



CONNECTIONS

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



What Can I Bring? It's a question for every one of us—because **we all have something to bring!** Each one of us has been gifted by God, and when we use our gifts to serve others, **we are part of how God meets other people's needs.**

Your intentions for giving in 2025 help us plan our ministry and mission. Please prayerfully consider your financial giving plan for 2025, and then fill out a pledge form, either paper (it should have come in the mail OR you can pick one up at church) or online (www.slchurch.org/giving). We would love to have these back by Nov 10.

Included with both the paper and online form is a place to express your interests in serving as well as fellowship opportunities. **We need everyone in order to be the church God calls us to be!**



As a festive conclusion to the stewardship drive, you are invited to the Ministry Fair on Nov 10! After worship, we will follow the smells of popcorn and apple cider downstairs to learn all about the various ministries of the church and many ways to get involved. Plan to stay and join us! Special activities for the children during the fair as well.

GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear ones--

What are you thankful for? This is the question of the month! And though I know it can be cliché, it's not a bad one to reflect on. You probably know this, but it bears repeating. **Gratitude is good for us.** Studies show that people who practice gratitude consistently report:

Physical benefits like stronger immune systems, being less bothered by aches and pains, lower blood pressure, and deeper and longer sleep, and

Mental health benefits like higher levels of positive emotions and being more alert and optimistic.

Of course the Bible is full of words about gratitude—give thanks to the Lord, offer thanksgiving when entering the Lord's house, give thanks for all circumstances, give thanks when presenting requests to God—I could go on and on.

So spiritually, gratitude is good for us too—it's an affirmation that **this world is full of goodness, and that the goodness comes from God.**

This month, we will once again grow our Thanksgiving Tree in the Gathering Space with the opportunity to add leaves expressing our gratitude. There will be **new prompts each week**—so stop by to add your thanks and enjoy what others have said.

What am I thankful for? The beautiful leaves outside my window, a mild autumn, the health of my parents and in-laws, a husband and children who make me laugh every day, a dog who knows just when to cuddle up, and YOU! **A church family who seek to know and love and serve God.**

Gratefully,

Pastor Monte

November Outreach of the Month

First Lutheran Church of West Allis Food Pantry

We have long supported them, and thanks to John Noggle we support them all year long! In 2023 we gave 750 lbs of food, and already in 2024 we have given 769 lbs!

On Nov 3, we will hear more about the food pantry from some special guests. On Nov 24 we will have a Noisy Offering. And every Sunday in November, we are focusing on different foods to bring:

- Nov 3 Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Nov 10 Tuna fish and cereal
- Nov 17 Canned/sealed fruit and veggies
- Nov 24 Baked beans & canned or instant potatoes



Turn back your clocks
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd

Election Night Prayer Service on Zoom

Nov 5, 8 pm <https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/94683724289>

If the thought of waiting for election results fills you with anxiety or dread, come join us for a 30-minute compline prayer service on zoom. We'll turn our hearts toward the One who calms storms with the words "Peace, be still." 30 minutes of no analysis, no exit polls and no ads. Just ancient words and prayers that have brought comfort and perspective to people through the ages. Feel free to invite your friends or family!



KRINGLE ORDERS

Pick up November 17th following worship

Thank you for supporting the youth of St. Luke's

HEPHATHA MISSION PARTNER APPRECIATION DAY



Saturday, November 2nd
Service at 3:00 pm
Dinner following service

This event provides a wonderful opportunity to worship and fellowship together with our siblings at Hephatha Lutheran Church. Pastor Monte will be attending; we would love to have others from St. Luke's join as well! Even if you didn't RSVP for dinner, you are still welcome as we are assured there will be plenty of food.

VETERAN SUPPORT



Veterans Day will be observed at St. Luke's on Sunday, November 10th with a flag presentation at the end of the service, as well as recognition of the veterans present at worship. Lists of members who have served, family members who are currently serving and deceased family members who have served are maintained in the display case at the back of the sanctuary. Information for this display is dependent on you. We especially invite new members to let Rev. Marcie know of your service or a family member's service. Please provide name, branch, years of service, where served or currently serving. We can also send a copy of the ELCA "Prayer Book for the Armed Services" to those currently serving. Contact Ch., Lt. Col. Marcia Strahl, Civil Air Patrol prmarcie@msn.com 414-235-8477

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

November 11 and December 9
2:30 pm (note winter time change)

All are welcome to join us.



