



goodnews!

Sharing the good news of Christ

Save these dates!

Eggstravaganza | Saturday, April 4
10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday | April 5
8, 9:30, 11 am

Maundy Thursday | Upper Room Service | April 9 | 6:15 pm

Good Friday Via Dolorosa Experience | April 10 | 12 pm - 3 pm
Carrying the cross to the top of Rattlesnake Mountain with prayer and meditation.

Good Friday Worship Service
April 10 | 6:15 pm

Easter | Sunday, April 12
6:15, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am

Easter is our greatest festival worship day. We will celebrate it with all the pomp and circumstance we can muster to welcome people into the celebration of the resurrection of the Son of God who has overcome death and the grave! Make plans early to be at services and invite your friends.



LENT | 40 Days of Focus

Each year on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, the liturgy of the Church calls us to begin “a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection,” when “our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The words used in the Ash Wednesday rite of the Lutheran Service Book Agenda also remind us that “from ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.”

Each of the seasons of the church year is observed and celebrated, but Lent, and only Lent, is “kept.” The holy season of Lent invites us to be “keepers”—the people of God who keep the fast, keep the silence, and keep the focus throughout this singular season.



As we move into our Lenten season, here are **7 reasons why we believe “keeping” Lent is important:**

1 INTROSPECTION IS IMPORTANT | Give yourself an intentional season to examine your heart and ways.

2 CREATE MARGIN | Leave time and space open for God. Breathing room. We all need this.

3 READ THE GOOD FROM SACRIFICE | Abstaining for self-promoting desires helps us relate to Jesus and how He suffered. Consider giving up a luxury or habit for this season.

4 DEVELOP FOCUS | We need to practice paying attention to what we pay attention to.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1) **Why we believe "keeping" Lent is important**

5 LENT HELPS US TAKE A BREAK | It gives us a "reason" to break up with our indulgences. To break up with what exhausts us. To say no.

6 GRIEF IS GOOD | Take some time to grieve your sins and the brokenness in this world. Let's strive to more truly appreciate the cost of our salvation. Suffering unites us to Christ.

7 PREPARE FOR A NEW THING | God is making all things new...and it's all because of Christ's sacrifice. Welcome the new in your life. He is resurrecting you!

Here are some specific ways you can join St. Lukes in keeping Lent:

- Attend Wednesday evening services at 6:15 pm

ST LUKES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Joshua Brown
Senior Pastor

Sharise Chatfield
Director of Administration

Megan Gibson
Director of Communications

Brittany Brown
Director of Worship Arts

Julie Foster
Administrative Assistant

Mike Benke
Pastor Emeritus

StLukesReno.org

throughout the Lenten season. On Wednesdays, Pastor Josh will be discussing focus and how many people in the Passion story didn't realize who Jesus was or believe Him.

- Attend Sunday morning worship every week. In contrast to our Wednesday evening services, Pastor Josh will be discussing exactly who Jesus is. It's not just an opportunity to hear truth but also a chance to celebrate a little Easter each week with our faith community.
- Read the Eyes on Jesus devotional provided on Ash Wednesday. With short reflections for each day, it is an easy thing to add to your schedule that will enhance your Lenten journey.
- Do the Lenten Calendar as a family. Each day during the Lenten season has a small reflection or activity that you're encouraged to do as a family. Help your little ones prepare their hearts for Easter! Calendars will be available in the Narthex beginning Ash Wednesday.

- Last but certainly not least... **Participate in our Lenten ONE Challenge!** The entire church will be challenged to do these three things:

- ▶ **Give up ONE** | one indulgence, activity, bad habit
- ▶ **Pick up ONE** | to replace the thing you've given up. If you're giving up an indulgence, pick up the habit of prayer when you're feeling the desire to give in. If you're giving up an activity, spend your newfound time studying Scripture.

- ▶ **Focus on ONE sin** | We've all got sin issues, let's be honest. Take the thing you really want to work on, and ask the Lord to help you eliminate it from your life. Gluttony. Character deficiency. Road rage. Poor time management. God is bigger than the temptations you face.

While this all sounds very much about the things we do, they are only tools to draw nearer to God in preparation for Easter. It's not about what we do. It's about what He has done.



March Fusion | Tuesdays

Parenting Through the Phases | March 3 | 6:30 pm

For those of you who are parents, you know one thing—your kids are always changing. From newborn to twelfth grade, there is always something new in their development, or some new challenge they are facing, or some new obstacle they are overcoming.

So how do we make the most of each developmental phase in a kid's life? How do we parent in a way that helps our kids feel known and supported? How can we anticipate some of the challenges they will face?

