

Weekly Update



In light of the Covid-19 emergency, the **St. Luke offices and all St. Luke buildings are closed, and staff is working from home**. If you call and want to leave a message, please, press "1" after the recorded message has begun. We check the church voicemail daily. For faster service, email office@stlukechurch.com. If an emergent pastoral care need arises, contact Pr. Beth at 814-421-6877. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

For the Week of April 4 - 11, 2020

WORSHIP

Join us online for worship on SUNDAY MORNINGS at 9:30 am on Facebook Live. Go to St. Luke Lutheran Facebook page at 9:30 am and look for the worship there. You can also go to the Facebook page to watch the recording at a later time.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services will be available online at 7:00 PM this coming Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10.

A **Worship Resource** will be sent out that will help you follow along and participate in the worship.

A special **"Worship in the Home during Holy Week"** is attached for those who want to include something for each day from Palm/Passion Sunday to Easter Sunday.

Offerings, which are part of our worship and thanks to God, are still needed and are being accepted electronically and by mail. Check our website www.stlukechurch.com and scroll to the bottom of the homepage to connect with online giving. Also, you can text to give at (503) 741-2246: note that credit card fees will apply with text-to-give.

Prayer Pause – Pastor Beth devotes **WEDNESDAYS**, 4:00-4:30 for prayer... If you have prayers you'd like Pr. Beth to include please send them to her at: pastorbeth@stlukechurch.com. The first part of this time will also be Live streamed on St. Luke's Facebook page.

Prayer List: Hal Yackley (memory care), Daniel Alrick, Georgann Dustan, Gary Tremper, Gladys Johnson, Gary Hofsommer, Becky (daughter of Gayla and Jeff Ross), Brittany Teodorski, Genie Parker, Steve Blindheim, Henry Heuer (leukemia), Will Heuer, Wendy Metz, Bonnie Brunk, Dee Mills, Lou and Sonja Perkins, Dottie Inman, Harry Flesher, Father Richard (St. John-Fisher, recovering from surgery), Jean Nichols and her family in the death of her husband Don, and those incarcerated.

CONNECT

Call or write a fellow member of St. Luke to visit and find out how they are doing. Maybe share a favorite memory of a time you shared with them.

Join Pastor Joel on **Mondays for “Happening Hour” beginning April 6.** Every Monday in April, 4:30-5:45 PM (or longer if there’s energy). Come together to share what’s happening in your life and talk about a particular topic. Here’s the link to the meeting. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9080847643?pwd=QmhCcWdadnNvNU5YbC80QzVHdXg3dz09>

Wednesday Wanderings (weather permitting) - if you live near some of our more vulnerable members (or have nonmember vulnerable neighbors), but you yourself are able to get out for a walk: pick a time for a walk on Wednesday and let those neighbors know that you will plan to walk by, wave, and even chat from across the yard at that time.

Middle School Ministries is holding Zoom (online) meetings on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. Contact Joan Snyder: cell number (503)349-4737; e-mail is vanderweele@comcast.net.

For **SLY/High School** group contact Judy Willis (judy@stlukechurch.com) and **Children’s Ministry** contact Kim Weber (childrensministry@stlukechurch.com).

Pastors are available during regular hours: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (Monday – Friday) to visit by phone. No in person visits are being scheduled. Emergency situations will receive the needed response. Pastor Beth (pastorbeth@stlukechurch.com) takes Mondays off and Pastor Joel (pastorjoel@stlukechurch.com) takes Fridays off.

SERVE

*** We encourage those who are part of higher risk populations to refrain from unnecessary exposure that some of these SERVE opportunities present. Options for staying in place and still participating will be noted.**

Write notes of encouragement to residents and staff of care facilities; OR **make suncatchers** for the residents.

