

Spring Messenger

PASTOR'S CORNER-

“You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For ‘All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever.’” (1 Peter 1:23-25)

Spring is a season of renewal, growth, and transformation. Nowhere in nature is this more beautifully illustrated than in the metamorphosis of the butterfly. A humble caterpillar, seemingly ordinary, undergoes a complete transformation within the stillness of a chrysalis, emerging as a creature of grace and freedom. This process offers a profound metaphor for the life of a church congregation, as we too are continually called to spiritual renewal and transformation.

As Christians, what Paul called, “People of the Way”, we are not meant to be passive believers. Just as the caterpillar carries within it the ‘imaginal cells’—dormant seeds of its future self—we, too, carry the potential for spiritual growth and transformation from the moment we receive the imperishable seed of God’s Word.

The imaginal cells, present in the caterpillar’s skin from its beginning, remain dormant until the crisis of breakdown within the chrysalis. The old form dissolves, making way for a new creation. In the same way, seasons of struggle, change, or even crisis are opportunities for transformation. When we face challenges *together*, we are better able to let go of old patterns and allow God’s renewing work to take shape in us.

The great activist and philosopher, Grace Lee Boggs, suggested we see times of intense difficulty and struggle as not only a hardship, but also an opportunity to become more innovative, “to become the new kind of people that are needed at such a huge period of transition.”

Let us unite as People of the Way, with shared purpose and the creative ability of imaginal cells, embracing spiritual metamorphosis with open hearts and minds trusting that what emerges will be transformative. As the great hymn sings, “And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.”

Anchored in Christ,

Pr. Patti

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St. Luke
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday
March 5, 12pm & 6:30pm

Lenten Midweek
March 12, 19, 26 & 29 &
April 2 & 9 at 6:30pm

Palm Sunday
April 13—time TBD

Maundy Thursday
April 17, 6:30pm

Good Friday
April 18, 12pm & 6:30pm

Easter Sunday
April 20, 8am, 9am &
10:30am

Special Sundays

First Communion
March 16, 10:30am

Blessing of the Quilts
April 6

Creation Care
April 27

Youth Led Worship
May 11, 10:30am

Volunteer Appreciation
May 18

Save-the-Dates

HS Senior Graduation
June 1

**Pentecost &
Confirmation**
June 8

Holy Trinity Sunday
June 15

WORSHIP

There's a place for you here! We invite you to join us in a vibrant and deeply connected community. As an ELCA and Reconciling in Christ community, we affirm and celebrate the worth and dignity of all persons regardless of their gender identity, race or sexual orientation.

Modern Worship Service Sunday 9:15am

Traditional Worship Service Sunday 10:30am



Ash Wednesday March 5—Worship at **12pm and 6:30pm** with imposition of ashes as well as Holy Communion. These services launch us into the Lenten season of repentance leading to Holy Week and Easter.

Lenten Services—Wednesdays in Lent beginning **March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9** for a “Bless this Night” Holden Village Vespers.

- **Palm Procession and shared worship with St. John Fisher—April 13, Time TBD.** 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!

Serve in worship!

Worship is truly the work of a community – the work of the people— and it takes a community to create a worship service. Might you be part of the community that helps make worship happen? We are looking for:

*Scripture Readers & Prayer Leaders – contact: Cindy Gibbon
Ushers – contact: Dan Swan & Michael Curran
Communion Assistants – contact: Melody Drangstveit*

Not able to join us in-person? Worship with us online! Our 9:15am and 10:30am services are livestreamed and archived on Facebook and YouTube. Access St. Luke’s Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StLukeLuth> or via our website: stlukechurch.com. For full participation online, you will want your bulletin! Download the Weekly Update and Worship Bulletin: www.stlukechurch.com.

MUSIC MINISTRIES—STEVEN SCHAEFER

The St. Luke Music Department is always open to welcoming new and returning members! If you have ever thought about joining a musical group at St. Luke, now is a great time to get involved. Weekly rehearsals are as follows:

- St. Luke Ringers** – Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm, upstairs, Couch Room
- Modern Worship Team** – Thursdays, 6:00-7:15 pm, Sanctuary
- Rejoice Choir** – Thursday, 7:30-9:00 pm, Sanctuary/Choir Loft
- St. Luke Youth Music (K-5)** – Sundays, 11:30 am-12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall, Parents Welcome to Watch

Want to join the choir for Lent and/or Easter? We'd love to have you! Rehearsals begin **Thursday, March 6th.**

NEW Lenten Cantata: "Bless This Night: An Evening Prayer Service"

This spring, the St. Luke Music Department is excited to present a brand-new Lenten Cantata, "**Bless This Night: An Evening Prayer Service.**" Originally created in the Holden Village Community, this service honors the night and darkness as times of blessing and renewal. Themes of **creation, embodiment, and justice** will be woven throughout this reflective musical experience.

Join us for **Soup Supper & Lenten Service** beginning **Wednesday, March 12th.**

Marimba Workshop with Jeff Powers – May 3 & 4

We are thrilled to welcome musician **Jeff Powers** for his beloved **Marimba Workshop** on **Saturday & Sunday, May 3 & 4.** Exact workshop time TBD. This event is open to all St. Luke members and **free of charge!** No prior experience is needed—just a love of music and a willingness to have fun.

Sign up by contacting **Director of Music, Steven Schaefer** or filling out this Google **Form:** [Sign Up Here.](#)

Piano & Organ Concert – May 7

Join **Organist Annamarie Pearson** and **Director of Music, Steven Schaefer** for a special **Piano & Organ Concert** on **Wednesday, May 7th from 6:30-7:30 pm.**

Come early for a **Pre-Concert Lecture** (part of Wednesday Church Dinner) from **5:15-6:00 pm** to learn more about the pieces that will be performed.

This event is **free admission**, with a **free-will offering** collected to support the St. Luke Music Department.

End-of-Spring Season Concert – June 1 at 3pm.

This special event will showcase the entire **St. Luke Music Department**, including:

Modern Worship Team St. Luke Ringers Rejoice Choir St. Luke Youth

This event is **free admission**, with a **free-will offering** collected to support the St. Luke Music Department.

