

CONNECTIONS



ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - March 2025

*Members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, in response to Christ's love,
reach out in service to each other, the community, and the world*

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR MONTE



"Ashes, ashes; we all fall down." Ash Wednesday is our yearly reminder that we all fall down--We fall down in grief, in sin, in agony, in disbelief. But falling down is not ever the end of the story. On Ash Wednesday we remember the grace that meets us in our lowest moments, the love that brings life out of death. I hope you will join us at either 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm, March 5, for this meaningful service that includes the marking of ashes on our foreheads. And then I hope that it will be just the beginning of a Lenten season of growth in our faith. This year in Lent we are focusing on practices to help us deepen our faith and live it out everyday. Each Sunday we will talk about a new practice to try out during the coming week. If you can't make the service in person, you can always watch it online! The Wednesday Soup Suppers for the Soul offer a midweek opportunity to connect and pray with your community (see article inside). Join us!

Blessings on your Lent,
Pastor Monte

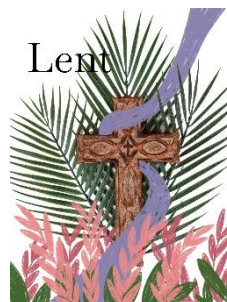
Pancake Breakfast (and Carnival Games) March 2

Following Worship

Ash Wednesday March 5 Worship at 1pm and 7pm, with
Imposition of Ashes at both services

Soup Supper for the Soul Wednesdays NEW TIME 6:00pm,
March 12, 19, 26, April 2, & 9 (See inside)

Cross Generational April 6 – Come make your own Easter
Garden. This activity is for ALL ages



THOUGHTS FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR



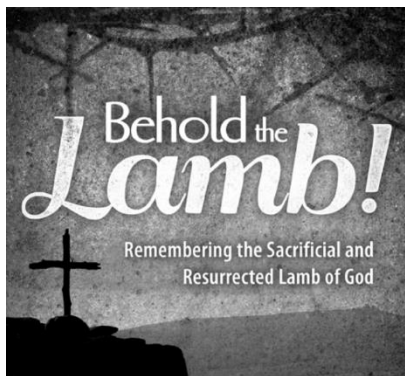
Transfiguration Sunday is March 2, the last Sunday before Lent begins. The drama that unfolds in the reading for this day in Luke 9 is exciting. Jesus' face and garments become a dazzling white and Peter, James and John hear the voice from a cloud speak and say: "This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him." It is fitting that our Sunday School children are singing that Sunday. Kids love drama and excitement. It has been suggested that they wave shiny, sparkly ribbons at some point in the service to show the transformation that takes place when Jesus' majesty as God's Son is revealed.

We are blessed in our churches to have the cycle of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, All Saints and Christ the King as the order of the church year. Just as the liturgy gives us order, so does this church year cycle.

As we move into the season of Lent, we have a wealth of hymns and musical offerings that help us draw closer to God. God's love transforms and flows through us and guides us as we seek to help others.

Throughout this season, the Handbell Choir and the Voices of St. Luke's will be preparing music to help us all in our journey of faith. One of the offerings will be the choir's presentation of a cantata, "Behold the Lamb", on Palm Sunday. As we rehearse this work, we are given the opportunity to delve into the marvelous truth of God's redeeming and transforming love, forgiveness and grace.

May God bless you,
Carol Peterson, Music Director



Date: Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Directed by Carol Peterson.

Accompanied by Andrea Clark.

Featuring narrators and an instrumental ensemble.

A reception will take place after worship.

All are welcome! Invite a friend!

Soup Suppers for the Soul

Looking for a place to connect ... and enjoy a delicious bowl of soup in the middle of a busy week? **Soup Suppers for the Soul** are a chance to eat, share stories, pray and light candles together. This year we will explore Why Jesus? What difference does Jesus make in your life?



Join us from 6:00-7:00 pm, Wednesdays, in the Lower Fellowship Hall, beginning Wednesday, March 12. Note the new time!



INTER-GENERATIONAL EDUCATION HOUR

April 6. All ages welcome!

Stay after worship to make your own **Easter Garden** to take home. Sign up at either Welcome Center. Cost is \$6/garden.



