



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

February 2024

*Helping people make
life-changing connections
with God through
Jesus Christ.*

Hope and Holy Lament

"Hope and Holy Lament" is an exploration of God's grace in times of trouble. The Psalms give us words to express hope and lament. They help us, people of faith, experience times of trouble and sadness, by giving words of hope to sustain us, even as we cry out.

This Lent, we will use the Psalms, consider what it means to sit with our grief rather than try to push it aside. We will discover that many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find there is not a disapproving God but one who weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross—the place to which the season of Lent leads us—is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.



Lent 1, Sunday, February 18: Hope Everlasting
MW Lent 1, Wednesday, February 21: What is Lament?
Lent 2, Sunday, February 25: Hope Resurrected
MW Lent 2, Wednesday, February 28: "Little" Laments
Lent 3, Sunday, March 3: Hope in God's Glory
MW Lent 3, Wednesday, March 6: Laments from the Depth
Lent 4, Sunday, March 10: Hope in Distress
MW Lent 4, Wednesday, March 13: Individual Lament
Lent 5, Sunday, March 17: Hope in God's Renewal
MW Lent 4, Wednesday, March 20: Communal Lament

Our themes are drawn from the following Psalms. Please take time to read and reflect on them so that they may draw you more fully into faith.

Psalm 25:1-9

Lamentations 3:19-26 (This is a "Psalm")

Psalm 22:23-31

Psalm 42

Psalm 19

Psalm 88

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Psalm 13

Psalm 51:1-12

Psalm 44:1-10, 13, 17-26



For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me.

1 Corinthians 15:1-9 NRSV

We are now in the season of Lent, but we are moving closer to Easter each day. During Lent, we get to practice our faith by preparing for the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, on Easter morning.



The season of Lent can be special for many faithful people because it is a time that we get to reflect on and sometimes wrestle with our faith. This is a gift because as we work through our thoughts and what we wrestle with, we receive an opportunity to know God deeper because of our wrestling.

Relationships are important and part of our faith journey as followers of God's will. Throughout the Bible God's word directs us towards unconditional love for God and neighbor, which sounds easy. However, relationships always take work. So, during Lent this year we are going to work on diving into our relationship with God by loving our neighbor.

Part of this journey is looking for Lenten Mentors to walk with our Discipleship Training Students again this year at 6:00 p.m. before worship. The D.T. students are instructed to ask an adult if they are willing to be a mentor during Lent. However, it can be hard to ask an adult anything when you are a teenager. If you are willing to help in this ministry and be a mentor or a sub at the last minute, let Cari Thompson or me know at your earliest convenience. Wednesday Lenten services are from February 14 to March 20, with worship starting at 7:00 p.m.

As we walk with God this Lent while focusing on our relationship, we will have an opportunity to grow and be challenged by peanut butter and jelly. Peanut butter and jelly? Yes...peanut butter and jelly.

As in years past, the youth want to challenge the entire congregation this Lenten season towards a mission for our neighbor. We previously engaged in a huge mission of providing diapers for families in need. However, items like peanut butter, jelly, ketchup, mustard, mayo, and basic toiletry goods are not covered through governmental assistance. This is a way we can live our Lenten journey by serving our neighbor through peanut butter and jelly. This year we ask the good people of St Luke's to bring in peanut butter and jelly to be donated at the Waukesha Food Pantry. Items will be dropped off to the food pantry after Easter has been celebrated.

This is an incredible opportunity for our congregation to grow spiritually as we wrestle with the fact that people do experience hunger in a time that all can be fed. The world has the resources to feed all people, but not all are fed. We will grow closer in our relationship with God and neighbor as we enter this mission that is grounded in unconditional love.

This is an exciting time as we dive deeper into being disciples of Jesus Christ. May you be blest during one of the holiest times of the year. We now prepare for the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Peace to all,

Pastor Steve Bogie

Lenten Meals

In our life together, community is important. Beginning February 21, we will again be having soup suppers served each Wednesday from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. before the evening worship at 7:00. Please come and enjoy the fellowship. We look forward to seeing you, and worshipping together.