MUSIC DATES

St. Luke Ringers
Wednesdays, 7-8pm

Modern Worship Team
Thursdays, 6-7:15pm

Rejoice Choir
Thursdays, 7:30-9pm

St. Luke Youth Music (K-5)
Sundays, 11:30–12pm

Lenten Cantata & Soup Suppers
Wednesday, March 12, 19, 26, 29 & April 2, 9 at 5:45pm

Marimba Workshop
May 3 & 4—time TBD

Piano & Organ Concert
Wednesday, May 7 6:30-7:30pm

Pre-Concert Lecture
Wednesday, May 7 from 5:15-6pm in Fellowship Hall during Wednesday Church Night

End-of-Spring Season Concert
Sunday, June 1 at 3pm

EDUCATION—CHILDREN’S MINISTRY - KIM WEBER

Sunday Morning Gatherings

March 2, 9 & 16; Apr. 6 & 27; May 4, 11, 18 & 25; June 1 & 8

Children’s Church – during the 9:15 worship service – tea party with age-appropriate readings and discussion.

Children’s Ministry – 10:30-11:30, with early bird activities beginning at 10am. Incorporates STEM activities, Godly Play, music and more!

Music with Steven – 11:30-12noon, with a balanced blend of goofy games, community building, mixed with elevated instruction of song learning and singing artistry.



Nursery Available for ages birth-5 yrs.

Sundays 10:15-11:30am

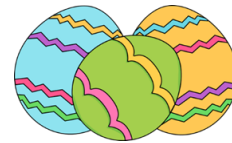
Special Events!

Apr. 13 - Palm Sunday Children’s Music

Children lead in our palm procession and sing in worship. Time TBD.

April 19, 10am-12noon - EGGSTRAVAGANZA

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



June 1, 3pm – Spring Music Concert – with Children’s Choir!

June 16-20, 9am-12noon – Vacation Bible School

St. Luke partners with KinderPrep Pre-K Learning Center! To learn more or to enroll a child, contact Julie Hernandez at eqfoundations@icloud.com, or 971.331.4229.

Or check out the website: <https://kinderprep.net/>



Looking Back

Children’s Ministry Kids, Families, AND Volunteers had a fun December 2024 participating in our Nativity and Advent Festival.





Camp Lutherwood SUMMER CAMP!

Ages Elementary through High School.

St. Luke will be sending Middle Schoolers down to Confirmation Camp

JUNE 29-JULY 3.

YES! Your rising 5th grader (6th grade fall 2025) is eligible to attend.

Scholarships available to St. Luke campers. Questions about scholarships, please ask Kim or Pastor

Beth: Childrensministry@stlukechurch.com or PastorBeth@stlukechurch.com

REGISTER TODAY! EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ENDS MARCH 1

[Registration link!](#)

Plus, discounts are stackable! Save even more when you register siblings. [Tiered pricing and camper-ships](#) are available to ensure that every family can afford a fantastic summer.



Vacation Bible School June 16—20, 2025

9am—12 pm VBS

Aftercare Available Noon-5 PM with Julia Hernandez onsite through KinderPrep

efoundations@icloud.com 971.331.4229

Preschool (age 4) – 4th Grade

Volunteers Needed: 5th Grade up to Adult

CONTACT KIM WEBER at childrensministry@stlukechurch.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY—PR. BETH

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

Looking forward!

Christ Kin Continues! Christ Kin is a 1:1 caring ministry where a member of the wider St. Luke community is paired with a middle school student. While the reveal took place at our Winter Retreat in January, we continue to write notes, share treats, and perhaps invite our Christ Kin to attend our students' concerts and sporting events. Much thanks to Lisa Sickler (lisasickler@gmail.com, 503-550-4107) for making this ministry happen!

We gather **Sunday mornings** at 10:30am in Lower Shalom:

- March 2, 9, 16
- April 6
- May 4, 11, 18, 25
- June 7, Saturday (Confirmation Rehearsal),
- June 8 (Confirmation)

Confirmation – Sunday, June 8 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 2** in Lower Shalom after the 10:30 service to learn about Confirmation. Also, please note that anyone seeking to affirm their faith will meet 1:1 with Pr. Beth in May. Please note: high school students and adults are also welcome to affirm their faith – get confirmed! Please contact Pr. Beth if you'd like to take this next step in your faith journey!

Here's the Signup Genius link for the 1:1 appointment with Pr. Beth in May:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E49ACAE22A5FE3-55012633-11meeting>

Looking back!

Thank you to all who made our Winter Retreat a fantastic time: our MSM Parent Team, the ad hoc team of parents, MSM & SLY students, Dan & Pr. Beth who planned the retreat, and all of the volunteers who made it rich!



Students at MSM Winter Retreat 2025

MSM DATES

Sunday Gatherings

March 2, 9, 16
April 6
May 4, 11, 18, 25
June 1, 8-Confirmation
10:30am Lower Shalom

Spring Retreat

April 25-27

Save-the-Date

VBS-Youth Helpers Needed

June 16–20, 9-12pm

Camp Lutherwood Confirmation Camp

June 29–July 3, 2025

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY— EMILY BRABHAM

Looking Back

January was a very full month and our youth participated in two great opportunities: a St. Luke Youth Ski Trip and the Youth Solidarity Movement's MLK Retreat. Jodi Swigart, Chrysia Watson, and Emily Brabham went to Louisville, Kentucky for training with the Formation Co Op and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network. Part of the wisdom Jodi and Chrysia are bringing back from their experience is beginning a middle and high school youth council. Here are some pictures from our adventures:



Looking Forward

March 9 we will head to the Yakama Nation to experience worship at a longhouse. Last spring youth from the Yakama Nation led us in worship here at St. Luke. This year we're deepening that relationship by being guests at the longhouse. This will all culminate in our SLAM (Students Learning About Mission) experience this summer June 22-27.

We still have space for **SLAM June 22-27** and **FLBC July 19-25**. If you are interested in either of these great opportunities, let Emily know ASAP!

We meet Sundays at 10:30am in Vermont House: March 2 & 16, April 6 & 27, May 4 & 18, June 1 & 8.



ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. LUKE

We are delighted to offer a vibrant array of adult education opportunities from March through June 2025. These programs are designed to nourish your spiritual growth, deepen your faith, and foster a sense of community among our members.

Spiritual Gifts

A heartfelt "thank you" to our Stewardship Team for facilitating a 4-Sunday Spiritual Gifts course in February--eleven participants took part! For those who missed it, we are offering the same rich material and fellowship in a two-Saturday format on **Saturdays, May 3 & 10** from 9am-12noon in St. Luke's Conference Room.

Table Talks with Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker

Table talks on Saturday mornings in-person (church conference room) and on Tuesday evenings via Zoom, continue in the spring. Topics are not published ahead of time, so please check the Daily Devotion and/or the Weekly Press for the topic of the month. These table talks are timely cultural, theological and even political topics presented through the lens of faith.

Leaping in Faith Together (LIFT) - Caring for Community: Bible Studies

This is a great opportunity to learn what the scriptures say about giving and generosity. There are five sessions to choose from—both in-person and on Zoom. Please check the Daily Devotion and/or the Weekly Press for Zoom links.

Monday, March 17, 7:00 – 8:00pm on Zoom, led by Jon Erickson and Dean Gustafson

Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 – 8:00 on Zoom, led by Mark Brocker

Saturday, March 22 and Tuesday, March 25, on Zoom, led by Mark Brocker

Sunday, March 30, 9:15 and 10:30am, Conference Room, led by Mark Brocker

Wednesday, April 2, 3:00 – 4:00 led by Dean Gustafson (followed by Prayer Pause)

Profiles in Courage and Humility

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Decisions and Ours
A Prayerful Retreat for Such a Time as This*



Profiles in Courage and Humility-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Decisions and Ours. A Prayerful Retreat for Such a Time as This

Spend a day contemplating your major life decisions in light of the Eight Life Decisions of Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Opening reflection will be led by Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker, Bonhoeffer scholar, from a draft of his new book *Profiles in Courage and Humility: Bonhoeffer's Eight Decisions* with additional facilitation by Pastor Roger Newell and Sue Newell, Pastor Terry Moe, and Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer. **Saturday, March 29 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm** at the Benedictine Sisters' Chapter Room in Mt. Angel. \$50 (scholarships available). More information and registration details available [here](#).

Voices in Immigration Rights – Francisco Aguirre: Viva Migrant Inclusive Network

Saturday, March 22, 1-2:30pm

St. Luke Fellowship Hall

Hear the stories and hard-won lessons learned by Francisco Aguirre, an immigrant from El Salvador who took sanctuary at Augustana Lutheran Church for 81 days! Francisco brings powerful personal stories and practical advice to help congregations and the community to provide safe haven for immigrants.

RSVP <https://forms.gle/qWbAaTdKaDbLwno29>

Let's grow in faith and knowledge together this spring at St. Luke Lutheran Church!

Dean Gustafson, Adult Education Chair

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. LUKE

Standing Bible Studies

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 have 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 and Margaret Farnstrom at gefarn@yahoo.com.

Meeting ID: 501 766 676
Password: 378366

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/501766676?pwd=N1RKSTRTRUq6NDdzeE9Ga2ZDeUpMQToq>

Women of St. Luke Gather Magazine Studies

Meets during the second week of each month. For more information, please contact Marilyn Hudson or Melody Drangstveit.

2nd Sunday, 6:30pm-8pm at St. Luke Library
2nd Monday, 9:30-11am—St. Luke Library
2nd Monday, 2:00pm-3:30pm—rotate in homes

A summer luncheon/picnic is planned for July or August. Details will be provided closer to the date. All women are encouraged, invited and welcome to attend.

Men's Bible Studies

Every Tuesday at 8am The men's theological book study will continue to meet every Tuesday. We will be reading and discussing “A More Perfect Union” by Aaron Russell Taylor.

The group meets on Zoom using this link [here](#). For more information please contact Dan Kidd at dan-ielakidd@gmail.com.

Meeting ID: 616 968 6873
Passcode: Sunshine

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6169686873?pwd=V3J6c25YjNKTUFVWVktYd1UvK2NNdz09>

Friday Men'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.

Table Talk with Rev. Mark Brocker Theologian in Residence

Following Martin Luther's example, we gather and discuss topics pertaining to life and faith. Our meeting times and dates are: **Saturday, March 22, 11am-12pm in Conference Room and Tuesday, March 25 at 7pm on Zoom.** Our March topic will be *[The Idol of Wealth Is Coming for Our Eternal Souls.](#)*

Save-the-dates:

Saturday, April 26 at 11am in Conference Room & **Wednesday, April 30 at 7pm** on Zoom.
Wednesday, May 28 at 7pm on Zoom & **Saturday, May 31 at 11am** in Conference Room.

Rev. Brocker encourages you to propose potential topics. Please send your ideas to Mark Brocker at brockerms11@gmail.com.

Meeting ID: 828 4706 6022
Password: 75817

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82847066022?pwd=br3XAgWUTLg2U5TO5YR1K78Duykfqm.1>

Melody Drangstveit— Church Council President

I am truly thrilled and honored to serve you all. I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to Rob Skinner and the 2024 Council for their incredible dedication and hard work over the past year—thank you! Sending a big hug to each of you!

A special thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Congregation Meeting. We covered an impressive amount of material in record time! I can honestly say I've never been to an annual meeting that wrapped up in just an hour. This truly highlights the exceptional preparation and planning that Rob and his team put into action!

You have elected a fantastic 2025 Council, and I am eager to collaborate with them as we continue the important work ahead. I am excited about what we can achieve together in 2025. While we have much to accomplish, the groundwork has already been laid for us. Thanks to the efforts of the Stewardship team, led by Craig Christensen, and the Capital Campaign team, led by Dan Swan, along with our Pastors Patti and Beth and many others, we have a solid foundation on which to build and grow!

Romans 12 resonates deeply with me and comes to mind as I reflect on our journey together. We are one body with many parts, and together, we can and will make a meaningful difference! And maybe, just maybe have some fun along the way!

