

St. Luke's Visitor

*But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever,
the purposes of his heart through all generations. Psalm 33:11*

From The Pastor's Pen

Ash Wednesday is **March 5, 2025**. It marks the beginning of Lent, a season in the Christian liturgical calendar that invites believers into a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal. Our **Ash Wednesday Worship Service** is at **6:30 p.m.** It includes **Holy Communion** and the **Imposition of Ashes**. The imposition of ashes is a ritual that serves as a reminder of our human mortality and the need for repentance. This act echoes the biblical truth that we are dust and to dust we shall return, emphasizing the transient nature of life and the importance of turning our hearts toward God. The ashes symbolize not only our mortality but also our need for forgiveness and the grace that God offers through Christ.

Lent lasts for 40 days, mirroring the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, where He fasted and prayed in preparation for His public ministry. During this season we are encouraged to engage in practices such as fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, fostering a spirit of humility and dependence on God's grace. Fasting during Lent is not merely about abstaining from food or certain luxuries; it is an opportunity to reflect on what truly sustains us—our relationship with God. By giving up certain comforts, believers can create space for spiritual growth and a deeper connection with their faith.

Moreover, Lent is a time for self-examination and introspection. Believers are encouraged to reflect on their lives, acknowledge their shortcomings, and seek forgiveness. This process of repentance is not just about feeling remorse for sins but involves a genuine turning away from those sins and a commitment to live in accordance with God's will. It is a time to confront the areas of life that may be hindering spiritual growth and to seek healing and restoration through God's grace.

The journey through Lent culminates in Holy Week, which includes significant observances such as Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and ultimately Easter Sunday. The anticipation built during Lent enhances the joy of Easter, as believers celebrate the victory of Christ over sin and death, affirming the hope of resurrection and eternal life.

Additionally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of faith. As individuals embark on their spiritual journeys, they are encouraged to support one another through prayer, fellowship, and acts of service. This sense of community fosters accountability and encouragement, reminding believers that they are not alone in their struggles and aspirations.

In summary, Ash Wednesday and Lent serve as wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth, inviting believers to reflect on their lives, deepen their relationship with God, and prepare their hearts for the celebration of Easter. Through repentance, prayer, and communal support, this season encourages a transformative journey that leads to a richer understanding of grace, forgiveness, and the profound love of God revealed in Christ.

If you can't join us in worship in *person*, please join us via YouTube.



It is truly a joy and honor to serve as your pastor.

“Sharing Jesus Christ’s love with those around us.”



January 2025 OFFICIAL ACTS

Transferred In
Evan Rosenow



Date	Saturday 6:00 PM	Sunday 8:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
March 1/2		Archer Manning	Wyatt Barber
March 5	Ash Wednesday - 6:30 PM - Carter Manning		
March 8/9		Taryn Thiele	Hunter Fong
March 12	Lent Midweek - 6:30 PM—Tessa Thiele		
March 15/16		Teagen Thiele	Tucker Lynch
March 19	Lent Midweek 3 - 6:30 PM - Annabelle Burton		
March 22/23		Cora Davies	Sarah Oelke
March 26	Lent Midweek 4 - 6:30 PM - Gavin Hudson		
March 29/30		Anna Larson	Macsen Wells



St Luke's Lutheran March DCE Newsletter Article

This year is the 500th anniversary of the first "Lutheran" order of service. A group of the Lutheran Reformers worked diligently to conservatively "reform" the catholic order of service. Retaining the things that had solid theological foundation, pointed to Christ, and that had been established in the early church tradition. This was a long and difficult process and was at the time pretty revolutionary (Like the reformation as a whole!). Some say this change was when the Reformation became real. Can you imagine the "discussions" that occurred in the local churches!? I'm glad I serve today, as we only have to deal with smaller and more adiaphora type issues. (I'll let you look that one up)

Something I have noticed in my time in the Lutheran church (Note: I didn't grow up in the Lutheran church) is a general lack of understanding of why we do what we do in worship. I have a couple theories to why this is but I don't think it's a lack of caring. I believe it might just be one of those things that has fallen through the cracks as other issues and topics have taken a louder/more pressing spotlight. First, in general, it is not covered specifically in the small catechism so it is often left out of Confirmation curriculum. Second, there seems to be a period where the general knowledge was lost and parent had to shrug their shoulders to their children when they asked "why do we do what we do?" The shrug of the shoulders or even worse (and I have witnessed it) a person telling the youth to be quiet and just do it in so many words leaning on the concept that youth will accept that answer and just follow along. (LOL! Not likely). **I believe this loss of this knowledge is a major reason for the loss of multiple generations of people from the Lutheran church. To those uninformed, the service can seem repetitive and boring.**

However, when a person discovers why we do what we do and then are able to personalize the gifts of God found in worship, they treasure those gifts and are often excited to share with others. I have witnessed it! I'll confess that I am one of those people!

With the hope of growing our understanding of Lutheran Worship, on March 1st I will begin facilitating a "Why do we do we do what we do?" study series on Saturday nights following the Worship service. Please feel personally invited to participate, no matter what your level of understanding is. We are going to have a fun and hopefully meaningful time exploring the gift of Lutheran worship!

Grace & Peace,

William Prann, Director of Christian Education

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.



March 1: John Burnett, Daniel Burtness
March 2: Daniel Wehmueller
March 3: Linda Frey
March 5: Susan Spain, Madeline Hosier
March 7: Stephanie Wehrman
March 8: Joyce Jones, King Crawford
March 9: Jana Winter, Alyson Lister
March 10: Donna Cederberg
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: Randall Juracek, Brittany Kortan, Barbara Genschorck
March 31: Kip Campbell

March 3: Roger & Kim Davis
March 17: Dave & Kate McNeal
March 25: Bryce & Kelly Burris



ASH WEDNESDAY OFFERING - LCMS Kansas District

Please consider participating in the LCMS Kansas District Ash Wednesday Offering, to help support future and active church workers.