Music & Fine Arts at St. Luke's presents the Valparaiso Chorale

On Monday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. the Valparaiso Chorale will be in concert as a part of our Music & Fine Arts at St. Luke's concert series. The Chorale is under the direction of Marin Jacobson, and you will not want to miss this concert! In addition to hosting the concert, we will be housing the students. They are in pairs, and the church will provide dinner before the concert. All you need to provide is a bed and breakfast in the morning. If

you are interested in housing the students, please let Michael Schaner, Director of Music Ministries, know at mschaner@stlukeslutheran.org.

Music of Lent and Holy Week

During our midweek services on the Wednesdays in Lent, we will be using *Holden Evening Prayer* in worship. For our Good Friday Tenebrae worship, Voices of Faith will sing the chorales from *The Passion of St. John* by J.S. Bach. Bach's Passion setting was written 300 years ago, so 2024 is a milestone year for this beautiful setting of the Passion story. In July, Michael Schaner will be attending a conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians where the entire passion will be performed in the Valparaiso University Chapel. What an honor for us at St. Luke's to be a part of this magnificent milestone year! Also, if you are interested in joining the choir for a short time, singing with Voices of Faith during Lent and Holy Week is especially meaningful. We will rehearse on Wednesdays after midweek worship. If you are interested, you can come to rehearsals, or talk to Michael Schaner, Director of Music Ministries.

Praise Band Opportunity For The Youth

Another opportunity to serve God through music may soon come to fruition for St. Luke's. A small group of youth have been invited to be part of a praise band project. Hopefully, this ministry grounded in music will help the youth feel more connected to God through their preparation and performance. This is a personal invitation to the youth. The youth are invited to join a musical journey grounded in praise to God. This opportunity will be an exciting expression of worship while having fun playing music with others. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at pastorsteve@stlukeslutheran.org or (262) 542-2545

Support Our Youth

The youth will be selling Kwik Trip cards as a year-round fundraiser. Kwik Trip cards are available two ways: (1) immediate purchase of cards on hand monthly at the Cinnamon Roll table or (2) by contacting Cari (youth@stlukeslutheran.org) or the church office to place an order. Order forms are available at the Welcome Stations or from Cari.

Join Search Bible Study!

Grow in faith and engage in great conversations. Join us at Search Bible Study, in the Hospitality area, Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Penny War

During the month of January and February, the youth of St. Luke's kicked the adults out and challenged each other, girls verses boys, to a Penny War. All proceeds raised will help to offset costs to go to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The winner of the Penny War will be the one with the lowest total points at the end of services February 11. Paper bills, checks, and electronic giving will be positive points, coins will be negative points. The team with the highest points is the losing team and will be "awarded" a pie in the face at the end of the Penny War. As of the writing of this article, the boys had 1,483 points and the girls had 654 points. The youth girls are represented by Chloe, Kayla, Lauren, & Natalie. The youth boys are represented by Alex, Connor, Matthew A. and Matthew W. Based on past experience, we know that the point total can swing greatly from week to week. There have been rumors of shenanigans in the works to make sure that the points totals are tied by the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper when the "prize" will be awarded! The bid sheets to help smush a pie in the face of a St. Luke's youth will be on the Penny War table. There might be a few youth leaders and parents lining up for that opportunity!

All fun and games aside, the youth would like to thank the congregation for once again supporting our slightly wacky ideas and allowing us to continue to support the faith formation of our youth. Without your prayers and financial support opportunities such as attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering would not be possible.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church Core Values

Honoring God and serving Jesus Christ:

1. We share Jesus Christ and make disciples.
2. We worship God together.
3. We are curious, courageous, and open to the Holy Spirit.
4. We celebrate children and lift up families as they are.
5. We practice kindness and uphold the dignity of each individual.
6. We are committed to being an inclusive community of grace.
7. We stand ready to serve and advocate for our neighbors.
8. We honor our past and look to God's future for us.

The deadline for the next issue of the Epistle is Thursday, February 15.

January's Council Contact
Brian Edlbeck
edlbeck@hotmail.com
(920) 217-8073 or (262) 650-4801

February Monthly Mission: Healing Hearts

Healing Hearts: Healing Hearts of Waukesha County offers a peer-to-peer support program for children, youth, and families who are grieving the loss of a loved one due to death, divorce, separation, incarceration, military deployment, or immigration. Most recently, Healing Hearts has served as a safe space for adults to meet to reset after the trauma and loss of the parade tragedy while their kids heal in peer groups.

