

# ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2026



## *Imagination*

Lent comes early this year, barreling at us when some of us are still struggling to figure out what year or month it is. On February 18 we will gather to remember our mortality which was, in my opinion, given to us a gift from our creator. Lent is a complicated season for me and I think for many other Jesus-seekers. It is a season meant to remind us of our reliance, our dependence on God, God's grace, and God's goodness; but often we use it as a time to focus on how we can make ourselves better individuals or how we have failed at being worthy of God's love. We center ourselves in Lent—when Lent is a time to try to decenter ourselves and instead center on God.

Kate Bowler shared a conversation she had with Oliver Burkeman, whose work focuses on time, finitude, and productivity. Bowler writes:

The fantasy is that one day, if we just get the systems right, life will finally calm down. That we'll arrive at a version of ourselves who is organized enough, disciplined enough, healed enough to coast. But that day never comes. ... As Oliver puts it, this is another way of denying death. We're not exactly pretending we'll live forever. We're just acting like we can cram forever into right now.

On Ash Wednesday, we admit our mortality, the fact that we are formed from dust and to dust we will return... and then we commit ourselves to Lenten disciplines that are ways we can improve ourselves to cram forever into right now.

This is your invitation to do Lent differently this year. Let's work together to center God in our Lenten journey and simply open ourselves up to see what transformation God works in our lives when given a little space and time.

Our Lenten theme is "The work of imagination." We will be shown that Lent begins in the ache, the questions, the tension between love and loss. It does not rush toward resolution, but invites us to slow down, to turn with honesty, and to journey with Jesus through wildness, confrontation, and cross. Along the way, we listen to voices from the margins, learn from stories of resistance and renewal, and remember that God meets us not in strength, but in surrender. This is the work of imagination: to envision a world remade by mercy, to trust that healing is possible even in the shadow of empire, and to practice love that outlasts despair. Lent calls us into this holy labor—not as a solitary act, but as a communal path toward transformation.

*(Imagination, continued on page 5)*

**Editors: Tine Stone with Catherine Nellist, Deb Marks, Pat Rogers, Susie Casson, and Treva Miller**

To view the ACTS online go to [www.stlukesbethesda.org](http://www.stlukesbethesda.org)

**PARISH**

**February**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

**February Birthdays**

Edward Len	1
Samantha Lowe	1
Sandra Swab	7
Brian Katulis	8
Justine Miller	9
Sarah Hutchins	17
Phil Taylor	20
Amy Elsbree	21
Sebastian Leal	26
Stuart Wilkinson	27

**FEBRUARY**

**February Special Dates**

10 February	Lunch Bunch
11 February	Retired Men's Group (online)
13 February	New Leaf Shelter Dinner
14 February	Supper Group
16 February	President's Day; Office closed
17 February	Pancake Supper
	Chinese New Year; Ramadan begins
18 February	Ash Wednesday
	7-8:30 am Ashes-to-Go, Grosvenor Metro
	7:30 am Service, in person
	12 noon Service, in person and online
	5 to 6:30 pm, Drop-In Ashes

**March Birthdays**

Ann Blandamer	4
Margie Orrick	4
Lucy D'Agostino	6
Mandisa Griffin	6
Alex Votaw	10
Clay Miller	11
Kevin Curtin	12
Logan Zimmerman	23
Julia Schneider	24
Renata Gonzalez	24
Alby Williams	27
Bridget Legates	27
Stephane Le Boudier	27

**March**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**MARCH**

**March Special Dates**

10 March	Lunch Bunch
11 March	Men's Group (online)
13 March	New Leaf Shelter dinner
17 March	Booklovers
21 March	Lenten Morning
29 March	Palm Sunday

The ACTS is now distributed electronically using the email address that we have for you on file in the office.

If you did not receive it, please update your email address at [admin@stlukesbethesda.org](mailto:admin@stlukesbethesda.org).

If you do not see your birthday listed during the year, please contact the office.

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## SENIOR WARDEN

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### *Thinking About St. Luke's*



**Deb Marks**

What does love look like?  
How is it experienced,  
or how extended?

Ancient Greeks used names;  
recognizing different types.  
The *first* Love Language.

Thomas Aquinas  
said *agape* means to will  
good for another.

