

CONNECTIONS

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 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.*

Looking for Jesus?

Jesus is riding a donkey, to show us what power looks like.

PALM SUNDAY CANTATA, MARCH 29, 9 AM

Jesus is washing feet, to show us what leaders look like.

MAUNDY THURSDAY AGAPE SUPPER, APRIL 2, 6 PM

Jesus is hanging on a cross, to show us what love looks like.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES, APRIL 3, 3 PM AND 6:30 PM

Jesus is risen, to show us that in every end is a new beginning.

EASTER FESTIVE WORSHIP AND EGG HUNT, APRIL 5, 9 AM!

Celebrate Holy Week at St. Luke's



St. Luke's Lutheran Church - 6705 Northway, Greendale - www.slchurch.org

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR MONTE

Though I have lived in northern states for much of my life, my body still struggles against the cold. It's not the winter though, that is the hardest time of year for me--it's the spring. Or more precisely, it's *this* time of year, when everything in me says it should be spring, and yet looking outside, we know it's not.

Isn't this the way it is with Resurrection, though? The women ran away from the tomb in both joy *and* fear. The disciples had seen Jesus, and yet they stayed hiding in a locked room. It took them awhile for his rising, and all it meant, to sink in. Our bodies heal slowly. Relationships mend but rarely in a straight line. We have to learn from our mistakes, not just wish them away.

So while I keep my eyes peeled for signs of spring and the hope they bring, I know those signs include mud and cold and sometimes a late-season frost. Will you watch for signs of new life with me, the steps forward *and* the steps back? We'll trust that God is at work in all of it, bringing us to the wholeness we need instead of just the warmth we desire.

Blessings on your April!

Pastor Monte

ADULT Education

Meets after worship in the Upper Fellowship Hall

April 12 – “What Jesus Meant” – Our Lenten Study will conclude this week

April 19 – Discussion of Worship texts: Luke 24:13-29 and Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

April 26- Discussion of Worship texts: Luke 24:13-16, 28-35 and Acts 2:42-47



Easter Egg Hunt – will be AFTER Easter worship! Plan to stay for around 30 minutes, enjoying coffee and a treat while the littles (and not so littles!) hunt for eggs!



From the
MUSIC DIRECTOR

"Sing for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Praise him with songs and shouts of joy." Psalm 98 It turns out that these words from the Psalmist are relevant now, more than ever.

A well-trained neurologist, Brad Harrub, has been studying the effect of music on the brain because of his mother's dementia. He's played hymns that she has always loved and noticed a remarkable change in her memory. Particularly, a cappella singing engages the brain in a uniquely powerful way. It processes music and language simultaneously. In the neurologist's words, "God chose something that fully engages the brain."

Recently, during a worship service, the organ made strange, loud, booming sounds from the speakers. Realizing the disturbing effect this had on the congregants, I turned the organ off and finished the service on the piano. As I walked to the piano, however, the congregation kept on singing, a cappella--and it was beautiful. They knew the melody and the words were on the screen. They were expressing music and language simultaneously.

When my oldest granddaughter was born, a song came to me--words and music, which has become a family favorite. This summer, Madeline will marry and this song will be sung and played as she walks down the aisle. Music brings out emotions and I know that there will be tears shed during the song, as there were in my eyes when I first wrote it. I look back on that experience of composing Maddie's song as a gift from God. And when I hear all of the dear, faithful St. Luke's people singing the liturgy and hymns, I know that this is God's gift to us.

Blessings,
Carol Peterson, Music Director



The Caregiver Support Group meeting is **moving back to 4:30 pm** in the Upper Fellowship Hall **starting April 13.**



APRIL 2025 OUTREACH – HANDBELLS

This month, our Outreach of the month is our own handbell choir. Outreach, you ask? When our bells play, they do more than perform; they lead us in worship, which is very much a part of our outreach as a church!

Our handbell choir is busy preparing songs for April 19th, the final time we will lead in worship this season. We joyfully give of our time and talents in order to serve our congregation in this way, but we are long overdue for maintenance on our handbells and new materials for our ringers.

