



St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Thompson

Pastor



Where Friends and Faith Meet

March 22, 2026
8:30 and 10:15 a.m.

3080 Okatie Hwy. 170 – Bluffton, SC 29909
www.stlukesumc-okatie.org

WELCOME

Our hope is that you will experience God our Father's love in our worship service today. Guests, we are happy you are with us and hope we have extended to you a warm welcome. Please don't hesitate to ask any member about our church and the activities we offer. The informative information, located in the bins in the back of the church, provides some of St. Luke's history.

Please let us know you were with us today by signing the BLUE REGISTRATION PAD located at the end of each pew.

Church Office: 843-705-3022
Mailing Address: PO Box 2779
Bluffton, SC 29910
Location: 3080 Okatie Hwy., Bluffton 29909
Website: www.stlukesumc-okatie.org
Church's email address: stlukesumc.hwy170@gmail.com

Pastor's Mailing Address: Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Thompson
465 Live Oak Walk
Bluffton, SC 29910
Cell phone: 864-704-0728
Email address: clthompson@umcsc.org

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please text or call his cell phone (864-704-0728) for an appointment to be sure he doesn't have a prior commitment.

MEETINGS:



St. Luke's United Methodist Church
Where Friends and Faith Meet
Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Thompson

Marsha Gerber, Music Director

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

Greeters & Ushers

8:30 a.m. – Kathy and Jim Smith

10:15 a.m. – Beverly and Thomas Cook

PRELUDE: *“I Call Him Lord”*

Pat & Will Ross and Joann Sandruck

THREE BELLS

Chiming of the Trinity

(See our prayer list)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

CENTERING MOMENT

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** *“I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary”*
Allyn Perdue

OPENING PRAYER– Congregation prays together:

Dear Lord, let your divine power flow through us! May you guide us to those who need us, and guide us to those who we need to serve your holy kingdom. Today, may we remain fixated on your mission and serve with a servant’s heart. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

PSALTER READING: Psalm 130 No. 848

***GOSPEL READING:** John 11:1-45

8:30 – Tina Topoleski and Armen Hagopian

10:15 – Cynthia Thompson

***OPENING HYMN:** *“Lord of the Dance”* No. 261
Verses 1, 4 & 5

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** No. 881

***GLORIA PATRI** *“Glory Be to the Father”* No. 70

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD’S PRAYER No. 895

**THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS/
OFFERTORY:** *“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”* arr. Smither

***DOXOLOGY** No. 95

***GRADUAL HYMN:** *“Easter People, Raise Your Voices”* No. 304
Verses 1, 2 & 3

SCRIPTURE: John 11:1-45

MESSAGE: “How He Loves Us”
Michelle Cramer

***HYMN OF INVITATION** No. 314
“In the Garden”

Verses 1 & 3

Congregation sings 1st verse

Music Interlude during invitation

Congregation sings 3rd verse

All are welcome to come to the altar to lift prayers and praises during the last hymn.

***BENEDICTION**

****“God Be with You Till we Meet Again”** (*Holding hands is optional*)
(Hymnal inside back cover)

***POSTLUDE:** *“Postlude in G”* -Brown

*Please stand as able.

Arrangements for the Celebration of Life for Dave Fisher are as follows:

11:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 24th visitation at Saul's Funeral Home, 90 Simonsville Road, Bluffton

11:30 a.m., Service at Saul's Funeral Home - Rev. Dr. Chris Thompson

1:00 p.m., Interment with full military honors - Beaufort National Cemetery, 1601 Boundary St, Beaufort

2:00 p.m. Linda & family welcomes guests for a luncheon Reception at St. Luke's Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to help with the Reception or have any questions, please contact Lois Willig.

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LENTEN SERVICES –12:00 noon with a light lunch afterwards:

March 25 at Bluffton UMC

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HISTORIC TOURS - Beginning at 10:00 a.m. on APRIL 16, we will conduct tours on the 3rd Thursday of each month. These tours will be open to the community. No reservations are necessary.

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Thank you for your donations to UMCOR Sunday last week. It is not too late to donate if you care to. Again, thanks to all who donated!

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MOVIE NIGHT - Saturday, MARCH 28, 4:00 p.m.in Fellowship Hall. The movie will be "The Chosen, Part 1."

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MARCH 29 –Join us for the Palm Sunday CANTATA service at 9:15 a.m., followed by a pot luck brunch. Please see the sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall to bring a dish.

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ST. JOHN IN EXILE – Church of the Palms will be showing this movie at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, MARCH 29 in their Fellowship Hall. St. Luke's is invited to attend.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – 8:00 a.m. Monday mornings in Fellowship Hall. Contact Alan Bethel or Dr. Lee van Rensburg for additional information.

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WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Thursdays; meet & greet at 5:30; study from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Our current study is the Book of Revelation. Please bring your Bibles.

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CHOIR PRATICE – Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

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BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES

Linda O'Connor, 3/24

Carole & Alan Bethel, 3/26

Sandy Lowry, 3/25

Diane Morey, 3/25

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Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God by Carole and Alan Bethel in celebration of their 60th anniversary on March 26, 2026.

