

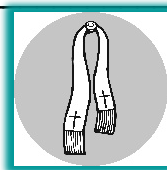


CONNECTIONS

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - July 2024

*Members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, in response to Christ's love,
reach out in service to each other, the community, and the world*

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR MONTE



Faces of Our Faith

Do the names Shiprah and Puah mean anything to you? How about Eutychus? Beginning July 14, we are kicking off a series called **Faces of our Faith: Bold and Untold Stories**, looking at lesser-known characters from the Bible. We will also hear from people within our congregation, about moments that stretched their faith or people who have had a profound influence on them.

As we journey with these characters, may they remind us that we **ALL** play a role in God's story of redemption and grace. As we hear each other's stories, may they remind us that we **ALL** have something to share and something to learn from each other. May this summer awaken us to the many faces of our faith, in our lives and in our world today. See you in worship!

Pastor Monte

ALL CHURCH FAMILY FUN NIGHT

On Thursday, July 25, 6 pm, join us at **Whitnall Park Beer Garden** for a picnic and games. You can bring your own food or buy something from the Gift of Wings Grill. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and yard games. Look for balloons to find the group. See you there!



♥ CAUGHT BIG-HEARTED ♥

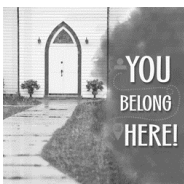
THANK YOU to:

- All the youth helpers and adult leaders who helped with Music Camp this year, and all the children who shared their voices and smiles with us. Jonah was a whale of a tale!
- Our Gardening angels who plant, move and water our flowers, and those who mow the lawn. Thank you for keeping our grounds looking nice!
- All who bring food for the food pantry. So far this year, we've donated 506 pounds of food! Remember that summer is often a harder time, with no school meals helping to bridge the gap for families.
- All who brought diapers for Hephatha's strong baby sanctuary--Keeping baby bottoms dry and healthy!
- We received a "thank you" from Breaking the Chains, for a financial gift that helped purchase flowers for the men to plant around the Kenosha Correctional Center. This gift helped bring color and beauty to a dark place. Breaking the Chains is our August Outreach of the month, so we will learn more about their ministry next month!

PRAYER STATIONS



Beginning July 14 and continuing into August, be on the lookout for something new in our worship space! Lani Ziller is helping to set up prayer stations that can be used after communion or after worship. There will be a few in the back choir loft as well as in front of the stained-glass window. Prayer stations offer tangible ways to connect with God, either through writing a prayer, lighting a candle or some other action. Each station will have written guidance or suggestions on how to use it. Because they will be there throughout the summer, you can use them as and when you feel led, with no pressure. Thanks to Lani for helping to organize another dimension to our worship!



WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

We will be welcoming new members in worship in Sunday, July 28. If you are interested in making St. Luke's your church home, please talk to Pastor Monte!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- SAGE Older Adult Health Screening and Resource Fair - Wednesday, August 7, 9:00am -11:30am, St. Alphonsus Church Community Room, 6060 W. Loomis Road. Free health screening for memory, vision, blood pressure, balance and more. No registration required!
- Outdoor Worship—August 11, 9:00 am. A joint worship with other area churches as part of Village Days. Bring your lawn chair and water and join us! *(no live-streaming will be available that day.)*



We have just finished a great week of learning and sharing music, art and drama at our 6th annual Music Camp. Our musical was "Oh, Jonah", and the 21 kids, 14 youth helpers along with 15 teachers enjoyed all of the activities, including singing, drama, art, ukulele, guitar, drumming, snack time, outdoor play, rhythm and movement activities made for a very full time of fun and learning. The Bible story of Jonah is jam-packed with drama.

After first trying to run away, joining a group of sailors heading to Joppa, Jonah finally responded to the call of God. He did not want to preach to the Ninevites, but God had other plans for him, knowing he was the one to help the Ninevites repent from their evil ways. The story of Jonah reveals that our God is a God of "Second Chances." After Jonah preached to the Ninevites, the people repented of their corrupt ways, beginning with the King, and prayed to God, asking for forgiveness from the awful ways in which they were living. Their lives turned around as they began to walk in the way of the Lord.

Roses of appreciation go out to all of the leaders as well as the students for this wonderful week. Thank you to all! May your summer be blessed with much joy.