Join us for our second session of Parenting Through the Phases. This is an inspiring, guilt-free parenting small group that will help you make the most of the developmental phase your child or teen is in right now. It's never too late, even if you're parenting a twelfth grader.



Fusion Tuesday | Ladies Night | March 17 | 6:30 pm | Classroom N-1

All women are invited the third Thursday each month for a study on a female character from the Bible. Email megan@stlukesreno.org to be added to the group and to receive study notes.

Fusion Tuesday | Guys Night | March 24 | 6 pm | Comics N Coffee

Pastor Josh will be leading a study on a male character from the Bible. Email megan@stlukesreno.org to be added to the group.

EVENTS

Roots classes May 30!

Our next Roots classes will be held on May 30 from 8 am-4 pm in classroom N-2. If you're interested in learning more about our church history, want to become a member, or just want to hear more about the various ways to get involved here at St. Lukes, this is for you! Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or contact the office (office@stlukesreno.org).



March Fusion | Tuesdays

1st Tuesday | Parenting Through the Phases

3rd Tuesday | Ladies Night

4th Tuesday | Guys Night



MARCH SHARED HARVEST NEEDS

- 55 boxes of Mac and Cheese
- 40 cans of Chicken Noodle Soup
- 40 cans of Chili
- Shampoo

Deadline: March 22, 11:00 am
Please place items on the Shared Harvest cart in the Fellowship Hall.

Assembly:
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
March 22, 1:00 pm

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

One New Year Challenge Recap

On the 8 Sundays leading up to Lent, almost 30 people, kids through adults, met at 12:30 after services for a one challenge focusing on physical health, spiritual health, and relational health. The goal was to work out for ONE hour, ONE day a week, memorize ONE bible verse, and meet ONE new friend each week. It was a ton of fun with many people stepping up to lead the group including **Umari Duffus, Jamie Thorne, Rachael**

Cartwright, and Trinity Dugan!

We completed our challenge on February 23rd at Upstate Nevada (a local non-profit gym) sending out

ONE challenge with a bang, or at least a lot of sweat! There has been lots of buzz about getting a group together



to keep going so stay tuned incase something new blossoms from our ONE challenge!



ONLINE RESOURCES

SERMONS:

stlukesreno.org/sermon

GIVING:

stlukesreno.org/donate

MY ST. LUKES

stlukesreno.ccbchurch.com



Unity Sunday is March 29!

On March 29th, we'll have our third Unity Sunday, a single service at 10 am, where everyone from the church gathers together for a unique worship experience. Our Veteran's ministry group will host



coffee hour following the service. Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate our ONE focus by joining together with your entire church to worship.

EVENTS

Campout | June 11-14

Hello! We're excited to announce that we've secured groups sites once again at Sugar Pine Point on the West side of Lake Tahoe for our annual Church Campout. We'll be camping Thursday, June 11 through Sunday, June 14.

Please save the date and visit the marketplace to reserve your spot. The cost is \$115 for one spot, which will hold 2 vehicles and up to 8 people. We can't wait to spend another fun campout with you in Lake Tahoe!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

EGGSTRAVAGANZA Eggs and candy donations

Our annual egg hunt meets color run is coming up on April 4! Come out for a morning of egg hunting, crafts, live music from our Modern Worship Team, and food trucks! It's a fun time for the whole family! Please dress children in clothes that can get dirty (white is encouraged) so they can fully experience a colorful egg hunt.

We were able to recycle 7,000 plastic eggs from last year's event! This year, our goal once again is to collect 10,000 filled eggs to make our event a success. We are asking for 3,000 additional filled eggs, and 7,000

fillers (candy, stickers, small toys, etc.) that we will stuff in the eggs we already have. Please bring donations to the Fellowship Hall between February 23 and March 29. We'll have bags of empty eggs that need to be filled available in the Fellowship Hall as well, if you'd like to take some to stuff and return.

We'll also be looking for approximately 50 volunteers to help out the day of the event. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



We'll have a coffee hour on March 22 dedicated to learning about volunteer opportunities, signing up to serve, and stuffing giveaway bags and eggs! Please plan to attend!

Thank you for your support of this awesome community event!

FROM COUNCIL

Open Council Positions | The Church Needs You!

Please consider joining the leadership of our Church by volunteering your time and talents to serve on our Church Council. We currently have three vacant positions: Secretary, Education Chair, and Welfare Chair. If you're interested in helping shape the future of St. Lukes, please contact anyone on Council (Scott Gross, Hal Albright, George Olesinski, Tom Taelour, Jim Ahrens, Mary Mang, and Darrell Armuth). Our next meeting is scheduled for March 19 at 5:30 pm in Classroom N-1.

Approved minutes from the Jan. Council meeting are now available on My St. Lukes and printed copies can be found in the Narthex.