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MISSIONS

FAMILY PROMISE – We will be providing meals on Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27. Please check the bulletin board in the Sanctuary to help with the items needed.

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY – We will NOT be having Prayer Blanket Ministry in March.

AGAPE FAMILY LIFE CENTER – 5855 Okatie Hwy., Hardeeville. Saturdays and Wednesdays, 10:00:-12:00. Help distribute fresh food to local families in need. No advanced sign-up needed - just show up.

If you are going through an illness or another crisis and can use support, please let us know. Marie Baldauf leads this ministry, which can help by providing a meal, a visit, or caring phone calls. Please contact Marie.

EASTER LILIES - If you would like to have an Easter Lily placed in front of St. Luke's on Easter morning, please pick up an order form from the back of the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall. Clearly fill in your name(s) and the name(s) for dedication of the lily. (In "memory of " for those we've lost or "in honor of" those still here with us.) These names will be included in our Easter bulletin. **The cost is \$15.00 each.** If paying by check, please make it payable to "St. Luke's UMC" with "Lilies" on the memo line. Return this form to Lois Willig or place in the offering plate. **The Deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 29th.** You have an option to take the lily home following our Easter service, or we will donate it to a shut-in. Questions, see Lois Willig.

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 CPR and AED Training: Joe Cservek has arranged for Training by Sam at the Bluffton Fire Department on Wednesday, April 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. While everyone is invited to attend and participate, it is particularly important that those who have previously signed up to attend actually do attend, as 7 people are required to participate in order for the Bluffton Fire Department to agree to travel to us to train.

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 We are pleased that several community groups utilize our Fellowship Hall for their meetings. This is another way St. Luke's serves as a hospital for the heart! ❤️

Sundays, 1:30-3:30 – Trinity Christian Church
 Mondays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. – Just for Today Al Anon
 Mondays, 7:30-9:00 p.m. – Keep it Simple Men's AA Group
 Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. - Clear-Cut Directions AA Group
 3rd Tuesday & 3rd Sat., 12:15 – 4:00 p.m. – Pamela Carter - card making
 Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. – Drop the Rock AA Group
 Fridays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. – Living Free Women's AA Group
 Every other Friday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. – Girl Scout Troop 4071
 Fridays 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Depth & Weight AA Group

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 A FRIENDLY REMINDER – Please silence your cell phones, and refrain from using them, if possible, during Sunday services, as it can be a distraction to others. Thanks!

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 Please send information for UPCOMING MEETINGS, BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS and the PRAYER REQUEST LIST to Amy Erickson and Linda Metcalf. **Please let us know when loved ones' names can come off the prayer list so we keep it up to date.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

CONGREGANTS

Ruth Dolan
 Linda Fisher
 Mim Mazon

Judi & Gary Landin
 Amy Dauplaise
 Lois Finch

Andy & Sharon Makarick
 Thomas Cook
 Harold Prosser Jack Reed

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CONGREGANTS

Hannah Nystrom, friend of Marie Baldauf
 Beverly Byrd, friend of Cynthia Thompson
 Daughter of Don McKay
 Debbie Hamilton, sister-in-law of Diana & Walker Hamilton
 Dale Lawrence, nephew of Jerry Vagnier
 Diane Gorden, mother of Megan Sytsma
 Diane Oder, friend of Diana Hamilton
 Steve Rose, friend of Candace Payne
 Pete Burger, friend of Jane Tiffany
 John, grandnephew of Meg Carmody
 Todd Rohde, son of Rich Rohde
 Angie, Karl and Zahn, son and family of Bill Husson
 Buffy Hopkins, friend of Dawn Hall
 Pat Lawn, brother of Carol Jackson
 Donna Lewis, sister of Tina Topoleski
 Pat, neighbor of Janet Jacoby
 Dottie Apgar, former member
 Debbie, sister of Diana Hamilton
 Diane Losk, friend of several church members
 Karen, friend of Tina Blount
 Jonathan Bethel, grandson of Alan and Carole Bethel
 Joe, husband of Lynn Cutshall
 Ed Molchan, friend of Diana Hamilton
 Kiwana James, friend of Cynthia Thompson
 Brian, Wanda and Ken Wooden, friends of Dawn Hall
 Jessica Smoltz, friend of Shirley Hamilton
 Rebecca, friend of Leslie Van
 Jennifer, friend of Sherri Prosser
 Karen, friend of Tina Blount
 Jan, neighborhood friend of Judi Landin
 Connie and Rick, friends of Susie and Michael Brown
 Jim and Larua, friends of Susie and Michael Brown
 Barbara and Al, friends of Susie and Michael Brown
 Travel mercies for Phyllis Sippel
 Steven Nelson, friend of Marie Baldauf
 June, sister of Janet Jacoby
 Jessica, friend of Janet Jacoby
 Judy Boswell, a friend of Sheryll Ingram
 Linda Lorick, sister of Quida Dell

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Linda Fisher for her husband, Dave's passing on March 17th.