Memorials

In gratitude, we received memorials to support the ongoing ministry of St. Luke's. You, too, can memorialize others with gifts to St. Luke's. You can also honor loved ones with honorariums given to St. Luke's. Memorials and honorariums will be listed here each month. During the month of December, the following memorials and honorariums were made:

In Memory of	Given By	Designation
Marlene Brach	Ed, Donna, Erin & Sara Smith	Undesignated
Harold (Charlie) Brown	Helen Brown	Undesignated
Clarence, Viola, Fred, Paul, Kevin & Janice Greuel; Oscar & Dorothy Jurkowski		
Carol Kolstad (wife) & Kevin Kolstad (son)	Keith & Judy Jurkowski	Good Samaritan
Nick & Ward Rostagno	Erl Kolstad	Undesignated
Travis Soto & his 28 th birthday	Karen Rostagno	Undesignated
Nick Wright and John & Carol Wehr (grandparents)	Marianne Gilpatrick	Undesignated
	Cynthia Kau	Undesignated
In Honor of	Given By	Designation
Pastor Keith Kolstad (son), Brad Kolstad (son) & families	Erl Kolstad	Undesignated

Online Giving

To start giving electronically or make changes to your existing on-line giving, please log on to our website and click the "Online Giving" tab on the right. You can also fill out the paper authorization form and return it to the church office. Paper authorization forms are available at the Welcome Center.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Do you have a special designation for your Thrivent Choice dollars? All Thrivent Choice dollars are held in the Memorial Fund as undesignated and will be assigned a purpose as needed. If you know where you want your Thrivent Choice dollars to go, please let us know by calling or emailing Cindy in the finance office.

What's Our Spending Plan?

Learn more about what your gifts to St. Luke's makes possible. Discover more about the finances of the church. The Finance Committee will present information about the church's spending plan at a listening session Sunday, February 4, at 9:30 a.m. This session will be held in the chapel.

Annual Meeting

St. Luke's Lutheran will gather for its Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 11, following the completion of the first service, around 9:15 a.m. At the annual meeting we'll hold elections, approve the budget, and more. See the Annual Report for the complete agenda, available late January 2024.

Use your phone to give.

Point your camera at the QR code to use Omella to make an online gift. Your gifts will be counted as offerings and will support the ongoing ministry of St. Luke's Lutheran.



Church Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Phone: (262) 542-2545

Fax: (262) 542-1254

Website: www.stlukeslutheran.org

Facebook: facebook.com/sllcwauk

Pastor Lindsay Jordan

Senior Pastor

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Pastor Steve Bogie

Associate Pastor

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Administrative Assistant

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Youth Group (Y.G.)

Youth Group is open to all youth in 7th through 12th grade. Friends are always welcome. We would love to have you join us in the Youth Room for faith and fellowship.

February Activities:

Every Weekend - Noisy Offering Collection after all services.

2/8 T.E.A.M. - 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

2/11 Cinnamon Rolls 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

2/13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. / 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Set-Up/Cook / 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Serve Dinner / 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Clean-Up.

2/14 Ash Wednesday Service

2/18 No Y.G.

2/25 Y.G. 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Looking Ahead:

March - host a Lenten Soup Supper on a Wednesday night the date is yet to be determined.

3/23 - Volunteer opportunity to assist with First Communion Class 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please let Cari or Pastor Steve know if interested.

3/24 - 16 volunteers are needed for the Reader's Choir to read the Passion of Jesus.

Discipleship Training (D.T.)

D.T. is open to all 7th and 8th grade youth, or older youth, who wish to affirm their baptism. The focus for this year will be our Lutheran Heritage. Please keep this ministry and students in your prayers as they dive deeper and explore their faith. D.T. generally meets Sundays during the Education Hour, 9:20 to 10:25 a.m. with additional learning, service, and community time outside the Education Hour. In February we will be learning about Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and Lent. Contact Cari, youth@stlukeslutheran.org for additional information.

February Activities:

Every Weekend - Noisy Offering Collection after all services

2/4 D.T. in Youth Room 9:20 to 10:25 a.m.

2/8 T.E.A.M 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

2/11 D.T. in Youth Room 9:20 to 10:25 a.m.

