

St. Luke's Monthly

Sharing Christ's love with those around us



March 2026

Building Our Future

God continues to bless St. Luke's with growth — in faith, in families, and in mission. As we look ahead to Phase 2 of our building project, we remain committed to careful planning and faithful stewardship. Every step we take now lays the foundation for a space that will serve generations to come.

Please continue to keep this project in your prayers: that we would move forward in faith, with clarity, unity, and joyful generosity. We trust that God will provide, in His perfect time and in His perfect way.

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From the Pastor's Pen

Why and How LCMS Lutherans Embrace the Season of Lent

Lent is a season—a 40-day season, to be exact. The Church has long counted 40 days of Lent, not counting Sundays, because Sundays remain “little Easters,” days in Lent but not days of Lent. The season began on Ash Wednesday, when we received the Imposition of Ashes and heard again the ancient words spoken to Adam: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Yet those ashes were traced in the shape of the cross, reminding us that this body of dust has been redeemed by Christ, who entered our dust and death to raise us up.

Repentance: A Gift, Not a Burden

Lent teaches us that **repentance is not something we perform for God—it is something God works in us**. Scripture speaks this way again and again:

- *“Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be turned.” (Lamentations 5:21)*
- *“Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” (Joel 2:13)*

Repentance has two parts, as our Confessions teach: **contrition** (sorrow over sin, worked by the Law) and **faith** (trust in Christ’s mercy, worked by the Gospel). This is simply living out our Baptism—**daily dying to sin and rising to new life** (Romans 6:3–4; Small Catechism, Baptism IV).

Lent is not about self-improvement. It is about returning to the Lord who already loves, forgives, and restores His people.

Fasting: A Discipline of Freedom

Fasting is not something Lutherans talk about often, but it is a historic Christian discipline. In the early church, fasting commonly meant **abstaining from food until mid-afternoon** (around the ninth hour) and then eating one simple meal. Practices varied by region, but the pattern of limiting food for the sake of prayer and focus is well attested.

Why fast? Because when we resist something we legitimately need—food—we learn to resist things we do not need—sin, temptation, distraction. Fasting is never about earning God’s favor; it is about training the heart to cling to Christ.

Even if we do not fast from food, we may “fast” from other things that clutter our hearts: sweets, soda, social media, certain shows, or anything that tends to rule our attention.

Prayer and the Word: The Heart of Lent

Lent invites us to slow down and return to the basics:

- **Family devotions** at the dinner table or before bedtime
- **Reading a Psalm a day**
- **Using Morning or Evening Prayer** from the hymnal
- **Praying for one neighbor or coworker each day**
- **Setting aside 10 minutes of quiet** before bed to reflect on God’s mercy

These small habits shape the heart far more than grand resolutions.

Mercy: Serving Our Neighbor

Lent also turns us outward. Acts of mercy are not “extra credit”—they are the natural fruit of faith.

Consider:

- Participating as a walker or donor in the **Life Choice Ministries Walk-for-Life**
- Donating food or volunteer hours to the **Breadbasket**
- Giving a financial gift to Lutheran Hour Ministries, Lutheran Women in Mission, LCMS Joint Seminary Fund, Lead-A-Child, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, or another Christian cause.
- Writing a note of encouragement to someone who is struggling
- Visiting a homebound member
- Supporting a local ministry or mission partner

Mercy is simply love in motion.

Tradition: A Good and Beautiful Word

Some people hear the word “tradition” and think “empty ritual.” But Christian tradition is nothing more than the wisdom of the saints who have gone before us. Lent is one of those traditions—a time-tested way the Church has humbled herself before the Lord so that He may lift her up with the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

Walking Together Through Lent

At St. Luke’s, we also observe Lent by gathering for **Wednesday evening worship at 6:30 p.m.** This year’s sermon series, **“The Gospel in Exodus,”** will help us see how God’s rescue of His people in the Old Testament points us to the greater rescue accomplished by Christ.

Lent is not about what we give up. Lent is about the God who gave Himself up for us. And in that gift, we find life.

Pastor Schmitt

From the Director of Christian Education

The season of Lent is a season of reflection and humility.