God's peace and blessings,

Melody



Earl Cahoe—Trust Fund Chair

Trust Fund 2025 First Quarter report. The Trust Fund payments from the Benson Scholarship fund to PLU, CLU and St. Olaf totaled \$95,221 to cover Spring Term tuition and fees for 8 students. At our February 13th meeting, the Trust Fund Committee will evaluate 5 funding requests. The Trust Fund Committee has started the Benson Scholarship process for academic year 2025 - 2026. In addition to a Table Talk at the church services on February 9, there will be a ZOOM presentation with question and answer period on March 3rd. (Watch for the ZOOM link in the Weekly Press for February 27.) Scholarship application deadline is March 31 and students will be notified of the amount of their awards on April 4.

Craig Christensen—Stewardship Ministry Team Chair

Your Stewardship Ministry Team recently completed the 2025 Financial Appeal entitled *Joyful Generosity*. This Appeal assisted our Leadership and Finance team to establish a 2025 budget for ministry. We received 156 Statements of Intent totaling \$624,910. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to St. Luke ministry.

In partnership with the Adult Education Ministry Team, we are offering our St. Luke Spiritual Gifts class during February. This class consists of four 90-minute sessions with 11 participants. The course is a combination of relationship building exercises, facilitated discussions, and written exercises. It includes activities for discovering spiritual gifts and exploring ways to use those gifts. We will be offering our next St. Luke Spiritual Gifts class in May. This class will consist of two 3-hour sessions on Saturday May 3 and Saturday May 10th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Look for more information and sign-up instructions via Genius in mid-March.

Stewardship is about how our congregation can engage in God's work. It is about how we can together live out God's call to love our neighbors. Stewardship is directly tied to discipleship and is a way of life. It is about how generous we are with all that God has entrusted to our care both inside and outside of the church walls. Embracing this description of Stewardship, your Stewardship Team will continue to evolve our year around ministry. We are exploring other activities to enable continued growth of our St. Luke Beloved Community.



Capital Campaign Committee by Dan Swan

Leaping in Faith Together, Caring for Creation

At the January 2025 St Luke annual meeting, the resolution passed to proceed with the capital campaign. The first Sunday in February, the capital campaign team was installed by Pastor Patti Welch at both worship services after a two-day workshop. Over 30 congregation members are sharing their spiritual gifts to serve on twelve sub-committees for the capital campaign. There are still opportunities for you to volunteer and share your spiritual gifts at St Luke. During the period March to May, there will be frequent communications on the capital campaign including newsletters, video, booklet, invitations, and letters. There will be opportunities to engage in Bible study, Lift Off gatherings, Sunday school art day, prayer vigil, advance commitments event, all church banquet on Saturday May 17, culminating in pledging to the capital campaign. This is an exciting time to be part of the St Luke Lutheran Church Family. Reach out to Dan Swan dan-iel.carl.swan@gmail.com - Capital Campaign Chair if you have any questions.



Marc Rieke—consultant from the Enrichment Group

What are LIFT-Off Gatherings?

LIFT-off Gatherings are small group gatherings that provide inspiration, information, and opportunity for connection. Specifically, the St. Luke LIFT-Off Gatherings will share information about the capital campaign (without making any financial requests), give participants an opportunity to submit prayer request cards for the April prayer vigil, and allow time in fellowship with one another.

LIFT-Off Church Gatherings

- Wednesday, March 12, FAB Group, 10:30 am, St. Luke Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, March 16, 10:30 am, St. Luke Library
- Sunday, March 23, 9:15 am, Conference Room
- Sunday, March 30, 10:30 am, Library
- Sunday, April 6, 9:15 am, St. Luke Conference Room
- Sunday, April 6, 10:30 am, St. Luke, Upper Shalom, Parent Group Only
- Wednesday, April 9, 7 pm; St. Luke, Conference Room
- Sunday, April 13, 9:15 am, St. Luke Fellowship Hall Stage



LIFT-Off Home Gatherings

- Tuesday, March 11, 7 pm; Brocker (Mark and Donna) Home
- Friday, March 14, 7 pm; Christensen (Cindy and Craig) Home
- Wednesday, March 19, 7 pm; Jockers (Amy and Mark) Home
- Thursday, March 20, 10:30 am; Courtyard Village
- Thursday, April 3, 6:30 pm; Skinner (Rob and Sue) Home

Register Here



(scan with phone camera!)
or
follow the URL
below!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044DA9A72CA3FE3-55158786-lift#/>

PLEASE RSVP by . . .

Signing up at church on Sundays, or
Registering online through the church website, or
Calling or emailing with your preferred date/time and
the number of guests to [name, email, phone]
Contact Elise Moentmann (moentman@up.edu) or
Julie Kresl (juliekresl@icloud.com)

Called to Serve

An incredible team of leaders is committing energy, time and talent to our Leaping in Faith Together – Caring for Generations Campaign. This team began working together in January and was installed at our worship services on Sunday, February 2. We are so appreciative of their efforts!

Dan Swan – Campaign Chair

- Coordinates the Campaign Team and keeps the congregation involved and informed throughout the appeal.

Gary Heuer and Dan Swan – Advance Commitments Co-Directors

- Encourage early motivational commitments to the campaign.

Jane Chan and Cathy Spofford – Banquet Co-Directors

- Organize an inspiring All-Church Celebration Dinner for the entire congregation.

The Rev. Mark Brocker and Pastor Patti – Bible Study Co-Directors

- Invite our members into scriptural study on topics of faith development, discipleship and stewardship.

Maira Chin and The Rev. Beth Brashear – Children & Youth Co-Directors

- Involve the children and youth in our church through stewardship lessons and activities.

Carol Cryder – Commitment Follow-Up Director

- Coordinates a follow-up effort with those not able to be present at the Commitment Worship service.

Jim Van Horn and Dan Swan – Continuation Co-Directors

- Help track financial commitments made to the campaign, and keep the congregation informed about progress toward our financial goals.

Rob Skinner – Hospitality Director

- Encourages attendance at the All-Church Banquet and manages reservations for this special event.

