



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

March 2024

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

Bonhoeffer: Remembering the Saint

Travelers headed to this year's congregational trip to Germany will be introduced to a prominent Lutheran figure of the 20th Century. Perhaps you've heard of him: Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I first came into contact with his writings in the late 1980s, while taking a religion class in college. I quickly learned that much of my faith had been shaped by his thoughts; his teachings having been instilled in the pastors of childhood.

Here's how a former professor of mine, Gary Simpson of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, describes Bonhoeffer:



Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian, and martyr who lived his adult life under the fascist Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich. Bonhoeffer had resisted the totalitarian tyranny of Nazism from its takeover of Germany beginning in January 1933, and on the radio, he openly denounced Hitler's April 1933 Aryan Civil Service law, which had banned Jews from being German civil servants, and which eventually led to the murder of over six million European Jews. Bonhoeffer's resistance to Hitler grew throughout the 1930s, and he became an influential young leader of the Protestant "confessing church struggle" against the Nazification of German Protestantism. In July 1940 Bonhoeffer's brother-in-law, Hans von Dohnanyi, convinced him to join a conspiracy group within Hitler's own military intelligence to assassinate Hitler. Bonhoeffer became a double agent. In April 1943, Bonhoeffer was arrested, imprisoned, and interrogated. Two years later, Hitler personally gave the order to execute Bonhoeffer along with other conspirators, which was carried out at Flossenbürg Prison on April 9, 1945, just two weeks before the Allied forces entered Berlin. (Simpson, Gary M. "Twentieth-Century Profile: Dietrich Bonhoeffer." *In Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans*, edited by Kathryn A. Kleinhans, 78–81. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2016.)

His story was recently memorialized in a very popular book about his life and death by Eric Metaxes. It is a good read, though his theological interpretations of Bonhoeffer aren't always adequate and sometimes tell us more about Metaxes' theology than Bonhoeffer's. You can find this book on Amazon or through our local bookstores. Printed in 2020, it was very successful in book stores as it tells the story of a man who dared face the evils of Nazism in the 1930s.

There's not much to see about this giant of the faith in Germany, but his memory looms large. In Berlin, there is a small museum in his former home. It is only open a few days of the week. Christians, however, have drawn inspiration from this great saint who reminds us that Christians make hard choices in the face of this world's evil. We do not participate in the obliteration of others who are different than we are. Rather, like Christ, we give our lives to save other people.



"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession.. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Consider reading about Bonhoeffer. I've been reading some of his writings as I'm preparing for September's trip to Germany. And, if you'd like to know more about Bonhoeffer or the trip, check in with me. It's a great story and will be an excellent experience.

May This Easter Fill You With Life

We are heading towards Easter Sunday, and we are heading there fast. This is a unique time of year as we experience God's victory over death in real time through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This is the time of year when we can come face to face with our "Bad Spiritual Situation" with God. The issue with our relationship is we cannot follow God's will no matter how hard we try. However, we can understand God's answer to this issue is through faith and Jesus' action on the cross.



There can be diversity in thought when speaking about Jesus' crucifixion. A more common understanding is Jesus, being sinless, absorbed our sin on the cross and paid our debt, for our trespasses against God through Jesus' sacrifice.

Another school of thought is that only the one who owes their debt can pay it off in full. Another person cannot take away our debt in full. Therefore, one cannot have their sins or debts removed by some outside source.

However, when one comes to the cross of Christ and sees and experiences the moment of what Jesus has done for them, for us all, they can turn to faith and escape the debt of their sin. As the Gospel of John tells us, just as Moses lifted the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. By looking at Jesus on the cross or at the empty cross, the faithful can acknowledge their sin, turn from their rebellion, and turn to God to save and heal them.

However, is all this just nonsense? Did the resurrection of Jesus Christ really happen? Yes! Some basic science can help us feel more confident in the reality of the resurrection. However, not all questions can be answered by this basic science experiment. It may take a little faith to help build confidence in the answers we find with this experiment.