St. Lukes Marketplace

We have some new items in the Marketplace! We've added St. Lukes picnic blankets, ONE shirts, and Pastor Josh's book. Profits from the marketplace will go to supporting our youth group's service trip this summer. Stop by on Communion Sundays between services to purchase your St. Lukes swag. Cash, check, and credit cards are accepted. Items range in price from \$10-\$30.



Your passport to Odyssey

Our Passport to Odyssey program has launched and is off to a great start! Each Sunday morning, our travelers head back to the Holy Lands to meet the characters of the Bible and watch as Jesus' ministry unfolds around them. New travelers are always welcome! Children ages 3 thru 5th grade are invited to come with us as we journey through God's redemption story and learn how we fit into His big plan! Odyssey will be happening every week, year-round, with the exception of Unity Sundays, so always plan on Odyssey!

Odyssey starts at 9:30 in the Sanctuary with worship during the Modern service. Please check your children in at the check-in station in the Narthex prior to entering the sanctuary. At 9:45, the children leave to travel with Odyssey. They will meet in the "customs room" to get their lanyards, have their passports stamped, and get into groups (they might enjoy a little sing-a-long time as well). Then they are off to their journey where they'll watch and play along with the story in the Day Tours room. They do a craft to help learn the story in the market place, and then visit the Synagogue to dive into the Bible. Passport to Odyssey concludes at 10:45 am, which is when parents can head down to the Fellowship Hall and into the Odyssey hallway to collect their children.

Odyssey Volunteers Needed!

Tour Director | Leads a group of sessions, makes sure we have enough volunteers scheduled, distributes tour itinerary to volunteers, leads Customs room, and makes sure the Staging Room is stocked with everything needed for that block of tours. This can be done individually or with a group of up to 3 people. Directors will serve for 4-5 consecutive weeks (one month).

Tour Guide | Navigates travelers to the different rooms each week and keeps travelers in line with the rules. This position is more flexible in scheduling in that you can serve one week at a time (please wear a Hawaiian shirt or tourist garb).

Rabbi in the Synagogue | Leads that week's Bible story. Also flexible in scheduling, can serve one week at a time.

Drama Leader in Day Tour room | This person can act out that day's story, recruit additional actors to participate as needed, or guide children to perform the story. Scheduling for this position is dependent on curriculum.

Marketplace | Leads and assists children in craft projects and activities that support the Bible lesson. This can be a one week at a time position.



Check-In | Be present at the table in the Narthex and help get children checked in to the program. Also, unlocks the door from the Fellowship Hall at 10:45 and helps parents find their children, as needed. This can be a one week at a time position.

Craft/Décor Prep | Work behind the scenes preparing craft projects and setting up rooms when we transition between blocks of lessons. Jobs/needs will be coordinated by Tour Directors. Depending on curriculum, some tasks could be done at home.

To volunteer, please email Elizabeth Petersen (elizabeth.petersen94@gmail.com) and she'll get you on the schedule.

Volunteers - please meet your Tour Director in the Marketplace at 9:15 each Sunday you're working for a review of the game plan for the day as well as a time of prayer for the children.

Nursery

Nursery care is available Sunday mornings from 7:45 am until noon.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

First Communion

March 11, 18, and 25 | 7 pm | Classroom N-1

Children in 5th and 6th grades with their parents are invited to attend First Communion classes on March 11th, 18th, and 25th at 7 pm in classroom N-1. The final meeting will include a training where we'll go over details for our First Communion service which will be held on Unity Sunday, March 29. If your child falls within this age range but you don't feel they are ready just yet to receive their First Communion, they are welcome to wait until their Confirmation.

Childrens Choir Opportunity!

By Brittany Brown, Director of Worship Arts

We will be offering a short-term Children's Choir opportunity in March. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 6:10-7pm in the Music Room in the North Hall, March 4 - April 1. We will be singing with Adult Choir and Handbells on Palm Sunday, April 5. If you'd like additional information, please email brittany@stlukesreno.org.

WOMEN'S NEWS

Ruth Guild distributes \$5000 to mission projects

With the wonderful donations from our Basket Bonanza, the Ruth Guild was able to distribute \$5000 to the following mission projects:

- \$500 to NV Hope, a local non-profit which offers a variety of services
- \$2000 to Jessica Cartwright, attending Concordia Irvine for DCE
- \$1500 to Erika Mechsner – mission trips
- \$500 to Orphan Grain Train
- \$500 to Good Shepherd Clothes Closet



Next meeting: March 11, 6:00 pm

At our meeting in March, we will be nominating new officers for the 2020-2021 year. Sue Burton will be our in-coming president. Please be prayerfully consider serving in one of the other position.