In Christ's service,
Carol Peterson, Music Director





In case you missed it, St. Luke's Handbell Choir has a new director, Kate Braatz! What hasn't changed is that this is a super fun group of people who add a lot to our worship experience here at St. Luke's. What has changed is that we had a couple of regular ringers who moved to our sub list, and Kate will be facing the opposite direction this fall as well. **Are you interested in joining us?** Our group generally begins rehearsals in October, takes a generous break over the holidays, and finishes up in April for the year. We will be rehearsing MONDAYS (not Wednesdays) at 6:00-6:45 PM this season. It's a perfect, low-commitment way to be involved in our music program. No experience required! Interested people should contact Kate in person or via e-mail at musikate@gmail.com.

Caregiver



Support Group

As we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our nation, I'd like to share a few words about how we honor those who have served in our military.

We observe Memorial Day and Veterans Day as follows:

Memorial Day - *Remembers those who have died*

Veterans Day - *Honors the living.*

For our **Memorial Day** observance, **TAPS** is played while the flag is honored. The names of members and relatives of the congregation, who have served and died, are then read and lifted up in prayer.

For our **Veterans Day** observance, those who have served are invited to stand and be honored, before the flag presentation. A prayer is then offered in their honor, as well as those who are presently serving.

I maintain three (3) lists in the Veteran's display case; those who have died, our living veterans and family members who are currently serving.

If you would like to have a name added to any of these lists, please contact me at prmarcie@msn.com or call 414-235-8477. As a Civil Air Patrol Chaplain (29 years), I have taken on the responsibility to maintain these lists, but I need your input to keep these lists current and relevant.

Thank you for your support,
Ch. (Lt. Col.) Marcia Strahl, CAP

(P.S. Thanks to Robin Gross, who brought the idea of having toy soldiers for people to take home to remember someone, and to Pastor Monte for making it happen!)

THE CHOSEN

This fall in adult ed we will be discussing Season 4 of *The Chosen*. If you haven't yet watched seasons 1-3, summer is a great time to catch up! *The Chosen* brings to life the story of Jesus and his disciples, in an emotionally rich and theologically accurate way. Because these are familiar stories to most of us, you don't have to watch the beginning seasons to join in at season 4, but you will be enriched by doing so!

Find *The Chosen* seasons 1-3 at: <https://watch.thechosen.tv/page/seasons%201-3>. It's free and easy to watch on your phone, computer or tablet. This summer, Binge Jesus!



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING



Those attending the National Youth Gathering will have a parent and youth preparation meeting on July 11 at 7:15pm – 8:30pm in Lower Fellowship Hall. All final details and a packing list will be handed out, and any questions you may have will have the chance to be answered.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We had another wonderful Sunday School year! We will resume on Rally Day, September 8, 2024. Mark your calendar and plan to attend our celebration.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Plans for the 2024/2025 school year will be beginning to develop this month. We always hope to add to our teaching team! If you love Jesus and enjoy children, you should become a teacher!! No experience is needed. You are given all the materials to be able to walk you through the lessons. Contact Heather (heather@slchurch.org) if you are interested.



CALLING ALL VBS YOUTH HELPERS

- Crew Guide VBS Orientation/Training & Tie Dye Party Thursday, July 11 at 6:00pm – 7:15pm in Lower Fellowship Hall.
 - You will learn more about daily schedules/rotations, how to deal with conflicts, your responsibilities, and create a colorful tie-died t-shirt. Attending this training is mandatory, unless otherwise cleared by Heather.
 - Volunteers in 6th – 12th grade can sign up at www.slchurch.org/sign-ups.

VBS VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered for VBS! If you are interested in helping, we can always use additional helpers! Please contact Heather in the church office (414) 421-1670.

JOIN US FOR “SCUBA” VBS

- Monday, July 29th – Thursday, August 1st | 9AM – 3PM
- \$35/child OR maximum \$75.00
- For those who need it we have the following available:
 - Before Care (7AM - 9AM) - \$5/child
 - After Care (3PM – 5:30PM) - \$10/child
- Together we will dive into a friendship with God. Invite your friends, neighbors, grandchild, nieces, and nephews! ALL children who have completed kindergarten – 5th grade.
- Register online at www.slchurch.org/sign-ups
- Children registered for VBS will receive a confirmation letter mid-July, with additional VBS details. IF you have registered and do not receive a letter, please contact the church office to verify we have received your registration.



Space is filling up quickly, so be sure to sign up soon. **Registration deadline is July 21, 2024.** After that date, contact the church office for availability.

