

# St. Luke's NEWS

APRIL 2025

stlukesbillings.org



## Holy Eucharist Worship:

Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

Saturdays, 5 p.m.

Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m.

Find us online  
and Facebook.



## SEASONS AND PREDICTABILITY OF CHANGE

**April – in like a lion, out like a lamb...** that's what we used to say in my youth. And for the most part, that held true. But not necessarily anymore. At this point who the heck knows what the monthly weather will bring. When people ask me what the weather is like in Billings, I have to say I don't know, it's been different every year since I moved here. So from year to year, I never know what to expect. I do know that at some point in the spring it will warm up, eventually the snow will melt, and we'll be into summer before you know it.

Regardless of all the climate change with its unpredictability, one thing holds true – the calendar cycles through our "official" seasons year after year after year, regardless of what the weather is doing. Spring starts. The weather may or may not match what we think spring should be like. The Liturgical Calendar is much like that – the seasons of the church year cycle through, year after year, regardless of what the climate of our culture is at any given point in time. Right now we are in the season of Lent in the church (maybe in our wider culture as well?).

Soon however, the season will change, and Holy Week will begin with Palm Sunday. It continues until we reach Easter a week later. The Season of Easter continues until Pentecost in June. In the middle of Easter season we will have the annual Bishop's Visitation. Then we continue on with the long green season after Pentecost. No matter what may come and go, the liturgical cycle continues to go around, as it has for hundreds of years. People come and go, worship resources change, parish personalities evolve over time, leadership begins new initiatives, ministry opportunities develop and change. Yet through all of the change and growth, the Liturgical Calendar remains the same. Sure, the dates for various feast days change from year to year, as do the number of weeks in some of the liturgical seasons, depending on the date of Easter, which is dependent on the cycles of the moon. And yet, the annual cycle in the church remains the same.

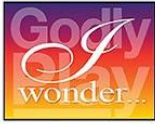
When the world seems so chaotic now, and uncertainty is the flavor of the times, we can count on the consistency of the Liturgical Calendar. It is the seasons of our cycle that anchor us in the reality and absurdities of daily living outside the church walls. If we allow ourselves to be shaped by this predictability, we can draw comfort from delving fully into the season we find ourselves in. So now we are in Lent. Dive all the way in. Wear purple, explore our own inner experience, confess that we are sinful (even if it's in general or subtle ways), participate in Stations of the Cross, read the Rite of Reconciliation in the Book of Common Prayer and do a thorough self-examination. If you feel so moved, go to a priest of your choice and make a formal confession. It's still not too late to take on a Lenten Discipline. Soon enough we will be in Holy Week, and you can wear red all week long. And predictably Easter will come and we go forward from there.

The point is – no matter how uncertain, chaotic, adversarial, angry, divided, violent, our culture is at any given time (like it is now, frankly) we can take comfort in the predictability of the Church Liturgical Cycle. It can anchor us. It can set us free from having to always try to predict what comes next. Week to week, we cycle through, and over the course of a year, we have been through it all. If we let the liturgical cycle form us in our daily lives, we may find the wherewithal to navigate a world that seems bent on creating chaos and uncertainty.

So, I take comfort in wearing my purple shoes to remind me of the richness of Lent. Plus they are kind of fun for a change. Good Lent ... Good Holy Week ... Good God – here we go again. — *Mtr. Melinda* †



OFFICE † phone: 406.252.7186, email: [secretary@stlukesbillings.org](mailto:secretary@stlukesbillings.org) † 119 N 33rd St. Billings, MT



## GODLY PLAY

Sunday School continues to meet each week at 10:30 a.m. across from the library. During Lent we are focusing on the mystery of Easter. We have had some serious conversations about how it is a sad time, but will turn into something wonderful. We've talked about Christ's journey toward the cross and His glorious resurrection. In that vein, we planted seeds in egg cartons, which will ultimately end up in the church courtyards. They are happily growing under lights and will be ready to transplant in May. If anyone has any medium to large plant pots to donate, we would love to take them off your hands. Thank you!

— Linda Auch, Shirley Waldron and Kim Hatheway



Maria updates our website weekly. To add or change something on the site, please contact her at: [msurdahl23@yahoo.com](mailto:msurdahl23@yahoo.com)

Do you have news to share? Email it by the 15th of the month to [safrench1@bresnan.net](mailto:safrench1@bresnan.net)

## Preschool

### CHILD ENRICHMENT CENTER

After our early spring break, we spent March "under the sea" exploring oceans and the creatures that live there.

We have been enjoying the first signs of spring and watching our tulips and crocuses bloom. We have started our own planting, and can't wait to see what grows.



## VESTRY REPORT

The Vestry met on Thursday, March 20.

- Upon the advice of Katie Mueller (our RBC Investment Advisor) the Vestry considered changing the way the parish funds are invested. Before making a decision, the Vestry requested more information, and will invite Katie to April's meeting.
- A proposed painting of the outside of our church building will require existing lead paint to be encapsulated. This should not change the estimated price.
- In two separate motions the Vestry decided to move forward with the painting project and replacement of the garage door.
- The next Vestry meeting will be April 10.

— Mike Jackson, Clerk of the St. Luke's Vestry.

## FROM THE TREASURER FOR FEBRUARY

Monthly Income . . . . .	\$22,884
Income Budgeted . . . . .	\$17,658
Expenses . . . . .	\$18,700
Expense Budgeted . . . . .	\$22,627



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 4/05 – Aaron Ulishney
- 4/11 – Lisa Malody
- 4/22 – Carolyn Gilstrap
- 4/26 – Martin Surdahl
- 4/27 – Rockwood Frank

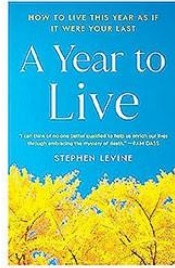
### ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/12 – Malcolm Goodrich & Judy Williams
- 4/23 – Michael & Sharon Songstad
- 4/25 – Neal & Gail Anderson

If you would like to receive a newsletter by email instead of a printed copy, please contact Melody, our church secretary, at 406-252-7186.