2/13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. / 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Set-Up/Cook / 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Serve Dinner / 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Clean-Up.

2/14 Ash Wednesday Service attend with Mentor 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

2/18 Walk with Jesus – Intro and Kickoff Planning 9:20 to 10:25 a.m.

2/21 Lenten Mentorship 5:45 to 8:00 p.m. / 5:45 p.m. arrive, and check-in 6:00 p.m. dinner and conversation with mentor / 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service.

2/25 Walk with Jesus – Planning 9:20 to 10:25 a.m.

2/28 Lenten Mentorship Dinner and Service 5:45 to 8:00 p.m.

Looking Ahead

Wednesdays in March except the last Wednesday - Lenten Mentorship 5:45 to 8:00 p.m.

March - host a Lenten Soup Supper on a Wednesday night the date is yet to be determined.

3/23 Walk with Jesus – Station Setup 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Parental help would be appreciated.

3/24 Present Walk with Jesus - Final Setup 8:00 a.m. Present 9:20 to 10:15 a.m. Cleanup 10:30.

Lenten Service Project

During Lent, Discipleship Training, and Youth Group, will be collecting peanut butter and jelly for the Waukesha Food Pantry. Drop off donations of PB&J in boxes labeled PB&J, by the alter or give to a D.T., Y.G., Cari or Pastor Steve. In April, St. Luke's youth and adult chaperones will transport the donations to local Waukesha organizations for distribution to those in need. We thank you for your generosity.

Save the Date Walk with Jesus March 24

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday, during the Education Hour, 9:20 to 10:15 a.m. D.T.'s will be presenting a self-guided walk using stations to tell the story of Jesus's journey the week leading up to His death and then resurrection on Easter morning.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 13

You are invited to join the Youth of St. Luke's for an Old-Fashioned Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 13. Pancakes & sausage will be served from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The cost is a freewill donation. The proceeds go to benefit the Youth programming of St. Luke's. Gluten free pancakes will be available along with takeout options.

Discipleship Training Lenten Mentors and Subs Needed

We are looking for adult volunteers who would consider being Lenten Mentors and Subs for our awesome D.T. youth! Qualifications are a willingness to meet with one of our St. Luke's D.T. youth on Wednesday nights during Lent for supper and conversation then attend the Lenten service with the youth. If you would be willing to be a mentor, or a substitute mentor in case of absences, please contact Cari via email at youth@stlukeslutheran.org.

Kwik Trip Card Fundraiser

Thank you to all who have purchased Kwik Trip cards already. A quick reminder that we plan to make this an on-going year-round fundraiser. For those that use Kwik Trip on a regular basis, please consider getting cards through St. Luke's to use for your gas, grocery, and car wash purchases. The youth get a portion of your cards purchased. Cards are available either via an order form, available on the Welcome Station, or directly from the stock on hand Sunday mornings. Contact Cari with any questions or to order cards.

Readers' Choir Seeking Volunteers

We are still seeking volunteers who would be interested in participating in the Readers' Choir on Palm Sunday weekend, March 23 and 24, to read the Passion of Christ. We are looking for 16 volunteers, 8 to read at the Saturday night service, and 8 to read at both Sunday services. We hope to have a multi-generational choir this year. We will have 3 to 4 practices in February and March, exact dates, and times to be announced. If you are interested in participating in the Readers' Choir, please contact Cari, youth@stlukeslutheran.org or Pastor Steve pastorsteve@stlukeslutheran.org by February 11.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School journey through the Old Testament has recently brought us to Moses. We're spending five weeks learning about Moses and the Israelites. There are some good lessons in those stories to help us in our daily lives, so we're really enjoying it. Lent begins in mid February, so our lessons will take a detour again to focus on that portion of Jesus life until Easter.

Our next Family Day will be March 17! The entire congregation is invited to join in a little fun with the Sunday School children! Bring a friend or relative. There's always faith, fun, and food at Family Day!

February Lessons

- 2/4 - Red Sea
- 2/11 - Ten Commandments
- 2/18 - Transfiguration
- 2/25 - Greatest Commandment

Sunday School Family Day

Sunday school invites all parents, mentors, family friends, brothers, and sisters to Sunday School for Family Day. Family Day is a time with God and family, activities and crafts, snacks, and fun. All families are welcome to enjoy Sunday School on Family Day, Sunday, March 17, at 9:20 a.m. meeting in Hospitality.