We began this season by confessing that we are dust and to dust we shall return. (Genesis 3)

It was in this account that man (Adam & Eve) chose not to trust God and to operate outside of God's plan. Sadly, we join in that sin daily through our thoughts, words, and deeds. We regularly choose not what is best for ourselves and for those around us. THIS is what we reflect on during the season of Lent.

HOWEVER!!!! In that confession we meet what also happened in Genesis 3. God spared and clothes Adam and Eve. He also begins His plan of restoration for His creation.

So, as we sit in our reflection, humility, and repentance for our sin let also look forward with Hope to the celebration of Easter and the ultimate return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! He has shown us the love of God in His life, death and resurrection FOR US. He promises in His death and resurrection that God will make all things new. We live in the struggle of sin BUT we live with Hope!

God's Love – Jesus: is greater than our sin. **Jesus > Our Sin**

Your fellow brother struggling in sin and trusting desperately in Jesus,

- William Prann

Please continue your partnership with me as I pray for our Pastor, our leaders, our volunteers, for all the families at St Luke's. God is working in, around, and through us for His glory and for the benefit of the community around us. In situations like these Satan takes immense pleasure in causing discord and unrest. Please pray that each of us will "Fix our eyes on Christ" and that we would not be distracted by Satan's efforts.

HAPPENINGS

Traveling Bulletin

When you worship at another church, please bring the worship folder and bulletin to the church office with your name on. We will post your name and where you've worshipped, hopefully stimulating conversation of where you've visited. And, our staff will get the chance to see what other churches are doing.

*Larry & Judy Boye, Trinity Ltheran Church, Sealy, TX
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Arlington, TX*

MISSION OF LOVE

Our first 2026 Donation of Quilts to Orphan Grain Train was Blessed Feb 21-22. There was a total of 36 full size Quilts and 7 youth size that are now on their way to those in need. Thanks to Terry Wehmueller for delivering them to Wichita and to everyone that has donated fabric, sheets, and TIME to making this Mission Possible. If anyone would like to donate a Thrivent card for batting it would be gratefully appreciated.–Dorothy Burtness

BUILDING PLANNING COMMITTEE

The committee has made adjustments to the sketches from information collected from congregational feedback. The committee is now soliciting input from contract firms to establish better cost estimates. This is also part of the process in determine a builder to work with. There will be further congregational information meetings in April for further sharing of current status. Be praying for God's guidance for the future of our congregation and the facility we need to support what He wishes us to do while we are on this side of heaven.

The decision has been made to list the blue house with Jim Blanton of Blanton Reality. House has been readied for showing beginning March 2.

JOIN FLINT HILLS LUTHERANS FOR LIFE FOR A MOVIE NIGHT!

On **Friday, March 6th** at St. Luke's, Manhattan, @ **7:00 p.m.** Flint Hills Lutherans for Life will show "Soul on Fire". The film, based on the bestselling memoir "On Fire" by John O'Leary, tells the true story of O'Leary's near-fatal childhood accident and his journey of recovery and faith. The movie emphasizes the value of life and the power of love and support during difficult times. The movie honors the gift of being alive. "Your life is a precious, priceless gift..." – John O'Leary. Popcorn will be provided! Bring your own non-alcoholic drink!

HAPPENINGS

LIFE CHOICE MINISTRIES WALK FOR LIFE 2026 – MAY 2ND.

Registration begins **NEXT SUNDAY--March 8th** Look for the registration table!

This annual event is to raise money so that Life Choice Ministries can support men and women who attend parenting classes; families in need of diapers; families looking for used items like strollers, books, and clothes (freshly washed). The walk isn't a marathon – it's a leisurely walk around Long's Park. **St. Luke's has a team – join us by signing up and encouraging people to sponsor you by donating! GO Team St. Luke's!!!**

SR HIGH YOUTH NEWS

In January, Sr High students from St. Luke's, Wamego, Clay Center, and Junction City gathered together for a monthly youth night. We were excited to welcome 27 students for an evening of fellowship! The next youth group night will be held on Sunday, February 8, from 5:00–7:00 PM at Little Apple Lanes. Youth from the same congregations are invited to join us for bowling and billiards and continued fellowship.