## MEN OF ST. LUKE'S

The **MSL Book Club** finished "Stoner" by John Williams, and before going into our next read I would like to say how much all of us enjoyed this book. It is a somewhat simple story but with deep undertones and was beautifully written. Our discussion on this novel was quite involved and took up most of our morning meeting. Our panel of experts gave this a high rating and recommendation.



We have chosen our next two books and both sound intriguing. Our first book will be "*A Year To Live: How to live this year as if it were your last*" by Stephen Levine. Our second book will be "*The Entire Sky*" by Joe Wilkins. This novel involves a troubled boy, an aging rancher and a woman at a crossroads who find unexpected solace in the family they make. I am looking forward to a couple of good reads. If you want to join us let me know and I will put you in the group text. — *Doug Clapper*, 406-671-0310

## EASTER FLOWERS

Please make a donation to help provide beautiful flower bouquets on the altar. Use a special **Easter Flower** envelope with cash or if you write a check make it out to St. Luke's and put Easter Flowers in the memo line. Thank you.



The **Women of St. Luke's** had their final meeting for the spring season on Saturday, March 22, during which planning for several events took place.

There is an opportunity for service during the funeral and reception for Marilyn McKinney at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 2. Volunteers are welcome to meet in Cardwell Hall at 9:30 a.m. on that morning to help set up, serve a lunch and clean up. We are also providing a cookie buffet during the reception, and ladies who are willing are asked to bring three dozen cookies to the church on Thursday, May 1, or Friday, May 2, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

We are also hosting a high school graduation reception for Abi Funk, Leah Funk and Keith Frank on Sunday, May 4, during the fellowship time after church.

On Sunday, June 1, during the fellowship after church we will host a bridal shower for Stephanie Vincent and Harry Adams, who are planning to be married at the church on Saturday, June 28. The shower theme is for the "kitchen."

These are wonderful opportunities to minister to one another, and we appreciate anyone in the church wishing to help out with these activities.

## Other Celebrations!



Family came from near and far to celebrate with Hank and Patsy Sanderson on their 70th wedding anniversary.



Simmy and Allen Audet's grandchildren, Henley Nicole Holkum and Jace Cameron Holkum were baptized last month.



## CALENDAR

**NOTE:** Mtr. Melinda will be on vacation April 21 – May 3.

- **Faith In Action Team Meeting:** Sunday, April 6, 12:15 pm, after fellowship in Cardwell Hall.
  - **Godly Play:** April 6 and 27. 10:15 a.m., in the Sunday School room. Ages 3–10.
  - **Sandwich making for MRM:** Sundays, April 13 and 27 in Cardwell Hall, after the 10:30 a.m. service.
  - **Art of Living Book Series:** April 5, and 12, noon – 2 p.m. Bring your own lunch. Coffee provided.
  - **Preschool Board meeting:** Wednesday, April 9, 4 p.m.
  - **Vestry Meeting:** Thursday, April 10, 6:30 p.m., Library.
- † **Stations of the Cross** Fridays, April 4 and 11, 12:15 p.m.
- † **Palm Sunday** April 13, 10:30 a.m.
- † **Maundy Thursday** April 17, 6:30 p.m. Simple Agape meal with foot washing, and Holy Eucharist.



**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
119 North 33rd Street  
Billings, MT 59101



**OFFICE** — phone: 406.252.7186  
email: secretary@stlukesbillings.org

- † **Good Friday,** April 18. Services noon and 7 p.m.
- † **Easter Vigil,** April 19, 8 p.m.



**HOLY EASTER**  
April 20 ● 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship and Easter egg hunt for the children in Tuttle Park after Holy Eucharist

**MOST WEEKS — Coffee Talk & Lectionary Study~** Sundays, 9 a.m. Cardwell Hall with Mtr. Melinda, Fr. Jerry and Dn. Corinne.



## CAMP MARSHALL THIS SUMMER!

Registration opened starting March 1, 2025.  
[www.campmarshallmontana.org](http://www.campmarshallmontana.org)

Explore diverse camp offerings, from outdoor adventures to arts and crafts for campers of all ages. There's something for everyone!

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is dedicated to the mission of Camp Marshall and its future. Thanks to the generosity and foresight of past and present parishioners, we have been able to send families and children to camp over many years.

St. Luke's will help with grants to our parishioners if your child(ren) are interested in attending Camp Marshall, *or* if you want to go to FAMILY camp together. Please fill out a St. Luke's campership application, found on the table in the back of the church. This helps us to budget for the funds needed to continue providing this wonderful Camp Marshall experience to our parishioners.

St. Luke's campership applications should be returned to the church office, by May 25, 2025. This application does not secure your place at Camp Marshall. You must still go to the Camp Marshall website and register. Camps fill up quickly, so please don't delay.

- GRACE CAMP . . . June 7 – 11
- FAMILY CAMP . . . June 30 – July 5
- MIDDLEL CAMP . . July 7 – 11
- JUNIOR CAMP . . . July 14 – 17
- SENIOR CAMP . . . July 20 – 25

## MAKE FRIENDS FROM OHIO

June 9 – 13, 2025

For Montana youth (6th–12th graders and any willing adult) to connect with a group of youth from Ohio. The groups will work together to prepare the camp for this year, 2025 and 2026. Our youth will then have a chance to go to Cleveland, Ohio, and do some shared ministry there!

