



St. Luke Lutheran Church

March 1, 2024



SPRING MESSENGER

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is – what is good, pleasing, and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

On Ash Wednesday we are invited into the Season of Lent by acknowledging our need for repentance. We often associate the act of repentance with a feeling of guilt or regret which, historically, the church has encouraged. Near the end of the sixteenth century, Roman Catholics and many Protestants believed that when Jesus called us to repent, he was talking about regret, sorrow, or remorse, instead of a radical change in our thinking and living. When he says in the gospel of Mark, "the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news" (1:15), the English translation of the word "repent" doesn't capture its full meaning in the original Greek. The Greek word, *metanoia*, indicates a fundamental shift or movement (*meta*) of the mind and heart (*noia*).

With that understanding, the repentance that Jesus speaks of is a transformative movement, an elemental change of life that is deeper, more intrinsic, and far-reaching than our common understanding of the word 'repentance.' It asks us to think differently and change the direction of our lives. We are being invited to turn around, to change the form, to take on a whole new identity. This is what I believe Jesus meant when he declared, "No one can see the kingdom of God without being born again." (John 3:3)

So, I invite us, this Lenten season, to practice *metanoia*. Where do our hearts and minds need shifting? A change in focus? Energy turned in a different direction? Hearts opened to loving ALL God's children instead of those most easy to love? Our invitation this Lent, and perhaps every season is to hear Jesus' call to us, "Come follow me". And in our response, may we be open to *metanoia*.

Blessings and love,

Pr. Patti



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St. Luke
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP

Special Sundays March—May

March 10—Dancing Our Prayers at 10:30am—Daylight Saving Time

March 17—First Communion at 10:30am

March 24—Palm Sunday one service only at 10:30

March 28—Maundy Thursday at 6:30pm

March 29—Good Friday at 12pm & 6:30pm

March 31—Easter Sunday at 8am, 9am & 10:30am

April 14—Youth-led Worship & Vermont House Blessing

April 21—Creation Care Sunday

April 28—Blessings of the Quilts & Camp Lutherwood Sunday

May 5—Rachel's Day

May 12—Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

May 19— Pentecost at 9:15 & Confirmation Sunday at 10:30

May 26—Holy Trinity Sunday

Save-the-Dates

June 2—HS Senior Sunday

June 9—New Member Sunday

WORSHIP

Join us in worship as we journey to the cross, the tomb, and into the new life of Easter. We welcome people into the journey of faith through baptism, we celebrate young people who are affirming their baptisms, and we affirm God's gifts and calling on us all as we gather around Word and Meal.



Modern Worship Service (Sunday 9:15)

Traditional Worship Service (Sunday 10:30)

ABOUT WORSHIP AT ST. LUKE

Lenten Services - Holden Prayer Around the Cross

Wednesdays in Lent beginning **March 6, 13 & 20 at 6:30pm** for a lovely midweek healing Lenten service. We will also offer a livestream for March 20. For more information contact Pastorpatti@stlukechurch.com or Pastorbeth@stlukechurch.com.

Palm Sunday Passion Narrative – Gospel of Mark

Tell the story of Jesus this Palm Sunday, March 24! This Sunday we share the Passion Narrative, where each character in the story of Jesus' final days has a voice. Sign up to read the voice part of Jesus, a disciple, or an enemy, and help to bring the story to life. We rehearse from **10-11am on Saturday, March 23**, and then share the story in **worship on Sunday, March 24 at the 10:30** service.

Here are the scripts: <https://www.oremus.org/liturgy/passion/mark.html>

Here is the signup: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60BoE49ACAE22A5FE3-47891799-passion>

Holy Week Services

- **Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday—10:30am.** We begin with a joyful Palm procession and hear a dramatic reading of the Passion narrative.
- **Maundy Thursday – 6:30pm.** Meaning “Commandment Thursday” we hear anew Christ’s call to love one another as he has loved us. We take part in Holy Communion and in the stripping of the altar.
- **Good Friday – Tenebrae service at 12pm and 6:30pm.** We hear the story of Jesus’ suffering and death as he poured out his life out of love for the world.
- **Easter Sunday – Services at 8am, 9am (note time change) & 10:30am**— We celebrate that Christ is Risen: the tomb lies empty!

Not able to join us in-person? Worship with us online! Our 10:30am service is livestreamed on Facebook and saved on YouTube via our website: www.stlukechurch.com. For full participation online, you will want your bulletin! Download the Worship Bulletin: www.stlukechurch.com.

MUSIC MINISTRY—GERRY BRENES

Greetings, beloved members of St. Luke,

As we step into the vibrant season of spring, I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving alongside you for almost two years now. It has been a journey of growth and learning, one that continues to enrich my spirit as we explore the boundless possibilities of music in our worship and community life.

In the upcoming weeks, we are embarking on a profound Lenten journey together, delving into the depths of reflection, abstention, and healing through the power of music.

Here are some exciting updates and events to look forward to:

Holden Prayer Around the Cross: Join us every **Wednesday, March 6, 13 & 20 at 6:30pm** evening during Lent for Holden Prayer Around the Cross, a contemplative service where we gather in the quiet darkness to surrender our worries and sorrows to God. All are welcome to come forward, and for those who feel called, we encourage the ministry of laying on of hands to bring comfort and solace.

Rejoice Choir Reunion: It brings me immense joy to witness more members returning to the Rejoice Choir after a period of absence due to the pandemic. Let's continue this positive trend by inviting ourselves to join in **Thursday evening rehearsals from 7:30pm-9pm**. Your voices are a cherished addition to our community.

Join us in imagining a vibrant future for our **Modern Worship Team**, where the energy is palpable and the possibilities are endless. Picture the excitement as our band members spread out across the front steps, creating a dynamic and immersive worship experience for all. But to bring this vision to life, we need your help. Step up and join us as we strive to take our worship to the next level. Together, we can make this dream a reality, creating a space where music and spirit intertwine in beautiful harmony. Join the Modern Worship Team and be a part of shaping the future of our worship community. Let's make it happen, together.

