



ST. LUKE NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

Pastor's Letter



Growing Disciples Deep and Wide: Our 2026 Church Theme

Dear church family,

As we step into this new year, allow me to share the theme that our Lord has placed on my heart for 2026. Our church is embracing a simple, life-shaping focus: **"Growing disciples deep in love for God and wide in serving Him and His people."** This biblical foundation, rooted in the Great Commandment and Great Commission, emphasizes that this is more than a slogan; it is a way of life we want to practice together in worship, community, and everyday mission.

Two key Scriptures shape this calling: the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Rooted in Matthew 22 and 28, they remind us that a healthy church is both deeply rooted in God's love and reaching widely with it, inspiring trust in our biblical foundation.

Growing Deep: Great Commandment

Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... and love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39) To grow deep means our roots sink into Christ, so love for God shapes our decisions, habits, priorities, relationships, and character.

Growing Wide: Great Commission

Jesus also sends us out: "Go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20) To grow wide means our faith moves beyond the church walls into our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and city, sharing the Good News and serving others in Jesus' name.

This theme is for everyone in our church family. The question is not, "Am I already a disciple?" but "How is Jesus growing me deeper in love and wider in service this year?" We are all invited to participate actively in this spiritual journey, fostering a sense of purpose and involvement.

Let us walk this path together in 2026, trusting Jesus' promise: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20). Embrace opportunities to grow deeper and broader in your faith and service this year.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ivan Milosi

Here's a chance to be gamechangers and champions for those in our community who need help tackling hunger. We're all winners when we provide food to those who are less fortunate.

St. Luke is participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring with a friendly competition between Sunday morning worshipers. Non-perishable food is being brought in, measured and points are awarded to move your team's football down the goal line. Play began Jan 11th and will end on Feb 15th.

Thanks for joining us in the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17 - 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Yummy pancakes, sausage, fruit & juice

Free Will Offering

Hope to see you all there!

Wednesday Nite Live - Soup, Salad, Dessert Supper

February 18th to March 25th

Each Wednesday from February 18th through March 25th, we will have a soup/salad/dessert supper. We'll start serving at 5:45pm. There will be a sign-up form the end of January in the narthex asking for soups, salads, desserts and to help serve. This is a great way to have great fellowship time and you don't have to cook!! We will be taking up a free will offering.

Ash Wednesday Service - February 18 - 6:30pm

Starting February 25th there will be a vesper service from 6:45pm to 7pm in the sanctuary after the Wednesday Nite Live Supper.



CALENDAR

- Alcohol Anonymous meets every Wednesday - 6:30pm
- Al-Anon meets every Thursday - 11am
- Men's Fellowship meets every Thursday - 7am at HyVee
- Women's Fellowship meets at 10am on the 3rd Monday of each month at Hy-Vee (Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 16)
- Choir practices on Wednesday evenings - 7pm

Jan 26 - Care Team Meeting - 7pm

Feb 10 - Leadership Board - 7pm

Feb 15 - Golden Weds Reception following 8:30am service

Feb 17 - Shrove Tuesday - 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Feb 18 to March 25 - Wed Nite Live Soup, Salad, Dessert 5:45pm

Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday Service - 6:30pm

Feb 25 to March 25 - Vesper Service - 6:45 to 7pm

March 29 - Cantata 8:30am & 10:30am service

GOLDEN WEDS RECEPTION

On Feb. 15th during fellowship time after the 8:30 service, we will be celebrating those couples who will be married 50 years or more in 2026.



COMMUNITY GARDEN



It is hard to think about gardening in January. However, now is the time for planning what will be grown and where it will be placed in the garden. Please let Mary or Jim Kulhanek know if there is something new you would like to be planted in the garden or any items you really enjoy. It is getting harder for Jim and Mary to be coordinators for the Community Garden. If you are thinking you might be interested please let Mary know. Mary would work with you until you feel comfortable. If you would like to help in the garden please let us know so you can be included on the list of people to notify when there is a workday. We are always in need of help in the garden, so prayerfully consider helping this year.

WORSHIP



Sunday Services 8:30am & 10:30am

Communion is the first and third Sunday of each Month.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

“Freedom From Fear” is our Lenten sermon series.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus repeatedly tells His followers and those gathered around Him, “**Do not be afraid.**” Yet in our own day, fear still shapes so much of how we think, react, and live.

During this season of Lent, we will walk with Jesus through key moments when He speaks the simple, powerful word “Do not be afraid,” and we will identify the specific fears He is still releasing us from today, so we can live with deeper faith, steadier hope, and greater freedom.