Prayer Ministry

How can we pray for you, a friend or a loved one? Our Prayer Team is here for prayer support during the trials and joys of daily life. If you or someone you know needs prayer for any reason, could use a note of encouragement or get well wishes, or if you have any questions, please contact Laurie Rohrwasser at lr Rohrwasser@stlukeslutheran.org

Please Update Your Personal Information with Us

We are in the process of creating an updated Guidebook Directory for 2024. Please contact the office via email or phone if you've had any recent changes to your personal information (phone, address, email and/or name changes). Please also let us know if you would NOT like your information published.

Help For the Hope Center

There are many ways to help the Hope Center. 1.) Sorters are needed in the Clothing Shop, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 2.) Prep and serve breakfast 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. and lunch 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Day Center Monday to Friday, open dates vary. You can volunteer as a group or an individual by contacting Terri Helminiak, Hope Center Volunteer Coordinator, (262) 549-8726 ext. 203, or thelminiak@hopecenterwi.org.

Support the Food Pantry

You can make monetary donations to the pantry through their website. Leaders of the pantry want us to know that canned fruits and veggies along with soups have been limited the last few months. When shopping for yourself, pick up some for our neighbors and drop them in the food pantry barrels as you leave the grocery store, or bring to church to drop in the cart by door.

Community Meal

Join us for Thursday evening community meal from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. We provide a healthy meal for our families and youth every Thursday between youth choir rehearsals. All are welcome to join us for this time together.

Reminder: Enroll Now for Fall 2024 Preschool Classes

September may seem like a long way off, but enrollment for fall Preschool classes is well underway! Open enrollment has begun for children who will be 2 to 4 years of age by September 1, 2024. Classes meet September through May from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Don't wait, some classes are already full! Call for more information, set up an appointment to visit, and find out how to reserve a spot for your child or grandchild. Tell your neighbors, friends, and co-workers to check us out, too! St. Luke's Preschool welcomes all children regardless of race, color, sex, differing abilities, religion, national or ethnic origin. Contact Liz at (262) 522-6747 or landerson@stlukeslutheran.org

Planning a Wedding?

Our website has information about getting married at or through St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Download the *Preparing for a Wedding* booklet from the weddings page of our website and you can learn about ceremonies in our sanctuary, chapel, or offsite. Visit www.stlukeslutheran.org for information.

Welcome to the Font: A Baptismal Gathering

Pre-baptismal gathering, *Welcome to the Font*, is scheduled quarterly in our church. *Welcome to the Font* is a time for parents preparing for baptism to join together with other parents while learning about God's work for them and their children in Holy Baptism. *Welcome to the Font* is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Center. Baptisms are scheduled only after attending a *Welcome to the Font* gathering. To attend "Welcome to the Font" call the church office at (262) 542-2545.

Preparing for a Funeral

Our ministry of walking with people at times of death is an important work of this church. To help families prepare for a funeral, we've developed a booklet entitled, *Preparing for a Funeral*. You can download this resource from the funerals page of our website. Our pastors are available for any who would like to prepare for a funeral.

Knit While You Pray

Please join us for Prayer Shawl Ministry the first and third Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. We are looking to grow our ministry. If you do not know how to knit or crochet, we would be happy to teach you. Attendance is not required. You can donate items made at home: Prayer Patches, Prayer Shawls, and Lap Robes. Please call Gloria at (262) 547-8096, if you have any questions.

Sew With Us

Please join Needle and Thimble on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. We meet every week unless there is no school. Everyone is welcome. You don't need to be able to sew. There are other things that can be done. Please call Marilyn Olson if you have questions, (262) 547-7818.