Opportunities for Music Leadership: Explore opportunities to serve as music leaders within our Modern Worship Team, the St. Luke Ringers bell choir, and various other roles throughout the year. Your talents and dedication can inspire and uplift our worship experience.

Youth Music Ministry: We believe in nurturing the musical gifts of our youth. Stay tuned for opportunities for our young members to take the lead in worship through music.

Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 1st: Mark your calendars for **May 1st**, when we will host a Spring Concert in conjunction with our Wednesday church night. Join us for a delightful evening of music, featuring beloved choir anthems, enchanting bell pieces, and more, showcasing the beauty of our musical journey over the past year. Before the concert, enjoy a delicious dinner as we fellowship together in celebration.

Let us continue to journey together, guided by the transformative power of music, as we deepen our connection to one another and to the divine. May the melodies we create together be a source of comfort, joy, and inspiration in the days ahead.

With gratitude and harmony,

Gerry Brenes, Music Director

MUSIC DATES

Lenten Services

Holden Prayer

Around the Cross

Wednesdays, March 6, 13
& 20 at 6:30pm

Modern Worship Team

Thursday at 6pm—
7:15pm for rehearsals

Rejoice Choir Re- hearsals

Thursdays at 7:30pm—
9pm

Spring Concert

Wednesday, May 1 at
6:45pm





GODLY PLAY

St. Luke Children’s Ministry focuses on teaching God’s love and bringing meaningful connections to the faith journeys of our young members ages 4 years to 5th grade. Sunday offerings: Children’s church is a hybrid offering during the 9:15 service in which children have the option to attend both worship with their families and a brief children’s session during the sermon. **Godly Play**, Bible storytelling with beautiful wooden materials, integrates liturgical elements, and invites children’s innate capacity for curiosity and wonder. Offered at 10:30 alongside all youth classes and parents’ group, Godly Play story is nested within the structure of traditional Sunday School where children attend the entire 60 minutes. **Early Birds**, an in-between worship services program, gives children plenty to do between 10-10:30: planned crafts tie into church/seasonal themes, service projects, or just-for-fun! Get on the mailing list to find out all the good stuff we’ve got in store each week! Email Kim: childrensministry@stlukechurch.com

Invite your friends and grandchildren to come by and visit us any Sunday for our children’s hour **10:30—11:30**. Additional Sunday morning programming:

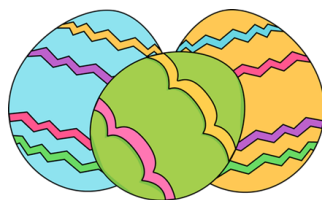
9:15—9:45—Children’s Church—experience a shortened lesson during the sermon. Children return for communion.

10—10:25 Early Birds Craft and STEM Activities.

Hosannas! We are seeking young musicians to participate in Easter Sunday worship, March 31. Rehearsals in March. Please email Kim if your child is interested childrensministry@stlukechurch.com

EGGSTRAVAGANZA! Egg Hunt Saturday, March 30, 2023 at 10 AM – Noon

Join us for a Godly Play story, Egg Hunt, Pancakes and Crafts – Open to the Whole Community!



Our amazing nursery team led by Lisa Sickler has offered nursery year-round throughout 2023. Children birth-5 years can go play in a safe and happy space while their caregivers get recharged through worship or through fellowship at Parents’ Group. Huge gratitude to our nursery caregivers!



Kinderprep News

Open House—March 2, 10:30am—3pm

Spring Break Camp with Teacher Julia Hernandez of KinderPrep, right here at St. Luke!

March 25-29 AM and PM options (see flyer)
Art Play with Teacher Julia Hernandez

Please contact Julia: eqfoundations@icloud.com
971.331.4229 <https://kinderprep.net/>



Looking Forward

VBS—Vacation Bible School, June 17—21. Please read [here](#).

Camp Lutherwood, June 23—27. Register [here](#) and did you know, there are St. Luke scholarships available for all ages, including confirmation camp for middle schoolers.

Looking Back

Children’s Ministry Kids “played a role” in Advent Worship with a Nativity Play. Our sheep played by Sofia, Angel Gabriel played by Diana & Mary played by Yolande.



Sofia Corban



Yolande Adibonou & Diane Tuttle

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES

Immersing Middle Schoolers in the love of God...so that they can minister with hope & love in St. Luke and the wider world.



Middle School Ministries

Looking forward!

Christ Kin is resuming! Christ Kin is a 1:1 caring ministry where a member of the wider St. Luke community is paired with a middle school student. Christ Kin pray for their student daily, write notes at least once/month in a Secret Santa-style note delivery, and show up for the big reveal on Friday evening, **April 19**. Christ Kin, especially those matched with 8th graders, are encouraged to be present at Confirmation on May 19. What do MSM students do? They write their Christ Kin at least once, and look for them at the Spring Retreat. We will have Christ Kin cubbies set up in the Ministry Center for the letter exchange (and for gratuitous treats). Much thanks to Lisa Sickler (lisasickler@gmail.com, 503-550-4107) for stepping up to make this ministry happen!

We gather Sunday Mornings at 10:30am in Lower Shalom

- * **March 3, 10** (in worship together for Dancing our Prayers with Mending Wings), 17
- * **April 7, 14** (in worship for youth-led worship), 28 (with Camp Lutherwood)
- * **May 5, 12, 19** (in worship for Confirmation)
- * **June 2, 9** (end-of-year celebration)

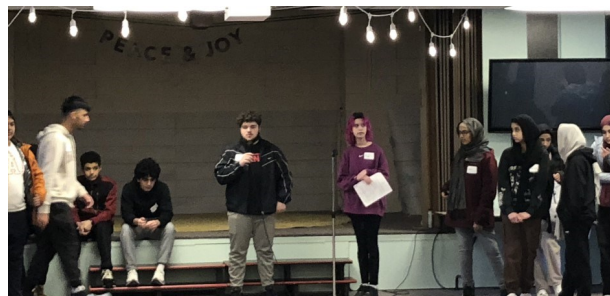
Spring Retreat is Friday, Apr. 19-Sunday, Apr. 21! We meet at St. Luke for dinner and intergenerational programming, then travel to Seaside for a 2-night overnight, filled with faith formation, games, worship, service, and community. RSVP “yes” for your student here: <https://forms.gle/gRUdjiL6n23HNxRM7>. For the retreat to work, we need parents and other adult leaders. Sign up here to make our (truly-wonderful!) retreat happen: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60BoE49ACAE22A5FE3-47907321-msmspring>.