Bible Studies

- **Ladies' Bible Study**
Sundays at 9:30 am in Room N1
- **Youth Bible Study**
Sundays at 9:30 in Room N-3
- **Tuesday mornings with Bill Heinicke**
From 11 am-noon in Room N-1
- **Fusion | Tuesdays**
1st Tuesday | Parenting Through the Phases
3rd Tuesday | Ladies Night
4th Tuesday | Guys Night

Missional Leaders Summit

Church Leaders will be meeting May 8th-9th for training, support, friendship, and worship. Once a year, we host a Missional Leaders Summit to get that mountain-top experience that reminds us what we are doing in the valley. It's a time to consider God's will and ways and also to seek out how He is calling us forward as a church. We will be tackling leadership challenges, and hearing from Catherine Cardinal, PhD on living an Uncommon Life. We will hold break out groups to discuss key topics of the Church and community and host some worship, and bible study time as well. What I need from you: If you're one of our missional leaders, I ask that you make every effort to attend the Summit. If you are not currently serving in a leadership position, please pray for our church leadership!

Following are some ideas to help you in praying for our leaders.:

Lord, please cause _____ to be steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in Your work. Help them to know that their toil is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

May _____ not be distracted, discouraged or doubtful and thus neglect the spiritual gift You have given him/her. Give them the tenacity to take great pains to maintain the path You have cleared for them and to be absorbed in the work You have laid before them. (1 Timothy 4:14-15)

Lord protect _____'s sense of confidence in You. Grace _____ to not misplace any confidence in the flesh (their own accomplishments or the abilities of other people). Direct _____ to draw near to Your throne of grace with confidence for their every need. (Philippians 3:3 and Hebrews 4:16)

Lord, I pray that You would send a spirit of encouragement to _____ so that they might walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which they have been called; lead them to walk with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for those around them in love, and that they would be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3)

Lord, teach us how to avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, strife, and disputes about the Law; for they are unprofitable and worthless. Teach us how to reject a divisive person after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned. (Titus 3:9-11)

Father I pray that you would surround our elders with grace to be men above reproach, not self-willed,



not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not given to argument or fighting, not fond of sordid gain, but help them to be hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, and self-controlled. Empower them to hold fast to Your faithful Word so that they will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. (Titus 1:7-9)

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip _____ in every good thing to do His will, working in our church that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Father, I pray that the fellowship of our faith would become effective through the knowledge of every good thing You've bestowed on us through our position in Christ. Bring much joy and comfort in the love we share and cause our fellowship to be a source of sweet refreshment to our entire church family. Philemon 6-7

Pray for yourself and your congregation to be a joy to your

(continued on page 9)

Missional Leaders Summit

(continued from page 8)

church leadership. Most leadership teams I've known were exceptionally encouraged and fueled forward when they felt the joy of serving. Who knows what a little extra joy might do in your church! Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. (Hebrews 13:17)



St Lukes raised \$1,184 in a single Sunday, helping Moises attend another year at University. The extra money went toward food packs (shown above) and school supplies.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

BASIC Nicaragua

By Erika Mechsner

At the end of 2019, I made an appeal to the congregation to help with the last \$1,000 needed to help Moises attend another year of university. St Lukes raised \$1,184 in a single Sunday, and the extra money went toward food packs and school supplies.

The photo included is of typical food packs. In addition to Moises, St. Lukes members are currently sponsoring 8 elementary or high school students, and those sponsors gave toward these food packs for the families of their students. They have fruits, veggies, rice, and beans.

Thank you again for your generous contributions! We're planning a mission trip to Nicaragua this July and are looking for people to serve. If you are interested in traveling with St. Lukes and supporting the mission of BASIC, please contact Erika (basic@stlukesreno.org).

A letter from Moises...

Dear brothers in Christ.

Through this I, Jose Moises Cordoba Bustillo, want to express my gratitude to God and to you, it is thanks to all of you that I am achieving one of my greatest goals that is to study an engineering career in one of the best universities of the country; goal to which unfortunately not everyone has access.

It is because of the unconditional support you have given me that I feel motivated to honor through my good grades and my determination in the classes, the sacrifice that you have made for me.

In the future, when I can complete my higher studies and be a person of benefit to society and an instrument of life in the Lord's plans, I will always keep in mind that it is thanks to you that I had the opportunity to grow even more as a person, as Citizen and as a Christian.

I apologize for not finding the right words to express the deep feeling that overwhelms me when I know that you have welcomed me as a direct member of your families, my heart and my memory will always be happy to have found people with my heart, will and the faith that you possess, I am aware that in me, rather than depositing money, you have placed your hopes for a better future for my life, I take you as an example and guide for my life.

Without more to add, I say goodbye;

Jose Moises Cordoba Bustillo