And Mr. Rogers  
explained to children that love  
is an active noun.

My understanding  
shifted one Sunday morning,  
reading the Passion.

Jesus assures him:  
"You will be in paradise."  
A vow, without test.

The Greek, *Agape*,  
conveys God's love in essence:  
unconditional.

"Five Love Languages"  
lists ways we feel and share love  
In romantic realms.

Like the noun Struggle.  
We strive to accept people  
as they are, here, now.

Jesus, on the cross,  
hears the thief beside him ask  
to be remembered.

What does love look like?  
Like caring, helping, sharing.  
A worthy struggle.

*Deb*

She/hers

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## PARISH

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### ***SUPPER GROUP: February 2026 Will Surprise You!***

Old Fogey February? Surprising? Look at this one stretch of 5 days alone:

2/14 - Valentine's Day

2/15 - Susan B. Anthony's Birthday

2/16 - President's Day

2/17 - Chinese Lunar New Year begins, first day of Ramadan, Mardi Gras, and Shrove/Pancake Tuesday

2/18 - Ash Wednesday

Don't forget Groundhog Day/Candlemas on 2/2 and the Super Bowl on 2/8. AND the entire month of February is African American History Month.

Could **SUPPER GROUP** pass up this opportunity for Christian fellowship and enthusiastic observation of so many important events? We could NOT.

Accordingly, you (all adult St. Lukers, partners, and friends) are invited to celebrate *any and all* February happenings on



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 at 6 pm**

Home of Bill and Susie Casson

(near the intersection of Tuckerman Lane and Falls Road)

Please note that parking is limited and carpooling is recommended.

**Please RSVP by contacting Susie** at to ask what is needed: entrée, salad/side, or dessert. Please remember to bring what you'd like to drink. Non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. And, should there be a weather delay, Susie will know who to contact.

Think of all the possibilities these holiday themes provide for a potluck! Groundhog casserole with nachos & cheese. Pancakes and Moo Shu Pork. Collards and chocolate truffles.

Questions? Ride? Please contact Treva .

*Treva Miller*

You are invited to enjoy a delicious

### **CONCERT of MUSICAL TAPAS**

–From Schumann to Carmichael –

Prepared by Dana Smith, Deb Marks, Pat Rogers, Sarah Horick, and Treva Miller

Delivered by piano, cello, and voice

**Saturday, February 21 at 3:00**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sanctuary  
6030 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD

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## PARISH

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*(Imagination, continued from page 1)*

One of the aspects about this program that I am most intrigued by is that it uses the word “wildness” to help us connect the wilderness of biblical times to the wildness of the world we live in today, encouraging us to look for connections between the wilderness that Jesus experienced and the wildness of our daily lives.

As we look toward beginning our annual Lenten journey in the middle of this month and you consider your Lenten disciplines, it is my prayer that these 40 some-odd days will be a time when you try out relying on God’s mercy and comfort, making space and time to simply allow God to remind you that you are God’s beloved child and that God has a dream for your life that fits in just right with God’s dream for the world God so loves. Imagine that!

*Jessica*

### **Lunch Bunch**



Join us on **Tuesday, February 10**, for the February Lunch Bunch gathering. We will meet at **12 noon** in Ludlum Hall to share conversation and fellowship while eating our brown bag lunches. (Or we’ll meet in the new Reaves Room, if it’s ready!)

Talk can be about church activities, books we have read, the upcoming spring training, or how the Winter Olympic Games are going. Our knowledgeable attendees share lots of interesting information. What better way to spend time with friends on a chilly February day?!

Please bring a non-perishable item to contribute to the Bethesda Help food pantry. We know that food insecurity is high, and that mid-winter can be especially problematic. Questions? Please contact Bill Nellist.

*Bill Nellist*

### **Think of Spring! Think of rebirth! Think of Easter!**

Yes, it may be cold and rainy. Yes, the trees look like they’re between therapists. Yes, the ground looks like it is as hard as a rock. All that is enough to make a person grumpy.

But wait! Hope is on the horizon! Easter is coming... eventually!

Mark your calendar: **Easter Sunday is April 5.**

Do you want to honor a loved one with Easter flowers this year? Grab an envelope from the pews or scan the QR code.