The Rev. Patti Welch – Lead Pastor

- Provides ongoing spiritual guidance and support throughout our campaign.

Julie Kresl and Elise Moentmann – “LIFT” Small-Group Gatherings Co-Director

- Organize a series of small-group informational meetings for congregational members.

The Rev. Gary Rhinesmith and Janet Swan – Prayer Vigil Co-Directors

- Develop a special prayer event for reflection and discernment.

Lorelei Eddy – Promotion and Audio-Visual Director

- Creates print and electronic messaging communicating the activities and objectives of the campaign to the congregation, and develops an inspirational video for the campaign.

Cindy Gibbon, David Medford and Marsha Swantz – Resource Co-Directors

- Oversee the dissemination of all campaign communications and provide ongoing support in a variety of ways to the other members of the campaign team.

Bible Studies

- Monday, March 17, 7:00-8:00 pm on Zoom. Led by Jon Erickson and Dean Gustafson
 - Tuesday, March 18, 7:00-8:00 pm on Zoom. Led by Pastor Mark Brocker
 - Sunday, March 30, 9:15-10:30 am. St. Luke Conference Room. Led by Pastor Mark Brocker
 - Wednesday, April 2, 3:00-4:00 pm (followed by Prayer Pause). St. Luke Conference Room. Led by Dean Gustafson.
- There will be four bible study opportunities to feed our hearts and minds!



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CONNECT

Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers—All Wednesdays in Lent

We gather in St. Luke's Fellowship Hall at **5:45pm Weds, Mar 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9** for a simple meal followed by "Bless this Night" service in Sanctuary! Soup makers are needed! Sign up [here](#) to bring soup for 10 people or bread for 30! Please bring soup or bread to St. Luke's kitchen no later than 5:30pm the day of!

FAB (Fifty And Beyond)

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

Looking Back

FAB Coffee Hour and Presentation

On Wednesday, December 18th, 15 of us gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a coffee hour and special presentation on walking the Camino de Santiago by St. Luke members Ron & Marilyn Hudson.

FAB Coffee Hour and Movie

On Wednesday, January 15th, 15 of us gathered for fellowship and to view the 1996 movie *Spitfire Grill* about a young woman, just out of prison, finding spiritual redemption working at a cafe in Maine.

FAB Pizza Party

On Wednesday, February 19th, FAB hosted a Valentine's party bash in the Fellowship Hall with pizza, music, games, hearts and the movie "Billy and Molly: An Otter Love Story."



Nancy Feldman

Looking Forward

Wednesday, March 12 at 10:30am: FAB group will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a coffee hour and presentation by St. Luke members Tammy and Ron Witcosky about their 'safari' adventure.

Wednesday, April 9 at 10:30am: FAB group will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a coffee hour and special presentation by Pastor Beth about her pilgrimage in Greece and Turkey last summer, sharing her experience of visiting the places of the ministries of the Apostle Paul & John of Patmos. Originally, Pastor Beth, along with the Rev. Melinda Wagner (retired pastor from First Imanuel Lutheran Church) gave this presentation at last September's Wednesday Church Night dinner.

Wednesday, May 7th: FAB group will return to Rise Church in Tigard to attend NW Senior Theatre (NWST) performance of "*Battle of the Bandstands: Dick Clark vs. Lawrence Welk.*" This will be our 3rd outing to see a NWST show!

Monthly Memory Café

Memory Café is a ministry for persons with memory loss and their family/friend care partners to gather together on the **2nd Thursday of the month from 2:30pm to 4:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Memory Café is open to the community, welcoming people of all faiths and no faith to gather together on a monthly basis to enjoy fellowship, refreshments and live singalong music. Here are the dates for the next three months: **March 13, April 10 and May 8.** Contact Marsha Swantz: DLS-MLS@HOTMAIL.COM for further information.

CONNECT DATES

Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers

March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9 at 5:45pm in Fellowship Hall

FAB Coffee Hour

Wednesday, March 12 at 10:30am in FH.

Wednesday, April 9 at

1030am in FH.

Wednesday, May 7 at

2:30pm meet at Rise Church in Tigard for the performance "Batte of the Bandstands".

Memory Café

Thursdays—March 13, April 10 & May 8 from 2:30-4pm in FH

Cancer Support Group

Contact Gerry Foote at 503-706-8736 for next date.

Good Words Book Group

Third Sunday at 9:15am in Conference Room.

March 16

April 13

CONNECT CONTINUED

Cancer Support Group

In past meetings we shared our journeys. Members read poems and passages of their experiences. Wherever you find yourself on the 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 peaceleaves@comcast.net or call Gerry at 503-706-8736 for the next meeting dates.

The Good Words Book Group

The **GOOD WORDS BOOK GROUP** meets in the Conference Room the **third Sunday of every month** except July, August & December, and new members are **always** welcome. Here is our upcoming book list:

March 16 **James** by Percival Everett

April 13 **Goodbye for Now** by Laurie Frankel

Our mission is fellowship and good books of all kinds. Our members select our books by consensus, and new members are **always** welcome. Contact Caryl Walker if you have questions at goodwords@icloud.com.



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 **Sundays, at 10:30am in Upper Shalom**. Continued thanks to coordinator and facilitator Chryisia Watson!

LIFT-Off Gatherings

LIFT-off Gatherings are small group gatherings that provide inspiration, information, and opportunity for connection. Specifically, the St. Luke LIFT-Off Gatherings will share information about the capital campaign (without making any financial requests), give participants an opportunity to submit prayer request cards for the April prayer vigil, and allow time in fellowship with one another.