FALL CLEAN UP

Saturday, November 16th 9:00 am – Noon

Join us to clean up the church for winter. Please bring rakes, leaf blowers, or any inside cleaning supplies. Coffee & Donuts will be provided. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Any Questions? Contact Todd Sneed (414) 531-5376



CONFIRMATION AND SYNERGY DATES

Confirmation Dates:

Nov 6—Fellowship time together (at church)

Nov 13—Sort Kringle AND large-group learning session

Nov 20—Large-group learning session

Nov 27—No Confirmation—Happy Thanksgiving!

Synergy:

Nov 13—Baking Night! Baking treats for an upcoming coffee hour. (sampling will be required 😊)

Nov 24—Host Coffee Hour after Worship

Nov 27—No Synergy—Happy Thanksgiving!

QUAKE—FOR ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS!

Plan to join us for a FUN, faith-shaping weekend in the Dells—inspiring speakers, live music, and of course—waterpark time! Feb 14-16, 2025, at Glacier Canyon Lodge (Wilderness Resort). \$275 (\$50 deposit due with registration.) Registration Deadline is Nov 11. Register and apply for Financial assistance at <https://www.slchurch.org/sign-ups>

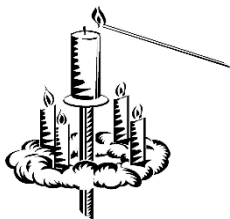


See pastor with any questions

Announcing A MISSION TRIP – July 13-19th!

Imagine—after spending a beautiful summer day sorting donations at a food pantry and helping elderly residents with light home maintenance, you go cheer on the Duluth Huskies (a minor league baseball team) with your (for this week anyway) new best friends. The next day, you might be cooking at Loaves and Fishes, a homeless shelter, or doing bike maintenance at the Bike Cave. And before heading home, enjoy a day of bonding while white-water rafting on the St. Louis River.

Sound fun? This could be YOU, next summer! St. Luke's high-schoolers (rising 9th graders through graduated 12th graders) are headed to Duluth, MN for a week of serving, laughing and being together, July 13-19th. More details coming, including price, but know that we are committed to this being affordable and accessible to everyone! Registration will open in December. For now, mark your calendars!



ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING & READERS

**Sign up at slchurch.org/sign-ups
Or at the Welcome Center**

Families and individuals of all ages are invited to sign up to light the advent wreath and do a brief responsive reading at our 9AM worship services: December 1, 8, 15, & 22.

Christmas Pageant DECEMBER 15th DURING 9AM WORSHIP



REHEARSALS

Saturday, December 7 9am-11am

Saturday, December 14 9:00-10:30 ALL

10:30-11:30 SPEAKING parts

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have experience in your High School drama program? We'd like someone to work with the children on "acting" in their parts. We also are in need of a couple of High School Youth or Adults to help with costumes. There are many costumes to choose from, but we want to pick the best! If you are able to offer assistance for these specific needs or assisting in ANY way, please contact Lynda Van Dien at (414) 378-9933 or lvandien@gmail.com.

ANNUAL ADVENT BREAKFAST



Sunday, December 1st

10:15 am following Worship

Members of all ages will enjoy this time together as we focus on the reason for the season and share a meal. Watch for details in Sunday bulletins & e-mails. Families / households can make Advent Wreaths, to take home. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

PAJAMA VESPERS

Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 pm

Sign up at slchurch.org/sign-ups

Gather around the Christmas tree for evening Vespers. Children can come in their pajamas and snuggle on the lap of adults as we hear the Christmas story/activity, sing carols, and worship our Lord.



WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

1:00 pm

Gathering Space of the Sanctuary

Join us for scripture, prayer, and communion.

ADVENT ACTS OF KINDNESS

In conjunction with an Advent Calendar available this year, we would like to have a "Kindness Calendar" filled with ideas for simple, child-friendly acts of kindness, one for each day of advent. We need your ideas for these kindnesses! Please submit yours to stlukes@slchurch.org with "Kindness Calendar" in the subject line. Thank you!

THE CHOSEN Season 4 – Adult Study

During Education Hour

November 3- Episode 6

November 17 – Episode 7

November 24 – Episode 8

There continues to be wonderful discussion surrounding this engaging series. Watch for another opportunity in the new year to look at the previous 3 seasons.