Confirmation – Sunday, May 19 at the 10:30 service! When students near the end of 8th grade, we give them their first opportunity to affirm their baptism – to be Confirmed. This is when they first get the chance as adults to say “yes” to the God who has claimed them in love. 8th Graders & Parents meet with Pr. Beth **March 10 after the 10:30 service** to learn about Confirmation.

Looking back! Thank you to all who made our Winter Retreat a fantastic time! And thank you to all who made it possible for our rich visit with the students from Bilal Mosque!



Winter Retreat



Bilal Mosque visit at St. Luke

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES—Emily Brabham

SLY

Looking back:

Thank you to all who contributed to the **kiosk** and **sub sandwich fundraisers**! We are so blessed to have such generous people contributing to the experiences of our youth. Our SLY teens are well on their way to New Orleans. We couldn't do it without you!



Pastor Beth and I went to New Orleans in January for training with the Faith Formation Co Op and for the Extravaganza youth ministry conference. We were able to join with the other nine congregations to share ideas, learn, and have a common experience. The Design Team walked us through design thinking, faith practices, research, and led us to ministry planning. We're now at the stage of "Bold



Experimentation!" Look for more to come from our team!

The theme of this year's extravaganza was "Dream." Some great questions to ponder are what dream is God placing on my heart? Where do my dream and God's dream align? And what is your dream for the church?

We are grateful for opportunities with both Children's Ministry and Middle School Ministries. SLY recently partnered with Children's Ministry to make Valentine's and to put together the "take what you need" bulletin board. We were able to join MSM with their guests from Bilal Mosque to help welcome them to St. Luke. Last year we were able to join with MSM and go to Bilal Mosque. This is a wonderful partnership that we are blessed to be able to participate in.

Vermont House is getting a bit of a "refresh" including a fresh coat of paint. We are immensely grateful to Milo and Andrew Watson, Sabrina, Sam, and Sarah Johnson, Isaac and Linda Nelson, and Madison Reed. Without their hard work and dedication, this project wouldn't have happened!

Looking forward:

Dancing Our Prayers

Please join us as we host [Dancing Our Prayers-Mending Wings](#) on Sunday, March 10 at 10:30.

"Dancing Our Prayers are teams of Native teens who travel locally, regionally and nationally sharing their culture, spirituality and way of life. The youth and staff of Mending Wings drum & dance in full regalia, perform drama, give testimony and speak on conciliation issues between Native and non-Native America."



ELCA Youth Gathering

New Orleans July 16-20

Predeparture Meeting **March 17, 1:30-3pm** at Vermont House (lunch provided).

Youth Gathering Attendees will serve at Community Table **March 23, 1-3:30pm**

Predeparture Meeting **May 5, 11:45-1pm** at Fellowship Hall. Parents included! (lunch provided).



SLY High School Ministries (9th—12th Grades) meets every **Sunday, 10:30-11:30am** at Vermont House.

Emily Brabham, Director of Service Ministries
emily@stlukechurch.com

ADULT EDUCATION

“When did Jesus change YOU?” That was the question Dan Lee from PLU asked us to consider in his sermon on February 11. Learning and growing can elicit change and that is largely what the mission of Adult Education is at St. Luke. Current and upcoming offerings include:

Sunday Morning Parent Group

This is a great opportunity to sit still, enjoy coffee, share discussions, and build meaningful friendships. For parents of littles to parents with kids in college to parents who are empty nesters. A Sunday morning ministry held at the same time as 10:30 youth classes, carefully built into our Sunday morning schedule, to give you options for worship at 9:15 followed by drop off classes for youth and nursery. Parents Group meets December, 3, 10, 17 and January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11, 18, 25 in Upper Shalom. Continued thanks to coordinator and facilitator Jodi Swigart!

Women’s Chronological Bible Studies

Every Tuesday at 8am – ZOOM. All are welcome! Ever wonder how things in the Bible fit together? We are “chronologically” reading the Bible, with the aid of different annotated Bibles and the combined wisdom and life experiences of the dozen or so women who attend each week. We just made it into the New Testament and are chronologically comparing the accounts of Jesus’s ministry in the four gospels. Join in and we will share the reading list! Contact Joan Snyder (VanderWeele) if you have any questions (vanderweele@comcast.net).

Meeting ID: 501 766 676 Password: 378366

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/501766676?pwd=N1RKSTRTRU96NDdzeE9Ga2ZDeUpMQTo9>

Women of St. Luke Gather Magazine Studies

Meets during the second week of each month, offering various options to accommodate your schedule. For more information, please contact Marilyn Hudson or Melody Drangstveit.

Sunday, March 10—6:30pm-8pm at St. Luke Library
Monday, March 11—9:30-11am at St. Luke Library
Monday, March 11—1:30pm-3pm at members homes

Men’s Bible Studies

Every Tuesday at 8am The Tuesday morning Men’s Bible Study is taking a respite from book study and through Advent will be previewing the upcoming Sunday Gospel and Readings. In the new year we will identify and take up a new theological author to review and critique. We have not yet determined whom we will be studying. For more information please contact Jim Steele at jfsteele@comcast.net.

FridayMen’s Breakfast Bible Study: 7am at Miller’s Homestead Restaurant. Join us to study the appointed Bible readings for the coming Sunday. BYOB (Bring your own Bible).

Contact Mark Dustan (503) 703-1872.

New Adult Education Class

The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism. Hear the call to overcome today’s culture of hate and bring healing and hope into our life together. While right-wing conservative dare to call themselves Christians as they tear down equality and justice, commit horrific acts of violence, and fan the flames of fascism in America, Carter Heyward issues a call to action for Christians to truly hear God’s message of peace and love.

This is a book study group and will be facilitated by Cathy Spofford.