This is the fundamental science experiment: if you walk around a forest and come upon a pond and see a ripple in the pond, the ripple tells us something happened. That is, the ripple can inform us of an event that has already unfolded. We don't know what happened, but we can assume something did occur. That is the basic science. To extend this pond theme into the realm of the divine, it seems God dropped a massive pebble in the ether of the universe, and we are still feeling, celebrating, and honoring that ripple effect in the pond of space and time. Something happened about two thousand years ago when God dropped life into the universe through Jesus' resurrection, which we continue to experience today.

May this Easter fill you with life as you experience God's love for you through Jesus' resurrection. He is risen; He is risen, indeed, alleluia! The grace of God lives eternally through faith in our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God that we feel the ripples of life in our present day.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. Romans 5:6-9 NRSV

Peace be with you all! Pastor Steve Bogie

Peanut Butter and Jelly Time

St. Luke's, this is the home stretch. You have accepted the Lenten challenge of donating peanut butter and jelly to give to the Food Pantry. You are amazing! However, we still have an opportunity to take advantage of this unique ministry that feeds people with love, grace, peanut butter and jelly. Please help us donate peanut butter and jelly to the Waukesha Food Pantry for our neighbors who need food before Easter is here and gone.



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

On Monday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m., the Valparaiso Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will be in concert under the direction of Marin Jacobson. They will present a worshipful concert of anthems, hymns, and a cantata by J.S. Bach. Brass, string orchestra, and featured organist John Schwandt will add inspiring instrumental music to the performance.

The program titled *Soli Deo Gloria* features music by

Lutheran composers, and the theme unfolds emphasizing the Reformation solas. A special aspect of the concert will be John Schwandt's organ leadership of the assembly in singing hymns such as "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" and "O Day Full of Grace" as well as recent hymns by Susan Palo Cherwien and Carol McDaniel. The concert is free and open to the public. 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.

Wisconsin Philharmonic Shining Stars Recital

Tuesday, April 16, time and price TBD, tickets will be available at the door.

Jubilate Chorale

Saturday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m., the Jubilate Chorale will be joined by choirs from Brookfield East High School as they present Dan Forrest's *Jubilate Deo*. Tickets will be available in advance, from ensemble members, in person at the door, or online at <https://www.jubilatechorale.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!

Music Camp 2024

We are excited for our summer music camp again in 2024! Dates will be July 15 to 19, with the campers leading worship on July 21. We will have a morning session for students entering kindergarten and first grade from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., and a full day session for students entering 2nd to 7th grade. More information, including registration, will be coming. For more information, talk to Mr. Schaner!

Penny War

The Penny War was a great success! We raised \$1,000 to offset costs of attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering this summer. The youth wish to thank all their St. Luke's families and friends for all their support. Some of the seniors immediately asked if we will be doing a Penny War again next year and "volunteered" a younger sibling to participate.

All fun and games aside, the youth would like to thank the congregation for once again supporting our 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.

Come Walk with Jesus

March 24

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday, during the Education Hour, 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., D.T. invites you to take a self-guided walk using stations that tell the story of Jesus's journey the week leading up to His death and then resurrection on Easter morning. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.

Egg My Yard Fundraiser

Let the Youth "egg" your yard. The Youth will stuff and hide plastic Easter eggs in your yard. Candy and non-candy options are available. The dates to have your yard egged are Friday, March 22 & 29, Saturday, March 23 & 30. Prices are 25 eggs for \$30, 50 eggs for \$45, 75 eggs for \$65 or 100 eggs for \$80. Contact Cari youth@stlukeslutheran.org for the signup form. Signup required by March 10, and spots are limited. In case of bad weather, your eggs will be dropped off at the front door in a Bunny Bag with a letter from the Easter Bunny.

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

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Youth Group (Y.G.)

