



April 2025
480 S. Highland
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Rev. Jim McKinney, Pastor

THE EPISTLE

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Luke's United Methodist Church

“The light shines in the darkness and THE DARKNESS DID NOT OVERCOME IT”. (John 1:5)

That reminds me of a story about Viktor Frankl. Frankl was a Jewish psychiatrist who was incarcerated in German concentration camps during World War II. His wife and parents died in those camps, but Frankl survived and wrote about his experiences. He tells of one of his many dark moments in those camps. He was at work in a trench-perhaps a mass grave. He says:

“The dawn was GRAY around us; GRAY was the sky above, GRAY the snow in the pale light of dawn, GRAY the rags in which my fellow prisoners were clad, and GRAY their faces....”

He found himself struggling, in that dark, dreary morning, to find some meaning in his suffering-some hope for the future. Listen to what happened next. He says:

“From somewhere I heard a victorious ‘YES’ in answer to my question.... At that moment, a light was lit in a distant farmhouse, which stood in the horizon as if painted there, in the midst of the miserable gray of a dawning morning in Bavaria.”

He concluded his story with these Latin words, “et lux in tenebris lucet” – which means- “And the light shines in the darkness.”

St. Luke's, may we carry this Easter hope in our hearts and on our lips throughout the Easter season and beyond!

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Pastor" on the top line and "Jim" on the bottom line, with a small horizontal line through the "i".

LOVE IN ACTION

Spring clean-up & neighborhood beautification
April 27th after church
lunch provided