<u>Date (2026)</u>	<u>Sunday in Lent</u>	<u>Series Focus</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Feb 22	1st Sunday in Lent	Fear of Inadequacy	Luke 5:1-10
Mar 1	2nd Sunday in Lent	Fear of Circumstances	Mark 4:35-41
Mar 8	3rd Sunday in Lent	Fear of Death	Mark 5:35-43
Mar 15	4th Sunday in Lent	Fear of the Unexplainable	Matthew 17:1-9
Mar 22	5th Sunday in Lent	Fear of Hell	Luke 12:1-7
Mar 29	6th Sunday in Lent (Palm Sunday): Cantata	Fear of Conquest	John 12:12-16
Apr 5	Easter Sunday	Fear of the Unknown	Matthew 28:1-10

A Journey to Hope

Our Choir has begun to practice for the Easter Cantata which will be on Sunday, March 29th at the 8:30am and 10:30am worship services.

Mark your calendars as you won’t want to miss this!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Our numbers are small for Children's Sunday School but we are still having a great time learning about why God sent Jesus to teach us.

The youth (6th grade through 12th grade) will continue to help with the 10:30am service the first Sunday of each month through May.

Easter is early this year - April 5th.

We will start our Lenten studies the middle of February.

Looking Ahead.....

The children will be waving palms at the beginning of the 10:30am service on Palm Sunday, March 29th. We are hopeful that our Youth Class will lead the Easter Sunrise service at 7am with breakfast to follow (free will offering with proceeds going to our youth group).

We will be recognizing those that are graduating from High School or College in the spring. If you have someone graduating this spring, please call the church office. Thank You.



Pastor's Bible Study

This Lent, we will journey through the events in Jesus’ life that led to His death on the cross, listening again to the Scriptures that tell the story of His love and sacrifice, inviting you to deepen your faith and feel more connected to His sacrifice.

Together, we will pay close attention to several key characters and the roles they played in the crucifixion - His disciples (Luke 22:39-62), Caiaphas and the religious leaders (Matthew 26:57-68), Pilate (John 18:28-19:16), Barabbas (Mark 15:6-15), and the Marys at the cross and the tomb (John 19:25-27; Luke 23:49-56; Matthew 28:1-10)-to deepen our understanding and emotional connection to this story.

I hope you will join us as we look back on this powerful, life-changing story and draw near to Christ in worship, repentance, and renewed faith during this holy season.

Lent study will start February 19th and will run through March 26th

Each Thursday at 10am and 7pm (at Church and via Zoom)



A special thanks is extended to Nancy Edwards for the many, many things she does for St. Luke. When you look at the many, delightful seasonal decorations in the church, Nancy is the primary person responsible for them. When we participate in communion on Sunday mornings, Nancy is the person who has "put it all together." Nancy does all these things, quietly and without fanfare.

Many thanks to Nancy Edwards!



Thanks everybody for another great "Giving Thanks Dinner." We had great help preparing and serving. I want to thank all the kids and the young ladies that helped serve and cut up all the delicious pies. I also want to thank all the people that gave extra to make this dinner a success.

Dale Robertson

Thank you to George & Paula Scheel, Patty Gerlach, Nancy & Ed McMeen, St. Luke Sunday School Children, Larry Edwards, Al Rouse, Dale & Deb Robertson, Ray Schacht, Sharon Duffy, Anne Parrott, and Brad Memming for helping decorate and putting decorations away after Christmas. Happy New Year to all.

Nancy Edwards



LIVE STREAM

How to Access the Live Stream

(Step by Step)

Computer Access

1. Turn on computer.
2. Open web browser. (i.e. Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer)
3. Click into the address bar at the top of the screen.
4. Type www.stlukelincoln.org and press enter.
5. Scroll down and click on the red underlined phrase which says, "CLICK HERE FOR THE LIVESTREAM." This will take you to our YouTube channel.
6. You are able to leave comments on the right. (You will need to sign in to leave a comment.)

Phone Access

1. On your phone you can follow the same steps as above.
2. If you don't already have the YouTube app on your phone, it may ask you to install it. Once installed, follow the steps above again and it should open the YouTube page and click on the video with the red "live" next to it.

Text announcements will remind you when livestream is starting on Sunday morning, special events, when we have to cancel church or events due to weather, etc.

PLEASE SIGN UP!

1. Open your text messaging app on your phone and start a new message.
2. In the spot where you put the person's phone number (To:) type: 43506
3. In the spot where you type the message, type the word: announce.
4. Press send. If you did it correctly, you should get a response within a minute that says, "Welcome to St. Luke UMC announcements."

Interested in Membership? Let's Talk!!

Exploring membership at St. Luke UMC? Pastor Ivan hosts a brief, casual meetup over coffee/tea and donuts every last Sunday of the month at 9:45am and 11:40am. Or any other day by appointment. Learn what we believe, how we serve, and how you can make St. Luke your church home. We warmly welcome all who are interested!