LIFT-Off Church Gatherings

- Wednesday, March 12, FAB Group, 10:30 am, St. Luke Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, March 16, 10:30 am, St. Luke Library
- Sunday, March 23, 9:15 am, Conference Room
- Sunday, March 30, 10:30 am, Library
- Sunday, April 6, 9:15 am, St. Luke Conference Room
- Sunday, April 6, 10:30 am, St. Luke, Upper Shalom, Parent Group Only
- Wednesday, April 9, 7 pm; St. Luke, Conference Room
- Sunday, April 13, 9:15 am, St. Luke Fellowship Hall Stage



LIFT-Off Home Gatherings

- Tuesday, March 11, 7 pm; Bocker (Mark and Donna) Home
- Friday, March 14, 7 pm; Christensen (Cindy and Craig) Home
- Wednesday, March 19, 7 pm; Jockers (Amy and Mark) Home
- Thursday, March 20, 10:30 am; Courtyard Village
- Thursday, April 3, 6:30 pm; Skinner (Rob and Sue) Home



SERVE

Social Concerns Update

Committee Membership 2025

Julie Gaudette, chair; Carolyn Loch, treasurer; Michael Ford, secretary; Emily Brabham, director of youth and service ministries; Gaile Baack, Jane Chan, Gerry Foote, Carrie Laurence, Laure Patrick, Nancy Scheele.

Financial Report –Social Concerns budget for 2025 is **\$52,500**, and the total amount (including special gifts) for allocation in 2025 is **\$53,333**. The Committee will share your benevolence gifts consistent with congregational benevolence guidelines, with priority funding noted by mission outreach areas noted in this update.

Quick Briefs:

In January, Gaile Baack reported that January 26 was the last worship at Luther Memorial Church, as the building has been sold to Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) for use by **Northeast Emergency Food Program**. Our St. Luke congregation has been an active supporter of NEFP since its founding with benevolence gifts, and Benson Family Foundation grants, and importantly, with multiple St. Luke volunteers of all ages, then and now.

In January, Emily Brabham reported on the **Oregon Food Bank** contract with St. Luke. As supplier of free food for **Community Table**, the Oregon Food Bank is insisting that we host two distributions each month. Since that initial report in January, interested members of the congregation have discussed this - as has Council - and St. Luke will continue our Community Table, piloting two monthly distributions in April.

Did you know? Ken Peirce initiated the **Community Table** with our congregation in 2004, and from that initial commitment, the CT has moved through several iterations: from serving a sit-down dinner with St. Luke members cooking and serving as wait staff; to the addition of takeaway food boxes after dinner; to distribution of food boxes (with no sit-down dinner); to our efforts with drive-in distribution during the pandemic; to this current juncture, moving to twice-monthly distribution.

The **Community Table** is one of our two inter-generational ministry outreaches, the other being our annual **Grauer Back-To-School Project**.

Did you know? In 2002, the **Grauer Back-To-School Project** was created in memoriam of Grace and Marion Grauer, parents of Nancy Scheele. Grace was described as “the ultimate volunteer.” She and Marion were married for 52 years. Their lives were full of family, friends, work, and giving to their community. They lived in Southwest Portland from 1969 until their death in a car accident in 1998. After their death, a bequest was made to St. Luke Lutheran Church in their memory. At the request of the Grauer children, the bequest created the foundation for this annual event. Nancy has played a central role in the establishment, nurturing, and growth of this congregational priority for many years.

Each of these ministry outreach efforts has continued for over 20 years, with financial support (your benevolence offerings) being directed through Social Concerns. **In our January meeting, the Social Concerns Committee discussed and reaffirmed long term priority commitments with both church-based ministries and partner non-profits in various ministry outreach categories.**

Church-based - **Community Table, Grauer Back to School, St. Luke Youth**, Pastors discretionary

Community-based - **Northeast Emergency Food Program, Neighborhood House Food Pantry, Northwest Pilot Project, Letty Owings Center, West Women’s and Children’s Center, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon**.

St. Luke Refugee Family Update

In February, Carolyn Loch reported that our St. Luke sponsored Afghan family, the Narisi’s will be moving to Omaha, Nebraska in June to be near two brothers and their families. The Nasiri family had recently been approved for a Habitat home here in Portland, so it was a difficult choice for them. Ramallah flew to Omaha to check out jobs/housing and is very positive. English skills of family are excellent, they are excited to move closer to family, and they are very appreciative of St. Luke’s financial and volunteer support for them.



SERVE

Social Concerns Update—continued

At our February meeting, **Becky Sprecher, Senior Advancement Manager, [Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Portland](#)**, reinforced that her nonprofit is here for the long-term, a marathon, not a sprint. St. Luke has been involved with LCSNW since the 1970s when our congregation began to sponsor refugee families. To date, St. Luke has sponsored about 175 refugees from around the world.

She talked about the mission of LCSNW, the breadth of programs for nearly 100 years. She noted that LCSNW began in Tacoma as Lutheran Family Services, now broader in NW and called Lutheran Community Services NW, serving over 60,000 people annually in multiple NW cities. She highlighted lines of service:

Refugee & Asylee Services

- Reception & Placement
- Case Management & Family Services
- Employment & Language
- Health & Housing

Community Behavioral Health

- Culturally Appropriate Counseling
- Substance Use Disorder

Safe Route Immigration Legal Services

Transformative Justice

The Training Institute

She spoke about definitions of refugees and asylum seekers and rights associated with each. Most refugees in Portland are coming from Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, South Sudan, and Venezuela. She shared global numbers of refugees/asylum seekers – 117.3 million.

She also highlighted what volunteers can do in terms of offering a warm welcome: volunteers as drivers, ESL teachers, hosting a refugee family, transportation to appointments, help with resume, watching children, donations (funding gap is real, critical right now), advocacy.

Becky noted as well that all federal funding has been cut off. LCSNW has numerous (80) refugee families in 90-day window of federal funding. Their support will continue, but after the 90-day window, there is uncertainty at this point. LCSNW will most likely cut staff, particularly for those welcoming new arrivals, as those numbers will be substantially reduced by the current administration.

Immigration Initiative

Jane Chan advised the Committee of her interest in providing seed funding for immigrant support. We discussed how St. Luke could team up with [Augustana Lutheran Church](#) in Portland, as Augustana has been at the forefront as a “sanctuary” location. Such a partnership with Augustana is being explored by Cathy Spofford on behalf of Committee.

Housing for Homeless- Multnomah Neighborhood

Gaile Baack and Laure Patrick reported on the “gift bags” for [Multnomah Safe Rest Village staff](#). Bags were filled during their retreat by middle schoolers. Laure shared slides and talked with our youth about homelessness. Gaile Baack shared thanks from director at MSRV.

