

CONNECTIONS



ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – March 2026

*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*



lent 2026: a slow walk through holy week

This year in Lent we are taking a slow walk through Holy Week. It's a week that changed the world, so let's pay attention to all that happened that week and all it tells us about Jesus and his love. The sermons will move through this slow walk, as will the daily Lenten devotions, shared via text or email. It's not too late to sign up! (use QR code, or add your name to the list at the Welcome Center.)



See other Lenten opportunities inside, including Soup Suppers for the Soul and the Lenten Study, *What Jesus Meant*.

Greetings from Pastor Monte

Jesus told us to love our neighbor as ourselves, but we don't always get the chance to do it quite so concretely as we do this year, with our TWO giving projects. You'll read later in this newsletter about Josh Larsen's Eagle Scout project, which will benefit us, a garden for the St. Luke's community. AND we are also collecting money for community gardens in Africa, a project through the ELCA Good Gifts program. How awesome, to contribute towards a garden here in Greendale AND gardens around the world for our neighbors in Africa!

Marilyn Barrett said "when you plant a seed, you put hope in the ground." Let's put lots of HOPE in the ground this Lent!

In addition, I have sometimes gotten the question of what to do with old, falling-apart Bibles. It feels disrespectful to just throw them away, so how can we dispose of them in a reverent manner? Two ways are suggested—to burn, releasing them into the air, or to bury in the ground. Our garden club will help us choose suitable locations to bury the Living Word on our grounds. If you have old Bibles that are beyond their useful life above ground, bring them to church and we will plant them as part of the foundation for everything we do here! Look for a box behind the Welcome Center.

Blessings on your Lent – keep on loving as God loves!

Pastor Monte

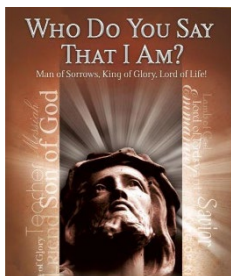


Soup Supper for the Soul meal + conversation + song + prayer

*Let us solve your dinner problem AND refresh your spirit.
Great for families!*

Wednesdays in Lent, 6-7 pm

THOUGHTS FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR



St. Luke's choir is preparing a cantata for Palm Sunday, March 29. This year we are going to present, "*Who Do You Say That I Am*," by the composer Lloyd Larson. A small orchestra and narrators will perform with the choir.

This cantata tells of Jesus' last days and relates his triumphal ride into Jerusalem on a donkey, various miracles and healings and his final days.

A cantata is a musical composition with choir, orchestra and speakers, usually relating a story from the Bible. The service on March 29 will include congregational participation and promises to inspire and remind us all of the incredible sacrifice of Jesus. The composer has written, "It is my prayer that this work will encourage choirs and congregations to reaffirm their belief in and devotion to Christ."

Joyfully, we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter, April 5, when the congregation along with the choir and instruments will resound with songs and hymns of jubilant praise!

God's blessings,
Carol Peterson

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 29: Choir Cantata in worship, 9 am

For all ages, make your own Easter Garden, 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday Agape Dinner, April 2, 6 pm. Worship around the tables as we remember that communion was first celebrated during a meal. Followed by the burning of the prayer chain.

Good Friday, April 3 2:00 pm Crosswalk. A community-wide procession through Greendale, carrying a cross and stopping for readings and prayers; *this year it starts and ends at St. Luke's*.

3:00 pm Ecumenical service, *at St. Luke's*

6:30 pm Worship at St. Luke's

Easter Festival Worship, April 5, 9:00 AM. Followed by Easter Egg Hunt!

GARDEN GIVING PROJECTS

We are blessed to have a youth in our church family that has included St. Luke's in his Eagle Scout Project. Josh Larsen has designed and will build the foundation of our **St. Luke's** Community Garden. We are gathering funds to build a fenced garden with 4 planter boxes and 2 raised garden beds just off the upper parking lot. Groundbreaking is planned for early spring. You can support the project by donating with Venmo@StLukes-LutheranChurch (Note "**ST. LUKE'S Garden**" on your donation) or by using donation envelopes available



on the Welcome Center. Any questions can be directed to Josh/Jim Larsen at farside41@gmail.com. You can see project details, budget information, and follow our progress on display in the church Welcome Center.

