

# THE EPISTLE

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

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## Jesus' Heart

One of the most famous landmarks in the world is the statue of Jesus with outstretched arms that overlooks the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It's called "Christ the Redeemer", and it stands 125 feet tall. It has inspired many visitors to that city. But in April of 2022, an even taller statue of Jesus was built in the tiny town of Rio Grande do Sul Brazil. The "Christ the Protector" statue stands 140 feet tall. One unique feature of the statue is a glass enclosed lookout room with wide windows installed at about the height of the Jesus statue's heart. Did you catch that? Wide windows installed at about the height of Jesus statue's heart. An elevator transports tourists up to this spot so they can see views of the city below...from Jesus' heart.

St. Luke's, can you imagine what the view would be like from Jesus' heart? That is the god of the Christian life, isn't it? To continually grow in our ability to view life through Jesus' heart. The purpose of our life is to represent Jesus' character, mission, and message to the world. And you thought buying the right valentines present was difficult?

Faithfully,



Pastor Jim





# Join us for **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

February 18  
at 6pm



## **Break Bread Together *Again!***

Beginning March 1st, each first Sunday, (Communion Sunday,) we will have seating reserved at Jason's Deli for a time of food and fellowship following worship. Lunch is Dutch treat and no reservations are needed. Just go through the line, sit down at the St. Luke's table, and enjoy a relaxed time with your church family. However, if you know you will be there, please call Sarah at the front desk 901-452-6262. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday Morning Lenten Preaching Series:

# Growing While We Wait

## **Week 1: Grow in Readiness and Encouragement**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

## **Week 2: Grow in Trust**

Proverbs 3:5-6

## **Week 3: Grow in Love**

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

## **Week 4: Grow in Fruitfulness**

Luke 13:6-9

## **Week 5: Grow in Perseverance**

Philippians 3:12-14



## The Fun Bunch Activities

- The Fun Bunch will be making Valentine Sun Catchers on February 19th at 11am in CLC craft room. Bring your sack lunch. We will be providing craft supplies, drinks and dessert. Please signup at the hospitality hall desk.
- The Fun Bunch will be going to Calvary Episcopal Lenten Series on March 25th. The guest speaker is Best Selling Author Barbara Brown Taylor. The Lenten Luncheon is at 11am with the speaker at noon. We will be leaving the church at 10a by the church bus. Please sign up at the hospitality hall desk by Sunday March 22nd.

Questions ? Call Jim or Jeanne Debo 413-3341

# Lent Opportunities and Holy Week 2026



## Tuesday Services

Feb 24 - Mar. 24  
Noon



## Egg Hunt

March 28  
11:00a-12:00p



## Palm Sunday

*The voices of Passion*  
March 29  
10:30a Service



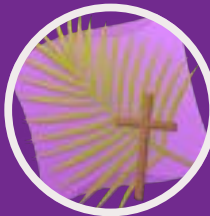
## Holy Week Service

April 2  
6p Service



## Easter Sunrise

April 5  
7:30a Service



## Easter Sunday

April 5  
10:30a Service





# **LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES AT NOON**

**Each Tuesday during Lent  
in the Chapel**

**Begins February 24**

**Complimentary Soup &  
Sandwich Lunch**

**Immediately After the Service  
in the Lounge**



# Make Sunday Count!

## Sunday School Classes

**Seekers:** Led by class members, continue discussing Luke, beginning chapter 11. They meet in Room 215. Join our discussions!

**Newman Class:** Continuing the study of Eugene Peterson's book, A Long Obedience in the Same Direction, with a focus in February on Psalms 130 - 132 in Room 213.

**Growing Disciples:** Studying the Gospel of John, using William Barclay's commentary as a guide.

**Christian Homebuilders:** Pastor Jim is teaching the Gospel of John in Room 108.

**Youth:** Continuing the series called "Exploring Prayer".

**Children classes meet in Children's Building:** Children in grades 3-5 meet upstairs. Children JK - 2 meet in the first floor.

**Care Talks:** Pastor Neenan's Talk and discussion, titled DisSpelling Bees- a look at labeling and stereotyping will be February 15, 9:00am in the Chapel. Seekers will join.