The Committee also approved \$1000 in St. Luke benevolence to [ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response for LA Wildfires](#).

Our Social Concerns Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month (along with other St. Luke committees) in person (conference room) and online via Zoom. Please join us.

Interested? Contact [Julie Gaudette](#), Chair.

Serve

Community Table

We will be moving to offering Community Table twice a month! This new endeavor will require additional volunteers and donations. Do you or someone you know have an interest in 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 an individual or duo to undertake as part of our team. Training will be offered both Saturday, March 8 from 2-3pm and Saturday, March 15 from 2-3pm. You only need to attend one training session. Do you have questions or want to know more? Contact Emily Brabham at 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, underwear lead, church liaison, and school liaison. Does the possibility intrigue you? Our first meeting will be March 11 at 6:30pm in the conference room. Contact Emily Brabham at Emily@stlukechurch.com 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 women's comfortable clothing, shoes, 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

Our Lay Visitation Ministers are quietly bringing the love of God to our housebound members. Since the beginning of the year we have made 28 visits and contacts. Bringing communion, a chat, a time to connect with St. Luke and with God, these friendly faces make the day a little better, a little easier and a little more connected to our community for those we visit. One lay minister was blessed with the words "you don't know how much this means to me." And our lay ministers receive as much as they give. We not only connect with the ones we visit, but sometimes that grace and caring is extended beyond the them as those we visit pass that love on. When you feel cared about, you want to share it!

To join this loving ministry or if you know someone who needs it, contact Tammy Witcosky at tamo58@gmail.com or Pastor Beth pastorbeth@stlukechurch.com.

Memorial Services and Receptions at St. Luke

Honoring the Life of a Loved One by Laure Patrick

As a faith community we share in the grief of those who mourn the death of a loved one. A memorial service is an opportunity to give voice to our sorrow, thank God for the life of our loved one, and entrust them into the everlasting arms of God. While there are many decisions that need to be made by the family after a love one dies, our Pastors and staff are here to guide you through the process of planning the memorial service. A volunteer team is also available to help plan a memorial reception. In the coming months we will be adding a statement regarding memorial services and receptions to the church website. If you are interested in receiving information regarding the costs associated with memorial services or receptions please contact the church office staff.

Mini Pantry

Have you ever looked into the Mini pantry on the St. Luke driveway across from Driftwood coffee? If not, open either door and take a peek. If you have opened these doors or, you do so regularly -- [thanks so much.](#)

Our neighbors give and take the products that other neighbors and St. Luke members add to the pantry. This small pantry was designed in 2020 during the pandemic to get members to do various tasks to build and decorate this small vibrant structure.

We have members who regularly oversee the basic foods that are in the pantry and cleanliness of this pantry. It's not a formal group. It's the group that pulls out food that may be past date as well as the random clothing and books that find their way into the pantry.

We also have ministry areas and committees such as Quilters and Social Concerns that have dedicated time and energy collecting and deploying pantry items and keeping the pantry ready 24/7 for our food insecure neighbors who use the pantry. Each year our Middle School Ministries has agreed to help and SLY has also helped with this pantry in the past. If you do not know about the mini pantry movement here's [general information](#) about these small but mighty food resources.

We have a Sign-Up Genius to check the pantry and now we have the sign-up slots set up for twice a week: Sundays and Wednesdays. Here's the link: [Sign-up](#) for a shift or two if you are interested.

If you want to be part of a more formal group that works on this pantry, please let Maripat Hensel, henselrseeach@gmail.com know of your interest. An in-person meeting will be scheduled soon so we demystify this work and the workflow.



Serve—continued

Housing Justice in SW Portland

Here's what's happening with St. Luke outreach with SW Portland Faith Coalition and Pathways Home.

The Civic Circles Conversations in partnership with Street Roots, Friends of Multnomah Safe Rest Village and SW Portland Faith Coalition continue. The most recent conversation was held at Riversgate Church on January 23. Along with Street Roots presenters, the group that met included SW Outreach volunteers, SW Portland neighbors and other local faith community attendees. The focus of these gatherings is to have the Street Roots ambassadors who have lived experience on the streets tell their stories. They tell articulate powerful stories about the difficulties and stress of living on the streets and of the enormous benefits Street Roots plays as their work family in employing people and helping them to find transitional housing.

The next meeting for planning a different event in the late Spring (sometime after Easter) will be on March 12, 2025. It will be in person at 11am at St. Andrew's Presbyterian. We'll discuss showing a documentary film, No Place To Grow Old. Here's the [YouTube trailer](#) for the movie.

Contact Maripat Hensel, henselresearch@gmail.com if you want to join in St. Luke volunteer efforts for housing support this Spring.



SW Hope

Since 2007, the SW community, businesses and faith communities have worked in partnership to combat food insecurity. The SW Hope annual food and fund drive helps ensure no family goes hungry in our community. SW Hope supports the Neighborhood House Free Food Market, one of the largest food banks on Portland's west side.

Join a SW Hope event to keep the spirit of generosity flowing.

Empty Bowls: Sat, March 15, 1-3pm at the Senior Center

Dine Out to Donate: 9 different restaurants and dates to satisfy any food tastes and budgets

Community Meal at St. Luke's: Join us for our **Wednesday Church Night at 5:45pm**

SW Hope 5K walk & run: **Saturday, April 12** on the Oregon Episcopal School campus

Visit the SW Hope website for more information on all these events and more! <https://nhpdx.org/sw-hope/>

IN THE NEWS

Sanctuary Churches— Augustana Lutheran Church

Faith leaders, elected officials and community members gather at Augustana Lutheran Church Sunday evening, Jan. 26, 2025, to reaffirm their support toward immigrant communities, and let people know the church will provide a safe space for those in need. For more information please read [here](#).



