

Saint Luke's

United Church of Christ of Trappe

February 2016 Newsletter



Rev. Dr. Kris Peterson – Interim Pastor

Worship Schedule

petersonka@verizon.net

Office – 610-489-4933

Office email - administrator@stlukestrappe.org

Blended Service 9:30 AM

3rd Sunday of Mo. Healing Service 9:30 AM

www.stlukestrappe.org

Sunday school 3rd Sunday of the month.

From the Interim Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Most people I know don't look forward to Lent. Childhood memories are mostly to blame. I grew up in a family where "giving up" something for Lent was an expectation, not a choice. A few days before Ash Wednesday, the dinner conversation revolved around one question: "What are you giving up for Lent?" I sacrificed the usual suspects of candy, chips, ice cream, even TV. Each year I wondered what this had to do with Jesus. Lent was a dark and somber time. Hymns were almost all penitential and mournful. Words like "sacrifice," "discipline," and "self-denial" were often used in ways that suggested that Lent was something to be endured rather than a time of grace and spiritual growth.

Through the years I now see Lent as a yearly second chance. Each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a long, loving look at our lives to see if our values and priorities are in line with God's desires for us. Since all of us have "fallen short of the glory of God," Lent becomes the second chance, or do-over to "return to God with our whole heart."

I invite you during this Lenten season to ask yourself . . . "What is the meaning of my life?" "How can I grow deeper in my relationship with God?" "What is preventing me from being the person God created me to be?" "How can I love others (especially those for whom it is difficult to love) as I have been loved by God?"

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. We will hear again the words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The imposition of ashes feels like an imposition, a humbling reminder of our limits and finitude as human beings. But it is also an invitation to embark on a journey of second chances and do-overs which lead us from death to new life in Christ.

Blessings on the Journey . . .

Pastor Kris

February Scripture Readings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
February 7	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalms 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36, 37-43
February 10	Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalms 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-20
February 14	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
February 21	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Psalms 27	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
February 28	Isaiah 55:1-9	Psalms 63:1-8	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
March 6	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalms 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

TRANSITION UPDATE

The Search Committee met on January 7th to choose individuals for leadership. These are as follows:

Chairpersons: Jim Narrigan and Nancy Leneweaver

Secretary: Carrie Krentz

Chaplains: Bonnie Neiman and Becci Richardson

At this meeting plans were made to complete the Church Profile. Sections were delegated to each member.

The Search committee met again on January 14th to review progress.

CHURCH LIFE HAPPENINGS

Church Life had a great turnout for our first meeting of the New Year on Monday, January 11. I am so pleased that the committee will be Linda Boyer, Corie Bowers, Betsy Fisher, Sue Gregory, Donna Horst, Brenda Kurtz, Esther Wolfram and honorary members, Janet Kimmich and Beverly Spaid.

First off will be our Let's Get Organized-Phase II! All are invited to meet **Saturday, January 30th at 9:00am**, donuts and coffee will be there. The first on the agenda, is organizing and cleaning out the Parlor, and cataloguing and organizing the Property Room after we decided the Christmas decorations would be more accessible there than the attic and under the stage. **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK MORE FUN!!!!** Our church has accumulated lots of "stuff" over the last 200 years and we need to clean out before we call a new Pastor.

Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale will begin January 31 and end Feb 28th. There will be a variety of Easter Candy available to choose, including sugar-free! Please place your order before and after the 9:30 service, or with anyone on the Church Life Committee. **Delivery will be the week of March 14th.**

Next we are planning another Let's Get Organized-Phase II on **Saturday, February 20th at 9:00am** with donuts and coffee. Next project to be announced.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! We are also planning some fun activities for St. Luke's. "Everybody's" Birthday Party during the coffee hour on **Sunday, April 17th which will be a Breakfast Brunch.** Yes, your birthday will be included so come and join us.

Maundy Thursday Meal on Thursday, March 24th at 6:30pm for soup, bread and grapes.

A Saturday in May (watch for announced date) will be the return of the "Women's Tea Party", so find your white gloves and hats!

The next meeting for the Church Life will be **Monday, February 8 at 7:00pm.** Please join us to plan the above activities and more. If you have ideas, please let a committee person know or please attend the next meeting. Hey Men! We need some input from you of some fun activities you would like to do, unless you just like doing property repairs?!?! Thanks in advance for your support to our Church.