We originally bought a two octave set of bells in 1998 and added our third octave in 2000. To date, we have never refurbished them, which is supposed to happen every ten years, so we're nearly 20 years overdue! With new members, we also need another table, and our foam pads and covers are definitely in need of refreshment.

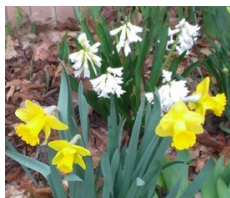
The wonderful news is that an anonymous donor has come forward to cover the entire cost of the refurbishment, and we will send the bells to the manufacturer on April 20th. They will get taken apart, have worn parts replaced, be thoroughly cleaned, and tuned. The additional table and all necessary foam pads and sewn-to-order covers will cost right around \$3000. Our hope is that you will enable us to order these materials by donating toward the cause.

On April 19, we will not only play our bells, but we will also host fellowship hour. We hope that our songs and goodies will inspire a "ringing endorsement" (pun definitely intended) of our handbell choir as an important part of our music ministry at St. Luke's. We will have ways for you to donate on April 19th, and if you aren't there or feel unable to donate at that time, we can continue to take contributions until we place the order. Every little bit helps, and we thank you in advance for prayerfully considering donating towards these important materials that will help us look and sound our best!

Kate Braatz,
Handbell Director

NEXT Lunch & Learn will be Thursday, April 16 at 11:45 a.m. – UFH
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BEES

Following a rewarding 25-year career as a business owner in industrial mechanical services, retirement took Doug Koltermann of Koltermann Farms Honey in Mukwonago, on a uniquely sweet note when he decided to turn his passion for beekeeping and raising chickens into a fulfilling second act on his hobby farm. Though he did not grow up on a farm and had zero prior experience in farming or beekeeping, his curiosity became the driving force for a new adventure. **The sign-up deadline for this event is April 13, 2026.**



It is **SPRING** and we need **YOU** now that our St. Luke's Community Garden is being constructed and planted. A **NEW** ministry is forming to support the new garden and the gardens and planters that add to the beauty of the church.

We will have a Garden Club Planning Meeting on **Sunday, April 19**, during the Education Hour in Lower Fellowship Hall.

We are looking for people that like being outdoors and enjoy planting, watering, watching plants grow, and tolerate weeding. Your commitment is based on your availability from May through September. Sign up at the Welcome Center and/or talk to one of us to let us know you are interested in being a garden caretaker!

Remember many hands make light the work!!
See you in the gardens - Pat Larsen & Julie Ohlert



COMING THIS SPRING
CPR, First Aid and AED Training here at St. Luke's
Watch the bulletins for the date and time



After a break for Soup Suppers, we're back to our regular schedule on **April 8**.
CONFIRMATION CLASS at 6PM.
April 22 will be our last **Confirmation Faith Family Night** for this year.



First Communion Class: - 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 will be singing on MOTHER'S DAY, May 10. Mark your calendar for this wonderful expression of LOVE from our children.



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.
- Registration is open NOW
- **Save the date and invite your friends!**



VBS 2026

First planning meeting Sun April 12th following Education Hour.

Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God

July 27-30, Mon-Thurs 9AM-3PM

- ALL children who have completed kindergarten through grade 5 are invited to attend.
- We have the BEST teenage guides for our VBS, so youth grades 6 – 12, save the week to help!
- Lots of volunteer opportunities for adults, too! All who have a passion to teach, craft, sing, play and share God's Love with our children are encouraged to join us at this planning meeting. We will find the right fit for you.



Jeopardy – During Education Hour on **Sunday, May 3**. Stay for the Annual All-church Jeopardy Game! Questions about the Bible, St. Luke's and General Knowledge.

- May 13th our confirmation youth will have a Service Project to participate in. Kathy has several ideas, help her narrow it down by being a part of our Parish Ed committee. We meet monthly now the first Sunday of the month following worship. Next Meeting is April 12 at 10:15am. So many ways to be involved with children and youth if this is your passion.
- May 17th we will celebrate our Sunday School children as they move forward in their Faith Journey.
- May 20th last confirmation class for this year. We will Celebrate together with food and fun!!