March 2026 LWML Mission Grant

A Place of Refuge - \$75,000

Lutheran Women in Mission have made a goal of collecting \$2,622,270.00 to be used for national and international mission support. This month's featured grant recipient is A Place of Refuge Ministries of South Wisconsin.

A Place of Refuge (APOR) is a sanctity of life ministry that positively impacts the lives of unwed, homeless pregnant women and their preborn children. Both mom and baby are equally worthy of Jesus' love, as He commands their safety and protection, which motivates APOR to offer valuable services.

Women can reside at the Refuge House for their entire pregnancy and up to a year following the birth of the child. APOR teaches life and parenting skills.

The women attend worship at a local LCMS congregation every Sunday. The current staff is teaching the Catechism to the moms. The Holy Spirit has brought many moms and babies to the baptismal font.

This grant will fund the purchase of a new van for transportation to church, Bible studies, doctors' appointments, and grocery shopping, plus a set of five parental skill books to be gifted to each new mom.

There is a clear box in St. Luke's lobby where you may donate to Lutheran Women In Mission's mission grants. To learn more, check out lwml.org/mission-grants.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Worship with us | Saturday 6:30 pm | Sunday 8:30 & 11 am

Sunday 3/1

- 9:45 am Adult & Children's Sunday School
- 7 pm Lutheran Layman's League

Monday 3/2

- 6 PM American Heritage Girls
- 6:30 pm Trail Life USA
- 7 pm Card Making
- 8 pm LCMS-U Fellowship & Bible Study

Tuesday 3/3

- 7 am Men's Bible Study
- 10 am LWML/Elizabeth Circle
- 1:30 pm Cancer Companion
- 7 pm Elders' Meeting

Wednesday 3/4

- 9:30 am ELC Chapel
- 5:15 pm Praise & Worship Team Rehearsal
- 6 pm BASIC & Confirmation Class
- 6:30 pm MidWeek Lent Service

Thursday 3/5

- 6 pm JuBellation Handbell Choir Practice
- 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday 3/6

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video
- 7 pm Lutherans' for Life Movie Night

Saturday 3/7

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
MOVE CLOCKS FORWARD

Sunday 3/8

- 9:45 am Adult & Children's Sunday School
- 12:30 pm Table Talk

Monday 3/9

- 9 am Women's Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Trail Life USA
- 7 pm Card Making
- 8 pm LCMS-U Fellowship & Bible Study

Tuesday 3/10

- 7 am Men's Bible Study
- 9 am Mission of Love Quilting Circle
- 1:30 pm Cancer Companion
- 7 pm LWML Mary/Martha Circle

Wednesday 3/11

- 9:30 am ELC Chapel
- 5:15 pm Praise & Worship Team Rehearsal
- 6 pm BASIC & Confirmation Class
- 6:30 pm MidWeek Lent Service

Thursday 3/12

- 6 pm JuBellation Handbell Choir Practice
- 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday 3/13

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video
- 5 pm Hunter Education Class

Saturday 3/14

- 8 am Hunter Education Class

3/15-3/21

SPRING BREAK

Sunday 3/15

- 9:45 am Adult Sunday School

Monday 3/16

- 6 pm American Heritage Girls
- 6:30 pm Trail Life USA Mtg
- 7 pm Card Making

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Tuesday 3/17

HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY

- 7 am Men's Bible Study
- 1:30 pm Cancer Companions
- 7:30 pm Theology on Tap

Wednesday 3/18

- 5:15 pm Praise & Worship Team Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm MidWeek Lent Service

Thursday 3/19

- 6 pm JuBellation Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Saturday 3/21

- 10 am Wanda House Visitation
- 11 am Wanda House Memorial Service
- 12 pm Luncheon

Sunday 3/22

- 9:45 am Adult & Children's Sunday School

Monday 3/23

- 9 am Women's Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Trail Life USA
- 7 pm Card Making
- 8 pm LCMS-U Fellowship & Bible Study

Tuesday 3/24

- 7 am Men's Bible Study
- 1:30 pm Cancer Companions
- 7 pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday 3/25

