

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 and facebook.com/stjohnmorgan

Worship Times

Worship times for February are:

8:15 St. Luke's

9:30 St. John's

11:00 MUMC

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

Colors on the Altar

We begin this month in the season of light and end contemplating what that light has done for us.

On February 1st and 8th we continue to see Jesus revealed in different ways in the season of Epiphany. Green continues to be the color on our altars symbolizing spiritual growth, new life, and the ongoing work of Christ in the world.

The final Sunday of the season of Epiphany is a special Sunday, The Transfiguration of Our Lord. On this Sunday Jesus is revealed to three of his disciples in all of his glory. White adorns the altar on this special day.

Then beginning on Ash Wednesday, this year on February 18th, purple, the color of repentance, covers the altar for the season of Lent. Lent is Forty days of repentance and contemplation as we remember what Christ has done for us.

Dates for Communion

St. John's and St. Luke's will celebrate Communion on February 1st and 15th.

The Morgan United Methodist Church will gather for the Lord's Supper on February 1st.

Communion will also be offered on Ash Wednesday February 18th at St. John's.

Council Meetings

St. Luke's Council is scheduled to meet Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00 PM.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation students will have a makeup session Feb. 4th. Students encouraged to hand in Worship Forms and service hours to Pr. Lowell at any time.

Midweek Lent Schedule

Our midweek schedule for lent will be as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	
Feb. 18	St. John's	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 25	MUMC	
March 4	St. Luke's	
March 11	St. John's	
March 18	MUMC	
March 25	St. Luke's	
April 2	St. John's	Maundy Thursday
April 3	MUMC	Good Friday

Devos at the Depot

Join us for Devos at the Depot as we gather midweek for fellowship. And if you want, you can order tacos to have while we meet. We may break into singing a few of your favorite hymns or find plenty to talk about as we review the gospel for the coming week and the news of the day. We meet at the Franklin Depot. We start around 6:30, or whenever you can join us. We will meet **February 17th** for this lighthearted gathering. Bring a friend!

Ushers for February

Morgan United Methodist Church:

Brett Janke and Josh Sell

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. Luke's

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

MUMC

Derek Christensen 8, Curt Stokesbary 8,
Shandell Sell 12 and Drew Dallenbach 16.

Anniversaries

Bob and Monica Sandmann 24th. (1979)

St. John's

Roger Voelz 7, Karissa Christensen 7,
Roger Kettner 9, Shannon Hoffbeck 13 and
Marie Fischer 22.

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study will meet on February 3rd at 7:30 in the St. John's Church basement.

Prayer Concerns

Please continue to pray for the members of our congregations and those we know that are in need. Brent Sandmann, Todd Sherman, Landen Grejtek, Irene Landgraff, Carl Lund, Lori Buchanan, Dave Munsell, Carol Thompson, Diane Larson, Kathy Potter, Dee Johnson, Bob Mithun, Donna Plotz, Glen Seifert, Dick and Jeri Forbrook, Sandy Schroeder, Roger Voelz, Mark Winterfeldt, Jim Nielsen, and Jen Maurer.

From the Pastor's Desk

Each year I am asked to write a report for the annual reports of St. John's and St. Luke's that are shared at their annual meeting at the end of January or early February. What follows is that report placed here for wider distribution. As you may know, 2025 was not an easy year for me personally. I am discovering the truth I have shared with many people over the years, that grief is difficult to navigate. It shifts and moves, it seems quiet for a while and then it will sneak up on you. It springs out of nowhere for seemingly no reason and then when you expect it, it is not there like you assumed it would be. This year with the grief of my Dad dying in May and my Mother-in-Law dying in October it has been hard to carry the double load. In discussing my year with Woojae Im, the District Supervisor from the United Methodist Church he suggested that I needed six months leave to recover and heal. I know that isn't happening any time soon but it does give me a better understanding why nothing feels normal anymore. It also reminds me this is going to take a while to heal from.

From the Pastor's Desk Cont. Thank you all for your care and understanding over this last year. It is true that no one grieves alone. All of us need others to hold us up and support us when we are not strong. Whether or not you know it I have leaned on you. I hope I have continued to meet your needs as your pastor. If there is something that I am missing please let me know personally so that I can attend to it.

For the parish it was an up and down year. There are things that we too are grieving as we see loss and diminishment around us. But there are points of light too! I continue to love our parish picnic! This year it ended up at St. Luke's in Franklin because the heat index for that day was over 100 degrees and none of us really wanted to be outside sweating through worship. Matter of fact in 2025 there were only two Sundays with the heat index that high. One was the parish picnic, the other was Catfish Days weekend when we had also planned an outdoor worship. I know I was grateful, and I think the parish was too, that St. Luke's invested in air conditioning in early June! We moved both of our outdoor worships into the cool of the newly conditioned space. Hopefully next year we will be able to be outside.

Thank you to all of you for being part of this community! I say it every year and I mean it. It takes so much more than just one person to make our communities work. It takes all of us. So thank you for doing your part. Thank you for ushering, serving lunch, helping in the kitchen for funerals, changing altar clothes, setting up communion, putting up decorations, playing music, teaching Sunday School, working with youth, attending Bibles studies, cleaning, mowing lawn, moving snow, lighting candles, counting offerings, coming up with new ideas, serving on council, praying, all of the things that I have forgotten in this moment, and of course coming to church for worship.

Looking ahead finances and the number of people attending worship continue to be a

concern. Last year I had three word of advice for you and I will give them to you again.

Invite

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There is no substitute for your willingness to share what you have with those around you. It is your excitement and enthusiasm that will draw people to our doors. If we continue to stay quiet no one else will ever know the joy and hope you find here. It is like love itself, the more you share it the more there is to share. When love isn't shared, even what there slowly dies and goes away.

I pray you are willing to share what God has given us here so that Christ can be preached and seen in our churches as he has been for generations.

God's Peace,

Pr. Lowell

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February

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

2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <u>Worship</u> 8:15 St. Luke's 9:30 St. John's 11:00 MUMC	2 10:00 Chapel at Franklin Restorative Care	3 7:30 Men's Bible Study at St. John's	4	5	6 Pastor's Sabbath	7
8 <u>Worship</u> 8:15 St. Luke's 9:30 St. John's 11:00 MUMC	9	10 7:00 St. Luke's Council Meeting	11	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath	14
15 <u>Worship</u> 8:15 St. Luke's 9:30 St. John's 11:00 MUMC	16 Newsletter items due	17 6:30 Devos at the Depot at Franklin Depot	18	19	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21
22 <u>Worship</u> 8:15 St. Luke's 9:30 St. John's 11:00 MUMC	23	24 7:00 Mid-week Lenten worship at MUMC	25	26	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28

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



February 2026