Youth ministry is open to all 7th-12th graders. Friends are always welcome. We would love to have you join us in the Youth Room for faith and fellowship.

March Activities:

- 3/10 YG 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- 3/13 Host Lenten Meal 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. **See Sign Up Genius**
- 3/21 T.E.A.M 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Seder Meal Presentation.
- 3/22 Egg My Yard Fundraiser.
- 3/23 Volunteer - Assist with 1st Communion Training 9:00 to 2:00 p.m. Egg My Yard Fundraiser.
- 3/24 Support our D.T. Friends Experience the Walk with Jesus during the Education Hour 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.
- 3/29 Egg My Yard Fundraiser.
- 3/30 Egg My Yard Fundraiser.
- 3/31 No Y.G. Attend Easter Service with your family.

Looking Ahead: 4/11 - Help sort and clean the rubble from Lent.

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 this year is our Lutheran Heritage. Please keep this ministry and students in your prayers as they 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. The focus for March will be the Lenten Mentorship, researching, planning and preparing for the Walk with Jesus to be presented Palm Sunday, March 24. Contact Cari, youth@stlukeslutheran.org for additional information.

March Activities:

- 3/3 Walk with Jesus Planning 9:20 to 10:25 a.m.
- 3/6 Lenten Mentorship Dinner and Service 5:45 to 8:00 p.m.
- 3/10 Walk with Jesus Planning 9:20 to 10:25 a.m.
- 3/13 Host Lenten Meal 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. **See Sign Up Genius**
- 3/17 Walk with Jesus Planning 9:20 to 10:25 a.m.
- 3/20 Walk with Jesus Planning 9:20 to 10:25 a.m.
- 3/21 T.E.A.M 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. *NOTE DATE CHANGE*
Seder Meal Presentation
- 3/23 Walk with Jesus Station Setup 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Parental help needed and much appreciated
- 3/24 Present Walk with Jesus Final Practice 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.
Present to Congregation 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.
Clean Up 10:15 to? Parental help appreciated.
- 3/31 No D.T. Attend Easter Service with your family.

Looking Ahead: May 3 & 4 DT Lutherford Retreat *SAVE THE DATE*

Kwik Trip Card Fundraiser

For those that go to Kwik Trip, please consider purchasing gift cards through St. Luke's to use for your gas and groceries. The youth get a portion of your everyday purchases. In addition to the gift, gas, and grocery cards, we also have 5-count car wash cards available. Please purchase 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. Remember this is an on-going year-round fundraiser and thank you all who have purchased Kwik Trip cards.

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 Friday, March 15.

March's Council Contact Brian Edlbeck

edlbeck@hotmail.com
(920) 217-8073 or (262) 650-4801

March Monthly Mission: Hope Center

Hope Center: St. Luke's supports Hope Center each month with \$400. All gifts will help offset this amount from our General Fund.

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.



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 February there were no memorials or honorariums.

Summary of Annual Meeting

The congregation met in its annual meeting between services, February 11. The annual report of the congregation was lifted up as an official summary of the year. The congregation heard a brief report from the Budget and Finance Committee and approved a spending plan for 2024. New members were elected to the Council. The surprise of the event was the signing of a check to the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, for the monthly mortgage. What made it special was that with that check's signing, our mortgage dropped below a million dollars. This means we've made significant progress because of the New Life Rising Campaign. Thanks to all who participated in the Annual Meeting!

