

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Judy Brown (health issues), Becky O'Neal, Glenn Ribelin (Amanda Saleeby's brother-in-law has cancer), Ann Ringer, Herb Roos (recovering from hip surgery), Durwin Waddell (brother-in-law of Patty Whitehead had heart attack),

**\*\* If your prayer need is resolved, or if a name needs to be removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 843-383-5169 or office@stlukehartsville.com. We will keep all prayer requests in the Newsletter for one month. After that, they will be removed unless you tell us otherwise.**



**St. Luke Has A New Website!** Over the past year we have been working to give the St. Luke church website a whole new look – Check it out!! ([www.stlukehartsville.com](http://www.stlukehartsville.com) or click this link: [Home - St. Luke](#) ) We plan to use the new website as the primary source for information about activities in the church — there are links to GMC content, calendar of events, sign-up opportunities, information about the church staff, our small groups/classes and work in the community. We are proud of our new website and especially thank Reagan Taylor and Tracee Auman for their help over the past year making our new website a reality.



God calls us to serve in love. Use our new church website [www.stlukehartsville.com](http://www.stlukehartsville.com) or click on: [Home - St. Luke](#) to fill out our **Time & Talents Form** (under the **Serve** tab) to let us know how you would be interested in serving – or suggest an opportunity. If you are unsure of where you would like to serve, complete the [Spiritual Gifts Inventory](#) to help gain insight on where you would be passionate about serving in the life of the church.

### Pastoral Visitation

Pastor Todd enjoys visiting St. Luke homebound/other disciples. If you would like him to schedule a visit with you, please call the church office at 843-383-5169, or email Pastor Todd at: [pastor@stlukehartsville.com](mailto:pastor@stlukehartsville.com)  
He is glad to visit anyone at anytime!

### Historical Items Wanted

**If you have pictures or other historical items about the church and its activities to share with our History/Archive team, please send them electronically to Mary Frances Black at [maryfrancesblack16@gmail.com](mailto:maryfrancesblack16@gmail.com). Non-electronic items may be shared with Iris McFarland through the church office. THANK YOU!**



### Worship Team News

Many thanks to St. Luke's Worship Team for ensuring that our Homebound and Online disciples will have Holy Communion elements available to them so they can celebrate Holy Communion on the First Sunday each month with the rest of our church family.

You can pick up Holy Communion Packets in the church office. If you need them delivered to your home, please let the church office know (843-383-5169).



St Luke  
Methodist Church

March 20, 2025

302 Dunlap Dr.  
Hartsville, SC 29550

[office@stlukehartsville.com](mailto:office@stlukehartsville.com)

843-383-5169  
843-383-0916 (Fax)

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday  
8:30 AM—4:00 PM

**The deadline for submitting information for the St. Luke Newsletter is the 1st and 3rd Monday's at Noon**

If you have a Pastoral Care emergency outside of regular church office hours, please email Pastor Todd at: [pastor@stlukehartsville.com](mailto:pastor@stlukehartsville.com)

# GOOD NEWS

## The God of Compassion and Mercy...

*St. Luke Disciples, this devotion was shared with me by our St. Luke Lay Leader, Mr. Tim Ringer. I share it in hopes that it will bless you as it did me.*

*A. W. Tozer wrote, "What comes into our minds when we think of God is the most important thing about us."*

*God is God; no Christian would debate this fact. Who we believe God to be often reveals more about us than about God. Many things influence us as we build our systems of belief around God, from our early childhood experiences, our relationships within church communities (or lack thereof), our circumstances or the circumstances of those we love, the list goes on and on.*

*Verse 7 of Psalm 103 echoes an important, early introduction God made of himself to Moses. In Exodus 34, the Lord comes down to Moses in a cloud, and verse 5 actually says he stood there with him. Then in verse 6 he promptly announces himself using these words: "Yahweh! The LORD! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unending love and faithfulness."*

*He goes on, but I want to pause here. Of all the words in the entire history of the universe God could have chosen to introduce himself, he chose: compassion and mercy.*

*Compassion and mercy! Okay? I might've thought of mighty, powerful, exalted, glorious. The words God chose were compassion and mercy. Almost as if to say, "Whenever you think of me, what I've done, what I'm doing, whether or not you can trust my plan, my timing, my ruling, my will, my judgment, my design, my purposes, what I give, what I take, what I leave, what I create, what you face, what you lack, what you miss, what you wrestle with . . . Remember it all, first and foremost, within the context of this truth: that I am a God of compassion and mercy."*