Classes are on **Mondays, 7-pm—8:15pm** and continues every other week. Remaining class dates are **March 4 & 18 and April 1.**

The class will be offered over Zoom. Book is available on Amazon in Kindle, paperback, and hardcover as well as Annie Bloom’s in Multnomah Village. For more information please contact Dean Gustafson at deangustafson@mac.com.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84983324517?pwd=cHVsTTRRckpCcjN6Sk16S1g5ZHRqZzo9#success>

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Meeting ID: 849 8332 4517 Passcode: 575614

Table Talk with Rev. Mark Broucker Theologian in Resident:

Tuesday, March 19, 7pm on Zoom

Saturday, March 23, 11am in Conference Room
Topics to be determined—Rev. Broucker encourages to propose potential topics. Please send your ideas to Raingard Kuhse at raingard@stlukechurch.com.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81535026421?pwd=UE5MRUpDWlEweWlyMmlEblJ5d2dEQTo9#success>

Meeting ID: 815 3502 6421
Password: 738081

Spiritual Gifts

This will be a three-to-four week pilot series starting in May in conjunction with the Stewardship Committee. This will return in September with additional sessions.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Rob Skinner

Greetings and blessings to you all. I am honored to be serving you this year and look forward to some exciting times! The pandemic is over, and St. Luke is back in action. Our year ahead will be full of great works, and I invite all of you to get involved. Membership and attendance are rising, we've got great energy going here, so let's get at it and get some things done!

A big **thank you** to Cindy Gibbon for her leadership, hard work and guidance last year, along with a big thanks also to those who serve on all our committees. Your work is truly spirituality in action. And for those of you who wish are looking for fulfillment and can help with the great work St. Luke does, **NOW** is the year to join us; we need helpers!

We are excited about our **Easter Egg-Extravaganza** (Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast) on March 30th, come for fun and food, and a chance to meet your Council Representatives (who will be flipping the cakes).

Also, our **Spring Church Workday** is coming up on **Saturday, March 23 from 9:30-12pm**. Come wash a window or weed a flower bed, we want you to help us make St. Luke a beautiful place to worship and gather.

In April, we will be asking the Congregation's help to meet some critical needs; think "New Playground" for our youth, and a "Working Heater/AC" for our building, along with "Functional Elevator!" (See where I'm going with this)?

Be on the lookout too, for some small changes with our parking later this year. We will have new neighbors soon in the apartment complex on SW 45th Ave, and we want to make sure everyone who needs parking at St. Luke can get it.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all, and if I haven't met you – please come find me and say hi. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please feel free to email me at President@StLukeChurch.com.

Rob Skinner
Council President



STEWARDSHIP - Craig Christensen

Your Stewardship Committee gathered last September to launch a fall financial campaign for 2024 ministry. Thanks to your generosity, the submitted financial "statements of intent" have provided fiscal stability for maintaining and growing the ministries of St. Luke. We are poised for a terrific 2024!



Over the next 3 months the Stewardship team is developing a customized St. Luke Spiritual Gifts course with a pilot class scheduled for May. The course will be a combination of relationship building exercises, lecture, discussion questions, written exercises, etc. The course will be multiple sessions yet to be determined. The first offering will be flexible in length. The participants can help determine the pace of the course and provide feedback on course content and timing. It will include activities for discovering spiritual gifts and exploring ways to use those gifts on ministry teams. In the course we'll be looking at ministry teams and descriptions of their ministry.

We look forward to your future participation in our Spiritual Gifts class.

CONNECT

Easter Extravaganza

Saturday, March 31 from 10-12pm

Join us for a Godly Play story, Egg Hunt, Pancakes and Crafts – Open to the Whole Community!

Wednesday Church Night

March 6 (5:45pm start time), April 3 & May 1 at 6pm. We gather and share a meal followed with an educational program. Come and bring your friends and family. First Wednesday of the month. Suggested donation \$7/person, \$20/family.

Holy Week Visio Divina at University of Portland

Wednesday, Mar. 27 at 12:45pm - join us in Christ the Teacher Chapel for a half-hour of contemplative prayer focusing on a sacred illumination from *The Saint John's Bible*. Visio Divina is an ancient form of Christian prayer in which we allow our hearts and imaginations to enter into a sacred image to see what God might have to say to us. The experience is deeply-centering, perfect as we prepare to honor Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. Pr. Beth will be taking a group from the St. Luke at 11:15am for lunch on campus followed by this time of Visio.

FAB (Fifty And Beyond)

The planning team welcomes any suggestions for day trips and coffee hour activities. Please contact one of the seven team leaders with any ideas you might have, or better yet, to say you might be interested in joining our team! The current team leaders are: Carol Greene, Dan Gott, Dale Vaughan, Ellie Moe, Louise Nuss, Marsha Swantz, and Nancy Feldman.

FAB Outing to Willamette Heritage Center in Salem

Wednesday, April 17, 9:30—2:30pm, we are planning a trip to Salem to visit Willamette Heritage Center, a place with a working woolen mill from the 1850's. Senior admission is \$8. Afterwards, we will have lunch at the Masonry Grill. Look for details regarding timeframe and signup process for this activity in upcoming publications of the Weekly Press and Daily Devotion.

FAB Coffee Hour & Presentation

On **Wednesday, March 20, 10:30am**, FAB will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a morning Coffee Hour and presentation by FAB Member Dan Gott. Upon his return from his February scuba diving trip to Bon Aire in the Caribbean, Dan will speak about the what, why and how things are in the underwater world, to include a demonstration on the difference between wet and dry suits.

Monthly Memory Café

After our last 2023 gathering on December 14th, Memory Café was temporarily discontinued until Spring 2024 due to the fact that our dedicated volunteer pianist is no longer available to provide the singalong music and because attendance has been on the decline. During this interim period, the following to-do's will be addressed:

- determine if Memory Cafe is something St. Luke wants to continue offering
- recruit a musician (preferably a piano player)
- promote/publicize for participants within St. Luke and the wider community.

FAB Looking Back

FAB group visited the holiday-decorated Pittock Mansion, followed by lunch at Sandovals Cafe.

