

EASTER 2026 - APRIL & MAY

CROSS CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of St. Luke Lutheran Church



**This
issue:**

Pastors Letter
Page 2

"Rogation Days?"
Page 3

Prayer Resources
Page 4

Support
Page 5

Whitney's Letter
Page 6

Outreach
Page 7

Education
Page 7

April Calendar
Page 8

May Calendar
Page 9

Dear Family and Friends of St. Luke,
+ Grace and Peace.

Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” 40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. Acts 2:38-41

Over the past year or so, the Bible Study group that has met twice a month at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fayetteville has been studying Acts of the Apostles. Considered a continuation or follow-up of Luke’s gospel, Acts of the Apostles recounts the activity of the Holy Spirit in the beginnings of the Church.

What strikes me as I read the passage cited above is the clarity of purpose that seems to characterize our early days. *For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.* The promise that this verse speaks of is the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In these weeks of Easter as we rejoice in the Resurrection of Christ, we also anticipate the celebration of Pentecost and are reminded of the gift of the Holy Spirit that continues still to animate the body of Christ that we are. What is striking sometimes in our local experience in this congregation is how few children and younger people comprise our assembly. It’s not that there isn’t a core group that are members of the congregation. What is notable is how infrequently we assemble with one another.

I invite us all to pray about this and remind ourselves of the promises we have made when we baptize. We all have a responsibility to encourage one another in our discipleship and faith journey. Being open and receptive to new ideas and different perspectives is not meant to be a burden. Rather, it is an essential part of our calling to welcome all people.

May the gift of the Holy Spirit be for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls.

In Christ’s love for you,
Pastor Frye

What are "Rogation Days?"

Background Stewardship of creation is an ongoing ministry in the church. The creation, which God declared good, is entrusted to the care of humankind. Exercising that care is one dimension of daily Christian discipleship. Rogation Days are a way for the church to honor God for the gift of creation and to pray for the land, the gift of labor, and the needs of all people.

Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated during the fifty days of Easter on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The word, Rogation, has its roots in the Latin word "rogare" which means to ask or petition and it comes from the ancient introit for the Sunday preceding the Ascension. In some places, the celebrations of Rogation Days were quite elaborate and included processions from the church to and around fields while asking for God's blessing.

Churches that have maintained the practice of celebrating Rogation Days in our time now no longer mark these days specifically before Ascension. Instead, Rogation Days are celebrated at times and places that meet local needs. With an increased awareness of the need for the stewardship of creation both within the church and within contemporary culture, the themes of thanksgiving for the land and petitions for a fruitful earth may be adapted around broader cultural celebrations of Earth Day or at other times.

Although Rogation Days are agricultural celebrations, they are not solely for rural congregations. These days underscore the dependence of all people, urban and rural, on the fruitfulness of the earth and human labor. The themes of Rogation Days may be highlighted in a special worship service or in prayers of intercession in the Sunday assembly during the spring.

Come to the Wednesday 11:00 AM service on Wednesday, May 13 for a celebration of Rogation Days.

Prayer Resources in a Time of War

As the United States has begun military combat operations in Iran, we are called to pray and ask for God's mercy.

Below are three prayers from the resource [Prayer Book for the Armed Services](#).

Time of war

Eternal God, whose steadfast love never ends, we ask that you look upon the nations now engaged in war and hasten the day of peace. Look in mercy on those exposed to peril, conflict, sickness and death; and show compassion to the dying. In your good providence, remove all causes and occasions of war. Incline the hearts of all people to follow the path to peace and concord, that war may cease and the day of reconciliation may come quickly, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Those Who Suffer from War

Merciful God, you grieve amid the pain, fear and suffering of your children. Look with compassion on all who endure the miseries of war. Be mindful, too, of those who day and night face peril in defense of our nation. Guide them in their duties as they seek justice for those subjected to tyranny and liberty for those who are oppressed. Eternal Protector of the helpless, hear the cry of the distressed and grant speedy deliverance in a new day of peace and concord. Amen

Those in the country's service in a time of war

Almighty God, let your protection be upon all those who are in the service of our nation. Guard them from all danger and harm; sustain and comfort those at home, especially in hours of anxiety, loneliness, and sorrow. Prepare the dying for death and the living for your service. Uphold those who bear arms on land and sea and in the air; and grant unto us and all nations a speedy, just and lasting peace, the glory of your holy name. Amen



SUPPORT

Congregation, Council, and Committee Highlights March 2026

- Three new council members were elected at the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, February 8, 2026: Lisa Horton, Ellen Kroepil and Linda Miller.
- The Installation of Council Members will be held on Sunday, February 15.
- Offering was up 18.41% the end of 2025
- Actual Surplus for 2025 - \$37,698.69
- In the future the yearend review video will be played on the Sunday of the annual congregational meeting.
- Continental Breakfast will be held on Easter Sunday, April 5 beginning at 8:30 AM
- Audit Committee - Toby Forrester, Lisa Horton and Judy Wingfield
- Lenten midweek evening services will begin at 6:30 PM.
- Vespers in the Park is scheduled for this Summer on the third Saturday of June, July and August, beginning at 6:30 PM
- The annual church picnic will be held in conjunction with St. Paul on Saturday, September 12 at Greene Township Municipal Park.