Climate Justice Ministries—David Medford

Time to Rally: From Grounding as People of Faith Upcoming Events and Advocacy

There's plenty of climate work going on in Oregon and here at St. Luke right now. First, we want to call your attention to the **Sunday, March 16th from 1 to 4pm**, Interfaith Earth Summit sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, EMO. St. Luke will be a 'hub' which means that the virtual statewide meeting can be viewed with other members and guest from other local congregations in our Fellowship

Hall. Here's the link to [register](#) for this event with EMO. *St. Luke Climate Justice will provide the funds for your attendance at the hub and snacks will be provided.* For more info about this event, you may access info on the EMO website [here](#). Check out the St. Luke flier on the narthex kiosk and in the ministry area and snap a photo to spread the word to your neighbors and friends.

Also, we want to ensure that you know this is a long legislative session (well into June 2025) and Climate Justice Ministry will advocate for bills that support the nature of this state and the value of all of God's creation. We call your attention to SJR 28 for an Environmental Rights Amendment through OCERA. Remember back when we gathered in November 2024? Things have moved forward. Here are the [details](#).

Save the date to go to Salem on April 7th. We'll be part of the Sacred Organizing Advocacy with Legislators that day. The date was selected because it's a school day off in Portland and an opportunity to bring children to the State Capitol while the legislators are in session. Also guest speakers are presenting remotely include:

Kickoff Message: Frank So, EMO Executive Director

Key Findings of the Seventh Oregon Climate Assessment: Dr. Erica Fleischman, Director, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute; Dr. Larry O'Neill, Director, Oregon Climate Service

The State of Oregon's Climate Resilience: Jonna Papaefthimiou, State Resilience Officer

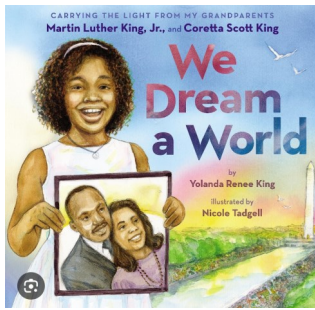
Workshop Previews: Sarah Loose, Director of Disaster and Climate Resilience, ELCA Oregon Synod; Peter Fargo, EMO Creation Justice Coordinator

Next, we are adding information to the St. Luke website about the dimensions of our ministry. Look for the updated information and send friends to check out the outreach, advocacy, education and activism we believe must be integrated into all of our volunteerism.

Our email address is: climatejusticeministries@stlukechurch.com if you want one of our committee members to contact you.

Finally, we invite all members, including youth members, as well as youth who may want to work alongside us with a parent or family member, to meet with us. The committee meets in the library with refreshments on the **first Sunday of the month after 10:30 am worship**. We'll be planning our events for April and May soon.

IN THE LIBRARY



Children's Book Feature: **We Dream a World** by Yolanda Renee King.

A new inspirational read for the young and young at heart! Find it in our St. Luke Library

Source Credit: Scholastic Books

The granddaughter of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King delivers a stirring tribute to her grandparents that speaks to children everywhere about her hopes for a new future. In this stirring tribute to Coretta Scott King and Martin Luther King, Jr., their granddaughter, Yolanda - a national civil rights figure in her own right - is ready to lead in this powerful picture book text!

Library Updates by Jan Peterson—One of our helpers in the Library has written a 'snippet' about 3 books of poems written by Katie Ford. She is the daughter of St. Luke members Mike and Mary Lynn Ford. The 3 titles are "Colosseum", "Deposition" and "Blood Lyrics". Sounds rather enticing! Joan Frazer, one of our Library helpers, said she "had never before read poems like these. They are thought provoking but they also have a beauty about them. I felt compelled to read them twice to let them sink in".

We have many books of varied subject matters. We will be writing snippets of particular genres to entice you into our space at the end of the hall. Come on down & see the books marked YA, NF, F, BIO, Self-Help, Children's, as well as Religion, Environmental, Aging, & Devotions. We are trying to make them easier to identify, so come on down. We even have a few Graphic Novels.

IN THE SYNOD



Once a year, the Lutheran congregations across Oregon gather together to worship, open our hearts, connect in a space of friendship, care for the business of our synod, and ground ourselves and the world

in God's love. We call this Synod (Greek for "on the way together") Assembly. Once every 3 years, this Synod Assembly is in-person. **This year's Synod Assembly will be in-person at the [Holiday Inn on the Columbia River](#)**, seven miles from downtown Portland.

This year our event theme is "Anam Cara: Soul Friends in the Spirit of Jesus." We will invite in the Spirit as we explore deep friendship with the land and the water, the saints and ancestors, and our neighbors. We will be joined by ELCA Churchwide representative and Vice President Imran Siddiqui, who will be facilitating this year's bishop election.

St. Luke needs at least 4 voting delegates, but anyone, voting or not is welcome to join us. Come to participate in workshops featuring themes to support challenges, opportunities, and conversations relevant for the life of your Church. Look forward to future emails with additional details! And come to enjoy a time of relaxation at the lovely hotel venue on the Columbia River (more information below).

Talk with Melody Drangstveit or Pr. Patti if you would like to join us as a voting member – or simply take part! Come see the power of Christ at work in our broader Church community!

Queer Grace is held at Spirit of Grace, Beaverton from 7-8:30 pm—usually the last Sunday of the month. In the past, Haven Wetmore spoke about their experience as a queer internationalist activist, and the relationship between the liberation of queer people and the fight to end injustice against migrants and other oppressed people. All are welcome whether you are queer or straight/cis! Refreshments will be provided. [RSVPs are appreciated.](#)



We invite you and your family (kids, youth, parents) to join several queer leaders and allies for a community conversation.

We want to hear from you:

- What theological curiosities do you have?
- What resources/spaces do you need?
- What do our queer youth and families need?
- How do we support each other?

Sunday, March 2
6:30-8:30pm

Shepherd of the
Valley Lutheran Church
17625 NW Cornell Rd
Beaverton, OR 97006

Refreshments provided!

RSVP: Chaune Schafer queerenoughpdx@gmail.com

Sponsored by: Queer Enough, Together Lab, Spirit of Grace Church, and Shepherd of the Valley Church

IN THE NEWS—continued

Annual Meeting recipients commemorating their many years of faithful service.



Craig Christensen



Michael Ford



Nancy Scheele



Sue Enquist

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested

WORSHIP † CONNECT † SERVE