FAB Coffee Hour and Orchid Presentation

FAB enjoyed a coffee hour with St. Luke member Susan Heuer, President of the Portland Orchid Society, as our guest speaker. Susan provided us with printed information, as well as a demonstration on the cultivation and care of growing orchids in Oregon, and gave each of us an orchid plant to take home to nurture! **FAB Pizza Party** was held to celebrate **FAT TUESDAY** and Valentine's Day with music, games, hearts, Mardi Gras beads, and prizes!

Breast Cancer Support Group

In past meetings we shared our journeys. Members read poems and passages of their experiences. Wherever you find yourself on the breast cancer journey, we hope that you will join us for both information and connection with others who themselves know the journey. For more information, contact Gerry Foote at peace-leaves@comcast.net or call Gerry at 503-706-8736 for the next meeting dates.

CONNECT DATES

Wednesday Church Night

March 6 (5:45pm start time), April 3 & May 1 at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

FAB Planning Mtg.

Wednesdays, March 13, April 10 & May 8, 10:30-12pm in Conference Room

FAB Coffee Hour & Presentation

Wednesday, March 20, 10:30—12pm in Fellowship Hall.

All Church Clean Up

Saturday, March 23, 9:30—12pm. Rain or shine.

FAB Outing to Willamette Heritage Center

Wednesday, April 17, 9:30—2:30pm.

Breast Cancer Support Group

Contact Gerry Foote for next date.

Good Words Book Group

9:15am in Library. March 17, April 21, May 19 & June 16.

CONNECT CONTINUED

The Good Words Book Group

Join the **GOOD WORDS BOOK GROUP!** Newcomers are always welcome!!! Our mission is fellowship and good books of all kinds. We meet in person on the third Sunday morning of the month except December, July and August. It's a great way to meet and stay connected with St. Luke friends.

On March 17, we will meet at 9:15 in the Library to discuss ***A Fault in Our Stars*** by John Green. Our books are chosen by group members, and our future selections are:

April 21 – ***Tom Lake*** by Ann Patchett

May 19 – ***Remarkably Bright Creatures*** by Shelby Van Pelt

June 16 – ***Lessons in Chemistry*** by Bonnie Garmus

Bring a cup of coffee and join us! Contact Caryl Walker if you have questions or would like to be added to our e-mail list, cawpdx@icloud.com.



Coming Home to Earth

Mark your calendars for **April 19 to 21**, for an opportunity to share with others in our faith community an integrated eco-centered faith retreat for Hope, Resilience and Response in today's challenging times. Named **Coming Home to Earth** this retreat will be held at St. Luke and will begin late afternoon on Friday April 19 and continue during the day on Saturday and conclude with worship on Sunday April 21.

The retreat will be led by **Sheri Brown**. Many of you are familiar with Sheri through her many devotions and meditations that have been featured at St. Luke during past seasons of Advent and Lent.

Sheri Brown is a retired special education teacher, news reporter, and video producer who has written liturgy, poems and reflections for nearly 15 years. Her writing has been described as "sometimes raw but always real," and as a "fresh perspective on old words".

Sheri and spouse, ELCA pastor Kirk Anderson (retired), live in Arizona where Sheri is affiliated with Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center. At this time they are in Idaho on an interim assignment.

There will be a charge of \$20 for each attendee to cover incidental expenses. Sheri Brown is brought to St. Luke for this retreat through a grant from the St. Luke Trust Fund Committee.

During this year's "Earth Day Season" this retreat will provide motivation within the context of our Christian faith to respond to the many challenges we face on a daily basis. We look forward to your participation in this retreat to share with our friends in Christ hope for the future.

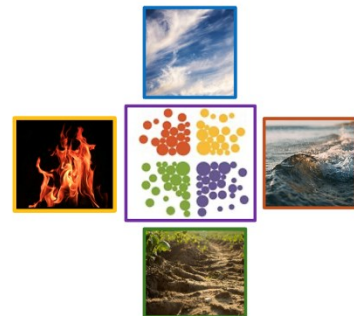
Note: Coming Home to Earth is the title of a book published in 2016, by Pastor Mark Brocker.

Here is the link to register: <https://forms.gle/EtbZpLKgM2neW8yh8>

Please scan QR here to pay for the retreat:



venmo





SERVE

Social Concerns Update

St. Luke Refugee Sponsorship 1975-2024 Gaile Baack

History

St. Luke's first sponsorship was in September, 1975, when the ten member Vo family from Viet Nam arrived in Portland. In the years following, as more people fled Viet Nam in small boats to neighboring countries, St. Luke sponsored many more refugees, including twenty in 1978. Refugees were also fleeing Cambodia and Laos. In 1979 we sponsored twenty-six people and co-sponsored forty. We also sent representatives to other congregations to talk about sponsorship. In 1980 we sponsored more than twenty-four persons, including a co-sponsorship with Lewis and Clark College. We gave money to Gethsemane Lutheran to help with their sponsorship. In 1981 we sponsored ten more refugees and gave money to Augustana and Bethlehem Lutheran churches for their sponsorships. In 1982-1983 we sponsored eight more refugees.

After a long break from sponsorship, in 1997 we sponsored the seven member Kurdish Rasheed family from Iraq and two Iranian Christian men. In 2000 we sponsored the four member Senah family from Togo, and in 2006 the three member Idiris family from Eritrea. Most recently, in 2016 we sponsored the six member al Masri family from Syria, and in 2022, the six member Nasiri family from Afghanistan.

Who is a refugee?

A refugee must be outside their country of nationality and believe that they may be persecuted in their home country due to race, religion, nationality, social group, or political opinion.

How do they get to us in Portland?

The person must receive a referral to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, an embassy, or international organization. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) must approve an application. If the person receives approval and passes medical examinations, they are assigned to a resettlement agency.

To date many of St. Luke's sponsorships have been done through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) working through our local Lutheran Community Services N.W.

When has St. Luke sponsored?

World events that cause people to seek refuge in the U.S. often move St. Luke members to want to sponsor. Other times, we have sponsored at the request of Lutheran Community Services, or at the request of refugees that we have already helped to bring family members here, known as family reunification.



Nasiri Family

What process has St. Luke used to get ready for sponsorship?