**The Chosen Study Group:** Continues in the Library after Worship. Bring your own lunch.

Please contact Ruth Morrison if you have any questions :  
[ruthmorrison28@gmail.com](mailto:ruthmorrison28@gmail.com)



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Department is running smoothly at St. Luke's. Our nursery has been quite a busy place lately with friends taking steps independently and our amazing teachers planning developmentally appropriate lessons each week with fun hands-on activities to match! We have had more regulars attending as well. Our Sunday School classes for JK-Fifth grade are going well also with our teachers going above and beyond to bring the bible to life! Last week kids got to make their own crowns to remember the story of Queen Ester. Our amazing team of teachers have decided we will try a combined class again for all kids ages JK-Fifth grade to meet in one space, but differentiate the lesson for the varying ages. We want to try this out to see if it works better for our families and our incredible volunteers and better utilize their time and resources. All ages will now be meeting on the first floor of the Day School. Looking ahead to the rest of the Spring, stay tuned for dates for our Easter Egg Hunt and more information regarding VBS this Summer! Don't forget we are always looking for people who have a heart for children to volunteer as well! If you are interested in volunteering for special events with our Children's Department or if you want to get plugged in for a weekly or monthly volunteer opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact Mary Page Contreras at [marypage.contreras@stlukesumc.org](mailto:marypage.contreras@stlukesumc.org).

# Day School

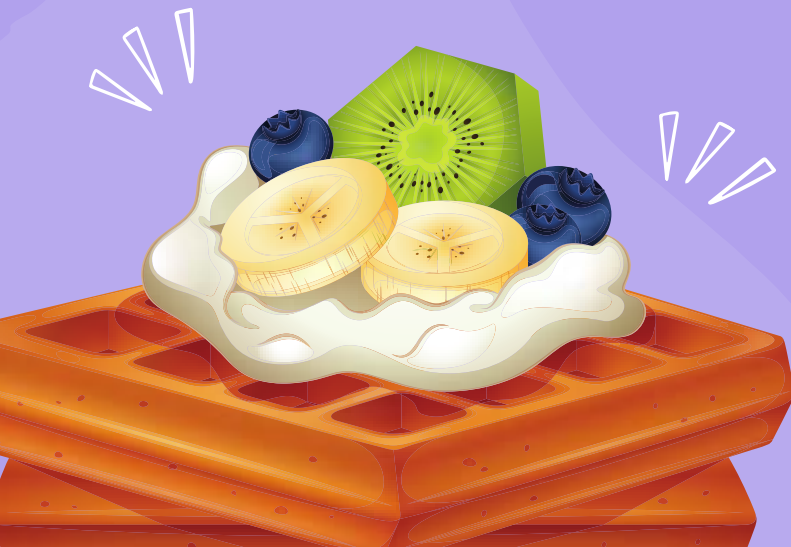
## NEWS



WE ARE FINALLY BACK IN SCHOOL AFTER A VERY LONG SNOW "WEEK."  
WE ARE SO GRATEFUL THAT MANY TEACHERS WERE ABLE TO COME IN  
BEFORE MSCS WENT BACK TO SCHOOL SO THAT OUR PARENTS COULD  
GET BACK TO WORK.

WITH THE COLD WEATHER COMES MORE GERMS. WE ARE ALWAYS IN  
NEED OF CLOROX WIPES! DONATIONS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT THE  
FRONT DESK.

WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF REGISTRATION FOR OUR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.  
THIS MEANS LOTS OF SCHOOL TOURS AND NEW FAMILIES COMING INTO  
OUR BUILDING. WE ARE SO HAPPY TO WELCOME OUR NEW AND OLD  
FAMILIES BACK FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!



The Waffle Shop at Calvary  
Episcopal Church is right around  
the corner. It will be open  
Thursday, February 19 through  
Friday, March 27 and is open  
Wednesdays, Thursdays and  
Fridays from 11am-1:30pm. If you  
would like to volunteer, please  
let Doey know what days you  
would like to work. There are  
several volunteer positions  
available besides servers!  
Thanks! Doey- 901-351-7942