

FEBRUARY
2026



CONNECTIONS

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

*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



Ways God says "I love you" :

"I made this sunset for you"

"Let me carry that burden for you"

"I'm looking after them"

"Play that one song on the radio"

"I haven't given up on you"

"I've provided for your rent again"

"I thought you'd like this flower"

"I told a friend to call you"

"Can I wash your feet?"

"You aren't alone"

"I made this rainbow for you"

"Call me day or night, even if it's been awhile"

"I forgive you"

--Jessica Bond

This month we celebrate love in its many forms. Stop to look around and notice all the ways God shows us love. It's everywhere, and everyday. What would you add to the list above?

With lots of love,
Pastor Monte



From the
MUSIC DIRECTOR

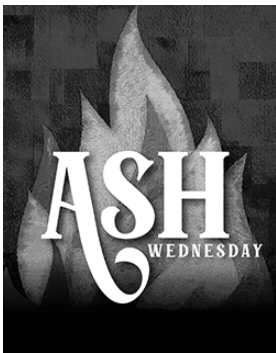
February 18 begins the season of Lent with the service of Ash Wednesday. During this solemn time, we are reminded of Jesus' sacrifice and redemption for us. In the Sunday worship services, the gospel acclamation takes on a somber tone, usually in a minor key, which reflects this season of repentance. In setting four we sing, "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."

The Sunday School children will sing on February 22. One of their songs is a message about God's creative work and his majestic reign. They also will share a song about love, highlighting St. Valentine's day: "Love, love, love, that's what it's all about. Since God loves us, we love each other, mother, father, sister, brother. Everybody sing and shout, cause that's what it's all about."

Blessings and peace,

Carol Peterson

Ash Wednesday



"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. 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.

Join us Feb 18 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm for services; both will involve the marking of ashes on our forehead (imposition of ashes.)



Soup Supper for the Soul

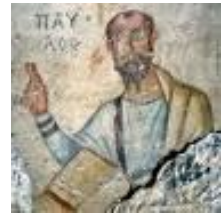
Wednesday nights during Lent, beginning Feb 25, 6:00-7:00 pm

In a world that needs so much healing, both personal and societal, come hear Jesus' healing stories, and consider how they connect with our lives and our world today.

This year the dinner is intermixed with the worship—
join us for meal, song, prayer, and discussion.

Retiree / Senior Adult Ministry Lunch & Learn Thursday, February 19, 2026

11:45 a.m. - Upper Fellowship Hall



The Apostle Paul and His World

Who was Paul? What was his world like? Where did he go? How did he get there? And what did he find when he arrived? Join us as two scholars - Dr. Gary Klump and Dr. Julie Newberry - from the Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology discuss "The Apostle Paul and His World." There's more to Paul than what you learned in Sunday School!

Our Lunch & Learn programs are designed to provide retirees / seniors with an opportunity to learn something new while sharing a meal. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the Church Office to reserve your spot. If you need a ride, we'll provide one! Simply call the Church Office at 414-421-1670. The sign-up deadline is February 15, 2026.



Confirmation

Feb 4 – Service Night for Soles for Jesus

- Great event to invite your mentors to join you
- Longer confirmation night as we will carpool from church to the organization's location for the sorting of the shoes.
- Leave St. Luke's at 5:15pm, return at 8:15pm

Feb 7 – Super Bowl Sub Sandwich making with tubing to follow

- Sub building and wrapping from 4pm to 5:45pm for delivery/hand out following worship on 2/8.
- Cost for tubing is \$30. A release will need to be signed for all participating.

Feb 11 – Faith Family Night

- All available family members join the confirmation youth for Church Family time.
- A light meal will be provided

Feb 13-15 Youth Quake

- Individuals signed up will receive details for travel and what to bring.

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR CONFIRMATION CAMP

Families can visit CrosswaysCamps.org/register to sign up using your congregation's code. **Code 26STLUKES_GRE**

Synergy

For High Schoolers!

Feb 7 – 6pm Event at St. Stephen the Martyr Church –
making pizza and
playing hide & seek in the church.



First Communion Class: Save the Date - Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 25 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 children feel their child is ready and their parents desire for them to partake in communion, please speak with Pastor Monte.



Sunday School Children are singing during worship on 2/22. Let family and friends know, and then stay for pancakes!

MUSIC CAMP

June 15-June 19th, Mon-Fri, 9AM – Noon
“The Sailor’s Bible”

- **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 a story that shares about Jesus’ love for us.
- **Save the date and invite your friends!**



VBS 2026

Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God
July 27th -30th , 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 Sun April 12th following Education Hour.

Lenten Pancake Breakfast

All are invited to attend the Lenten Breakfast on **Sunday 2/22** at **10:15 AM** (**Following Worship**). Menu includes pancakes, ham, and breakfast desserts.

You'll also learn about the special Lenten offering focus for this year.

We'll have a few of our Carnival Games for kids (and adults!) set up to enjoy before and after the breakfast.



Invite your friends and family!

OUTREACH OF THE MONTH

Along with the “Soup”er Bowl on Feb 8 (see below), we are also supporting Greendale’s Caring Closet for February’s Outreach of the Month. This closet is located in the High school and is available to any family in need in the district. We will collect:

Feb 1: brand new socks for kids/adults

Feb 8: soup for souper bowl

Feb 15: laundry detergent and dryer sheets

Feb 22: paper towels, toilet paper, kitchen or bath towels

Thank you for supporting our local neighbors!

