

# CHURCH CONNECTIONS

*Messages for God's People*

Morgan United Methodist | St. John's Lutheran | St. Luke's Lutheran  
on the web at [luthadist.webstarts.com](http://luthadist.webstarts.com) and [facebook.com/stjohnmorgan](https://facebook.com/stjohnmorgan)

## Worship Times

Our worship times will change this month:

8:15 MUMC

9:30 St. Luke's

11:00 St. John's

These worship times will be for February, March and April.

## Dates for Communion

St. John's and St. Luke's will celebrate Communion on February 4 and 18. Morgan United Methodist will gather for the Lord's Supper on February 4. Communion will also be offered at the joint worship on Ash Wednesday at MUMC.

## Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes are done for the year. Students are reminded that they are required to hand in 20 worship forms and document 20 hours of service each year. You may hand these in all year.

## Sunday School at St. Luke's

Sunday School at St. Luke's for February will be held on the 4th and 18th from 10:00 to 10:45.

## Colors on the Altar

The month of February starts with green on the altar for the first Sunday as we finish the season after Epiphany. Sunday, February 11th is a feast day, the Transfiguration of Our Lord, when Jesus is revealed in white and speaks with Moses and Elijah on a mountain. The altar is adorned in white as Jesus is revealed. On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th, we begin the journey to the cross, remembering who we are and why Jesus went to that cross. Purple, the color of repentance covers the altar on this night and through the rest of Lent ending in late March.

## Midweek Lenten Worship

For our midweek Lenten worship we will be joining with St. Matthew's and Bethany, and Gloria Dei for a round robin series. Each Wednesday during Lent we will have worship at one of our churches beginning at 7:00 PM. The schedule is as follows:

February 14 MUMC

February 21 St. Luke's

February 28 St. John's

March 6 MUMC

March 13 St. Luke's

March 20 St. John's

March 28 MUMC

Maundy Thursday

March 29 St. Luke's

Good Friday

## Devos at the Depot

Join us at the Franklin Depot for Devos at the Depot. Join us for food, fellowship and music on the third Tuesday of the month. You may even catch Joe Sherman on the drums! It's an opportunity to get together and talk about God in the real world.

We will be at the Franklin Depot Tuesday night, February 20th, at 6:30 or so. Come when you can, leave when you have to, but Join us!

## Bible Studies

We will have Bible Study at Gil-Mor Haven beginning at 1:45 the following Thursdays in February: 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th. All are welcome to come!

Men's Bible Study will meet on February 6th at 7:30 in the basement of St. John's.

## Ushers for November

### **Morgan United Methodist Church:**

Brett Janke and Katie Seifert

## Council Meetings

St. Luke's council is scheduled to meet Tuesday, February 13th at 7:00 PM.

## Prayer Concerns

Please keep these members of our parish and community in your prayers: Jeri Forbrook, Sandy Schroeder Long, Pam Shefland, Dorothy Nielsen, Brent Sandmann, Butch Zempel, Raynette Hansen, Todd Sherman, Landen Grejtek, Alice Wood, Irene Landgraff, Jan Rodvik, JoAnn Jacobson, Marlys Carpenter, Kathy Potter, Sandy Stokesbury, Sue Ziegenhagen, Curt Carpenter, Glenn Eckart, Sandy Seehausen, Burdell Symens, Julie Wendinger, JoAnn Kotval, Dee Johnson, Makenna Van Kuelen, Glen Seifert, and Marlys Symens.

## Parish Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please wish these people a happy birthday and anniversary as they celebrate another year of living and loving in God's world.

### **St. John's:**

Roger Voelz 7, Karissa Christensen 7, Roger Kettner 9, Shannon Hoffbeck 13, Marie Fischer 22 and Dylan Hillger 28

### **St. Luke's:**

Chris Larson 2, Nicholas Tonak 6, Jessica Rose Lund 8, Scott Lund 11, Ron Zempel 11, Roger Reek 13, Chris Wood 14, Kate Joehnck 15, Philip Nestande 15, Samantha Riley 16, Lori Zempel 25 and Macy Kamholz 25

### **MUMC:**

Callum Carlson 6, Doris Sandmann 7, Derek Christensen 8, Curt Stokesbury 8, Shandell Sell 12, Drew Dallenbach 16 and Elliot Potter 22

### **Anniversary**

Bob and Monica Sandmann 24, 1979

## From the Pastor's Desk

Each year I am asked to give a report for the year for the annual meetings at St. John's and St. Luke's. What follows is a reprint of that report for wider distribution.

In December of 2023 my wife and I took a quick trip to southern Utah to see some of the National Parks that fill that area of the country. We flew into Las Vegas and after a long day of travel our first park was Zion National Park.

