

THE EPISTLE

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

The Season of Lent

Saint Luke's family,

I like the way a clergy friend of mine views the season of Lent. He thinks of Lent as an annual spiritual checkup. He visits his doctor once a year to check on the state of his body: he rejoices in the ways it is healthy and he learns what steps he needs to take to repair those parts that need some medical attention or a little exercise. In the same way, during Lent we as individual Christians and as a church---the Body of Christ---consider our spiritual health. How are we living the gospel in our lives, our homes, our churches, our towns, our schools, our places of work? What areas of growth or signs of renewal should we celebrate with gratitude and joy? In what ways have we fallen short, grown stagnant or cold-hearted, or failed to love God by embracing gentleness and kindness?

These are the kinds of questions we ask of ourselves during the weeks of Lent.

A blessed and faithful Lenten Season,



LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES AT NOON

**Each Tuesday during Lent
in the Chapel**

Begins March 11

**Complimentary Soup &
Sandwich Lunch**

**Immediately After the Service
in the Lounge**

Guest Preachers:

March 11- Mark Matheny

March 18- Jolinne Downey

March 25- Rob Martin

April 1- B. French

April 8- Michael Pence

Lenten Bible Study

***“Following after Righteousness
in the Face of Temptation”***

**Come join us in a Bible Study for ALL ages of
St. Luke’s community in this season of Lent.**

Dinner included!

Wednesday Nights

March 19- April 16

6pm-7:15pm



**Please make reservations at the front desk
or at stlukesumc.org**



Kick off the Lenten season

MARDI GRAS

celebration

Celebrate the vibrant spirit of Mardi
Gras with joy and cheer after
service in the church CLC.