Council Holds Organizational Meeting

The first meeting of the Congregation Council following the annual meeting is an important one for the Council. In it, we organize our work and prepare for the year ahead. February 20, the Council welcomed new members Darius Outlaw, Chris Jackson, and Gloria Brechlin to the table. They were elected at the annual meeting. As usual, we began with a time we call "Dwelling in the Word." It was a reflection on Mark 9. After approving the agenda, we read our Mission, Vision and Core Statements before moving into a period of discussion about what the Council is, what our governing documents direct us to be, and basics about how we functioned. We reviewed an organizational chart of our ministries, took a look at who sits on each committee and then appointed various Council Members to committees of the church. Then came time for the election of the Congregation's Officers. Chris Jackson was elected as President, Jenny Thorstad remained in place as Vice President, Ashley Bregantini is continuing as Secretary, and our Treasurer continues to be Laura Cameron. Following elections, we spent time talking about the commitments of Council Members as leaders, using a well-drafted document that has been guiding the Council for at least 10 years. We then walked through an overview of the (about) 40 employees of St. Luke's, and distributed Employee Handbooks. Then, we heard from Laura about January's finances: After a difficult 2023, we started this year off strong. Council contacts were assigned, Epistle Points from the Council were drafted, and we adjourned at about 8:50 p.m. Continue to pray for your Council. They are, President: Chris Jackson, Vice President: Jenny Thorstad, Secretary: Ashley Bregantini, Treasurer: Laura Cameron. Other Council Members are, Gloria Brechlin, Brian Edlbeck, Don Grossman, Darius Outlaw, Rob Riedel, and David Tank.

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.

Lenten Meals

In our life together, community is important. We are again having soup suppers Wednesday evenings from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m., before the service at 7:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy the fellowship. We look forward to seeing you and worshipping together.

Lenten Service Project

During Lent, Discipleship Training and Youth Group will be collecting peanut butter, other nut butters too, and jelly for the Waukesha Food Pantry. Drop off donations of PB&J by the rubble piles or give to a D.T., Youth, 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 needs. We thank you for your generosity.

Fun for All: Busy Bags are Now Available

Busy bags and totes are available to be used during worship with age-appropriate materials in the bag for three different age groups: 1 to 3, 4 to 6, 7 and up. You can pick up a bag or tote off the tree located near the usher counter. After service, drop the bag off on the tree outside the sanctuary doors. We hope our guests enjoy the materials put together by loving hands. Thank you for using our Busy Bags.

First Communion Education Class

The First Communion education class will be held Saturday, March 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the hospitality area. This will be a one-day event that will complete the requirements for our students to receive their First Communion. Our students and their parents, grandparents, or mentors are invited to dive into lessons and games that help us better understand the gift of Holy Communion. Pizza will be provided for lunch. Please register by calling the church office and let us know of any food allergies. Upon completion of this class, students will be able to receive Holy Communion at the 7:00 p.m. service on Maundy Thursday, March 28. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students as they prepare for First Communion.

Strengthening Our Sophia Connection

St. Luke's Lutheran is a member congregation of Sophia Waukesha. This organization advocates and acts with other area religious groups on behalf of social concerns common to religious organizations: racial equity, health care, housing, immigration, transportation, and criminal justice reform. Examples of events held by Sophia include the Ukrainian Fundraiser at St. Luke's, criminal justice actions related to an alternative solution to Waukesha County's Huber Facility, the Multicultural fair in the park and more. We are looking for a person to represent St. Luke's in Sophia. If you'd like to be part of this important ministry, please talk to Pastor Jordan.

Amigos Needed

Become a part of the Amigos! Whether you're retired or employed, join us on Mondays from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m., for minor repairs and maintenance for the church and CLM. If you can dedicate one morning a week, we'd love to have you with us! Contact Ron Pederson (262) 442-4089, with questions.

Sunday School

Once again, we are taking a seasonal detour from our Old Testament lessons. During Lent we are focusing on Jesus' love for us in giving himself as a sacrifice for us. Remember, there are fun activities in the leaflets the kids bring home from Sunday School. You can work with your students on those, and see if they can tell you the story they learned!

Our next Family Day will be March 17! The entire congregation is invited to join in the fun with the Sunday School children! Children are encouraged to bring friends and/or relatives! There's always faith, fun, and food at Family Day!