Simultaneously, our Sunday School Lenten Project is to fund five **GLOBAL** gardens at the cost of \$200 each.

Start with a plot of land and good soil, add drought-resistant seeds and top it off with tools and training.

The result is plenty of tomatoes, potatoes, beans, cassava and other vegetables to go around. You can support this project through your online giving (Select: Special Offering, Note: **GLOBAL Gardens**) or by using donation envelopes which are available on the

Welcome Center. Sunday School students will receive special "Seed Envelopes" to bring in their donations. Follow our fundraising progress on display in the Church Welcome Center. Any questions can be directed to Carol VanRyzin at carolvanryzin@att.net.



We will fundraise for both garden projects and with your generous gifts create spaces where our church family can work together to plant, grow and cultivate food to share with each other and the world. Our total goal of \$3500 will fund both garden projects. \$2500 for **St. Luke's** Community Garden and \$1000 for "Good Gifts **Global**" gardens.



Senior Lunch & Learn

Thursday, March 19, 2026:

Math is Everywhere



Join us to hear from Greendale teacher, Jane Patterson, about the hidden logic beneath the world, especially the incredible mathematical rules that make *everything* make sense. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the Church Office to reserve your spot. If you need a ride, we'll provide one! **The sign-up deadline is March 15, 2026.**

LENTEN STUDY: What Jesus Meant

We know the words the Bible says Jesus spoke. But do we know what his words really meant to his followers? What do those same words say to us today? Join us on a journey through Lent as we read parts of Garry Wills' book, *What Jesus Meant*. The journey begins on March 1. Free copies of the book are available at the Welcome Center.

Be Part of the Tradition: ***THE LENTEN PRAYER CHAIN***

St. Luke's has two Lenten traditions wrapped up in this chain—

- 1. Everyone gets prayed for, and 2. We watch the prayers grow all Lent long. The prayer chain is burned on Maundy Thursday, as an offering up to God.*

How to participate: grab a packet from the table in front of the stained glass window. There will be a list of names, along with paper prayer slips. As you pray for each person on the list, write their names on a prayer slip. You can write other prayers as well!

Bring the slips back to church, where they will be assembled into a chain.

Thank you for being part of this tradition!



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 nursery down the hall. We also have the cry room at the back of the sanctuary that you are welcome to use as needed. We have busy bags available near the entrance from the parking lot, and there are books available to read and return. We know it takes a lot of effort to get your family to church, and we're glad you make this effort!



EDUCATION HOUR for ALL AGES

March 29 following Worship

Stay after worship to make your own
Easter Garden to take home.
Sign up at either Welcome Center.
Cost is \$5/garden.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Following Easter Morning Worship,
Sunday April 5
This hunt is for **ALL AGES**



First Communion Class: Save the Date - Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 25th from 9:30AM – 12noon, with **First Communion on Sunday, April 26**. 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 or Kathy.

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.**

For the month of March, **Confirmation students** will not have regular class and will instead be helping with Soup Suppers. This is a fundraiser and helps make Quake and camp affordable, along with being a lot of fun!

Synergy will also NOT meet during March, but high schoolers are encouraged to attend the Soup Suppers and enjoy being served by the confirmation students. Come cheer them on!



BUT, high schoolers Join us for **indoor mini-golfing** with St. Stephen the Martyr, 6:30 pm. Saturday, March 7, at **Big Putts in Greenfield.** \$12/person.

Quilt Tying, March 22

For 80 years, compassionate people have put their faith into action and made quilts for people in need around the world. And not just a few quilts — nearly 28 MILLION QUILTS! National Quilting Day is March 21, 2026, and so, on Sunday, March 22, we will celebrate National Quilting Day by gathering during the Education Hour to help tie quilts. Even if you've never done it before, we can teach you and everyone's hands can be a part of this mission! (Note, Sunday school and the Lenten Bible Study will still take place.)

“Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love.”