DEAR FRIENDS

A heartfelt thank-you for your generous purse that I received during the service on Christmas Eve. It was certainly a surprise! You will be seeing me in a new alb (white robe) on Easter Sunday which will be purchased with your gift.

Again thank-you for your generosity, and for your support and prayers as we journey together in this pastoral transition. Blessings in the New Year, Pastor Kris

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES

Sponsored by
Collegetville-Trappe Ministerium
2016

THEME: "Restored in Christ"
Wednesday Nights in Lent
7:30 PM

The Season of Lent is a time for us to face together the brokenness of our lives and our world. We are invited to turn that brokenness over to Christ so that we can be restored by him through the cross. Each service in this Series focuses on a certain event in the Lenten story and the broken element from that story. Coming to an understanding of how each of these broken elements leads to restoration in Christ is key to understanding what it means to live as new creations in Christ. The dates, themes, host church and preacher are as follows:

Date:	Theme:	Host Church:	Preacher:
Feb. 17	"Broken Bread"	St. Luke's UCC	Fr. Mike Sowards
Feb. 24	"Broken Justice"	St. Eleanor Roman Catholic	Pr. Martha Kriebel
Mar. 2	"Broken Promises"	Trinity Reformed, UCC	Pr. Eva Johnson
Mar. 9	"Broken Trust"	Evansburg United Methodist	Msgr. Michael McCulken
Mar. 16	"Broken Vessel"	St. James' Episcopal	Pr. Kris Peterson

Ash Wednesday – February 10

"Broken Hearts Restored" ♦ Joel 2:12-14
Our hearts are broken in sorrow over sin;
Christ restores our hearts through his forgiveness.

Week 1 – February 17

"Broken Bread Restored" ♦ John 6:48-58
Bread is broken at the Last Supper;
we are restored through the Bread of Life, Jesus.

Week 2 – February 24

"Broken Justice Restored" ♦ 2 Corinthians 5:20-21
A broken justice system put Jesus in the cross;
we are restored when by his death we are declared not guilty.

Week 3 – March 2

"Broken Promises Restored" ♦ Matthew 26:69-75
Peter's broken promises to never deny Jesus are restored by the surpassing love of Christ.

Week 4 – March 9

"Broken Trust Restored" ♦ Matthew 26:14-25
Judas breaks his trust with Jesus by betraying him;
Our broken trust is restored through the sacrifice of Christ.

Week 5 – March 16

"Broken Vessel Restored" ♦ Mark 14:1-9
A broken vessel holds costly perfume;
We are broken vessels restored when Christ pays the price for us on the cross.

THE JOURNEY OF LENT

Lent is a season of forty days often imagined as a journey echoing the forty-day journey of Noah and his family in the flood, the forty-year journey of the Israelites in the wilderness, the forty days Elijah spent before hearing the still, small voice of God, and the forty-day journey of Jesus in the desert. Traditionally Lent was a season when the church focused on preparation of baptismal candidates and the continued process of conversion.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, with a service of Holy Communion at 7:30 pm. Ash Wednesday receives its name for the practice of having ashes “imposed” in the form of a cross. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice often mentioned in the Bible. The early Christians adopted the use of ashes symbolizing several aspects of our human experience. First, ashes remind us of God’s judgment, as God said to Adam, “Dust you are and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). Second, ashes remind us of the shortness of life, for one day the words “We commit his/her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust” will be said over our bodies. Third, ashes are a symbol of repentance, as expressed in Luke 10:13 and in the hymn “Savior, When in Dust to Thee”. On Ash Wednesday we gather to begin our Lenten journey. The imposition of ashes will be offered during the service.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL **WE ARE CALLED, WE ARE CHOSEN**

We make choices every day - plenty of them. Our lives are really a set of choices, from what we are going to wear and eat to how we will treat others. By his words and by his example, Jesus has plenty to teach us about how to make the most important choices in our relationships with others. Lent is a good time for us to set aside some time to reflect on our choices together in light of Jesus’ words.