VBS – ITEMS WE NEED

- **Beginning July 7th, choose an item** from the ‘vine’ located in the Gathering Space (near the VBS table) by July 21st or as directed on the paper.
 - **Help decorate the hallways and classrooms**
 - July 23rd, starting at 10:00 am.
 - Come when you can, leave when you must – many hands make light work!
 - **Help decorate the chancel area**
 - Right after worship, Sunday July 28th.
 - **Donate school supplies for the local mission** – Backpacks for Hephatha (list is located on the VBS table in the gathering space and below).
 - **Give offering for the worldwide mission** – World Vision (“Making a splash in Honduras” - Providing clean water)
 - **WATER BOTTLES FOR SCIENCE** – The science classes need one liter soda bottles with caps. Clean, empty bottles can be placed in the VBS box in the Gathering Space.
 - **OLD NAIL POLISH** – The art classes need OLD fingernail polish – colors that you don’t need or use anymore – to help with a craft. There will be a box in the Welcome Center. Thank you!
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MILESTONE MINISTRY – COLLEGE GRADUATES!

Congratulations! May God bless all of you in this new chapter.

- **ABBY SCHMIDT** – Graduated from UWM with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) with plans to work as an RN at Aurora St. Luke and go back to school to become a critical care Nurse Practitioner.
- **JACOB SMITSDORFF** – Graduated from the University Platteville with a double major in biology and forensic investigation. Currently he is studying to receive his Masters in Pathologists’ Assistant Studies at Carroll University. The plan is to do gross dissection of surgical specimen and autopsies within the hospital.
- **TANNER SELF** – Graduated from University Milwaukee with a Bachelors in Architecture.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH INVITED

Save the dates for the planned fun outings. More information will be sent via e-mail and text message.



August 10th – Mini Golf 3PM – 7PM
August 21st – Pool Party 6PM – 9PM



BACKPACKS FOR HEPHATHA

We are collecting school supplies to fill backpacks for children of various school ages.

- ❖ Backpacks (right size for Kindergarten, middle school, and high school)
- ❖ Calculator with basic functions
- ❖ Write tablet (specific for beginning writers)
- ❖ Compass
- ❖ Protractor
- ❖ Pocket Folders (3-7 needed for each backpack)
- ❖ Spiral notebooks: wide ruled (3-7 needed for each backpack)
- ❖ Binders: 3-ring, 1 inch
- ❖ Loose leaf paper: wide ruled
- ❖ Large Glue Sticks
- ❖ Bottle of White Glue
- ❖ Highlighter
- ❖ Scissors – small round tip & large pointed tip
- ❖ Pencil cases/Pencil boxes
- ❖ Pencil Sharpener
- ❖ #2 Pencils
- ❖ Colored Pencils: box of 8-12
- ❖ Markers: narrow & road, washable, box of 8-12
- ❖ Large Crayons: box of 8-16 ct.
- ❖ Rulers
- ❖ Pens: Black, Blue, Red
- ❖ Pink Erasers
- ❖ Kleenex Boxes
- ❖ Index Cards: Lined 3x4



SUMMERTIME JESUS CHALLENGE

Don't forget to continue to send in your pictures completing the Summertime Jesus Challenge through these next months. As we receive them they will be posted to social media. Send your pictures to JesusSummerTime@gmail.com

- *Bake a Dessert*
- *Go to the Park/Playground*
- *Go to the Beach*
- *Build a Sandcastle*
- *Eat Ice Cream*
- *Have a Picnic*
- *Go to a Carnival*
- *Go to a Different State*
- *Go to the Pool*
- *Take a Walk*
- *Take a Bike Ride*



- *Take a Bike Ride*
- *Have a Cookout/BBQ*
- *Go to a Sporting Event*
- *Play a Game*
- *Watch Fireworks*
- *Read your Favorite Book*
- *Go to the Farmer's Market*
- *Watch a Movie*
- *Make a Fort*
- *Take a Vacation*



SEASON OF CREATION

This year we will again celebrate the Season of Creation in September. This year's themes are Earth Sunday, Humanity Sunday, Sky Sunday and Mountain Sunday. Once again, we would love to share your photos during the prelude and offertory. As you enjoy your summer activities, please send in photos that correspond to these themes. Send to stlukes@slchurch.org, and put the corresponding Sunday in the subject line. Thank you!

GIVING REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Income	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
May 2024	\$35,000	\$29,312	Deficit \$5,688	\$175,000	\$165,753	Deficit \$9,247

See Mark Ohlert, Rob Kegel, or John Noggle with any questions.

You can now GIVE ONLINE, by scanning the QR code.



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Reach out in service to each other, the community, and the world.*