March 2, 2025

All ages welcome

Please RSVP at the front desk

Hop on over for our

EASTER Egg hunt

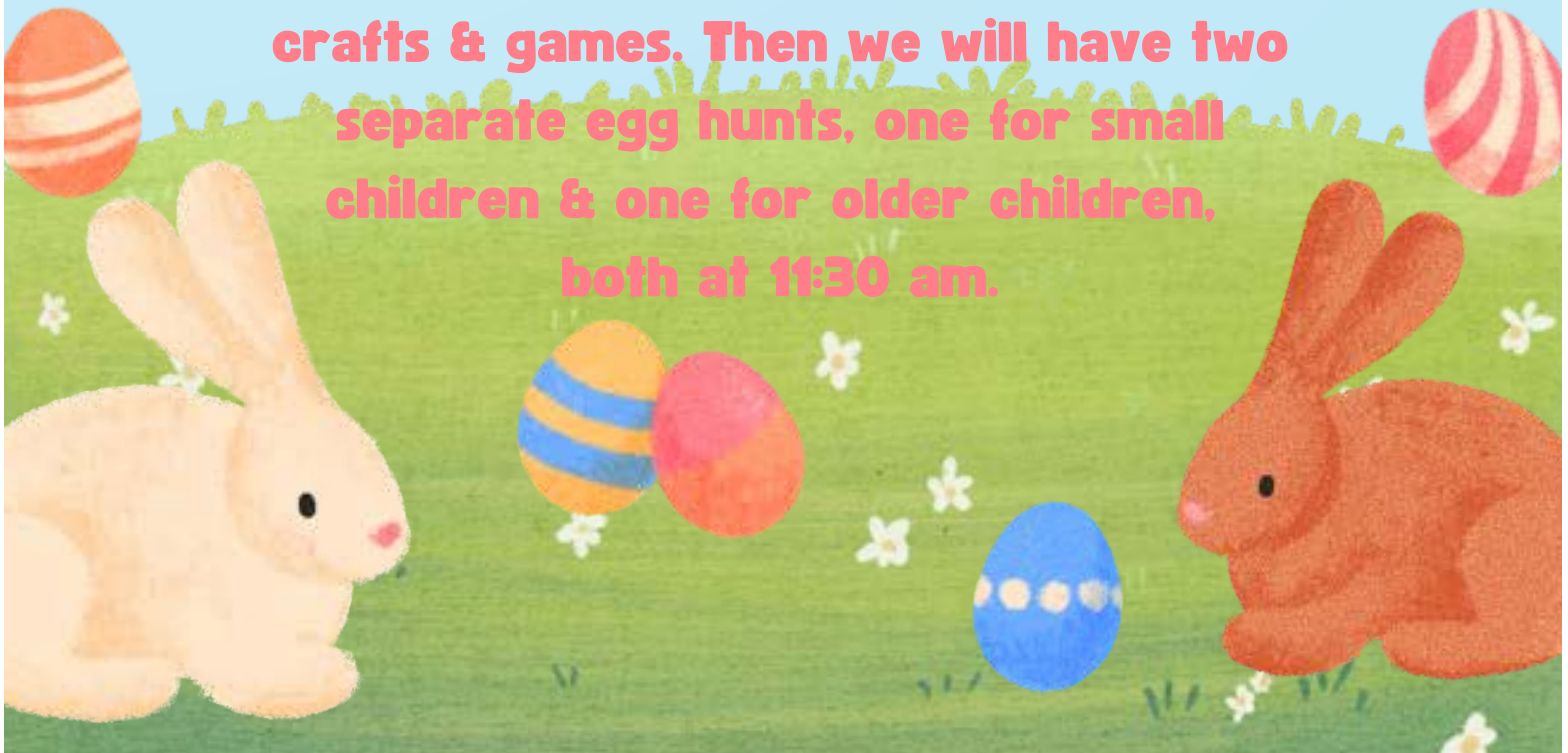
Join us on

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

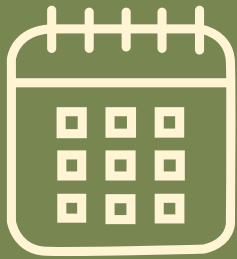
for some egg-citing fun!

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.



VBS INTEREST MEETING



March 23, 2025

11:30 AM

Please join us immediately following Worship to discuss VBS! We need volunteers both big and small so if you are interested in helping at all please RSVP. Lunch is provided.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In our Children's Ministries at St. Luke's we have so many fun things planned for the very special Lenten Season! First, we are excited to be offering a Wednesday night series during this season starting Wednesday, March 19th at 6:00 pm. Dinner will be provided during this series and there will be studies and activities for all ages in the family. Next, we will be bringing back our combined Sunday School class for the Lenten Season to take a deeper look into this important time in the life of Christ. We will gather weekly downstairs in the Day School from 9:15-10:10 starting on Sunday, March 23rd. We will also be bringing back choir practice weekly on Sundays from 10:10-10:20 am in the Day School lobby. Practices will begin on March 16th and the kids will perform on Palm Sunday for the whole church! Finally, we have the highly anticipated Easter Egg Hunt scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 12th from 10:00-12:00 pm and we still need volunteers! We will have two Easter Egg hunts for different age groups running at the same time, as well as many other fun activities and games going on the whole morning so please reach out to Mary Page Contreras if you'd like to volunteer. We will also gladly be taking donations of small individually wrapped candy to stuff the eggs, as well as empty easter eggs, and Little Debbie Snack Cakes if you want to make a contribution instead of volunteering time. Lastly, please mark your calendars for a VBS interest meeting on March 23rd, so come by for more information on how you can help our kiddos! We will need volunteers of every variety so if you are interested in helping at all, big or small, please come to the meeting. Lunch will be provided.

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



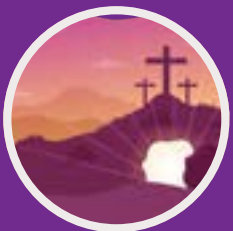
Maundy Thursday
April 17
6pm Service



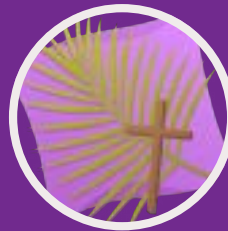
Good Friday
April 18
3pm Service



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



Easter Sunrise
April 20
7am Service



Easter Sunday
April 20
10:30am Service

Scouting News

Pack 40 held the Pinewood Derby Friday February 21st. Congratulations to Autumn for First Place, Aisya for Second Place, Royalty for Third Place and Jewel for winning Cub Choice (favorite car design). We also held an Outlaw Race for family members, troop members and scout leaders. Congratulations to David (Autumn's grandfather) for First Place, Jonathan for Second Place and Brady for Third Place.

Scout Sunday will be March 30th. A fundraiser luncheon celebration is planned following the service. Troop 40 will be 100 years this year. Anyone who has any scouting pictures or memorabilia from over the years, please bring it to the church by March 9th or contact Jonathan St. Gelais at **901-508-7207** or Lisa St. Gelais at **901-230-9174** or by email at **stgelaisfamily@gmail.com**.



Easter Clothing Drive

St. Luke's will be starting our Sherwood Elementary School Easter Clothing Drive March 1st. We will once again be collecting spring dress clothing for the boys and girls of Sherwood Elementary. Cute Spring sweaters and dresses, ties and dress shirts are welcome. 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**.



DAYSCHOOL NEWS

THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT DONATED CLOROX WIPES AND LYSOL SPRAY. WE GO THROUGH SO MANY AND WILL ALWAYS ACCEPT MORE!

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!).

