Luke has been a light for my life and I am proud to be a member here. The intimate feeling of our church and the help

we sometimes all fail to ask for but truly need, *is* here. With open arms, love and support. Without failure or second guessing, I feel and see it each week I come through the doors of St. Luke. Confirming in my heart, God is using St. Luke for His purpose.

I feel blessed to be a part of a congregation, whose vision is geared toward growing God's kingdom. That we have the faithful job of being His humble servants', to answer the call He has provided within each of us; so we may honor and praise Him, sharing His good news!

Debi Kaufman - What my faith and St. Luke Lutheran Church mean to me.

My faith has helped me through many challenges in my life. I honestly don't know how people with little or no faith get through life without it. Faith is such an important part of who I am. It upholds me during rough times and offers me the promise of eternal life.

I believe that to grow in faith it essential to continue to be fed spiritually. This is why St. Luke is so important to me. Being part of the St. Luke family has been an incredible experience. What a blessing it is to worship with fellow believers, praise God through word and music, receive His forgiveness, receive God's word through Pastor Jim, pray for our brothers and sisters and gather around his table to receive Holy Communion. I leave worship feeling joyful, fulfilled and equipped to live out my faith through my words, actions and deeds.

Through my involvement with the Social Ministry Committee and Vacation Bible School, I have seen first-hand how many ways our congregation lives our our Mission Statement. Our neighborhood and community are constantly blessed by the generosity of our congregation, but more importantly, I think our congregation is constantly blessed by its willingness to support so many wonderful projects.

Don Kaufman - St. Luke Lutheran has given me a home where I can thrive in my faith. It is important to me that the church delivers fresh messages that are Christian base. It is also important that the church reaches out beyond its four walls into the community. This is something I think St. Luke does very well, whether it is Morningside After School support of Evergreen Elementary children, or street teens at Crosswalk, or families in need at Thanksgiving and Christmas or Kira's Kloset or the Mead Food Bank, etc... Worship, Walk and Witness implies that two thirds of our efforts should be outside our four walls and I think this is happening here at St. LUke.

With this building program we will continue to be able to grow the Worship component and as we do the outside service component will have an even greater impact.

Terry Bollum - My faith is simply put – Belief in GOD. God was there in the beginning and will be at the end. He has had a hand throughout my life including Baptism, Confirmation, bringing Heidi to me in marriage, the raising of children and health issues. He will continue to be with me going forward into retirement and life after death. He has always been there, always will be and I can always talk to him.

It has been great to be a part of a church family that surrounds me with people that have similar faith. I have had fantastic support from my church family. So why wouldn't I support my church family any way I can? The time is now for financial support to meet the needs to continue and grow this church family.

Sherry Burgess - What my faith and St. Luke Lutheran Church mean to me: My faith is my core, a well from which I draw strength day to day. St. Luke is a place for me to worship my triune God, to go to the well of scripture for replenishment of my faith and receive instruction. It is my home, my family and my support system. It's a place not just to worship, but to study, learn, discuss, grow and strengthen friendships and to share fellowship with others in the faith.