

STAFF

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Rev. Chuck Layton

Children/Youth Ministry

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Ora Uzel

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Witness & Service:

Community Outreach

Jennifer Crow

Conference & Global

RRS & Terry Stewart (int.)

Social Justice

RRS & Terry Stewart

UMW

Marcia Young

Certified Lay Ministers

Kathy & Steven Lamb

St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

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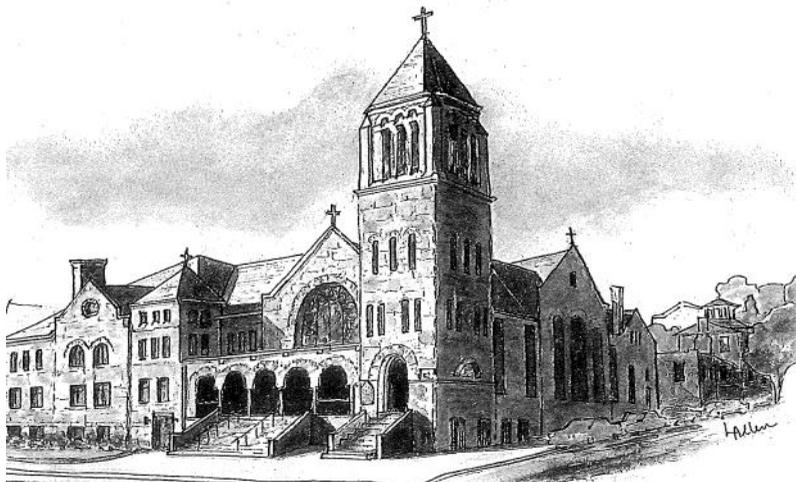
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February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

St. Luke's — Celebrating 185 Years

1833-2018



St. Luke's United Methodist Church Vision

Welcoming ALL . . .

Caring . . . Serving . . . Growing

Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request, please fill out a prayer card and place it in the basket on the back table, hand it to an usher, or place it in the offering plate.

* *Asterisk denotes the invitation to stand if able. **Bold text** to be read by the people.*

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Prelude	“What Wondrous Love Is This” Sylvia Ward, organ	American Folk Hymn
Introit	“Where Are the Shepherds?” St. Luke’s Singers; Keith Rippe, Director Video by Chris Kohlmann	by James Stevens & J. Paul Williams
Lighting of the Candles:	<i>Bringing the Light of Christ Into Our Worship</i>	Ethan Lester, Owen Hull
Welcome/Announcements/Greetings/Introductions		

* **Called to Worship**

Invitation to Lenten Discipline Mya Beau

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season, converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

To make a right beginning of repentance,
and as a mark of our mortal nature,
let us now kneel (bow) before our Creator and Redeemer.

* Opening Hymn “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” TFWS 2129

Opening Prayer (in unison):

Ethan Lester

We come from ashes. But by Your creative power, O God, we are so much more than ashes. During this Holy Lent, may we be scrubbed clean by the fresh wind of your Holy Spirit, so that all that is dying or dead in us may be removed, and we start a fresh season of growth in your Son, Jesus. By the power of your Holy Spirit, guide and empower us in our prayers, our presence before you, our gifts, our service, and our witness to your Son. Amen.

Called to Reflection

Old Testament Reading:	Joel 2: 1-17	Naomi Murphy
Epistle Reading:	2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6:10	Owen Hull
*Gospel Reading:	Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21	Chloe Plumley
<i>And all God's people said:</i>	Thanks be to God!	

Message	“Cleaning House”	Pastor Chuck
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Called to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Psalm 51: 1-17)	Andrew Crow, Naomi Murphy
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**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.
Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

Pause here.

Examine your life, and confess your sins to God.

**You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Words of Assurance:

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Friends, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, you gathered up a handful of dust and ashes and created us from them. May these ashes remind us both of our mortality and our weakness in the face of sin. Let them remind us that it is only by your loving gift of salvation that we are given everlasting life through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Imposition of the Ashes

Mya Beau, Chloe Plumley

Hymn during imposition of ashes: “God, How Can We Forgive”

TFWS 2169

Sent to Serve

Carrying the Light of Christ to the World

Ethan Lester, Owen Hull

* Hymn of Dedication

“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”
(from Worship & Song 3104)

(on screen)

* Blessing:

Ashes seem to signal destruction, but they are the result of cleansing fire.

We rejoice at the room for new growth that fire has brought.

Ashes appear to be dead and sterile, but they fertilize the ground.

We rejoice that God is preparing us for that new growth.

Ashes have cleansing power.

We rejoice that God chooses to make us clean.

Friends, go into the world of your daily lives, reclaimed for God, and made ready to do God’s will. The blessing of God the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God the Sustainer rest upon you now and always.

Amen.

Postlude

”What Wondrous Love”
Sylvia Ward, organ

American Folk Hymn

Note: Please feel free to use language in worship that is inclusive and affirms a diverse imagery for God.