Over our forty-nine year history, the process has taken different forms. Most important is having volunteers to help with the sponsorship. The Social Concerns Committee may announce its intent to sponsor and seek people interested in helping. Signatures may be gathered by those interested in having St. Luke sponsor a family. Probably the best process was when the church was considering sponsoring a Syrian family. Ken Pierce called a meeting to talk about sponsorship which was attended by two dozen people. Gaile Baack provided a survey for each person to fill out listing the tasks needed and the times involved. At the end of the meeting there were volunteers for all tasks and two people, Leanne Van Horn and Terry Kenny had agreed to be leaders. While the gathering of volunteers for the Afghan family was done more informally, by sign-up and word of mouth, the team that resulted has been outstanding.

What does sponsorship cost?

Funding for sponsorship has come from benevolence dollars that are given to the Social Concerns Committee to allocate. Housing is the greatest expense, and families typically need help with paying rent during the early months as they also seek employment for adult family members. Refugees are eligible for government assistance for food and medical needs. Typically, the Social Concerns Committee has only needed to give financial help during the first year that a family is here.

The last two sponsorships, the al Masri family from Syria and the Nasiri family from Afghanistan, have been different from previous ones in that individuals both in and out of the church have made generous donations to Social Concerns earmarked for the families. This has allowed the purchase by the families of items not previously given, and excess money has been held in the Social Concerns account for future needs.

The church's ability to take on a new sponsorship depends on the committee's ability to provide funding and sufficient numbers of volunteers.



SERVE

Community Table

Long time volunteer, Dave Reynolds, passed away in December. We are grateful for his and Ronda's long-standing commitment to this ministry. I am personally grateful for the welcome and hospitality they showed me as I took on the position of Director of Service Ministries. As we move into the future, we need fresh leadership within the food pantry. Do you have a passion for food security? Are you interested in stocking shelves and rotating stock? Would you be interested in packing bags of dry goods or boxes of cans? These are great tasks for a duo or team to undertake together. Emily Brabham, Director of Service Ministries emily@stlukechurch.com



Grauer Back-to-School Project

It's that time of year again! Grauer will be beginning to meet monthly starting in March. Do you have a passion for preparing young people for a new school year? Are you a great communicator? Do you have relationships with the Ida B. Wells cluster of schools? We're in need of filling a few openings including logistics, communications, and school liaison. Does the possibility intrigue you? Contact Emily to find out more. See how you can make a difference in the lives of our young people in need!

West Women and Children's Shelter

Thank you for your continued support of West Women and Children's Shelter. Your donations of clothing, bedding, toilet paper etc. are a huge help.

The latest special requests are as follows: Clothing for children 3T and up especially boys (even teens), coats and jackets 3T and up; Deodorant for women and especially teenage boys.

See the list on the Ministry Center bulletin board for more ideas. Place items in the wooden bin.

You are also welcome to donate to the St. Luke West Women's Food Fund. The money is used to purchase food each week from a list texted to me from the cook.

I pick up and deliver donations each week.

Gerry Foote

Peaceleaves@comcast.net

503-706-8736

Lay Visitation Ministry

Go ahead, make my day! Yes, that is what Lay Ministers do for many homebound members of St Luke! We keep those at home connected and feel loved by St Luke and by God. We bring a smile, a friendly face, news of St Luke and the warm embrace of God's love through communion to those who cannot make it to church services. Last year 8 different Lay Visitation Ministers made over 66 visit to our sisters and brothers in Christ who might feel isolated or lonely or disconnected from church. Wouldn't you love to bring that warmth to someone today? Contact Pastor Beth or Tammy Witcosky tamo58@gmail.com and we can teach you all you need to know to be a light in someone's day.

Community Advocacy Updates

Pathways Home - Housing Justice: St. Luke stays active and connected

St. Luke members joined in a virtual meeting on February 21st for an update on homeless parking in Church parking lots and mobile services. Examples of the resources that were discussed are available to email out to members and neighbors. If you want the links and resources that were shared contact Maripat Hensel, henselresearch@gmail.com.



Please save the date: Wed. April 3rd. We will meet at 6:40pm - after the first Wed. evening meal to share information about Housing Justice in the Fellowship Hall. Community members will be invited to eat with us and to share their experiences in supporting the houseless in our midst. Meet other St. Luke members who are supporting SW Outreach and Friends of Multnomah Safe Rest Village. Meet neighbors who are housing insecure or have lived experience with homelessness.

Mini Pantry—Community and St. Luke Members' Support Continues 24/7 Food – Take What You Need!

Our St. Luke mini pantry serves the community 24/7 and is filled by members and neighbors. Members of St. Luke monitor the pantry regularly.



Two additional pantries need to be deployed into the community. Help us get the two pantries out this year. What started during the pandemic should be completed and celebrated! One pantry is intended for a Church. We hope to reconnect with this NE Portland Church to see if there is still interest. We believe the other pantry needs to be in a lighted location where it is easy to drop off food – it could be on private property or at a library or fire station. This will take outreach. Can you help?

Individuals and families, members and neighbors can support this effort. Pantry building, monitoring and deployment are intergenerational opportunities.

Activities:

Communications: Create messages for publications, social media, St. Luke announcements and Table Talks

Using Sign-up Genius to Maintain the pantry: Sign up to examine the pantry and advise about needs or issues. Here's the sign up [link](#).

Deploy the 2 additional pantries: These pantries need to be assembled and the partner organization needs to know best practices for location and on-going neighborhood support.

Tell the story about food and food insecurity for members and neighbors.

Contact Maripat Hensel If you have questions or interest: henselresearch@gmail.com



St Luke Recycles

Recycle event for some non-curbside items

Sunday, March 17, 2024
8:30 am to 11:00 am

Bring items to the Shalom Center driveway
items must be **clean** and **sorted** by category

Only items accepted



Styrofoam or
packing peanuts
no foam rubber



Small appliances



Cork



Batteries sorted into
alkaline, rechargeable
or button



CFL LIGHTBULBS
NO FLORESENT TUBES

COMMEMORATION & HONORING

In Commemoration of your many years of service!



