March 1, 2023 | Monthly Issue #21





St. Luke Church embodies a strong sense of mission to youth, young families, seniors, the homeless, and others in need of God's grace regardless of color, ethnicity, gender, and orientation through our open and affirming faith.

### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear St. Luke Family,

The church season has changed and we are now stepping our feet onto the road of Lent. For thousands of years, Lent has traditionally been the time believers pause to explore their relationship with Jesus. It is a way for us to take a deep dive into our faith and grow as we walk ever closer to the cross and resurrection. Some traditions encourage believers to give up something for Lent, such as a favorite food or bad habit. This is done so that every time the believer thinks about their cravings or habits, they focus on Jesus and his sacrifice instead. Other traditions encourage believers to add a spiritual discipline to their lives, committing to spending time with Jesus each day. Still, others offer a word for believers to contemplate and explore in their life of faith. If you were at the Ash Wednesday service, we did just this. Participants chose a word from a list and wrote it on a piece of burlap to carry with them or put in a place to see every day.

All of these traditions are part of our faith. None are better than the others; it's what we choose to do to grow closer to Jesus that counts. So this Lent, I encourage you to give up something, such as refraining from gossip and instead ask how you can help. Or give up complaining and explore simplicity. Add in a spiritual discipline such as working through the Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith devotional, and dig even deeper by joining the Wednesday morning Bible study. Or, choose a word from this list and ask Jesus every day how you might live into it: love, courage, patience, forgiven, grace, imagination, compassion, peace, forgiveness, hope, joy. Whatever you do, make the commitment to seek Jesus this Lent. It will be a beautiful journey of challenge and

blessing.

Peace and blessings,

**Pastor Holly** 

## Notes from Stewardship

#### **PER CAPITA**

Please remit your payment for Per Capita if you haven't yet. This year, St. Luke is asked to remit \$36.50 per member for Presbytery and the denomination; your contribution helps to offset this amount.

#### **ACH GIVING**

Many members provide their pledges via ACH (Automated Clearing House). ACH is a standardized electronic funds transfer made securely between banks across the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network.

Many churches, nonprofits, and ministries use ACH, and St. Luke has offered ACH for the past 11 years. Using ACH is a safe and convenient way to make offerings to St. Luke. For our congregation, it means you no longer need to write a check and can automatically track your pledges and giving through your bank account. Your contribution goes directly to St. Luke's bank account with no added fees. ACH significantly benefits St. Luke by helping to provide more consistent, regular cash flow for us to pay our monthly bills and support our ministries.

To get started with ACH giving, St. Luke needs a completed authorization form which can be found **here**.

If you have questions about ACH, please contact Monique Sattler, Treasurer, or Jim Collins, Stewardship chair.

#### Monique:

stlukedgtreasurer@gmail.com (630) 726-8181

#### Jim:

stewardship@stlukedg.org (630) 336-2951

We gratefully acknowledge your regular support and dedicated giving and appreciate your consideration of ACH giving to St. Luke.



### Christian Education/Youth Group News

Ali Mulvoy will be out of town March 3-6th and will return all calls or emails when she is back in the office.

Youth Group is scheduled for March 12 and 26 following worship.

**Club Luke** update!! Starting Thursday, March 9, Club Luke will meet via Zoom every other Thursday at 4:15 p.m.

Ali will be sending out a re-occurring Zoom link to Club Luke families, so watch for that email.

Questions? Contact Ali Mulvoy, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, at <a href="mailto:amulvoy@stlukedg.org">amulvoy@stlukedg.org</a>

### Volunteers needed to distribute Grab and Go Meals

St. Luke Church and a few area churches have begun a new meal program to feed our homeless and food-insecure neighbors. Weekly dinners are offered at each participating church on their specified day.

St. Luke Church provides Grab and Go meals on Saturdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to prepare meals, distribute meals, set up and cleanup, and register guests.

To indicate which dates you plan to help withregistration, serving meals, or cleanup, use this Volunteer Calendar: <a href="https://bit.ly/3XS2e6w">https://bit.ly/3XS2e6w</a>

To assist in the **kitchen** or with **food preparation** use this form: <a href="https://bit.ly/3Y1d0Yd">https://bit.ly/3Y1d0Yd</a> or contact Vida (<a href="mailto:vidajue@gmail.com">vidajue@gmail.com</a>) or Fred (<a href="mailto:mission@stlukedg.org">mission@stlukedg.org</a>).



# Book Group reads banned book

The St. Luke Book Group will be meeting Thursday, March 23, at 7 p.m. to discuss *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou.

The first of Angelou's memoirs, this book tells us about the early life of Maya, who is sent with her brother to live with their grandmother in a small Southern town. Enduring the ache of prejudice and abandonment, Maya eventually learns that her own strong spirit will set her free.

Meetings are open to all. For more information, please contact Rick Roche at <u>ricklibrarian@yahoo.com</u> or 630-215-8616.





Worship is in the Sanctuary every Sunday at 10 a.m.

An email with a link to the livestream, along with links to the Order of Worship, Scripture, and Announcements (every other week) will be sent out prior to Sunday.

Videos of the service will be available on our YouTube channel following the service.



### St. Luke Prayer List

Please continue to pray for all those on our prayer list. Click **here** to view our current Prayer List.

#### Wednesday, 3/1

Exercise Group -- 8:30 a.m. [outside group] (every Wednesday)

Bible Study -- 11:30 a.m. in the Gathering Space (every Wednesday)

Worship team -- 6 p.m.

Chancel Choir -- 7:30 p.m. (every Wednesday)

### **Good News & Gratitudes**



Do you have any news you would like to share? Please contact us at session@stlukedg.org with your good news or your thanks/gratitude for the St.

700	The GALZ and Da Guys 9:30 a.m. (every Thursday)	Luke family. A photo is always welcome, too!
	Friday, 3/3 Whittier Variety Show rehearsal -	Calendar continued
	- 3:15 p.m. [outside group]	Sunday, 3/12
	Saturday, 3/4  Grab and Go Meals 5:30 p.m.	Stewardship team 8:45 a.m.  Property team 11:15 a.m.
	(every Saturday) Sunday, 3/5	Youth Group 11:15 a.m. (also 3/26)  Thursday, 3/16
	Leadership Retreat 11:15 a.m.	Session meeting 7 p.m.
	Scandinavian Dancers 5:30 p.m. [outside group] (also 3/19)	Monday, 3/20
	Monday, 3/6  Exercise Group 8:30 a.m.	St. Luke social event 5:30 p.m.  Tuesday, 3/21
	[outside group] <i>(every Monday)</i> Big Book Group 8 p.m. [outside group] <i>(every Monday)</i>	Justice Agitators 7 p.m.
	Knitting Group 8 p.m. <i>(every Monday)</i> via Zoom	Wednesday, 3/22  BURT (Building Use Request Team) -
	Tuesday, 3/7	- 7 p.m.
	Christian Education team 7 p.m.	Thursday, 3/23 St. Luke Book Group 7 p.m.
	Wednesday, 3/8 Mission team 7 p.m.	For a complete list of all events, visit the Calendar tab on our website.
	Thursday, 3/9 Deacon meeting 7 p.m.	*The deadline for the next Lukan Letter is Saturday, March 25. Please send submissions to session@stlukedg.org.







St. Luke Church PC(USA) | 5235 Fairview Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515

Unsubscribe cchriscollins@comcast.net

<u>Update Profile |Constant Contact Data Notice</u>

Sent byoffice@stlukedg.orgpowered by



Try email marketing for free today!