



# CONNECTIONS

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - August 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*

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## GREETINGS FROM PASTOR MONTE



Dear ones,

I hope you've had a restful summer so far, and experienced Jesus with you in your adventures both near and far. (Keep sharing those pictures for our Summertime Jesus bucket list!) We continue our **Faces of Our Faith: Bold and Untold Stories** series, with stories from the Bible and from our congregation. Even if you are traveling or away, you can still keep up with worship by watching online.

Throughout this series, you'll have a chance to participate in hands-on prayer activities at the "prayer stations" set up in the back choir loft and near the stained-glass window. These stations will be available both before and after worship, as well as after communion.

Whether it is through participating in the prayer stations, taking pictures with Summertime Jesus or just reflecting on your own faith story, the point is to train our hearts and minds to be on the lookout for God and God's activity in the world. God is always at work—even when we can't see God and even when things don't make sense to us!

Glad to be training with you!

Pastor Monte

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## OUTDOOR WORSHIP AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>

We are once again joining with area churches (St. Stephen the Martyr, St. Thomas of Canterbury, and Adoration Lutheran of Greenfield) for a community outdoor worship service as part of Village Days. Sunday, August 11, in the town parking lot, 9:00 AM. St. Luke's will be the rain location. Bring lawn chairs if you have them, hats for shade and cold water. Any offerings given in offering envelopes will still go to the respective church, and loose offerings will go to Hunger Task Force. Join us!



## OUTREACH OF THE MONTH - BREAKING THE CHAINS

You have probably heard us pray for Breaking the Chains in our “Prayers of the people,” but do you know what it is? Breaking the Chains Church (BtCC) is a church inside the Milwaukee Felmers Chaney Correctional Center and the Kenosha Correctional Center, both are pre-release centers helping incarcerated persons return successfully to their families and communities. Bible Study and a Eucharist Worship take place weekly. Congregational volunteers from around the Synod join the men for these gatherings.



### **How can we help?**

Pray—Pray for the men who are about to come out of Felmers Chaney and the Kenosha Correctional Center, that they can adjust to life outside and find the support and connection they need. Pray for those who are currently out and still looking for housing or struggling in other ways. Prayers of thanks for the men offering the abundance of their garden to area food pantries.

Give—Pr. David Rebey will be with us in worship on August 25. We will have a Noisy Offering that day to support the work of Breaking the Chains.

Encourage—we will have a chance during coffee hour to talk more with Pastor Rebey as well as write notes of encouragement to the men who worship with Breaking the Chains. Please plan to stay!

Interested in joining a ZOOM worship with Breaking the Chains on Saturday Nights to see what worship inside prison is like? Contact Pr. Rebey at [david.rebey@gmail.com](mailto:david.rebey@gmail.com) for an orientation and to learn more.

Interested in becoming even more involved? There is a lengthy but not too burdensome training and security clearance required to be able to go inside prison for worship. This is a wonderful way to take Jesus' words to heart: “I was in prison and you visited me,” (Matthew 25:36). Again, reach out to Pr. David Rebey to learn more: [david.rebey@gmail.com](mailto:david.rebey@gmail.com)

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## 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!



*The next Caregiver Support Group meetings are as follows:*

- August 12th – Judy Stefanovitz will share another of her short stories about personality changes during our lifetime and what can cause them. Participants are invited to think about whether they have had a personality change in their life and what may have contributed to the change.
- September 9th 13<sup>th</sup> – We will again have Ruth Busalacchi, Certified Senior Advisor, President and owner of Synergy Home Health back to speak about scams. She wrote; “It seems the risk of being scammed continues to grow, and the Con-Artists always seem one step ahead of us!” Attend this informational session to learn more about the different types of scams to be alerted to, along with some insight into the mindset of a typical con-artist. Leave feeling better prepared to identify a scam in the future.

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month in the Upper Fellowship Hall at 4:30 (until the time change in fall). Please come and encourage your friends and neighbors to come with you. All are welcome and treats provided.

In addition, Greendale SAGE is sponsoring an older adult health screening and Resource Fair on Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 9-11:30 am at St. Alphonsus Church Community Room. No registration required and refreshments provided.



## **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](mailto:stlukes@slchurch.org), and put the corresponding Sunday in the subject line. Thank you!

- Bird Walk—Saturday, September 14. As part of the Season of Creation, let's go on a bird walk with Colleen Resendiz, of the Metro Audobon Society. Meet at Wehr Nature Center, 8 am. Bring binoculars if you have them and \$5 for parking (if you aren't a member of Wehr.) Birding beginners are welcome!
- Land Restoration—Saturday, September 21, in the morning. Our outreach of the month for September is working with the Urban Ecology Center to help restore the urban land they manage, removing invasive species, trail work and planting. Details on time and location coming soon!

# HOME COMMUNION & HOSPITAL VISITATION TRAINING



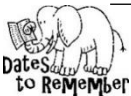
Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 pm

We are thrilled to re-launch the Home Communion ministry team again! This team will, once a month, take communion to members who have a difficult time getting to church. It's a real extension of our ministry outside of our walls, and a blessing for everyone who participates. In addition, we are preparing a few people to provide hospital-visit back-up in the event that I am sick or out of town and unable to visit someone. If you have questions about what this involves, please reach out—I'm happy to talk with you about it!

The training will include a discussion of the theology of care, presence and communion, as well as covering the logistics of the visits, scheduling and even a little practice role-play. From 8:00-8:30,

those who ALSO want to be part of the hospital visitation team will stay for some additional preparation for these visits.

Please sign-up at the welcome center if you plan to join us--we need to know how many to expect. AND--if you—or a family member-- would like to receive communion at home on a monthly basis, PLEASE contact the office or pastor to let us know!