The Pastors Jordan to Lead a Trip to Germany

Join Pastors Kimberly and Lindsay Jordan for a twelve-day learning tour focused on Reformation history in the land of Martin Luther. Autumn in Germany is beautiful. Friends and members of St. Luke's are invited to experience castles, breathtaking scenery, history, wine country, a cruise on the Rhine River, sites related to the 16th century reformation, Checkpoint Charlie, The Berlin Wall, cathedrals, museums, and a whole lot more! Visit www.stlukeslutheran.org/germany2024 for more information. You can pick up a tour brochure at the welcome center. It has a complete itinerary in it. Call the church office if you'd like it emailed to you (262) 888-0568. We'll travel in a comfortable bus to the many sites of this fantastic tour, even stepping into France and Switzerland. You'll experience and appreciate sites of interest related to the historical figures such as: Martin Luther, Johann S. Bach, Philip Melanchthon, Johanne Wolfgang von Goethe, Ludwig Beethoven, Johannes Gutenberg, and more. The tour begins September 9, 2024.



Extending Care for You

There are times in life when we all could use some form of care for ourselves. Yet, when we need care, we sometimes do not want to reach out to someone else for help. Both pastors and the lay-led care team are here to provide care at all times, especially in times of need. Please let us know if you or someone else needs pastoral care. We are available to set up and help schedule pastoral care visits. As a team, our primary goal is to provide care and hope during times of need. A significant component of Pastoral Care is maintaining contact with those who cannot attend church. We want to keep in touch with God's children, but sometimes we need help. If you know anyone who would like a visit, please let us know.

Prayer Team

What a privilege it is to lift up the needs of others before God! The need for prayer and prayer-ers grows daily! Please consider becoming a member of our Prayer Team. No meetings and passing on requests are not needed. You will receive prayer requests via email or, a direct phone call from a designated person. You are asked to pray daily for that request. No specific time or type of prayer. Simply ask God to guide you as you pray. Did you know you can pray anywhere and at any time? How about in the shower or brushing your teeth? What about when you at one of your children's practices or games? How about while waiting for an appointment? All are acceptable places to pray. Prayer time can be as long or as short as you choose. All we ask is that you lift these people up daily in prayer. Please consider this vital ministry. Contact Laurie Rohrwasser to be a part of this ministry team.

Women of Faith Bible Study

Women of Faith Bible Study will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The book we are using is "They Walked with God, 40 Bible Characters Who Inspire Us" by Max Lucado. Books can be purchased in various forms on Amazon or from your favorite book seller. Join us, ALL are welcome! For more information, please contact Laurie Rohrwasser at lrhrwasser@stlukeslutheran.org

Tanzania Pastors in Transition

We recently received news from our partners in Tanzania that pastoral changes have been announced in the Meru Diocese. Kilimamoja parish has received a new pastor. Pastor Ndetaulwa Mbise is being moved from Kilimamoja to Akeri Parish in the Western Province of the Meru Diocese. We celebrate with the people of Kilimamoja as they wish Pastor Mbise well. Pastor Lazaro Urioh is beginning his tenure as Kilimamoja's pastor. We already have a strong connection with Pastor Urioh, because his wife, Elifitia, is a member at Kilimamoja and serves on its partnership team. She was part of the crew that welcomed PJ to Tanzania last year. Pastor Nathan continues his work with Mararoni and Samaria Parishes and will also begin serving as Kikatiti School Chaplain, a position he has held in the past. We pray for our pastoral colleagues in Tanzania as they go through these changes.

Please Remember

All calendar dates and times are subject to change as needed. Check for updates on the online calendar at: www.stlukeslutheran.org.