ST. LUKE’S SENIORS: LUNCH & LEARN AND ... FUN!

Join us for a new program here at St. Luke’s specifically for our congregation’s older adults. Thurs., Nov. 14th , 11:45 am, in the Upper Fellowship Hall. After a light lunch, we will hear from Greendale’s own Dave Hanneken , author of *The Home Front*. Come learn about the more than 400,000 German POWs who came to America during World War II and filled labor shortages in lumber yards, on road crews, in factories, and yes, even on Wisconsin’s farm fields.

Please sign up by Monday, Nov. 11th, either at the Welcome Center or by calling the Church Office. Transportation is available if needed! (And if you can offer a ride, let us know that as well!)

A free will offering will be taken to help cover costs for lunch.
Questions? Talk with Pastor Monte or Vicki Jensen (414) 331-9768.

OTHER DECEMBER DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Christmas Caroling December 6: During Greendale’s Dickens Day – All of the congregation is invited to join in the Caroling.

Christmas Decorating December 13, 5pm: at church, followed by pizza at the Wajerski’s.

Blue Christmas December 15, 5pm: A contemplative service for when the holidays are hard.

Christmas Scavenger Hunt December 18 : Fun for ALL Ages—Join us for the first annual Christmas scavenger hunt! Teams will have a list of items to find from all over town, and then come back for cookies, hot cocoa, and showing off your scavenger hunt photos.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	YTD Budgeted Amount	YTD Receipts	YTD Analysis
September 2024	\$35,000	\$35,915	Surplus \$915	\$315,000	\$298,602	Deficit \$16,398



Our 2025 Church Council Needs YOU

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

What is *your* talent? What is *your* gift? Will you use it willingly in service to Him? We are looking for **two congregation members** that wish to serve on our Church Council in 2025. Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and the term is for two years.

We need the following positions filled:

Secretary: In addition to leadership and decision-making, this person would take the meeting minutes during Council Meetings and the Annual Meeting. The minutes are shared at Council meetings for revisions and approval. Meeting minutes are part of our permanent records.

Member-at-Large: This position involves attending Council meetings and the Annual Meeting to provide insight, feedback, and leadership for decision-making.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated Church Council that helps guide us as we live out our mission. Serving St. Luke's in this way is an extremely rewarding experience. **If you would like to be part of Council, please contact Nomination Committee members, Todd Snead, Mary Van Ryzin, Beth Koehler or talk with Pastor Monte.** We ask that you prayerfully consider being part of our Church Council.

Each year at our Annual Meeting, **we ask for two volunteers (male/female if possible) to represent St. Luke's Lutheran Church at our synod assembly.** If you are interested in attending, please contact Beth Koehler or talk with Pastor Monte. We are listing the dates and location of the assembly in advance of our Annual Meeting so that those wishing to be considered have the information upfront.





Ladies -- SAVE the DATE

St. Luke's Lutheran Church Women's Retreat
Building Friendships – Building Faith
Friday evening and Saturday
January 31 to February 1
Many Details will Follow –
but mark your calendars now!

CAUGHT BIG-HEARTED

Thanks to ...

- ❖ Rudy and his Dartball buddies for loading and delivering LWF quilts
- ❖ Enjoying our new screen in worship? Dave Jensen spearheaded the purchase and installation. Nate Keller, Mark Ohlert, Ken Orlikowski and Todd Sneed all helped with various aspects.
- ❖ Ladies who have helped with extra cleaning projects at church as well as stuffing envelopes and other office tasks.
- ❖ Vicki Jensen for taking on Kringle Fundraiser
- ❖ Lisa Dettloff for volunteering as a new Confirmation mentor. Dave Jensen, Todd Sneed, Beth Koehler have all helped teach confirmation! Matt Peterson helping with Synergy.
- ❖ Robin Gross—taking on kids music!
- ❖ Winter Clothing Drive-Pat Larsen and Karen Feucht for organizing the drive and all who gave generously.
- ❖ Guest House Milwaukee Sandwiches—Dick Hensley, Mark Ohlert and Judy Fejes for organizing and everyone who helped make them and all who contributed.
- ❖ Todd Sneed and Diane Beutin who helped with the Pumpkin Carving.
- ❖ Jess Williamson and Dan Dordel for organizing this year's Stewardship Campaign, "What Can I Bring?" and Travis Gross for help with editing videos!