- 9:30 am ELC Chapel
- 5:15 pm Praise & Worship Team Rehearsal
- 6 pm BASIC & Confirmation Class
- 6:30 pm MidWeek Lent Service

Thursday 3/26

- 8 am ELC Picture Day
- 6 pm JuBellation Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday 3/27

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video

Saturday 3/28

- 8 am Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 3/29 - PALM SUNDAY

- 9:45 am Adult & Children's Sunday School
- 11 am Confirmation
- 12:30 pm Table Talk

Monday 3/30

- 7 pm Card Making
- 8 pm LCMS-U Fellowship & Bible Study

Tuesday 3/31

- 7 am Men's Bible Study
- 1:30 pm Cancer Companions



MARCH 1 John Burnett
Daniel Burtness

MARCH 2 Daniel Wehmueller

MARCH 3 Izzy Hickman
Linda Frey

MARCH 5 James Winter
Susan Spain

MARCH 7 Stephanie
Wehrman

MARCH 8 Joyce Jones
King Crawford

MARCH 9 Jana Winter
Alyson Lister

MARCH 10 Donna Cvederberg

MARCH 12 Margaret Hanson

MARCH 13 Lacey Tech
Shawn Thiele

MARCH 14 Nancy Arnold

MARCH 16 Lori Uffman

MARCH 17 Connie Thomas
Kaiser Gordon

MARCH 18 Connie Wetzel

MARCH 19 Henry Gordon

MARCH 20 Brayden Prockish
Robert Dieball

MARCH 28 Ann Dinwiddie

MARCH 29 Boyd Loverude
Randall Juracek
Brittany Kortan
Barbara
Genschorck

MARCH 31 Linda Simon
Kip Campbell

ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH 3 Roger & Kim Davis

MARCH 17 Dave & Kate McNeal

MARCH 25 Rryce & Kelly Burris



LCMS STEWARDSHIP

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God."

*We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

*We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.*

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

*With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!*

LCMS STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

Think of us in this way,
as servants of Christ
and stewards of
God's mysteries.



ACOLYTES



ACOLYTES

	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 8:30 am	Sun 11:00 am
FEB 28/MAR 1		Samuel Lyons	Sarah Oelke
MARCH 4	Lent Midweek 3	6:30 pm	Archer Manning
MARCH 7/8		Nolan Michael	Wyatt Barber
MARCH 11	Lent Midweek 4	6:30 pm	Taryn Thiele
MARCH 14/15		Lillian Robinett	Sarah Oelke
MARCH 18	Lent Midweek 5	6:30 pm	Jovie Winter
MARCH 21/22		Teagen Thiele	Wyatt Barber
MARCH 25	Lent Midweek 6	6:30 PM	Claire Deetjen
MARCH 28/29	Brynlee Rengstorf	Anna Larson	

ELDERS

Jon Brott, 785-410-1670

Paul Stuckwisch, 785-577-6687

Kim Zier, 913-787-2710

Randy Hattesohl, 785-259-5157

Tim Oelke, 785-565-2369

Shawn Thiele, 785-313-3950

Jay Peterson, 785-477-6185

Andrew Hudson, 308-240-1488

Kyle Larson, 913-633-1570

David Hatesohl, 785-845-8124

Vince Redding, 785-587-7957

Shane Rengstorf, 785-556-1277

COUNCIL

President

Mark Hatesohl, 785-564-0174

Vice President

Dennis Tegtmeier, 785-313-1879

Secretary

Karen Armbrust, 785-341-5908

Treasurer

Logan Winter, 913-209-3396

Adult Ministry

Walt Fick, 785-776-0879

Campus Ministry

Jessica Jones, 307-259-2155

Children's Ministry

Tristen Redding

Christan Care

Julie Hatesohl, 785-236-0493

Outreach/Missions

Garrett Lister, 785-713-1675

Fellowship/Assimilation

Carol Deetjen, 785-565-1982

Parish Communications

Chari Miller, 620-793-0121

Properties Management

Brad Brunkow, 580-716-8187

Preschool Education

Marilyn Fick, 785-776-0879

Stewardship

Lori Uffman, 785-410-0119

Youth Ministry

Natalie Winter, 785-409-9141

Head Elder

Shane Rengstorf, 785-556-1277