Jesus’ message is not just about believing that God has a deep love for each of us. His message is also about how to *live and to act*. He called himself the Way. As we listen to what Jesus says and watch what he does, we see that following him isn’t easy because it will lead us to the cross. But living and acting in the truth of God’s deep love for all of us will also lead us to the new life of Easter.

This devotional We Are Called, We Are chosen, provides an opportunity to think and to pray about our choices and why we make them. Each day includes a brief Scripture passage, a reflection, and a prayer. May our experience of Lent deepen so that we will rejoice all the more fully at Jesus’ triumph over death on Easter Sunday.

LENTEN AWAKENINGS

Lenten Awakenings, a Conference-wide event will take place here at St. Luke’s for 4 Saturday mornings on February 13, 20, 27 and March 5 from 9:30 - 11:00am. Too Busy Not To Pray: Slowing Down To Be With God by Bill Hybels will be the discussion book this year. This book calls us to make prayer a priority in our lives and empowers us to participate in God’s work in the world. The fee of \$20.00 includes all four sessions, the book and leadership materials. There is no pre-registration. Bring your \$20.00 fee to the first session. If you want to pick up your book before the first session,

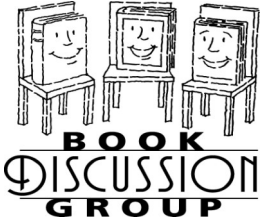
“PACKING UP” CHRISTMAS

In her sermon on January 3rd Pastor Kris spoke about the “work” of Christmas - manifesting the love of Jesus in our lives and in our world. She invited the congregation to pick a Christmas decoration/ ornament - an angel, a star, a crèche, a favorite Christmas card and hang it somewhere where it will be seen every day as a reminder that the Word made flesh dwells among us.

Every week at St. Luke’s, an angel is found in a different place - on the organ, atop a bookshelf, on a window sill, on the Parlor table, to remind us that God continues to be with us.

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB

Please come and join us on **Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 6:00pm** to discuss the book “Icy Sparks” by Gwyn Hyman Rubio. You must purchase your own copy of the book or get it at a Library. We will then pick a new book to read for our next meeting on March 23rd at 6:00. Please **NOTE** the date changes for Feb. and Mar. due to Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services. April we will be back to the second Wednesday of the month.



SCOUT SUNDAY

Scout Sunday will be held at St. Luke’s on February 14. During the service we will recognize the contributions of young people and adults to scouting. Scouts from Troop 113 will serve as greeters, ushers, readers and intercessors.

Boy Scout Troop 113 is a boy-led troop and has been meeting at St. Luke’s since 1934. It is an active program of weekly meetings and monthly outings. These activities and events include camping trips, week long summer boy scout camp, Philmont adventure camping, whitewater rafting, backpacking, canoeing, biking and rock climbing just to name a few. They are involved in several community service events such as the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, Water Works Community Park Easter Egg Hunt, the Memorial Day parade, Martin Luther King Day of Service, Trappe Days, and often other events depending on what a scout is doing for his Eagle Project.

There are currently 35 scouts in the Troop. As of this month, Troop 113 is proud that 67 scouts have earned the prestigious rank of Eagle. The troop is extremely grateful to St. Luke’s for meeting space in Moyer Hall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In January the Sunday School students, led by Sue Gregory, learned about missionaries. In particular they heard about Martha Mensendieck (the missionary St. Luke’s supports) and her life in Japan. The students sent cards to her which they completed in class. They also learned they were missionaries, too, because they share the love of Jesus wherever they go.

In February the class will make valentines for our homebound members.

FACILITIES AND USE COORDINATOR

We are looking for someone who would be able to be in charge of setting up and tearing down of Moyer Hall for events. If interested please see Sam Kurtz III.



February Sunday Leader Schedule



Church Access Volunteers - Volunteers are needed to open and close the church on Sundays. Please see **Janet Kimmich** to schedule and review tasks.

9:30 Blended Service

	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Children's Time</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
February 7	Becci Richardson	Scott Koehler	Sue Kelly
February 14	Boy Scouts	Pastor Kris	Leah Keyser
February 21	Tom Lloyd	Sue Kelly	Nancy Leneweaver
February 28	Jim Narrigan	Nancy Leneweaver	Kim Gray
March 6	Corie Bowers	Becci Richardson	Brenda Koehler

Sunday Leader Scheduling Note

If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, **please find a replacement** by switching dates with someone on the schedule and contact the church office as soon as possible so we may make note of the change. **If you are unable to find a replacement, please contact the church office and we will be happy to do so.**

Articles for the Sunday bulletin are due in the church office by Wednesday. Newsletter deadline for March Newsletter is February 19th and mailing is February 24th.