GIVING REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
January 2026	Offering: \$36,000 Total: \$36,290	\$35,047 \$35,485	Deficit \$953 \$805	\$36,000 \$36,290	\$35,047 \$35,485	Deficit \$953 \$805

Giving with Time and Talent:

- ♥ Andrew and Hans Banman for sharing their music with the congregation, and the Sunday school children who sang for us!
- ♥ Karen Feucht and Michelle Bollig for chaperoning Youth Quake, and Andy Clark for transportation.
- ♥ Everyone who helped cook, flip pancakes, serve, and clean up the pancake breakfast, especially Julie Ohlert and Kathy who organized it.
- ♥ Robin Brodie – Resurrection Eggs Family Activity at the Pancake Breakfast. Don't forget to start opening your eggs on Wednesday, March 25.
- ♥ Tom Tellefson, Kelly Sneed, Cheryl Dordel, Duane Freitag, Trent Tellefson, along with treasurers Mark Ohlert and John Noggle and of course bookkeeper, Rob Kegel for all their work finishing the 2025 operational review in January 2026.
- ♥ Pat Larsen, who keeps the doorway planters festive all year long, AND remembers to take photos at all our events!!
- ♥ Karyn Birmingham, who helps coordinate with the Red Cross for hosting the blood drives at St. Luke's.
- ♥ Everyone who helps "behind the scenes" with our worship -- setting up and cleaning communion, changing paraments and filling candles.

At the "Souper Bowl" Soup Collection, we collected **210 lbs of soup**. We also correctly guessed that the Seattle Seahawks would win—but the Food Pantry and those it serves were the real winners! Thank you for your contributions! They continue to be in need of **jelly and beans** (such as barbecue beans and pork and beans).

We also collected for Greendale's Caring Closet:

- 44 rolls of paper towels
- 69 rolls of Toilet Paper
- 99 pairs of socks
- 22 pairs of waterproof gloves

Along with laundry detergent and dryer sheets!

Thank you for your generosity!

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



The Envelopes have arrived! If you were waiting for envelopes, they are here and in the Gathering Space of the Sanctuary. Thank you for your patience! Let us know if you have any questions.

EASTER FLOWERS



Once again, we will be offering the opportunity to purchase spring flowers to beautify the sanctuary for Easter morning worship, and then to take with you to brighten up your home! Order forms will be available in the Sunday bulletins, beginning March 8, with the 22nd the final day to order. Flowers will cost \$15, and there will be lilies, tulips, mums, daffodils and hyacinths available.

Help save lives. Give blood.



As you probably know St. Luke's offers our space monthly for the Red Cross Blood Drive.

Tuesday, March 10 – 9am -2pm

Upon successful donation you will also get a free A1C test and \$15 Amazon Gift Card. Walk-ins are welcome & you can schedule an appointment on line at RedCrossBlood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS

Meet your Church Council

This year, we'd like to introduce your council members and get to know them a little better. So each month we will share a profile of one council member. Remember that you can always talk to the folks on council with ideas or questions or just to understand better what is going on here at St. Luke's. Without further ado ... meet **Robin Gross, our Church Council Secretary.**

Robin is wife to Travis, mom to Brinlee and Raelynn, daughter to Rudy and Jan, sister/sister-in-law/aunt to David, Amanda, and Nash and friend to many!

Robin works as a Differentiated Learning Specialist at Maple Grove Elementary in Greenfield WI, and has the pleasure of working with all grade levels to help best meet students' needs.

When she's not working, parenting, or volunteering at church, she enjoys listening to audio books, gardening, baking and taking walks.

In addition to serving as Church Council secretary, Robin also teaches Sunday School, Co-directs VBS, bakes communion bread, part of WINGS, Women's Retreat committee, Rock of Faith Singer, Service Reader, and Confirmation Mentor. You may not know she used to play 4 different instruments in high school. And ask her about her fireworks experience!

Her favorite Bible Verse is Psalm 46:5: "God is within her, she will not fall."
Thanks Robin, for sharing your whole self with us! Blessings on all the ways you serve.