We love children at St. Luke's, and think it's important for children to be in worship. How else do they learn to worship except by coming? But services can be long and sometimes parents (and children!) need a break. Some options to consider--Remember we have a staffed nursery! If this helps you to worship, feel free to bring children ages 0-3 to the nursery where they will be cared for. We also have the cry room at the back of the sanctuary that you are welcome to use as well. We know it takes a lot of effort to get your family to church, and we're glad you make this effort!

First Communion Class: Save the Date - Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 15 from 9:30AM – 12noon. This class is geared toward 3rd - 5th grade students, along with their parents, to prepare for partaking in communion. If parents of younger siblings feel their child is ready and their parents desire for them to partake in communion, please speak with Pastor Monte. You should have received a letter in the mail. If not, please let the office know.



SAVE THE DATE

EASTER EGG HUNT

NEW THIS YEAR, following Easter Morning Worship,
Sunday April 20

This hunt is for ALL AGES... More Information coming soon.



Old St. Luke's had a farm, ee-i-ee-i—o!



This year we are **fighting world hunger** through “God’s Global Barnyard,” part of ELCA’s “Good Gifts” Program. Families (and adults!) are invited to take home a “barn bank” and collect money (see below for ideas!) The money will go towards the purchase of domestic animals for families around the world. These animals become sources of both income and nutrition. Envelopes will also be

available for giving. Children can bring their coins in **each Sunday** for counting, adults can bring their money whenever they like!

Each week, collect a coin (or a dollar!) for every

March 9: stuffed animal in your house

March 16: every time you feed or walk your pet (if you have one!)

March 23: barnyard animal sound you can make

March 30: animal character you can name

April 6: egg you eat or glass of milk you drink

Let's see how many animals we can provide!!

MUSIC CAMP

June 16-June 20th, Mon-Fri, 9AM – Noon

- **ALL children** who have completed kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend.



- Enjoy a morning filled with fun and learning! Participants will learn about music, learn how to play a few instruments, and act out the story of Mary and Martha.
- **Sign-ups will begin later this spring but for now, save the date and invite your friends!**

VBS 2025 True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

July 28-July 31, Mon-Thurs 9AM-3PM

- **ALL children** who have completed kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend.
- **We have the BEST teenage guides for our VBS, so 6th-12th graders, save the week to help!**
- **Lots of volunteer opportunities for adults, too!**



First planning meeting is **Sunday, April 6**, after education hour



Lunch & Learn takes place on Thursdays at 11:45 a.m. in the Upper Fellowship Hall. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the Church Office to reserve your spot. These gatherings are about two hours. If you need a ride, we'll provide one! Simply call the Church Office.

Thursday, March 20, 2025: Artificial Intelligence – What does it mean for us?

Join us as Dennis Miller shares information about AI - a new technology that is causing excitement and apprehension. There is a free will offering to defray the cost of lunch. **Signup deadline is March 17th.**

You can now GIVE ONLINE, by scanning the QR code.



Sunday, April 6, 2025

Join us for dinner and a show! "Always a Bridesmaid" is a comedy about four friends that make a promise at their senior prom: to be in each other's weddings, no matter what. Yet the perfect wedding seems to elude these loyal ladies on this marriage-go-round for a laugh-out-loud adventure.



We'll carpool from church, see a show, then have dinner!
Cost: \$40/person. Cash or check made payable to Betty Gelhar.
Deadline to sign up and pay is **Thursday, March 13, 2025.**
Sign up sheet at the Welcome Center

Caught Big-Hearted



Marlene Beutin and all the volunteers who help serve meals at funerals

Dave Jensen and Mark Hanson, who continue to oversee our tech needs

Ken Orlikowski and Mark Ohlert for replacing the handicap sign so quickly and taking care of other needs in our building.

Robin Gross, Judi Hensley, Beth Koehler, Jan Miller, Lynda Van Dien, for planning a fantastic first Ladies' Retreat.

Peg Palecek, Betty Gelhar, and Gail Stark for planning and leading the Dinner for 8 Kick-off Lunch.

Carol Van Ryzin for organizing our library and curating the Book Nook.

Rob Kegel and Tony Kegel for painting the children's bookshelves in such bright colors.

The Retiree/Seniors Team, led by Vicki Jensen, for organizing another great senior lunch.

Duane Freitag, for organizing our SOUPer bowl challenge!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
Jan 2025	Offering: \$35,350 Total: \$35,900	\$36,534.75 \$37,030.06	Surplus \$1,130.06	\$35,350 \$35,900	\$36,534.75 \$37,030.06	Surplus \$1,130.06