

THE MESSENGER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026



L-R: Christmas Lights on St. Luke's Point, United Women in Faith Valentine's Party with Hartzell UMC, St. Luke's Youth Group on their Winter Retreat in Gatlinburg, TN

We have entered the reverent and reflective season of Lent beginning with our Ash Wednesday service on February 18. This will be a very busy season here at St. Luke's.

- Throughout the season, the Prayer Chapel in the Sanctuary building will be open for personal prayer time Monday-Thursday, 9AM-5PM. Guided prayer leaflets will be available.
- We began our Lenten Sermon Series "Roll Down, Justice!" Sunday, February 22 at 10AM and will continue each Sunday through Palm Sunday, March 29.
- On Wednesday, February 25, Pastor Aryn will preach and our Director of Modern Worship, Matt Smith, will lead music at the Community Lent at Lunch Series. This week's event is held at Mt. Pisgah AME Church, 624 1st Street, SW, Hickory, 28602. Worship at 12 Noon with lunch and fellowship following. Visit our website to download the entire series schedule.
- Our Confirmation Class will lead a special worship service on Saturday, March 14 at 3PM in the FLC.
- For Palm Sunday, March 29, we will hold one combined worship service in the Sanctuary at 10AM. Later that afternoon at 2PM we will host a community-wide Easter Egg Hunt and Craft Time on our lawn and playground.
- On Maundy Thursday, April 2, our Director of Children and Youth, Emma Shell, will lead a service of lament and Holy Communion in the Chapel at 6PM.
- We will commemorate Good Friday, April 3, with "Stations of the Cross" in and around the Sanctuary. This will be a self-paced walk through Jesus's path to Calvary. Open 9AM-5PM.
- Easter morning, April 5 ... ARISE and CELEBRATE! Sunrise Worship, 7AM. Easter Breakfast in the Youth Building, 7:30AM. Modern Worship in the FLC at 8:45AM. Hispanic Worship in the Chapel and Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary, both at 10AM.
- But wait ... there's more! Sunday, April 12 we will again combine this time in the FLC for a special worship service to include the dramatic presentation, "Road to Emmaus" written by St. Luke's member, Keith Orsini.
- All these events plus a downloadable flyer are available at www.slumc.org/lent-and-easter-2026.

The Messenger is published bi-monthly in
February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Visit www.slumc.org for more information.

Sign up for our weekly e-Blast with this QR Code.



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

2026

Budget at a glance

43% or \$411,124

MEANINGFUL WORSHIP

Each week St Luke's offers 4 distinct worship experiences: Traditional, Modern, Hispanic, and Children's. On average we have 175 people worship in person with amazing music, worship leaders, and preaching.



FAITH

30% or \$286,830

DEVELOPMENT

From Sunday school, small groups, and Messy Church, to devotionals, prayer teams, and pastoral care there are discipleship opportunities for people of all ages.

17% or \$162,537

MISSIONS

Your giving to St. Luke's UMC supports missions within our local church, the Viewmont neighborhood, Hickory, & Western NC as well as missionaries in Nicaragua and around the world.



HOSPITALITY

7% or 66,927

St. Luke's offers hospitality and welcome to a variety of groups including Scouts, NA, CoDA, Suzuki Music, square dancing, and other community events and of course our wonderful Kidspoint Childcare center families.



4% or \$38,244

GENEROSITY

This is the behind the scenes "business" of the church but includes things like audits, computer software, and Consecration Sunday activities.

The total budget for 2026 is **\$956,103.25** as we seek to help people find and follow Jesus

Join us this year in the Kingdom work God is giving us at St. Luke's UMC by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We can't do it without you!