Pat Howard

Pat Howard served as Chair of the Finance Committee for many years. He was instrumental in the transition of our accounting software from Quicken to QuickBooks.



Matt Schweitzer

Matt Schweitzer oversees the maintenance and care of our commercial property and finds new tenants when vacancies arise. Matt has also served as Church Council President.



Linda & Bill Schweitzer

Mark Jockers served as the Chair of the Personnel Committee during the height of employee retirements and turnover. Under Mark's leadership, he and the committee oversaw the staffing and onboarding of four full-time and one part-time position. Mark also serves as an usher on Sundays.



Pr. Patti & Mark Jockers



On behalf of the congregation, Church Council President Rob Skinner thanks outgoing Council President, Cindy Gibbon, with a gift basket, flowers, and heartfelt gratitude.

With gratitude: Rob Skinner & Cindy Gibbon

IN THE NEWS

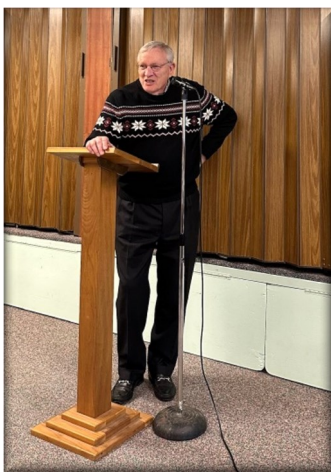
Celebrating 20 Years in Partnership—Benson Family Foundation & Pacific Lutheran University

Looking back:

Since 2004, the Benson Family Foundation has offered scholarships to St. Luke members and their lineal descendants who attend Lutheran colleges, universities, or seminaries. The scholarship was created by Dale and Jolita Benson and their daughters Carrie, Rebecca, Alisa, and Leslie. Over the 20 years since its inception, Benson scholarships have supported almost 60 students.

Attending the celebratory lunch, held on February 4th, were the Benson family, Dan Lee, VP, University Relations, PLU, and 80 members and friends of St. Luke. Speakers included Maripat Hensel, member of the Trust Fund, Michael Ford, Vice Chair of Social Concerns, and Benson scholars, Ike Jockers, Lily Rogers, and Katrina Phillips.

Kudos and gratitude to the planning team Laure Patrick, Carol Cryder, Julie Gaudette, and Jane Chan.



Dale Benson



Benson Family



Luncheon presentation

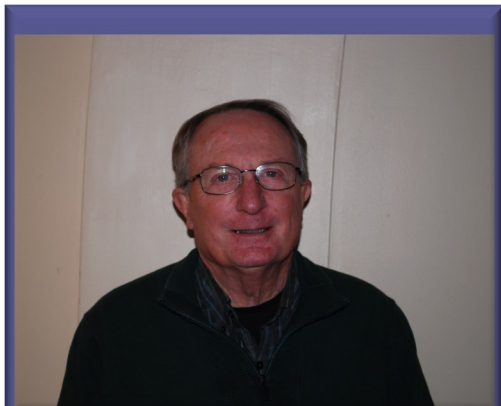
Parking Task Force

- Do you like collaborative, time-limited projects?
- Are you a hands-on person who likes to get things done?
- Do you want to make sure that our members have accessible parking places – while at the same time fostering good will with our new apartment neighbors?

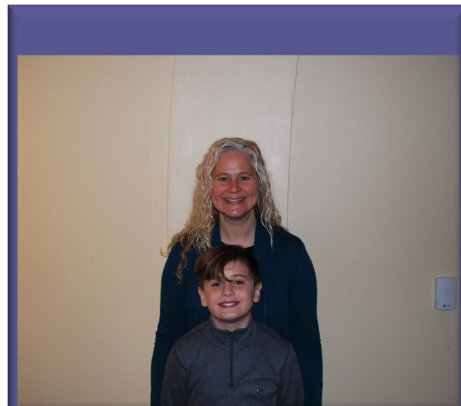
We need your help! St. Luke will soon have hundreds of new neighbors, many of whom will be looking for parking. Council leadership has drafted a parking permitting plan, and we are forming a team to fine-tune and implement it. If you have the time to commit to 1-3 hrs/week most weeks between now and July, and a desire to help our congregation both support our members and be good neighbors, please contact Pastor Beth at pastorbeth@stlukechurch.com.



Warm Welcome to New St. Luke Members



Jon Erikson



Kirsten Kyllingstad & son Leif Glick



Pepper Rehm, Oliver Rehm & Miranda Donaldson

SUMMER Messenger Deadline: May 10, 2024

Are you a ministry area lead whose St. Luke ministry is missing from this Messenger -- or would you like to share more information about your ministry area in future Messengers? Send your verbiage in an email addressed to: raingard@stlukechurch.com by Friday, May 10.



March 2024 BIRTHDAYS!

03/01	Brandon	Curran	03/13	Doug	Burke
03/01	Cathi	Holmes	03/13	Judy	Moline
03/01	Beverley	Westlund	03/15	Scott	Bremmer
03/02	John	Gaudette	03/15	Kathryn	Fry
03/03	Ron	Dobyns	03/16	Lucas	Judah
03/03	Adam	Evers	03/16	Nora	LeBlanc
03/03	Cindi	Farnstrom	03/16	Edward	Mattingly
03/03	Katrina	Fraijo	03/16	Kim	Watts
03/03	Keelin Amalia	Thornton	03/17	Julie	Hanna
03/04	James	Brookhyser	03/17	Shane	Mileham
03/04	Jon	Erickson	03/18	Carrie	Benson-May
03/04	Laurie	Johnsen	03/19	Margaret	Johnson
03/04	Julie	Kresl	03/19	Gwen	Spalding
03/04	Gabe	Volk	03/21	Ronald	Hudson
03/05	Yolande	Adibonou	03/21	Rhys	Jones
03/05	Annika	Bech	03/21	Jon	Read
03/05	Barbara	Nesbitt	03/22	Nicholas	Montplaisir
03/07	Chloe	Meurisse	03/22	Logan	Schreiber
03/07	Scott	Willis	03/22	Sam	Volk
03/08	Don	Baack	03/23	Anna Kate	Burt
03/08	Lorna	Beckley	03/23	Miriam	Greene
03/08	Abby	Farr	03/23	Gloria	Gustafson
03/08	Tracy	Meurisse	03/23	Judy	Reed
03/08	Beverly	Wallin-Endres	03/23	Paul	Weber
03/09	Blaine	Dustan	03/24	Grant	Pratasiewicz
03/09	Francine	Read	03/24	Beth	Vorderstrasse
03/10	Jeremy	Eckhardt	03/25	Jeffery	Nuss
03/10	Mary	Kidd	03/25	Becky	Turner
03/10	Carolyn	Loch	03/26	Karen	Morrow
03/10	Annie	Morgan	03/27	Wendy	Noreen
03/10	Janet	Swan	03/28	Coleen	Ahmann
03/11	Jill	Metz	03/30	Stephanie	Palmer
03/12	Eleanor	Moe	03/30	Willow	Sharp
03/12	Kathryn	Nuss	03/31	Clyde	Hanna
03/13	Gary	Bishop			