Make facemasks: Here’s an article from the Washington Post on a DIY face mask and some basic criterion: https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/wellness/masks-diy-coronavirus/2020/04/01/20830f5e-7420-11ea-85cb-8670579b863d_story.html

Sign up to help in our effort to check-in with **every member of St. Luke by phone** during this pandemic. Call the Church Office to sign up.

SW Hope Food Drive is St. Luke’s service focus for Lent. As a result of the pandemic’s impact they are experiencing reduced donations. Think about sending the money you would have spent going to the grocery store to pick up items for this effort. You can send a check to:

Neighborhood House
7780 SW Capitol Hwy
Portland, OR 97219 (On the memo line: SW Hope)

For online donations please visit the SW Hope website and click the donate button
<https://nhpdx.org/sw-hope/>

Volunteer **as a family to help get Gladys’s Garden** (at the back of Vermont House) **ready for planting.** Gladys’s Garden is an organic, educational, community-supporting garden. Contact David Medford at parkereu@aol.com or (503)244-6615 or Judy Sims, (805)637-3201. Only one family will be scheduled per day.

Church Office: Phone (503) 246-2325
4595 SW California St
Portland OR 97219-1690

WORSHIP IN HOME DURING HOLY WEEK

Our home devotional series draws from the Gospel reading for the daily lectionary and is designed to be hands-on and accessible for all ages. Families with children may want to pick an age-appropriate Bible (Spark kids, or an NIV translation) to use for the Gospel readings. For the full list of Bible lessons for each day, check out:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=A>.

Home Devotional: Palm Sunday

Set up a small table to be a devotion table for the week. You may decorate it with a tablecloth (representing cloaks that people placed in front of Jesus' donkey), a candle, your palm or palm cross, a snipping from a tree branch, or something else that reminds you of Jesus riding into Jerusalem. Each day we will read a Bible passage and add an item to the table.

Bible reading: Matthew 21:1-10.

People today often judge one another by what kind of car they drive. Those who can afford to do so often choose a vehicle that expresses something about them, such as outdoorsy, tough, or eco-friendly. In biblical times, when a king rode into town, his choice of ride gave people more specific information: a king usually rode in either on a war horse as a sign of battle and domination. A donkey was a far humbler mount: for a king to ride into town on a donkey spoke of peace.

Prayer: Thank you, holy God, for entering our world in a humble, loving way in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Home Devotional: Monday of Holy Week

Find something that smells beautiful (but won't perish or get eaten by the dog).

Bible reading: John 12:1-11

a gift of extravagant love.

Usually when we hear of something filling anything in John's Gospel story, it is when God does a miracle (like turning water into wine or turning a few loaves and two fish into an all-you-can eat picnic). Here, one woman's act of over-the-top act of love fills the room with fragrance. Her act is sign that shows how over-the-top God's love is for the world, and Jesus defends her act to those whose arguments would normally sound reasonable.

Prayer: Thank you, gracious God, for your over-the-top, extravagant love. Fill our lives with your love and help us to share your love with those around us. Amen.

Home Devotional: Tuesday of Holy Week

Find one or more of the following: a seed, something written in a foreign language, or something you shared in Show-and-Tell.

Bible reading: John 12:20-36

It was time for God's show-and-tell. John's Gospel began with John the Baptist sending local men to see (to get to know) Jesus. Now that his reputation is drawing foreigners – the wider world – Jesus knows that it is time for him to share the big last sign of just how much God loves the world. He is going to show the world that God is willing, not just to become human, but to die and break death out of love for us all.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for deeming us worth dying for. Help us to see ourselves – and those we meet – as worthy of such love. Amen.

Home Devotional: Wednesday of Holy Week

some coins, and either a piece of bread or a bowl that could hold dipping sauce.

Bible reading: John 13:21-32

At some point or another, we will all betray someone. Perhaps we will betray our own ideals; likely we will say or do something that hurts someone else or the environment. It's a part of being human. When someone betrays or slanders us, instead of seeking revenge and instead of holding onto bitterness, may we remember that we, too, hurt others. May we seek to forgiveness, and may we seek to forgive.