IT’S “SOUP”ER BOWL TIME!

Once again St. Luke’s Men are sponsoring a “Souper-Bowl” challenge. On Feb 8, bring a can of soup when you come to worship, and place the can on the side of the field that represents the team that you think will win (or you want to win) Super Bowl LX—the Seahawks or the Patriots. Each can represents one vote. All the soup will be donated to the food pantry at First Lutheran, West Allis.



ADULT EDUCATION

For the month of February we will continue to meet and discuss the Bible texts heard in worship.

Feb 1: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Feb 8: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

Feb 15: Exodus 24: 12-18; Matthew 17:1-9 (Transfiguration)

Feb 22: Pancake Breakfast and carnival!

HAVE FURNITURE TO DONATE??

Share Our Best Furniture Ministry is a collaboration between Holy Cross, Menomonee Falls, Hephatha and Breaking the Chains Ministries that delivers beds, tables and home goods to people returning to community living after release. They primarily need small tables and chairs and single beds as their apartments are usually small, and all household goods are helpful. The volunteer furniture coordinator at Holy Cross is Andy Dederich. He can be contacted through Holy Cross Lutheran at 262-251-2740. Please consider supporting this ministry when you have furniture to donate.

Looking for other new ways to get involved:

Wednesday Worship with Communion.

Needles & Prayers – learn to knit or crochet prayer shawls for those who in the hospital, homebound or for those who are baptized at St. Luke’s.

Caregiver’s Support – hear about ways help those you care for while also caring for yourself.

Quilters – you can cut, sew, tie, here at church or from home. With lots of help to learn.

Bible on Tap – bible study while enjoying a little libation.

Senior Coffee at Dia Noche

**Check the calendar for all these activities
and come and see what they are all about!**



DINNER FOR 8

Sign up to be placed in a NEW group of 8. Singles or couples can join! Then join us at the Kickoff Dinner Sunday March 1, 5:30 pm, to meet your group and decide on future plans. Some groups have met for brunch or cookouts, some have played games or watched Packers' games. You decide!

Sign up at Welcome Center or online by Feb 22. Even if you can't make the kick-off, you can still join Dinner for 8.

A great way to get to know your church family!



GAME NIGHT

When the weather outside is frightful, join us for GAME NIGHT !

Thursday, February 12, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Variety of games for all ages Light Snacks Provided

Sign up at welcome center or online; let us know what kind of games you are interested in and if you can host a table (and teach, if necessary!)



Starting in 2026, Altar Flowers and Eternal Flame information will be requested via an email request. The email will ask for information to be included in the bulletin and share how to pay for your kind gift to the worship experience. Please note there are still open spots on the signup sheets for 2026. If you are not in the sanctuary for worship, you can also call the office to request the dates open or to place an order on your behalf.

Annual Meeting Recap
Dick Hensley, Council President

First and foremost, thank you to all that were able to attend the January 25, 2026 Annual Meeting. St. Luke's is very blessed to have such an engaged congregation. Whether through participation on one of the various teams and or groups; ushering or serving communion on Sunday; to being on Council, volunteerism is alive and well at St. Luke's.

I want to welcome new Council members Beth Devinger as co-treasurer, Kelly Sneed and Lucas Stelzle as members at – large. Out-going members, John Noggle, Janet Schoba, and Jess Williamson will be missed.

The annual meeting highlighted three critical components. First, St. Luke's continues in a strong financial condition. The "Better Together" stewardship campaign illustrated the commitment of the congregation in support of our mission.

The congregation reviewed and approved the proposed Strategic Plan. Five core principles contained in the Plan will help guide the congregation, council, administration and the committed base of volunteers in meeting the mission of St. Luke's today, tomorrow and in the future.

The congregation reviewed and approved the 2026 – 2027 Renovation & Repair Plan. Council, the Property and Finance team will embark on the plan in the first quarter of 2026.

Communication regarding implementation of both plans will be updated on a quarterly basis via the "Connections" newsletter. As always, questions and or concerns are welcome. Please feel free to reach out to any Council, Property and or Finance team member.

Working together, St. Luke's will remain a beacon of light dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

GIVING REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
Dec. 2025	Offering: \$41,043 Total: \$50,028	\$55,177 \$64,062	Surplus \$14,134 \$14,034	\$429,893 \$443,938	\$426,460 \$440,280	Deficit \$3,433 \$3,658



You can GIVE ONLINE, by scanning the QR code.

Noisy Offering for Breaking the Chains Church: \$200.00

Year-to-date giving to Food Pantry: *Watch for monthly updates*

Giving with Time and Talent:

- ♥ Cameron Swallow and Flat Creek Highway for wonderful music during worship on January 25.
- ♥ Outgoing Council members for their service to the council and the congregation: Jess Williamson, John Noggle, and Janet Schoba-Orlikowski
- ♥ Audit Committee and Limited Operational Review team for their work to ensure our church works efficiently and effectively.
- ♥ Rob Kegel for his dedication to the bookkeeping of the church.
- ♥ Ken Orlikowski and Mark Ohlert for their continued support of the ‘working’ parts of our building, and efforts to keep them running well.
- ♥ Everyone who brought chili or soup and who helped with the cook off on January 25.
- ♥ Carol Van Ryzin who comes in every week to work in the library and on the book stands in the sanctuary.....
- ♥ Jim Carlsen and Catherine Sendek who have been cleaning a lot of extra salt on our floors these days!