**SAVE THE DATE – Rally Day, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>!**

- Festive Worship at 9:00 am, with blessing of the backpacks and commissioning of the Sunday school teachers, First Day of Sunday school, and pot-luck picnic at 11:00 am. We're grilling hotdogs and brats, and ask you to bring a dish to share:

If your last name starts with A-P, bring a side.

If your last name starts with Q-Z, bring a dessert.

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# BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

This year, we will bless our backpacks on Sunday, September 8 (Rally Day!) All students (of any age) and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks, computer bags, briefcases—whatever you use! Whether you worship with us in the sanctuary or at home, we will bless those backpacks and (even more important)—those who carry them.



**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated food, supplies and decorated. Thank you in advance to all the volunteers that make VBS a success! This year we had 50 registered and a wonderful group of middle/high school crew guides.

- **Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00AM worship** - - The VBS students will share their excitement as they sing during worship. Everyone is invited to a punch/cake reception in the gathering space following worship. A VBS slideshow, highlight the week will be shown. If you are interested in purchasing a DVD of all the pictures throughout the week speak to Heather.
- **WORLD MISSION FOCUS** – “Making a Splash in Honduras” provides the community with clean water. Just a donation of \$5 will give one person clean water for over a year! To make a donation, please find one of the special offering envelopes, available on the welcome center.



## SUMMER POOL PARTY



August 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00pm – 9:00 pm – Middle and High School Students, including those who just graduated and incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We will meet at Karyn Birmingham’s house in Greendale, cookout, play games, and enjoy the pool. Maybe even make a smore or two. Come when you can and leave when you must. Sign up at [www.slchurch.org/sign-ups](http://www.slchurch.org/sign-ups).

## **YOUTH MINI GOLF OUTING**

Join Heather Saturday August 10<sup>th</sup> to play Mini-golf 3PM – 7PM.

We will meet at church and go mini-golfing followed by dinner.  
More details will be e-mailed.

To Sign up go to [www.slchurch.org/sign-ups](http://www.slchurch.org/sign-ups).



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## **CONFIRMATION INFORMATION**

- PARENT & YOUTH MEETING – for all those going into 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades Wednesday August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in Lower Fellowship Hall. Details for the year will be provided and registration forms and fees will be collected. Contact Heather if you're unable to attend.
- CONFIRMATION CLASSES for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders will begin Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm
- NAMING CONFIRMATION – This fall the name of our confirmation program will take on a new name. What will it be? Stay tuned to see the announcement!

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## **INFORMATION FOR 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS**

- Retreat in Preparation to be Confirmed - Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> - - 7:15pm – 8:30 pm in Lower Fellowship Hall
  - Informational Dinner/Presentation of Confirmation Projects – Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at Pastor Monte's House. More details to come.
  - Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation) Service – Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> (9AM Service).
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## **SYNERGY HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**

Will resume Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:15pm -8:30pm in our High School Youth Space in Lower Fellowship Hall. We will meet throughout the year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month (unless otherwise told). Plan to attend these nights of games, snacks, and amazing, meaningful faith conversations. Invite your friends! All are welcome!

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES ON SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**

Sunday school resumes on Rally Day, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Parents and children are invited to attend. Parents and student will be able to do a project together and meet your teachers for the year. Watch your e-mail for this years registration form, or find it online at [www.slchurch.org/sign-ups](http://www.slchurch.org/sign-ups) beginning in August.



## **THREE YEAR OLDS**

Sunday School begins on September 8<sup>th</sup>. All children who will be three years old by September 1, 2024 are eligible to begin Sunday School. Parent letters will go out in early August with information about preparing for that day. Pastor Monte or Heather will contact families to schedule a visit prior to the start of classes (Rally Day). If you do not receive a mailing, contact Heather at (414) 421-1670 or [heather@slchurch.org](mailto:heather@slchurch.org)

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED**

Plans for '24-'25 Sunday School year are underway. We hope to add to our teaching team! If you love Jesus, enjoy children, and like to smile...become a teacher! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED. Teachers work together in teams. You will not need to teach every Sunday. All materials are provided.



Sign up at [slchurch.org/parish-ed](http://slchurch.org/parish-ed), or pick up a pink form on one of the church welcome centers. Return your sign up to Heather.

## PARISH EDUCATION HELP NEEDED

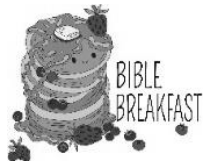


Volunteers do the following; teach/volunteer in a classroom, help with Confirmation (Guide) or Synergy, serve on the Parish Ed or Youth & Family Committee, help plan events (Winter Carnival, Easter Egg Hunt, youth fundraising, etc.), help behind the welcome center, create bulletin boards, etc. There are many ways to serve. Interested? Contact Heather, fill out an 'I'm interested sheet' (located on the welcome centers) or go to [slchurch.org/sign-ups](http://slchurch.org/sign-ups).

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## BIBLE BREAKFAST and WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

All second graders and their families are invited on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Lower Fellowship Hall. Students will receive their Bibles in worship on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Watch your mail for your official invitation. Be sure to notify Pastor Monte or Heather if you have a second grader or older child who should attend, and you didn't receive an invitation. Families can pick up wrapped Bibles in August from the Sunday School Welcome Center.



## SUMMERTIME JESUS CHALLENGE

*Let's see how many places we can get Jesus to go with us this summer. Snap a pic of you (or your family) doing one of these things and e-mail it to [JesusSummerTime@gmail.com](mailto:JesusSummerTime@gmail.com) We will show them on our social media pages and in worship throughout the summer.*

- ~~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~~
- ~~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~~

## GIVING REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Income	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
June 2024	\$35,000	\$36,219	Surplus \$1,219	\$210,000	\$201,973	Deficit \$8,027

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

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