We will not be having Sunday School during Spring break, so no Sunday School on March 24 or 31. We look forward to seeing everyone again on April 7!

March Lessons

3/3 - Last Supper
3/10 - Holy Week
3/17 - **Family Day**
3/24 - No Sunday School
3/31 - No Sunday School

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 lrhrwasser@stlukeslutheran.org

Please Remember

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

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.

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, June 4, and September 3, 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.

New Member Gathering

All wishing to become members of the congregation are invited to attend a new member's gathering, Thursday, March 14, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Faith Meeting Room. We will talk about what membership at St. Luke's means, get to know others who are becoming members, and prepare for the reception of members. To be a part of the session, call the church office and ask to be added to the list of new members, (262) 542-2545.

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.

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 are 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.

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.

Baptismal Ewer and Incense Stand – In Memory of Dick Wood

A special Thank You to Sharon Wood for designating memorial money for Worship appointments that have recently been put into use. She directed that money gathered in memory of her husband, Dick, be used to provide a new stand for the new incense bowl as well as our new "Ewer" – a pouring pitcher for baptism, which was handcrafted by a local artisan to match our bowl, the cross, and other features of the church. We began using the stand at the beginning of December. The Ewer got its first use in February! Blessed be Dick's memory among us.

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

CLM Preschool Scholarship

Did you know that you can make an offering towards the CLM Preschool Scholarship Fund? This fund is set aside specifically for families within our half-day Preschool program that need financial assistance, or for families that wish to enroll in Preschool but cannot afford full tuition. Offerings to the CLM Preschool Scholarship Fund can be made through your regular giving envelope or through on-line giving. Thank you!

Sunday School Family Day

Family Day for Sunday School will be March 17! The entire congregation is invited to join in the fun with the Sunday School children! Children are encouraged to bring friends and/or relatives! There's always faith, fun, and food at Family Day!

Let's Talk Theology

Come join Pastor Steve for "Theology on Tap" on Tuesday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m. at Point Burger Bar, W22N1400 Westwood Dr Ste A Waukesha, 53186. Theology on Tap is an excellent way to connect with other members of the church. Point Burger Bar provides an excellent space for fellowship, food, and spiritual growth through conversation and adult beverages.

Sunday of the Passion Begins in the Narthex

On the weekend of March 23, we will celebrate "Sunday of the Passion." This Sunday, which used to be called Palm Sunday, begins with a procession with Palms. Then, it quickly turns to the events of Holy Week as we reflect on the entire passion story. Holy Week and Easter are the most important events of the Christian year. Be sure the engage them fully and prayerfully.

St. Luke's Centennial Scholarships Application Available

In honor of the 100th anniversary of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, the Endowment Committee decided to offer six St. Luke's Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Centennial Scholarships in 2021. It has been decided that these \$500 centennial scholarships will be offered annually. St. Luke's wants to support our members who are pursuing post-secondary educations in service occupations such as the ministry, the medical field, or education. Application forms can be found on the St. Luke's website and will be due by May 1 to the church office for consideration. Scholarship recipients will be notified, and the awards will be presented in June. These scholarships are an annual reminder of St. Luke's century-long commitment to supporting the Sons and Daughters of our congregation as they went to Seminary. Reflect on this as you see the display of the 21 Ordained Pastors from St. Luke's!

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

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.

Good Samaritan Fund Continues Ministry

We are blessed to have been able to help so many people through the Good Samaritan Fund. We have helped people secure housing, stay in their homes, afford medicine, participate in drug/alcohol programs, pay for funeral expenses, care for children and so much more. Your help in boosting its balance would allow us to continue to care for people who come to the church looking for help. You can contribute by putting your gift in an envelope clearly marked for the Good Samaritan Fund. Place your gifts in the offering or drop them off in the office. Thank you!

CLM Scrip Fundraiser

We have some exciting news! Our St. Luke's Child Life Ministries Scrip Account through RaiseRight is now active!