April 2024 BIRTHDAYS!

04/02	Nicole	Barclay	04/16	Liane	Nishimura
04/02	Kiely	Berg	04/17	Jeff	Ross
04/02	Zoey	Zuckerman	04/18	Tammy	Mercier
04/03	Sophie	Els	04/20	Craig	Christensen
04/04	Brian	Anderson	04/20	Chase	Clarke
04/04	Christopher	Denning	04/20	William	Loehr
04/04	Theresa	Lorenz	04/20	Jan	Petersen
04/04	Ken	Spidal	04/20	Marsha	Swantz
04/07	Greg	Barclay	04/21	Florence	Beattie
04/07	Bruce	Bayley	04/21	Lorraine	Mastic
04/07	Mary Lynn	Ford	04/22	Joan	Bridgman
04/07	David	Ramus	04/22	Elly	Schoap
04/07	Lisa	Sickler	04/22	Stacey	Usher
04/08	Susan	Grabe	04/23	John	Anderson
04/08	Linda	Norberg	04/23	Aria	Delamarter
04/08	Mike	Rasmussen	04/23	Abigail	Olson
04/09	Lawrence	Carasco	04/24	Diane	Brown
04/09	Noah	Eddy	04/25	Harry	Hayes
04/09	Peggy	Telyea	04/25	Shelby	Spalding
04/10	Tom	Ludwig	04/26	Alyssa	Rust
04/11	Josiah	Chan	04/27	Matthew	Boka
04/11	Eric	Roe	04/27	Emma	Lairson
04/12	Kelsey	Hall	04/28	Lorie	Denning
04/12	Joshua	Osbrink	04/28	Debra	Gabriel
04/12	Leslie	Singrey	04/29	Adam	Perkiomaki
04/13	Joyce	Mattingly	04/29	Victoria	Sonstegard
04/14	Jane	Osenberg	04/30	Nate	Sales
04/15	Joliene	Adams			
04/15	Chrysia	Watson			
04/16	Cooper	Curtin			



May 2024 BIRTHDAYS

05/01	Max	Borgmeier	05/19	Rebecca	Benson
05/02	Kristin	Martinson	05/19	Kara	Brenes
05/02	Brendan	Stamper	05/19	Jamie	Jacobson
05/02	Milo	Watson	05/19	Scott	Koontz
05/02	Amy	Zuckerman	05/19	Jill	Martini
05/03	Mateo	Peirce	05/20	Joe	Gresia
05/03	Chris	Reed	05/20	Lindsey	Meuser
05/03	Gregory	Schlechter	05/20	Danny	Peter
05/04	Laura	Burke	05/20	David	Wilder
05/04	Paul	Fauske	05/21	Lisa	Lynham
05/04	Amy	Gantt	05/21	William	Martini
05/04	Katrinna	Johnson	05/21	Kobe	Nuss
05/04	Nicholas	Marsh	05/21	Fred	Schobert Jr.
05/04	Cameron	Nuss	05/21	Jameson	Wirkkala
05/04	Courtney	Rust	05/22	Bill	Berg
05/06	Elizabeth	Johnson	05/22	Georgann	Dustan
05/06	Jackie	McQuiston	05/23	Janice	Peterson
05/06	Michael	Ray	05/23	Karen	Stabeno
05/07	Doreen	Ring	05/24	Bryan	Reed
05/08	Kathryn	Niemeyer	05/25	Claire	LeBlanc
05/09	Joanne	Haynes	05/25	Andreas	Peirce
05/09	Nancy	Markusen	05/25	Dominic	Peirce
05/09	Tom	Waters	05/26	Elizabeth	Bremmer
05/09	Inger	Williams	05/26	Amy	Jockers
05/10	Mark	Brockner	05/26	Zoe	Weber
05/10	Kristin	Le Mon	05/27	Thomas	Burt
05/10	Ruth Helen	Peirce	05/27	Evan	Dodson
05/10	Kyle	Pinnell	05/27	Orvin	Drangstveit
05/11	Margery	Van Horn	05/27	Bruce	Johnsen
05/12	Lorelei	Eddy	05/28	Mark	Ellertson
05/12	Lisa	Knudsen	05/28	Ranata	Niederloh
05/12	Caleb	Peirce	05/28	Tricia	Pratasiewicz
05/12	Eric	Schlechter	05/29	Logan	Barclay
05/13	Elise	Delamarter	05/29	Cynthia	Highhouse
05/13	John	Kresl	05/29	Claus	Kirchner
05/13	Heidi	Munson	05/29	Mary	Peirce
05/13	Nancy	Storteboom	05/30	Greg	Dubberke
05/14	Lauren	Spalding	05/30	Phillip	Erwin
05/15	Brent	Andersen	05/30	Lynn	Weeks
05/15	Jordan	Mercier	05/31	Erik	Ause
05/17	Heather	Erwin	05/31	Lucas	Garnica
05/17	Nathan	Hohnbaum	05/31	Leif	Glick
05/18	Shelley	Everhart	05/31	Dan	Kidd
05/18	Julie	Gaudette	05/31	Fraser	Rasmussen
05/18	Gary	Tremper			

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