High School Youth

Synergy returns after the Lent Break!

April 8th 7:30pm Raising Cane's and your own Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt.

April 22nd 7:30pm with Corner House, the Lutheran Campus Ministry of UWM.

SERVICE NIGHT with St. Stephen the Martyr

Saturday, April 18 – 6:30pm at St. Luke's. We're making sandwiches for the Guest House, followed by games.

MUSIC CAMP / VBS – We need YOUR help to make these weeks run smoothly, so save the dates! Music Camp – June 15-19 & VBS – July 27-30

Welcoming

New Members

We will be welcoming New Members on TWO upcoming dates, April 12 and May 3. If you have been attending and haven't yet become an official member, this is a great time. Talk to Pastor Monte to learn more!

4th of July – We are hoping to have a presence in Greendale's 4th of July Parade. Save the date, and if you want to help plan, talk to Dan Dordel or Pastor Monte.



APRIL 12th - NOISY OFFERING for our Needles and Prayers ministry to help them in purchasing yarn to continue making prayer shawls, baptism blankets and wedding blankets. Start saving those coins please.

Meet your Church Council

Each month, we are highlighting one of our Council Members. This month, it's Dan Dordel, who has been our Financial Secretary since 2025 and served on the council prior to that as well.



Favorite thing about St. Luke's:

I cannot talk enough about how wonderful the members of St. Lukes are. We have such a special congregation. My family and I have developed tremendous relationships and friendships with practically everyone! We are truly blessed to be part of something so special.

Favorite Memory at St. Luke's:

There have been a lot of great memories over the past 25 years! My wedding, our kids baptisms, Christmas programs and services, golf outings, Packer parties, dinner for 8 gatherings, and council meetings. If I had to pick only one, I really enjoyed my experience on the Stewardship campaign the last 2 years. Working alongside Jess Williamson, Travis Gross, and Pastor Monte was terrific. Getting to know and connect with so many different families while making the videos was an awesome experience.

Favorite Bible Verses:

Philippians 4:13 -- *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*
Proverbs 27:17 -- *"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."*

Favorite Free Time Activity:

Playing golf, pickleball, and streaming great TV shows. I also love watching my Brewers and Packers!!!

Other ways you serve at St. Luke's:

I love being an active member at St. Lukes! I have been given the opportunity to serve on Council, the Stewardship campaign, Fellowship committee, Strategic planning, Ushering, and have been a confirmation guide.

Something people may not know about you:

I have a twin brother! We are not identical.

Work:

I have worked for Pepsi Cola for the past 26 years!

Hope or dream for St. Luke's:

My hope is that we continue to serve the community in positive ways for generations to come.

GIVING REPORT

	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-date Receipts	Year-to-date Analysis
Feb. 2026	Offering: \$36,000 Total: \$36,290	\$40,153 \$41,464	Surplus \$4,153 \$5,174	\$72,000 \$72,580	\$72,000 \$72,580	Surplus \$3,200 \$4,369

See Mark Ohlert, Beth Devinger, or Rob Kegel with any questions

Thank you to everyone who gave towards our Lenten Garden Projects—the Global Gardens and our own Community Garden. We funded 7 Global Gardens, and met the project needs for the St. Luke’s Community Garden.



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

Giving with Time & Talent



- +Jeri Smith, leading Lenten Study of “What Jesus Meant”.
- +The many readers, musicians, ushers, and decorators who lead our Holy Week services.
- +Janette Mittag and Alex Sneed for their leadership and guidance for the Youth both in Fellowship Hall and the Kitchen. David Aguirre (big and little) who helped with setting up tables and chairs for Soup Suppers. And thank you to all the Youth who SHOWED UP each week to prepare, serve & clean up
- +The many hands that helped with tying quilts on March 22, and the quilters who prepare the quilts for us! We finished 10 quilts which is 480 knots!
- + Tim Clough, for his guidance & help with landscaping and grounds.
- + Josh Royce, for his help with the community garden.