It’s important to enter your dedication in the memo field using one of these formats:

“In thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_” or “In memory of \_\_\_\_\_.”

Don’t worry. You have some time; **our deadline is Sunday, March 29.**

It’s the St. Luke’s “Easter-fy-ing” extravaganza! We’re talking flowers, we’re talking glory, we’re talking about transforming our church!

Here’s a round of applause for our Flower Guild wordsmith Irene Schindler!

*Barbara Roybal and Catherine Nellist*



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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ~ Basic Needs Cluster



#### Background and History

Loaves & Fishes started as an outgrowth of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church’s practice of providing meals after Sunday services during the mid-1960s. When non-churchgoers from the Columbia Heights-DC neighborhood who were hungry began to appear in considerable numbers, the congregation launched a meals ministry named for the miracle in the Gospels. As Loaves & Fishes grew, other churches stepped in to help—including St. Luke’s. Loaves & Fishes is now the oldest church feeding program in the DC area and still serves lunches to-go every weekend and on Federal holidays when other sites are closed. All who need a meal are welcome.

#### Honoring our Saints

Beginning in 1986, Fred Heiken kindly and consistently coordinated St. Luke’s volunteers for Loaves & Fishes, serving up fried chicken lunches on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month for the next 26 years. In 2012, Fred transitioned the leadership to his close friend and fellow parishioner George Huckabay. More recently, Diane Fox and Jane Battles enjoyed serving there. It was—and continues to be—a fulfilling ministry for many parishioners.



*St. Luke's volunteers at Loaves & Fishes during Labor Day 2018:  
L-R, top row—Jane Battles, Andi Pringle, Diane Fox, Tom Canick  
L-R, bottom row—Marta Montoro, Nancy Reding, and former L&F  
Kitchen Manager, Brother*

#### The Pandemic and Beyond

Despite challenges, Loaves & Fishes persevered, transitioning to providing vaccine clinics as well as to-go meals as the need for food continued to increase. Loaves & Fishes falls squarely under the “Basic Needs” Cluster within the Community Engagement Committee’s framework—and this year’s focus on hunger and food insecurity is ever-relevant for our neighbors.



Currently, St. Luke’s supports the program financially. Additionally, a small group helps pack meals every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. The carpool leaves from St. Luke’s around 7:30 am and returns around 10-10:30 am. SSL hours are available for our youth volunteers 12+.

Please reach out to Marta Montoro with any questions. Consider being part of this long-standing hunger ministry that has served our neighbors in the District faithfully for more than 55 years.

*Marta Montoro*

## FINANCE

### FINANCE REPORT DECEMBER 2025

	2025 Budget	'25 Actual Thru Dec	% of '25 Budget *
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Offering Plate	\$ 20,000	\$ 40,216	201%
Pledge Payments	455,000	468,045	103%
Donations for Facilities	65,000	73,661	113%
Altar Flower Donations	5,700	6,981	122%
Gifts/Grants for Operations		17,772	
Miscellaneous			
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 545,700</b>	<b>\$ 606,675</b>	<b>111%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Compensations	\$ 403,993	\$ 418,846	104%
Church Activities	17,600	12,782	73%
Parish Operations	112,700	113,525	101%
Community Engagement	22,000	22,000	100%
Diocesan Giving	52,519	52,524	100%
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>608,812</b>	<b>619,677</b>	<b>102%</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(63,112)</b>	<b>(13,003)</b>	
<b>Additional Funding – reserves</b>	<b>63,112</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>(13,003)</b>	

**ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE**      \$175,702

\* YTD December = 100% of the year

**Finance Ministry:** Happy New Year and thank you for your support. St. Luke's ended its fiscal year in a stable financial position. 2026 has the prospect of additional financial support mid-year when we welcome our tenant, with accompanying physical changes to St. Luke's.

If you need to be reimbursed for a purchase or need the Treasurer to pay an invoice, please send an email to James in the office at [admin@stlukesbethesda.org](mailto:admin@stlukesbethesda.org) and include the receipt, the amount, the purpose for the expense, and the budget account to be charged. All requests for extra money or donations by committees, individuals, or church members should have prior approval of the Vestry before solicitation.