You can participate in this year's offering by sending a gift directly to the District. You can contribute online at kslcms.org/donate or send a check to the LCMS Kansas District (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS, 66604-1104) with the designation, "Ash Wednesday Offering."

St. Luke's American Heritage Girls/Trail Life USA Troop #0057 News

At the December 16th troop meeting, the American Heritage Girls (AHG) troop had their semi-annual awards recognition. Many families were in attendance as girls earning patches (awards) thus far were honored. A cookie exchange followed the award ceremony.

The spring calendar events started off with the Winter Lock-in at St. Luke's on Friday and Saturday, January 24-25th. February's event was on Saturday, February 22nd with a Daddy/Daughter Fun Day. On March 3rd, the AHG girls will have a Service Night at Life Choice Ministries in Manhattan.

On January 7th-8th, the boys of Trail Life USA (TLUSA) had a camp out at the church campground (BRRRR!). Over the past month or so, the boys have been busy designing and building soapbox cars culminating in a Soap Box Derby event that was held on Saturday, February 8th.

Dave & Kate McNeal, Troop #0057 Charter Representatives

CONNECT GROUPS

Sunday Adult Bible Class, Pastor Schmidt

Lutheran Layman's League, David & Julie Hatesohl, 785-845-8124 or 785-236-0493 or phoebemat@gmail.com.

Table Talk, Sundays at Noon during the school year. Meal for college students here at the church

Women's Bible Study, 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, Diane Mosier, sdmosier_2000@yahoo.com

Card Making, Janet Beach and Ann Williams

Campus Ministry Bible Study, Mondays @ 9:00 PM, during the school year; meets at the Blue House

Men's Bible Breakfast, 7:00 AM Tuesdays, Vista Drive In, Walt Fick, 785-776-0879 or fick.walter@att.net

Mission of Love (working on quilts), 2nd Tuesday of the month, 9:00 AM, Dorothy Burtness, 785-341-5530.

Cancer Companions, Jamie Spikes, 785-313-1587; Judy Boye, 785-320-6355

Theology on Tap, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM, Rockin K's, 1880 Kimball Avenue, Manhattan

TRAIL LIFE USA AND AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS

St. Luke's owns and operates **KS0057 Troop**, Trail Life and American Heritage Girls. **These groups meet during the school year.** For TLUSA, boys Kindergarten through 12th grade meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM.

For AHG, girls Kindergarten through 12th grade meet the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month from 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM.

FROM JUDY BOYE - Her name is --- Moana

Some of you have seen Moana either in a church service or in a meeting with Judy Boye.

Moana is a 9-month-old KSDS puppy. KSDS Assistance Dogs is located in Washington, KS.

They breed their own puppies, Labrador or Golden Retrievers. Moana happens to be a Labrador, Golden Retriever mix. At 8-10 weeks old, the puppies are entrusted to "puppy raisers" for about 18 months. The puppy raiser's job is to house train them, teach them basic commands and to socialize, socialize, socialize. When they go back to KSDS Assistance Dogs, the trainers will determine what each dog is suited for, either a service dog, guide dog or a facility dog. Then they provide professional training. After their training, they are matched with a person who has gone through an application process. The person receives the dog free of charge.

My story goes back to Dankin, a KSDS Assistance Dogs puppy. We lived in Hiawatha at the time and I had become aware of KSDS. Our family became a puppy raiser for Dankin, a black lab. After our 18 months and his formal training, we were able to attend Dankin and his new partners graduation. His partner was a mid-20 year old girl from Florida. She had a disability that required her to use a wheelchair. Dankin could pick up things she dropped. He could stand in front of the wheelchair so that she could brace on him to get up. With a rope tied to a doorknob or handle he could pull a door open or shut. With a rope tied to a laundry basket, he could pull it to the washer. A service or guide dog enhances a disabled or blind individuals independence.

The socialization is so important, because the person who receives the dog goes to many of the same places as you do; like work, the doctor, the grocery store and we hope church.

It is best if you do not go up to the puppy in training or a service dog unless you ask if you can approach the dog. Please give Moana a little grace, as she is still a puppy.

Our church is welcoming to those with a disability and shares God's love with them.

Mission of Love

We had 26 quilts blessed at our Worship Services Feb 22, 23 which will be delivered to Orphan Grain Train in Wichita.

We Thank anyone that has helped us continue this Mission Project either by donations of fabric sheets, filler worn blankets etc. Most of all to the ladies that spend hours at home making the Quilt tops and the approximately 10 that help tie them on the 2nd Tues of each month and take them home to bind them.

We are always more than happy to receive fabric; many items of clothing that have large areas that can be cut into blocks are also welcome.

We feel this is such a small Mission of Love that reaches to so many! Our Wichita OGT has delivered a U Haul load of quilts and supplies to the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, AZ. (I'm sure they were put to good use in this unseasonably cold winter.) Other shipments have recently been delivered to Lithuania and the Ukraine.

We especially pray for safety for all the people that handle and deliver these quilts to their final destination and that they will reach the people that are most in need of them.

Dorothy Burtness 785-341-5530

God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



TRAVELING BULLETIN

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Marysville, KS
Garrett & Alyson Lister

Trinity Lutheran Church, Broken Arrow, OK
Kaitlin Krause

(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. Thanks!)