What is Scrip? It's a place where you can purchase gift cards and CLM will get a portion of your purchase kicked back! Going shopping? Get a gift card to pay for your purchase and donate to CLM at the same time, it's that easy! You can order your gift card and have it instantly available to use, right from your phone. There are two easy ways to sign up, follow this link OR scan the QR code. Share with your friends and relatives by sending them a text or email! There's no cost or upcharge, just purchasing gift cards that help CLM. <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=FDCC7A8962586>



Flower and Coffee Hour Sponsorship

We are very blessed to see so many participating in sponsoring Coffee Hour and Ambo Flowers to honor or celebrate a loved one or a special occasion! If you have signed up on the Ambo Flowers poster or the Coffee Hour board, please drop off your offerings to cover the sponsorship at the church office, offering plate, or via mail. Please include which sponsorship you are paying in the memo line, envelope detail, or a simple note. The cost of the sponsorships are as follows: Flowers: \$45 per weekend, Coffee Hour: \$30 for 2 weekends or \$55 for a month. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy in the church office. Many thanks!

Serving in Worship

There are a variety of ways to serve the community whenever we worship. Each of the ways are equally important to our weekly experience of God's grace. You can serve as a lector, an usher, a member of the altar guild, a communion assistant and more. We use "Ministry Scheduler Pro," an online tool, to help people schedule their worship ministry involvement. If you have an account on Ministry Scheduler Pro, you received an email inviting you to update your profile and involvement. That email also contained your credentials to log in. The spotlight section of our website's homepage also has a link to our Ministry Scheduler that you can follow. Our goal is to develop schedules that use the many gifts and talents present in our congregation. Please log on to Ministry Scheduler Pro, update your profile, and let us know any dates you are not available to serve.

Committing to Worship

We are encouraging each other all year long to commit/recommit to deeper engagement in worship. Perhaps you've drifted away from regular worship attendance. Come back and let God feed you in the Word and at the table of Holy Communion. Maybe while you're here, you might be called to participate more fully in the liturgies we speak and sing together. Commit yourself/yourselves to deeper engagement in worship. The more you engage God in worship, the deeper your relationship with him grows.

T.E.A.M. (Thursday Evening

Action Ministry)

A once-a-month mid-week youth check-in and touchpoint the second Thursday of each month. We want youth to know that ALL ARE WELCOME and St. Luke's is a safe space. Come join us as we pray in, highs and lows, share a community meal, explore the topic of the month through devotions and activities then pray out. A new topic will be explored each month. If you need to just hang out and do homework, we will have a place for that too! Come check it out and help us develop this youth program.

Epistle Online

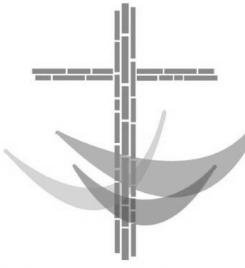
Are you still receiving a paper copy of The Epistle in the mail? Reading The Epistle online saves paper and postage, allows you to print only the pages you want, and includes live links. If you would like to receive our weekly **Connections** email and our monthly newsletter, The Epistle, by email please contact the church office at (262) 542-2545 or office@stlukeslutheran.org.

Hope Center Request

Items that are needed are, men's clothing, especially jeans and sneakers, all sizes, men's shoes/work boots, sizes: 9 to 15, men's boxer/boxer briefs, sizes S to XL, women's low rise briefs sizes: 4 to 9, hygiene products: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, razors, shaving cream, deodorant, lotion, shower curtains and liners, toasters, new or gently used countertop microwaves and coffee makers, bottled water, regular ground coffee, powdered creamer, sugar, bacon, sausage, eggs, plastic utensils, dinner napkins, brown gravy, garlic salt, and poultry gravy.