*Sandy Swab, Treasurer*

# CALENDAR

## February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 1:00pm Outside group 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>2</b> 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>3</b> 7:30pm Outside group	<b>4</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b> 7:00pm Outside group	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Girl Scouts leader meeting 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 1:00pm Outside group 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Finance meeting 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>10</b> 12:00pm Lunch Bunch	<b>11</b> 10:30am Retired Men's Group (online) 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> New Leaf Shelter Dinner	<b>14</b> 6:00pm Supper Group at Cassond
<b>15</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>16</b> <b>Presidents' Day</b> <b>Office closed</b> 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>17</b> 5:30pm Pancake Supper	<b>18</b> <b>Ash Wedn:sd</b> <b>7:00am-8:30am</b> <b>Ashes to Go at Grosvenor Metro</b> <b>7:30am</b> <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> <b>(in person)</b> <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> <b>5:00pm-6:30pm</b> <b>Drop-In Ashes</b>	<b>19</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>5:00pm</b> <b>Prayer &amp; Conversation</b> <b>(in person)</b>
<b>22</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>23</b> 8:00pm Men's AA meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b>	<b>26</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:30am Outside group <b>5:00pm</b> <b>Prayer &amp; Conversation</b> <b>(in person)</b>

For up-to-date Calendar information, go to [stlukesbethesda.org](http://stlukesbethesda.org), click on Calendar.

# CALENDAR

## March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:30am <b>Worship Service (in person only)</b> 10:00am <b>Worship Service (in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>2</b> 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>3</b> 7:30pm Outside group	<b>4</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:00pm <b>Prayer &amp; Conversation (in person)</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30am <b>Worship Service (in person only)</b> 10:00am <b>Worship Service (in person &amp; online)</b> 1:00pm Outside group 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Finance meeting 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>10</b> 12:00pm Lunch Bunch	<b>11</b> 10:30am Retired Men's Group (online) 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)</b>	<b>12</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>13</b> New Leaf Shelter Dinner	<b>14</b> 5:00pm <b>Prayer &amp; Conversation (in person)</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30am <b>Worship Service (in person only)</b> 10:00am <b>Worship Service (in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>16</b> 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>17</b> 1:00pm Booklovers 7:00pm Vestry meeting	<b>18</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)</b> 7:30pm Girl Scouts leaders	<b>19</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00am-12 noon Lenten morning <b>5:00pm Prayer &amp; Conversation (in person)</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30am <b>Worship Service (in person only)</b> 10:00am <b>Worship Service (in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>23</b> 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)</b>	<b>26</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00pm <b>Prayer &amp; Conversation (in person)</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:30am <b>Worship Service (in person only)</b> 10:00am <b>Worship Service (in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>30</b> 8:00pm Men's AA	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6:00pm <b>Maundy Thursday Service (in person)</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Good Friday</b> 12:00pm <b>Good Friday Service (in person &amp; online)</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> 8:00pm <b>Easter Vigil (in person)</b>

For up-to-date Calendar information, go to [stlukesbethesda.org](http://stlukesbethesda.org), click on Calendar.

## **Pancake Supper**



You are invited to attend the  
**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
5:30—7:30 pm Tuesday, February 17

Please join us for the traditional Pancake Supper!  
We'll have eggs, pancakes, sausage, applesauce, oranges, and King Cake!

Breakfast for dinner! YUMMY!

We will need your help to make this great event a success.  
Please consider giving a half hour, or more, of your time to help us  
with setup, cooking, decorating, etc.

To sign up, go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D4FAFAC2C7-shrove1>

Questions or offers to help? Contact:  
Jen Luna or Veronica Walgamotte

*Jen and Veronica*

### **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

#### **Trinity Parish**

6030 Grosvenor Lane  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-1852

Phone: 301-530-1800  
email: [admin@stlukesbethesda.org](mailto:admin@stlukesbethesda.org)  
website: [stlukesbethesda.org](http://stlukesbethesda.org)

### **The Rev. Jessica K. Hitchcock**

Rector

email: [jessica@stlukesbethesda.org](mailto:jessica@stlukesbethesda.org)

#### **ACTS of St. Luke's**

Newsletter for members and friends of St. Luke's;  
published monthly, except January & July.

#### **ACTS Articles Deadline:**

15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month