February 4 Betty Murphy
 February 5 Grant Lloyd
 February 7 Kim Gray
 Tim Frazer
 February 8 Jeannie Knauer
 Cam Narrigan



February 14 Jack Kissinger
 February 18 Kay Kissinger
 February 19 Kaitlin Damiani
 February 21 Mitzie Oxenham
 February 22 Cassidy Keyser
 February 25 Sam Kurtz II
 February 28 Jim Kelly



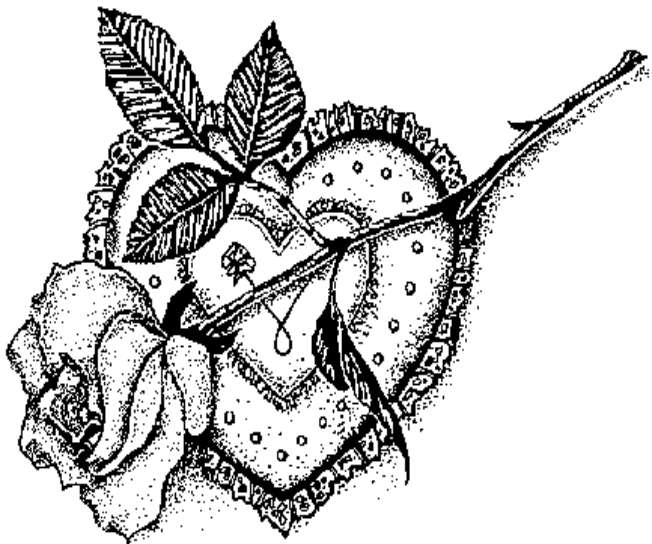
February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00 AARP Taxes 7:00 Cemetery 7:00 Boy Scouts	2 10:45 Brt Spt - MH 5:30 Drama Kids 7:30 Church & Ministry	3 10:45 Brt Spt - MH 6:00 Book Club 7:00 Orchestra 7:00 Endowment	4 12:30 Games 7:00 Choir 7:00 Finance 7:30 Gamblers	5	6
7 9:30 Blended Service	8 9:00 AARP Taxes 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Church Life	9 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 5:30 Drama Kids 7:00 Orchestra 7:30 Council	10 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 MOPS 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 7:30 Lenten Service	11 9:00 Women's Breakfast 10:00 MOPS Party 7:00 Choir 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 Gamblers	12	13 9:30 Lenten Awakenings
14 Boy Scout Sunday 9:30 Blended service 4:00 Girl Scouts #7080 	15 9:00 AARP Taxes 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Property	16 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 5:30 Drama Kids 6:30 Worship and Music 7:00 Orchestra	17 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 7:00 Green bar 7:00 College Woods 7:30 Lenten Serv. St. Luke's Fr. Mike Sowards	18 7:00 Choir 7:30 Gamblers	19	20 9:00 Let's Get Organized II 9:30 Lenten Awakenings
21 HEALING SERV. 9:30 Blended Service	22 9:00 AARP Taxes 7:00 Boy Scouts NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 9:15 MOPS Sterng. 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 4:00 Missions 5:30 Drama Kids	24 9:00 Men's Breakfast 11:30 Brt Spt - MH 7:00 Orchestra 7:30 Lenten Serv. St. Eleanor's RC Pr. Martha Kriebel	25 7:00 Choir 7:00 Toastmasters 7:30 Gamblers NEWSLETTER MAILING	26	27 9:30 Lenten Awakenings
28 9:30 Blended Service	29 9:00 AARP Taxes 7:00 Boy Scouts					

**ST. LUKE'S U.C.C. OF TRAPPE
200 WEST MAIN STREET
COLLEGEVILLE PA 19426-2007**

February Newsletter

**Dated Material-
Deliver Promptly**



St. Luke's Mission Statement

**Centered in God,
guided by His Word,
we share Christ's love with all.**