WORSHIP

HOLY WEEK

Wednesday of Holy Week

April 1 at 11:00 AM

Holy Communion and Rite of Healing

Maundy Thursday

April 2 at 6:30 PM

Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal.

Good Friday

April 3 at 6:30 PM

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death.



OUTREACH

Powerpacks

On Thursdays in April at 9am we meet in the fellowship hall to pack lunches for 95 children. If you are interested in helping, please contact Cheryl Vorhauer.

Luncheon for St Luke and Luther Ridge Community

Wednesday May 13 @ 11:30am.

"Joshua" at Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster

Thursday August 6th 2026

Cost is \$180 due by June 26th 2026



EDUCATION

Adult Faith Formation

All are welcome!

Faith Formation: The Word

A new Faith Formation topic each Sunday at 8:45AM

Discussion to follow.

There will be no Faith Formation class on Easter, instead join us for breakfast!

Summer Camp at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa

If interested in going to camp reach out to Heather Goetz!

CROSS CONNECTION CALENDAR

April 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 Midweek Service Choir	2 New freedom Al Anon Munday Thursday Service	3 Good Friday Service	4
5 Easter Breakfast Holy Communion Easter Sunday	6 AA Faith in Action Audubon Property	7 Book Group Staff Meeting Music Therapy Bible Study	8 Midweek Service Choir	9 New freedom Al Anon	10	11 Adopt-A- Highway
12 Faith Formation Holy Communion 2nd Sunday	13 AA Finance	14 Book Group Staff Meeting Music Therapy	15 Midweek Service Choir	16 New freedom Al Anon	17	18
19 Faith Formation Holy Communion	20 AA Council	21 Book Group Staff Meeting Music Therapy Bible Study	22 Midweek Service Choir	23 New freedom Al Anon	24	25
26 Faith Formation Holy Communion	27 AA Council PA STATE TESTING	28 Book Group Music Therapy PA STATE TESTING	29 Midweek Service Choir PA STATE TESTING	30 New freedom Al Anon PA STATE TESTING		



Special Day, Holiday = bold text

Worship Services = red text

Education Opportunities = green text

Outreach/Fellowship Opportunities = purple text

Church Meeting = italicized text

Support / Community Group = gray text

CROSS CONNECTION CALENDAR

May 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Faith Formation Holy Communion 2nd Sunday	4 AA <i>Faith in Action</i> <i>Audubon</i> <i>Property</i>	5 Book Group <i>Staff Meeting</i> Music Therapy Bible Study	6 Midweek Service Choir	7 New freedom Al Anon	8	9
10 Faith Formation Holy Communion	11 AA Finance	12 Book Group <i>Staff Meeting</i> Music Therapy	13 Midweek Service Choir Luncheon with Luther Ridge	14 New freedom Al Anon	15	16
17 Faith Formation Holy Communion	18 AA <i>Council</i>	19 Book Group <i>Staff Meeting</i> Music Therapy Bible Study PA State Testing	20 Midweek Service Choir PA State Testing	21 New freedom Al Anon PA State Testing	22	23
24 Faith Formation Holy Communion 31 Faith Formation Holy Communion	25 AA <i>Council</i>	26 Book Group Music Therapy	27 Midweek Service Choir	28 New freedom Al Anon	29	30

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Dear St. Luke family,

Please do not look at this as a goodbye, look at it as a see you soon. Connor and I have decided to move to York, Pa. We didn't think it would be this soon, but as you all know when you raise a child, "it takes a village," we've had our church village but not our family village. This wasn't any easy choice for us to make. It weighed heavily on the both of us, as we just underwent a change here at St. Luke. But we were reminded change is good, it's not always bad. We prayed about it for weeks.

Thank you for everything you've done for my family over the past two years. We're truly grateful that we had such a big support system while Sadie was in the NICU for four months. We don't know what we would've done without this amazing support system. We're so grateful that everyone here adores her so much, we know it will be hard not seeing her weekly. We wanted to thank Sadie's God parents, Cheryl and Rodger, we will miss you two dearly.

I know this may seem very unexpected for most, feel free to ask questions, feel free to stop in and get one last Sadie hug before we go.

With love,
Connor, Whitney, and Sadie Marie