*This isn't just sweet talk. We see evidence of the Lord's compassion and mercy all throughout Scripture, all throughout history, and all throughout our faith lives. Take, for just one example, the flagship scripture of the gospel—John 3:16 (NIV): "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

*Not, for God was so frustrated with the world . . .*

*Not, for God was so disappointed in the world . . .*

*Not, for God was so angry with the world . . .*

*For God so loved the world. And I like to personalize this verse, placing my name directly in the text. I invite you to do the same, out loud, right now.*

*"For God so loved [your name] that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

*If we can bring ourselves to accept this truth, it turns our world on its head. But accepting this is often difficult for us. It comes more naturally to us to believe in a God that might be punitive, rigid, harsh, and unyielding because that is more often how we treat one another; it is more often how we treat ourselves.*

*Compassion, for us, is not something that naturally springs forth. Instead, it is something that is cultivated in us, over time, as we learn to expand our perspectives, surrender our scarcity fears, and soften our hearts to those who need our love (which by the way—is everyone).*

*It is the spirit of Christ living in us, of course, that first initiates any and all of these movements toward compassion. As he lives within us, our capacity grows greater and greater to understand, as Paul prayed, just "how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is" (Eph. 3:18 NLT).*

*May God bless you! Pastor Todd*



**March**

- 20 Christina Lopiccio
- 21 Nancy Myers
- 22 Weldon Johnson  
Bunnie Shuler
- 23 Jane Cheshire
- 26 Matthew Black  
Winky Black  
Jamie Lynn Murdock  
Murphy Monk
- 27 Alice English
- 28 Iris McFarland

**April**

- 1 Sarah Watkins
- 2 Ted Newman
- 3 Ken Evans
- 4 Peggy Query
- 7 Norm Roberson
- 8 Jacob Bedenbaugh
- 10 Bruce Bogardus



**March**

- 19 Michael & Ashley Camak
- 20 Mark & Marg Howle
- 22 Bruce & Marissa Walters
- 23 Mark & Melanie Watkins
- 26 Ross & Ashley Johnson
- 29 John & Wendi Beattie
- 31 Herb & Betty Roos

**April**

- 3 Don & Sandra Gaskins
- 5 Chip & Patsy Auman
- 10 Richard & Linda Cook

**CALENDAR**

**Thursday, March 20**  
6:00 PM Bible Study with Ben Babb  
8:00 PM Ladies Zoom Bible Study

**Sunday, March 23**  
9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:15 AM Worship Service & Children's Church  
5:00 PM Parent's Preview of Sermon on the Mound  
5:30 PM Youth Ministry

**Monday, March 24**  
10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study

**Wednesday, March 26**  
2:00 PM Ladies' Game Day  
4:30 PM Children's Choir Practice  
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Soul Food and Small Group Studies  
6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 PM Youth Ministry

**Thursday, March 27**  
6:00 PM Bible Study with Ben Babb  
8:00 PM Ladies Zoom Bible Study

**Sunday, March 30**  
9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:15 AM Worship Service & Children's Church  
Children's Choir Sings  
5:00 PM Children's Program  
**Sermon on the Mound**  
5:30 PM Youth Ministry

**Monday, March 31**  
10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study

**Tuesday, April 1**  
9:30 AM Days For Girls Ministry

**Wednesday, April 2**  
2:00 PM Ladies Game Day  
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Soul Food & Small Group Studies

6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 PM Youth Ministry

**Thursday, April 3**  
9:00 AM Soup Kitchen  
6:00 PM Bible Study with Ben Babb

**Confirmation Sunday, April 6**  
8:00 AM Confirmation Breakfast  
9:00 AM Sunday School  
10:15 AM Worship Service & Children's Church  
5:30 PM Youth Ministry

**Monday, April 7**  
10:00 AM Ladies Bible Study  
5:00 PM Evangelism Team meeting

**Wednesday, April 9**  
2:00 PM Ladies Game Day  
4:30 PM Children's Choir Party  
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Soul Food & Small Group Studies  
6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
6:00 PM Youth Ministry

**Thursday, April 10**  
6:00 PM Bible Study With Ben Babb  
8:00 PM Ladies Zoom bible Study

**CHURCH TEAMS**

**Greeter for March:**  
Marla Prozzi

**Greeter for April:**  
Deborah Griggs

**Counting Committee:**  
March 23: Ed Groves, Kevin Kelley  
March 30: Gabe Brown, Kevin Kelley  
April 6: Bill Query, Kevin Kelley