Our plan for each park that we visited was going to be to take the scenic drive that is always available, take lots of pictures, and for us one of the most important things, take a hike. On that first day in Zion, even after a grueling day of travel, we decided to take two hikes. The first one was along the Virgin River

**From the Pastor's Desk Cont.**

that has cut deep into the rocks to create the canyon in the park. The second one was a little more challenging. We decided we wanted to climb up a bit to see all of the rock formations from a different perspective. We hiked up! It wasn't very steep but every step we took we gained in elevation until after a mile and a half up we arrived at the scenic overlook some 600 feet above where we started where we could look out over the valley floor as the sun began to sink lower in the western sky. The other thing that we could see was the trail that we had just ascended and all of the layers of rock that we had climbed through. From that perspective it was much easier to see the different colors and types of rock and soil that made up the trail that we had just hiked. All different, challenging and beautiful in their own way. It gave us a new perspective and an opportunity to learn more about what we had just done.

The turn of the year is also a time to look back to see what we have been through and get a new perspective and learn new things about what God is doing in the middle of us. Also, 2024 will mark my tenth year as your pastor and my tenth ordination anniversary so I have been thinking about all that we have been through together. Each year, each day is beautiful and challenging in its own way too. Just like this year.

This past year has been good to us. We continue to gather around the Word and Sacraments in our three member Churches and support one another through all kinds of live events, good and bad. We learn and teach, work and play, laugh and cry in many ways. One of the new things we are trying in our parish is happening outside of the church. St. Luke's has been hosting a time of devotions at the bar in downtown Franklin. Devos at the Depot, as it is called, has had about a dozen people gather each month to sing, pray, and look into the Bible for a little while. At this

point it is mostly regular worshipers that have attended but with hope it will grow.

Although not true in every church, in our parish giving in general has rebounded this year surpassing what was given last year which is great news! There is a downside to it though. And that is that though giving is up it still falls short of the expenses and after several years of running well behind the financial resources are running thin. We need to find a solution to be able to continue to serve God in the churches we know and love.

It has taken us almost three full years from the upheaval of the pandemic to return to the giving that we had seen before, but what is still lagging behind even the monetary giving is the participation. I have talked with many other pastors about this and it seems to be everywhere. We need to also find a solution for this because without people participating our church will close even if there is enough money.

Thankfully almost everyone in our parish continues to be healthy. 2023 was a quiet year for pastoral acts. Throughout our parish we had only four funerals and one burial. We will miss those that have gone on. But we do recognize that God's Church continues to grow and change. This year we also celebrated two baptisms and one confirmation bringing new life to us all.

I am grateful to be able to continue to serve as your pastor. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. Most of all thank you for all you do both in the Church and out. Without you and all you do for the Kingdom of God we would be so much less than we are.

God's Peace,

Pr. Lowell

## Online Giving Available at All Three Churches

We now have accounts set up so that everyone can give their offering online if they would like to. Each church has an account set up with an organization called Tithe.ly. This company helps to make sure that your giving is secure and recordable. There is a small fee for this service, 30 cents for each transaction and 1% for checking account withdrawals and 2.3% for credit cards. You can choose to pay these costs or have them taken out of the amount given, it is your choice.

In order to give to your congregation either click on the name to the right or scan the QR code next to it with your phone. Either will take you directly to the giving page for your church. The first time you do this you will need to set up an account with Tithe.ly (this way we will be able to include your giving in your giving statements). The next time you return, Tithe.ly will have your info and giving will be super simple.

My family has used Tithe.ly to give to other organizations and have found it simple and fast to use.

Try giving online today!

Click or Scan Here to Give Online

[St. John's Lutheran](#)



[St. Luke's Lutheran](#)



[Morgan United Methodist](#)



# February

2024

## Morgan United Methodist St. John's Lutheran & St. Luke's Lutheran

on the web at [luthadist.webstarts.com](http://luthadist.webstarts.com) and [facebook.com/stjohnmorgan](https://facebook.com/stjohnmorgan)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				1:45 Bible Study at Gil-Haven	Pastor's Sabbath	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 8:15 MUMC 9:30 St. Luke's 10:00 St. Luke's SS 11:00 St. John's		7:30 Men's Bible Study at St. John's		1:45 Bible Study at Gil-Haven	Pastor's Sabbath	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 8:15 MUMC 9:30 St. Luke's 11:00 St. John's		7:00 St. Luke's Council Meeting	7:00 Ash Wednesday @ MUMC	1:45 Bible Study at Gil-Haven	Pastor's Sabbath	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 8:15 MUMC 9:30 St. Luke's 10:00 St. Luke's SS 11:00 St. John's	Newsletter items due	6:30 Devos at the Depot at Franklin Depot	7:00 Lenten Worship @ St. Luke's	1:45 Bible Study at Gil-Haven	Pastor's Sabbath	
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
Worship 8:15 MUMC 9:30 St. Luke's 11:00 St. John's			7:00 Lenten Worship @ St. John's	1:45 Bible Study at Gil-Haven		

Return Service Requested

prlowellk@gmail.com

507-227-9247

Ft. Lowell Krogstad

Morgan, MN 56266

403 Carleton Ave.

MORGAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN OF MORGAN  
ST. LUKE LUTHERAN OF FRANKLIN



*Our Lenten Journey Begins*