RSVP to
sheridan.harris@stlukesumc.org

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



**Palm
Sunday
April 13
10:30am**



**Maundy
Thursday
April 17
6pm**



**Good
Friday
April 18
3pm**



**Easter
Sunday
April 20
7am
10:30am**

Lent Opportunities and Holy Week 2025



Bible Study
Wednesday Nights
March 19-April 16
6pm-7:15p



Tuesday Services
March 11- April 8
Noon



Palm Sunday
April 13
10:30am Service



Maundy Thursday
April 17
6pm Service



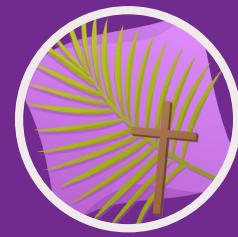
Good Friday
April 18
3pm Service



Egg Hunt
April 12
10:30a-12:00pm



Easter Sunrise
April 20
7am Service



Easter Sunday
April 20
10:30am Service

Hop on over for our

EASTER

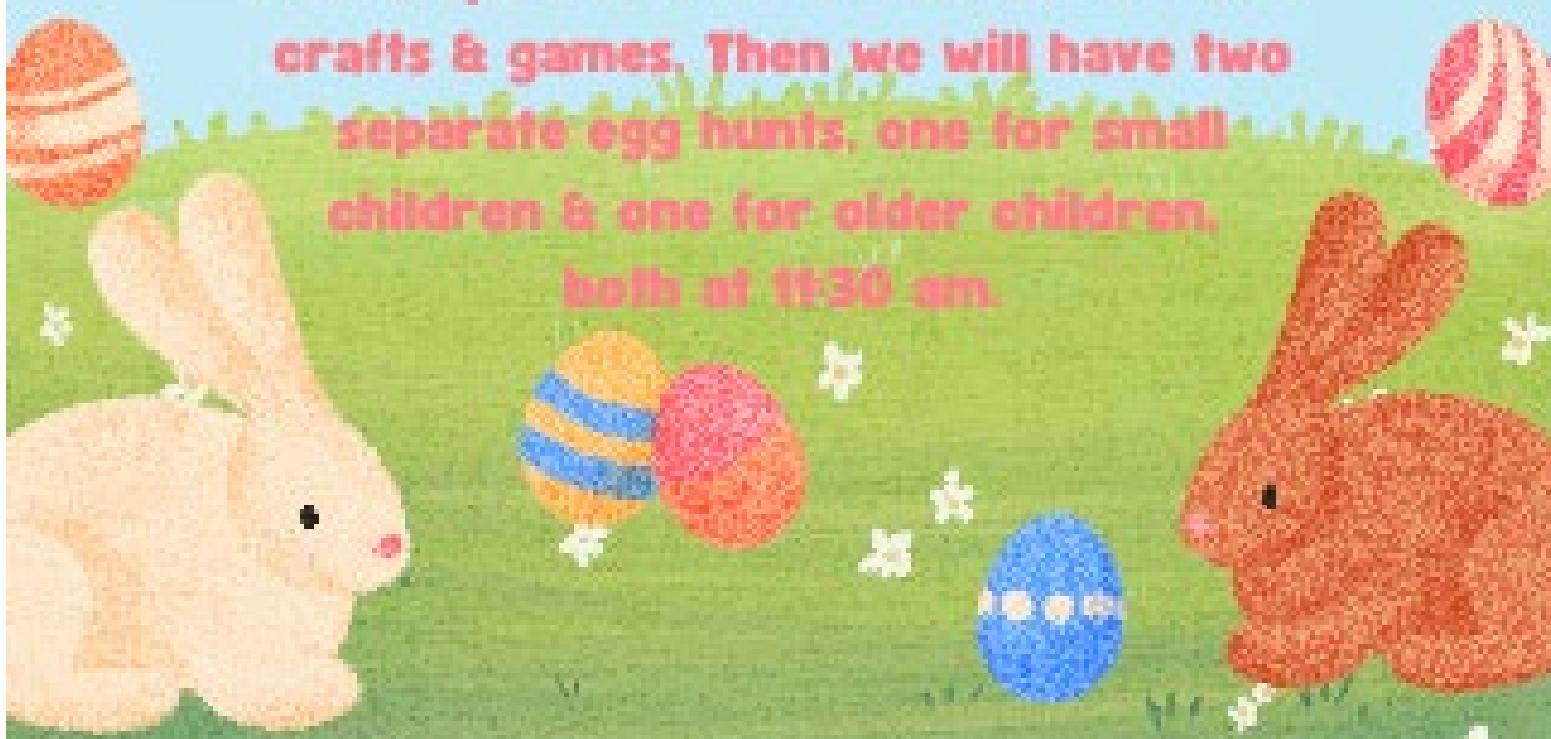
Egg hunt

Join us on

April 12th, 10:30-12:00 pm

for some egg-citing fun!

This event is **FREE** and open to all!
Doors open at 10:30 am for some inside
crafts & games. Then we will have two
separate egg hunts, one for small
children & one for older children.
both at 11:30 am.



Spring BASKET RAFFLE

Don't forget our Spring Fundraiser!

Spring is just around the corner, which brings our Basket Raffle! On Wednesday, April 16 each class will donate a themed basket to be raffled off. Parents also donate other wonderful items for raffle. Church members are welcome to join the fun. Items will be on display Monday and Tuesday. Winners will be announced around 10 a.m. on Wednesday (you do not need to be present to win!).





You're invited to attend
St. Luke's United Methodist Church

SENIOR BREAKFAST

Class of 2025

Celebrating the achievements of the
Class of 2025 and their families.

Please kindly RSVP to Youth Director
Sheridan Harris by April 27th.
Sheridan.harris@stlukesumc.org

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

PE with Ms. Sheridan!

On February 26, our older classes began PE with Ms. Sheridan. They have enjoyed going to the gym for age-appropriate activities to move their bodies. They even had a special "St. Patrick's Day" celebration. We are looking forward to more gym days in the future!