**March Ushers:**  
Scott Jackson (Captain), David Moyd, Dennis Becker, Vern Myers

**April Ushers:**  
Bob Braddock (Captain), Joseph Ringer, Mike McConnell, Wayne Jeffords, Donnie Aumen

**Bereavement Meal Committee # 10**  
Debbie Dawkins (Chair), Kristen Nicholson, Jane Cheshire, Elizabeth Gainey, Leah Babb, Feeka Ewing, Reagan Taylor, Karen Jeffords, Sara Buckles

**FINANCIALS & ATTENDANCE**

**Weekly Contributions:**  
March 9: \$12,526.00                      March 16: \$19,275.00

**Weekly Worship Attendance: (online)**  
March 9: 186 (300)                      March 16: 132 (347)

**Salkehatchie Summer Service**

St.Luke Methodist Church is excited to announce that we will be taking a team to the Salkehatchie Summer Service camp in Moncks Corner, SC, from July 5th through July 12th, 2025. This mission opportunity brings volunteers together to serve communities in need by repairing homes, building relationships and growing in faith.

**Who Can Participate?**

- You must be **14 years or older** on or before July 5th, 2025.
- Anyone **18 or older** as of July 5, 2025, must complete a **background check** in compliance with our **Ministry Safe Policy**.

**Cost & Scholarships**

The cost to participate is **\$250**. Scholarships may be available for those in need of financial assistance.

**How to Register**

Registration is **open now**. [www.salkehatchie.org](http://www.salkehatchie.org). If you are interested in making a difference through faith and service, sign up today! For more details, contact Elizabeth Gainey at 843-858-4644 or Lara Mathis at 843-858-1418.

*Confirmation's*  
**BIBLE DEDICATION**  
MARCH 27-APRIL 5TH

As our confirmands finish their journey to profess their faith, we'd like to encourage them to continue their walk with Christ. If you feel led, drop by the conference room to highlight your favorite scripture and/or leave a note of encouragement for them in their personal Bibles.



The King Family



The Shaw Family



**Congratulations!**  
On Saturday, March 9, 2025, the Global Methodist Church in South Carolina awarded St. Luke disciple, Jay Lopiccilo the title of Certified Lay Minister. WE are PROUD of you Jay!

Please take a moment to congratulate Jay on this important achievement!  
([jay.lopiccilo@gmail.com](mailto:jay.lopiccilo@gmail.com))



Easter Lilies

We will decorate our sanctuary again this year with Easter Lilies. If you would like to place a lily in the sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone, please fill out the form below. Cost will be \$16.00 per plant.

Deadline to order is April 10th

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of lilies \_\_\_\_\_ Amount paid \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_



### St. Luke's Softball Team

If you are interested in joining St. Luke's softball team this spring, please contact Joseph Ringer ([josephringer0713@gmail.com](mailto:josephringer0713@gmail.com)) or Levi Culbreath ([mlculbreath@gmail.com](mailto:mlculbreath@gmail.com)). You must be 16 years old or older to play and if under age 18, you must have signed permission from your parents.

### Church History Discovered!

The Offering Tray and Cups (pictured) from the Charter Member Ladies Sunday School Class were recovered from one of our storage rooms. St. Luke disciple, Doug Russell was kind enough to refinish the set for us, and they are beautiful. We believe they were used from the time the ladies' class was first formed in 1957. One of the two cups was for regular offering, going into the church budget, and the other cup was for special offerings, or class projects. It has been suggested that Mr. Robert Blackwell may have made the tray and cups for the class, but we have not been able to verify that fact.



The ladies' class was strong in their Bible study and in leadership roles for St. Luke during our charter years and for many years moving forward. Around the year 2000, the ladies' and men's classes combined into one class. The offering tray and cups continued to be used until the class merged into other Sunday School classes at St. Luke. The tray and cups are on display in the office. Please stop by and enjoy their renewed beauty. We wish we could hear all the fun stories they could tell.