OUR SPRING BREAK IS MARCH 10 - 14.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith will resume meeting March 11 and every second Tuesday at 6:00 for fellowship and 6:30 pm for the program thru December. See you there.

The Heart of Harmony: The Value of Choirs in Methodist Worship

In Methodist worship, the choir serves as more than just a group of singers; it is a vital ministry that enriches the spiritual life of the congregation. From leading hymns to offering stirring anthems, choirs create a bridge between the spoken word and the soul-stirring power of music, drawing worshippers closer to God.

Methodism's founder, John Wesley, emphasized the importance of congregational singing as a means of grace. His "Directions for Singing," included in early hymnals, encouraged worshippers to "sing lustily and with good courage." Methodist choirs

embody this spirit, acting as leaders in the musical life of the church, inspiring the congregation to lift their voices in praise.

A Methodist choir is not merely a performance ensemble; it is an integral part of worship. Through carefully chosen anthems, responses, and choral settings of hymns, the choir amplifies the themes of the sermon and liturgy, providing spiritual depth and resonance. Whether offering a soaring rendition of Amazing Grace or an intricate piece of modern sacred music, the choir's role is to guide and enhance the congregation's worship experience.

The choir is also a community within the church, fostering fellowship and spiritual growth among its members. Weekly rehearsals and Sunday services become opportunities for prayer, shared faith, and mutual encouragement. The bonds formed in the choir often extend beyond the sanctuary, creating a strong network of support and friendship within the church.

Methodist choirs often reflect the diversity and inclusivity of the broader congregation. From children's choirs that introduce the youngest members to the joy of worship through song, to senior choirs that celebrate a lifetime of faith,

choirs represent a living, multi-generational testimony to the enduring power of music in spiritual life.

The value of choirs in Methodist worship lies in their ability to connect heart, mind, and spirit. Their voices invite the congregation to enter fully into worship, offering not only a musical gift but also a spiritual one. For many, the sound of a choir is the sound of the church itself—a reminder of God's presence and a call to unite in joyful praise.

Here at St. Luke, our choir is a living symbol of harmony—musical, spiritual, and communal. Their voices lift up not only the music but also the hearts of all who hear, carrying forward the rich tradition of singing faith that has defined Methodism for generations.

- Jacob Allen, Director of Music



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**

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 Activities

- **Thursday, March 20th:** We will be going to Calvary Episcopal for their Waffle Luncheon. The speaker will be Nabil Bayakly. We will be taking the church bus and will be leaving at 10:15am. Please sign at the Hospitality Hall desk by Sunday, March 16th so we can make reservations.
Questions ? Call Jim or Jeanne Debo 413-3341

For this 2024- 2025 winter season, our St. Luke's family gave enough winter gear to overfill 4 totes for the students of Sherwood Elementary School. And when our Love in Action outreach, led by Clancey Patterson this month, organized a Valentine's project, you pitched in and helped make 480 Valentine's bags for each and every student. Also, the staff did not go unnoticed. Bette Colter and Barbara Simpson made a special homemade Valentine with words of love and encouragement for each of the 65 people on the staff at Sherwood.

St. Luke's Family, your generous gifts and acts of love and kindness to the students and staff are so so needed and appreciated. Once again, we, my small group and I, are overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The Church Ladies Small Group,
Melinda Kaler, Bette Colter
Barbara Simpson, Jacki Romey

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**We are becoming a faithful community of disciples striving to share the heart,
mind and hands of Jesus Christ with all people.**

Staff Directory

Jim McKinney
Senior Pastor

jim.mckinney@stlukesumc.org
901-361-5726 (Cell)

Dennis Neenan, Utility Pastor
901-378-7505 (Cell)
dpneenan@comcast.net

Harry Colter, Pastoral Assistant
harry.colter@stlukesumc.org

Jacob Allen
Director of Music
jacob.allen@stlukesumc.org
920-475-7972 (Cell)

Wes Kirkpatrick, Organist

Mary Page Contreras
Children's Ministry Director
marypage.contreras@stlukesumc.org
(901)826-3493

Amy Pearson
Day School Director
amy.pearson@stlukesumc.org
901-407-7300

Alexa Velasco

Director of Communications
alexa.velasco@stlukesumc.org
901-452-6262, ext 114

Eddie Anderson

Facilities Manager
eddie.anderson@stlukesumc.org
901-452-6262, ext 102

Tracy Farnsworth

Church Administrator
tracy.farnsworth@stlukesumc.org
901-452-6262, ext 105

Sheridan Harris

Youth Ministry Director
sheridan.harris@stlukesumc.org
901-452-6262, ext. 119

Jabarey Luster

Challengers After School Director
jabarey.luster@stlukesumc.org
901-407-7301

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

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