Childrens' Ministry

Thank you so much Church Family for all of your donations and support of our Easter Egg Hunt that we have received so far! The Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 12th from 10:30-12:00 pm and you can still volunteer to help! We will have indoor games and crafts from 10:30- 11:30 am followed by our two Easter egg hunts outside. The courtyard will be available for the youngest age group and the green space will serve our older kids. Be on the lookout for some special artwork in the Hospitality Hall that will be made during our event as well! We are looking forward to a very special performance from our Children's Choir on Palm Sunday as well you will not want to miss! As we near the end of the Lenten Season, we prepare ourselves for our next big children's event, Vacation Bible School! VBS is fast approaching, with the dates being June 9-12, and we will meet nightly from 5:30-7:30 pm. Registration is already available online and we are still seeking volunteers! The theme this year is "Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace." You can help prior to the week-of, do behind the scenes work, lead a group, lead a craft, help with food, or even help with take down after the fact. If you are interested at all in being a part of Vacation Bible School this year, please do not hesitate to contact me. We can find a place for everyone! And if you have kids, grandkids, or neighbors, be sure you go ahead and sign them up or invite them so no one misses the fun!

Easter Clothing Drive

We are still collecting spring dress clothing for the boys and girls of Sherwood Elementary. Cute Spring sweaters and dresses, ties and dress shirts.

The students are 3-11 years of age. If you would like to help, please hang or place the clothing on the rack located in the hospitality hall by the desk.

If you would like to make a monetary donation using the church giving app, select "new fund" and specify "Sherwood Easter Clothing". Any checks or cash can be put in an envelope marked for "Sherwood Easter Clothing" and placed in the offering plate or it can be given it to Tracy Farnsworth in the Business Office. Easter will be April 20th this year.

The deadline will be April 10th for delivery.

Thank you!

The Church Ladies Small Group,
Melinda Kaler, Barbara Simpson,
Bette Colter, Jacki Romey
Contact: mtkaler1111@gmail.com



St. Luke's Challengers Summer Camp 2025 forms are now live. And we are so excited to see you guys this summer. Our theme is Hollywood, and you guys are the biggest celebs around, so we want all of you to know that you are invited! Each week will be dedicated to a different movie. Our movies will be

Inside Out, Harry Potter, Dog Man, Encanto, Marvel V. DC, The Incredibles, Toy Story, Trolls, and The Greatest Showman.

First things first, Showbiz isn't free. So, our prices this summer are \$200 per week with a \$100 dollar registration fee. The registration fee is a one time

charge only. If you guys need us to help out with a payment plan in any way we are more than happy to work with you guys. We will not have camp the week of May 26-30 and July 3-4. Every other week this summer we will be open. Including July 28- August 1.

Lastly, if you guys have any questions please contact jabarey.luster@stlukesumc.org. We are so excited to have you guys this summer. If you want more updates about summer camp check out our **Instagram @stlukeschallengers**.



MARCH 2025 HONORIUMS AND MEMORIALS:

Honoriums:

In Honor of Mark and Amber Wofford from Dineen Hite

Memorials:

In Memory of Nita Barlow from Marilyn Sadler, Rorie Read, Harry and Bette Colter, Jane Hendrix, Newman Sunday School Class, Barbara Simpson

In Memory of Tom Burkett from Marilyn Sadler, Rorie Read, Harry and Bette Colter, Barbara Simpson, Newman Sunday School Class

Easter Lilies

If you would like to help provide Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday, please complete this form and return to the church office. The deadline will be April 13th. The cost is \$18. A list of honorariums and memorials will be published on Easter Sunday, April 20th. You are welcome to take home your lilies after church on Easter Sunday.

Name _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____



The Fun Bunch Roadtrip!

Fun Bunch will be going to the Reelfoot area of Northwest Tennessee on **Wednesday April 23rd.**

We will depart from the church at 8am on our bus.

First stop will be the UM Reelfoot Rural Ministry where we will be introduced to their ministry that serves area. The ministry has been in operation since 1963. They might even have some work to do! Next stop will be Boyette's in Tiptonville for lunch. Catfish etc!

Final stop will be the State's eagle rescue center on the bank's Reelfoot Lake.

We will return to our church around 4pm.

If you want to go on this adventure, please sign up at the desk in Hospitality Hall.

Call Jim or Jeanne Debo for any questions: 413-3341

Sunday School Class Opportunity

Christian Homebuilders Sunday School Class will be hosting a special series Sacred Rest taught by our guest teacher Jane Pate. The series will start April 27th and last for four weeks. all are welcome to join us in the Christian Homebuilders classroom.