Prayer: Holy God, for the ways we betray you by using others and the environment, for the ways we are selfish and greedy, for the ways that we are judgmental, we are sorry. Thank you for loving us anyway, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Home Devotional: Maundy Thursday

find a towel, maybe a pitcher with water (to remind you of washing feet). Take a picture or join us on Zoom at 5pm to do a show and tell about your devotional table.

Zoom meeting invite:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/542102334>

Meeting ID: 542 102 334

Bible reading: John 13:1-17, 31-34

Who has washed your feet? Today people usually feel awkward about letting someone else wash their feet. In Jesus' day, it was common for the lowliest of servants to wash the guests' feet. (Remember someone else who cleaned feet just a couple of days ago?) Jesus chose to do this job, to serve, in order to show that God's way is the humble, loving way. Who would you serve in order to show them love? How might you do it?

Prayer: Thank you, dear God that you chose to be humble and low, to serve out of love. Help us to become leaders who follow your example so that our world can know love in Jesus' name. Amen.

Our Live stream at 7pm will end with us stripping the altar. This is both a reminder of Jesus' experience and a way of getting things out of the way for a deep clean before Easter. (Altar guilds are pragmatic.) On Thursday night after dark, your job is to remove everything from your devotional table.

Home Devotional: Good Friday

a thorny blackberry branch, maybe a small cross. If you can cover the small cross with a black cloth symbolizing death, that would be good.

Bible reading: John 18:1-19:42.

To read it as a play, follow this link:

<http://oremus.org/liturgy/lhwe/john.html>

This is the story of how Jesus died. It's long, and violent, full of rejection, and awkward. On this day, God experienced all the different kinds of suffering we people can have: betrayal, abandonment, ridicule, rejection, physical pain, shaming, death, and the death of a child. When we go through painful times, we have a God who has been there – God chose to be there in order to be close to us, to understand us, to love us. This dark story reminds us that we are not alone, even in the worst times. That's why a Friday with such a bad story is called "Good Friday."

Prayer: Dear God, through what Jesus endured on Good Friday, you came to join us in even the worst situations of our lives. Thank you for loving us that much. Help us to trust that you are there, even when we feel forsaken. Amen.

Home Devotional: Holy Saturday

Find a stone (to remind you of the stone that sealed the tomb)

Bible reading: John 19:38-42

Have you ever had to make-do? "Making-do" is when your first plan falls through, and you have to go with something you would not have chosen. Neither Joseph of Arimathea nor Nicodemus had wanted to have to bury Jesus at all: they had hoped he would live! And yet, because they want to do right by Jesus, they risk their lives by asking the Roman ruler for Jesus' cadaver, they make themselves unclean by touching his dead body, they wear themselves out by hauling his body and 100lbs of burial spices, and they make do with a nearby tomb, because they don't have much time before the Passover begins. It was risky, gross, hard, and far from ideal, but God worked through their "make-do" arrangements. God can work through ours, too.

Prayer: Holy God, thank you for the courage that Joseph and Nicodemus showed in order to show love for Jesus. Help us to be courageous, too, and to trust that you can work through us, even when things don't go how we had hoped. Amen.

Home Devotional: Easter Sunday

Blow An Egg:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8c3qEM2xA8>

(You can do so with water, food coloring, and vinegar if you didn't buy Easter Egg dye kits.) If you don't have real eggs, a plastic one will do. The point is that the egg is empty – like the tomb.

Bible reading: John 20:1-18

The tomb was open – and the body that was supposed to be in it was gone. The grave was empty of Jesus: God had brought him to life. Easter reminds us that the things we fear – rejection, suffering, and death – while very real, will in the end be found empty. God's love brings love out of rejection, compassion out of suffering, and life out of death.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for loving us so much that you would bring good things out of bad things, life out of death. Help us to trust your love so that we can love ourselves and others, in Jesus Christ, who lives, amen.