## St. Luke Methodist Vacation Bible School



Dates: June 2nd-5th

9AM-12PM  
3K-6TH GRADE

Register your child by scanning the QR code



**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR CALL

JESSICA



**JUNE 2nd-5th**

## SUNDAY MOVIE

APRIL 13TH

\$15 PER CHILD



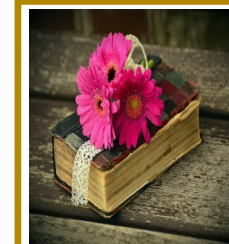
AGES 5K AND UP

AFTER CHURCH WE WILL HAVE LUNCH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL, THEN TRAVEL TO FLORENCE FOR THE 12:40 MOVIE

### Ladies Thursday Night Bible Study on ZOOM!



St. Luke offers a Thursday Night Ladies Bible Study on Zoom. This study will be geared toward young mothers, but all ladies are welcome. The Bible study will be held on Thursdays at 8:00 PM. The meeting ID for the Zoom session is 837 0532 1520 and the password is BibleStudy. The Zoom session will open at 7:45 PM. Please use the information provided to join the study or send your email address to Mary Frances: [maryfrancesblack16@gmail.com](mailto:maryfrancesblack16@gmail.com) for a personal invitation.



### Ladies Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study meets on Monday's at 10 AM with social time at 9:30 AM. They began a 4 week study entitled "Jesus' Farewell Message" with Francis Chan on March 17th. All are welcome!

### Bible Study With Ben Babb

St. Luke Disciple, Ben Babb, is holding a Bible Study on Thursdays at 6:00 PM in the small conference room. The study will be on the Book of Revelation. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!





Joy4U Children's Choir presents...  
 Sermon on the Mound Musical on  
 Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 5:00 PM.  
 Make plans to attend and Catch the Spirit!  
 There will be several Mystery Guest  
 appearances, including Joseph Ringer, Russ  
 Lockman and **PASTOR TODD!!** See if you can  
 guess who the **St. Luke Mudville Nine** will be!

**Hartsville Food Bank**

During the month of **March** we are  
 collecting:

**SPAGHETTI SAUCE & PASTA**

For the month of **April** we will be  
 collecting:

**ASSORTED CANNED**



**Missions Moment**

Hello St. Luke family. Our mission's team would like to share with you the quarterly contributions your generous giving supports, and how it helps to transform the lives of others in the name of Christ our Lord: Hartsville Interfaith Ministries, Epworth Children's Home, Kairos Prison Ministry, Hartsville Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Child & Family Resource Foundation, Saleeby Center, Hartsville Boys and Girls Club, Days for Girls, GMC Disaster Relief Fund and the GMC "Adopt a Church" Fund.

Thus far in 2025, St. Luke has also supported: The Hartsville Food Bank with your monthly donations to the bins in the hallway, the Second Baptist Church warming center, Pastor Phil Thrailkill for his teaching ministry in Africa, Samaritans Purse Western NC Hurricane Relief, HHS Booster Club Scholarships.

Your Mission Committee: Lee Gardner, Bonnie Gardner, Betty Coke Lawson, Lloyd Williams, Mark Howle, Elizabeth Gainey, Bunnie Shuler, Anne Guest, Becca Benson, Mark Taylor, Cissy Alexander, and Kim Taylor, Missions Chair.



**St. Luke "Wednesday Night Soul Food" (Fellowship Meal and Small Groups for All Ages)**

4:30–5:30 PM Children's Choir

5:15–6:00 PM Fellowship Meal

6:00–7:00 PM ReShaping St. Luke

The meal format is buffet style. The cost is \$9/adult and \$5/children 10 & under. There is an alternate meat selection of chicken nuggets for the children.

Sign up and payments can be made on the church website through Secure Give week prior. Sign up cards are also available in the pew racks on Sundays. **Please sign up by NOON on Tuesdays!** Payments can be made at the door with debit or credit card, no cash please. We do ask that you please pay if you sign up because we will have ordered your food.

**MENU**

March 26: Chicken Fingers, French Fries, Corn on the Cob, Roll, Tea

April 2: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Shoe Peg Corn, Roll, Tea

**Community Lenten Worship Services** are planned for the Hartsville Community. Worship will be held on Wednesdays during the season of Lent at each church beginning at noon. Each host church will have a guest preacher for the service, and the service will be followed by a light luncheon. Please make plans to join us and **invite a friend!**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Host Church</b>	<b>Pastor Preaching</b>
March 12, 2025	First Baptist Church/Rev. Todd Davis (St. Luke Methodist)	
March 19, 2025	First Presbyterian Church/Rev. Dr. Kevin Walters (West Hartsville Baptist)	
March 26, 2025	Centenary UMC/Rev. Fred McDaniel (Wesley UMC)	
April 2, 2025	Wesley UMC/Rev. Greg Boyd (First Baptist)	
April 9, 2025	West Hartsville Baptist Church/Rev. Anthony Caldwell (Centenary UMC)	
April 16, 2025	St. Luke Methodist Church/Rev. Ashley Cheek (First Presbyterian)	