St. Luke's Calendar for February 2024

Thursday, February 1	9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl 4:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 5:00 p.m. Community Meal 6:30 p.m. Women of Faith 7:00 p.m. Broad Hwy. A.A.	9:30 a.m. Mt. Meru Coffee 9:30 a.m. Men's Chorus Rehearsal 12:00 p.m. Y.G. 6:00 p.m. Men's A.A.	Wednesday, February 21 9:30 a.m. Search Bible Study 5:45 p.m. D.T. Lenten Mentorship 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal 6:00 p.m. Godsbells 7:00 p.m. Mid Week Lenten Service 7:00 p.m. N.A. 7:45 p.m. Voices of Faith		
Saturday, February 3	5:00 p.m. Worship	Monday, February 12 8:00 a.m. Amigos! 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon	Thursday, February 22 4:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 5:00 p.m. Community Meal 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee 7:00 p.m. Broad Hwy. A.A.		
Sunday, February 4	8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Spending Plan Meeting 9:20 a.m. D.T. & S.S. 10:15 a.m. Van Pickup 11:30 a.m. Executive Committee 12:00 p.m. Y.G. 6:00 p.m. Men's A.A.	8:30 a.m. Needle & Thimble 4:00 p.m. O.A. 5:30 p.m. Shrove Pancake Dinner 6:30 p.m. Worship Life Committee	Saturday, February 24 5:00 p.m. Worship		
Monday, February 5	8:00 a.m. Amigos! 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon	Wednesday, February 14 9:30 a.m. Search Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Godsbells 7:00 p.m. N.A. 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7:45 p.m. Voices of Faith	Sunday, February 25 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:20 a.m. D.T. & S.S. 9:30 a.m. Mt. Meru Coffee 12:00 p.m. Y.G. 6:00 p.m. Men's A.A.		
Tuesday, February 6	8:30 a.m. Needle & Thimble 9:30 a.m. 1st Tuesday Book Club 4:00 p.m. O.A. 7:00 p.m. Theology on Tap	Thursday, February 15 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl 4:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 5:00 p.m. Community Meal 5:30 p.m. Facilities Committee 6:15 p.m. CLM Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Women of Faith 7:00 p.m. Broad Hwy. A.A.	Monday, February 26 8:00 a.m. Amigos! 6:00 p.m. Endowment Committee 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon		
Wednesday, February 7	9:30 a.m. Search Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Godsbells 7:00 p.m. N.A. 7:15 p.m. Voices of Faith	Saturday, February 17 5:00 p.m. Worship	Tuesday, February 27 8:30 a.m. Needle & Thimble 4:00 p.m. O.A. 5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee		
Thursday, February 8	4:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 4:30 p.m. T.E.A.M. 5:00 p.m. Community Meal 5:30 p.m. Facilities Committee 6:00 p.m. Diverse Harvest Practice 7:00 p.m. Broad Hwy. A.A.	8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:20 a.m. D.T. & S.S. 10:15 a.m. Van Pickup 6:00 p.m. Men's A.A.	Wednesday, February 28 9:30 a.m. Search Bible Study 5:45 p.m. D.T. Lenten Mentorship 6:00 p.m. Godsbells 6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal 7:00 p.m. N.A. 7:00 p.m. Mid Week Lenten Service 7:45 p.m. Voices of Faith		
Saturday, February 10	5:00 p.m. Worship	Monday, February 19 8:00 a.m. Amigos! 1:00 p.m. Sarah Circle 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon	Thursday, February 29 4:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 5:00 p.m. Community Meal 7:00 p.m. Broad Hwy. A.A.		
Sunday, February 11	8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Cinnamon Roll Sunday 9:15 a.m. Annual Meeting 9:20 a.m. D.T. & S.S.	8:30 a.m. Needle & Thimble 4:00 p.m. O.A. 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee 6:30 p.m. Congregation Council	February 2024	Connecting, Growing, Serving	The Epistle, page 9



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

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Inviting Others to Worship

There remain growing congregations in this day and age when so many others are declining. There are a number of things that growing congregations have in common. First among them, is they have a sense of the mission to which God has called them. Especially common in growing churches is that people are excited about the ministries of the church, so excited that they invite others to worship.

Here's an easy strategy for inviting people to worship: Tell them about something happening in the church that makes you proud. Example: "I went to Christmas Eve worship, and it was fantastic..." Tell your neighbors or family members what excites you about St. Luke's. After talking about it, then ask them to join you in worship by saying something like: "How about if you go with me this week? You can see what I'm excited about."

Inviting is easy. You do it for many other events that bring you joy. New life in Christ brings you joy. Inviting to worship is as easy as inviting somebody to a concert or a movie, or sports event. Remember, you hear good news when we worship. You are reminded over and over that God loves you and forgives your sin. It's exciting! Share the news and invite others.

Attending Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14, is Ash Wednesday. We will gather as God's people to enter Lent, the season of repentance and renewal at 7:00 p.m. Throughout the world, Christians will observe this holy day by hearing and receiving a reminder of our mortality. The words are stark: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." The sign of this reminder is even starker: ashes in the shape of the cross. In this action, we liturgically remember our eventual death with a sign of our hope in the face of death: the cross. This is an important festival of the church year. All members of the church should attempt to be present for it.