St. Luke's Calendar for March 2024

Saturday, March 2	8:30 a.m. Needle & Thimble 4:00 p.m. O.A. 6:30 p.m. Welcome to the Font 6:30 p.m. Worship Life Committee	Thursday, March 21 9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl 4:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 4:30 p.m. T.E.A.M. 5:00 p.m. Community Meal 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Broad Hwy. A.A.
Sunday, March 3	8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:20 a.m. D.T. & S.S. 10:15 a.m. Van Pickup 11:30 a.m. Executive Committee 6:00 p.m. Men's A.A.	Wednesday, March 13 9:30 a.m. Search Bible Study 5:45 p.m. D.T. Lenten Mentorship 5:45 p.m. Lenten Meal (Y.G. Host) 6:00 p.m. Godsbells 7:00 p.m. N.A. 7:00 p.m. Mid Week Lent Service 7:15 p.m. Voices of Faith
Monday, March 4	8:00 a.m. Amigos! 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon 7:00 p.m. Valparaiso Chorale	Thursday, March 14 4:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 5:00 p.m. Community Meal 5:30 p.m. Facilities Committee 6:00 p.m. Diverse Harvest Practice 6:15 p.m. CLM Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. New Member Gathering 7:00 p.m. Broad Hwy. A.A.
Tuesday, March 5	8:30 a.m. Needle & Thimble 9:30 a.m. 1st Tuesday Book Club 4:00 p.m. O.A. 6:30 p.m. Team Reader's Choir 7:00 p.m. Theology on Tap	Sunday, March 24 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. D.T. Walk with Jesus 9:30 a.m. Mt. Meru Coffee 12:00 p.m. Y.G. 6:00 p.m. Men's A.A.
Wednesday, March 6	9:30 a.m. Search Bible Study 5:45 p.m. D.T. Lenten Mentorship 5:45 p.m. Lenten Meal 6:00 p.m. Godsbells 7:00 p.m. N.A. 7:00 p.m. Mid Week Lent Service 7:15 p.m. Voices of Faith	Monday, March 25 8:00 a.m. Amigos! 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon
Thursday, March 7	9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl 4:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 5:00 p.m. Community Meal 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Broad Hwy. A.A.	Tuesday, March 26 8:30 a.m. Needle & Thimble 4:00 p.m. O.A. 5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee
Saturday, March 9	5:00 p.m. Worship	Wednesday, March 27 9:30 a.m. Search Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Godsbells 7:00 p.m. N.A. 7:00 p.m. Square Dancers 7:45 p.m. Voices of Faith
Sunday, March 10	8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:20 a.m. D.T. & S.S. 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.	Thursday, March 28 4:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 5:00 p.m. Community Meal 7:00 p.m. Broad Hwy. A.A. 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
Monday, March 11	8:00 a.m. Amigos! 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon	Friday, March 29 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship
Tuesday, March 12		Saturday, March 30 No Services
		Sunday, March 31 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Easter Worship 6:00 p.m. Men's A.A.



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Easter Flowers

As we look forward to Easter and prepare to enhance the church with palm trees and Easter lilies, we invite you to consider donating toward this worship space beautification. Your gift can be made in honor of, or in memory of loved ones, special events, or a ministry.

And, as has been our tradition, Easter plants will be delivered to our homebound members and those living in care and residential facilities.

The suggested donation for a plant/flower is \$20, however any contribution will be appreciated. Each gift will be included in a special memorial mention in our Easter bulletins.

Forms are available and should be returned to the office or placed in the offering plates by March 17.

Lent and Easter Schedule – Hope and Holy Lament

Midweek Wednesday Service: 7:00 p.m. February 21 through March 20.

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday of the Passion: March 23/24 – 5:00 p.m., 8:15 a.m., & 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service: 7:00 p.m. March 28.

Good Friday Service: 7:00 p.m. March 29.

There will be **NO** service on Holy Saturday, March 30.

Easter Sunday: March 31, Normal Schedule – 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Church Office is closed Monday, April 1.

