



February 2025

CONNECTIONS

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

*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



Dear Church,

What do you love?? The silence and stillness after a snowfall, the warmth of sun on your back, the smell of fresh-baked bread? We often talk about God giving us each different gifts, but God also gives us different loves, different things that make us feel alive. And those differences are worth paying attention to!

As you consider where and how to engage with St. Luke's this year, think about what you love. What gives you joy? Then look at the needs here at church, the needs in the community, the needs in the world. What is the intersection between your loves and the world's needs? Frederick Buechner said it like this—**the place God calls you is where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.**

Every person who is part of this church is here on purpose. It's not an accident. God brought together this particular group of people, with this set of interests, this set of passions and this set of gifts to be St. Luke's of 2025. How exciting! Let's see what God can do with us!

Thank you to everyone who joined me for coffee at Dia Café during "office hours" in January! Be on the lookout for a walking group on Monday mornings once the weather warms up!



From the MUSIC DIRECTOR

For the past several years, the choir at St. Luke's has prepared a cantata for the service on Palm Sunday. This year we have chosen, *Behold the Lamb*. This cantata will include several selections of music, sung, and a small orchestra along with narrations. The work will tell the story of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection.

If you have an interest in singing with the choir for this cantata on Palm Sunday, April 13, you are most welcome to attend rehearsals. We will plan to work on the cantata from 7:00- 7:30 each Wednesday night. We will work on our other anthems following cantata practice. Please let me know if you have an interest and I will give you a copy of the score. I may ask you to sing a short passage in order to determine your voice part. *"All who sing, pray twice."*

Peace and blessings, Carol Peterson
carol.pete13@gmail.com

A message from Dick Hensley, Congregation President

It is unbelievable how another year has come and gone. A sobering thought is that we are now closer to 2050 than 2000. 2024 was another remarkable year for St. Luke's. As a congregation we continue to be blessed in so many ways. I am humbled by the growing engagement and generosity of our St. Luke's congregation. Motivated by Christ's love, we continue to reach out in service to each other, our community, and the world.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your Council President. There are many achievements to be grateful for. The deployment of "Outreach of the Month" has energized our efforts to make a meaningful impact to our community. Being Lutheran has always meant a strong commitment to fellowship and building relationships. We are a congregation who loves to get together, share a meal, and celebrate our Church family.

In December through your generosity, annual giving, and Christmas offering St. Luke's was able to increase our benevolence supporting a number of our valued partnerships in addition to enhancing our facility reserves. I want to say thank you to all for your faith, prayers, Sunday morning / Wednesday worship, and engagement in partnership with one another. Our St. Luke's community is ready to embrace 2025 sharing our love of Christ and growing our impact for all.

CONFIRMATION AND SYNERGY

Confirmation



Service night Feb 5—baking cookies/making cards for first responders in Greendale (police and fire fighters)

Feb 12-Deliver cookies/cards, finish learning about the Lord's Prayer

Feb 19-Why are there so many different churches?

Feb 27-Mentor Night-mentors are invited for sharing stories, games and fun.

Synergy

For High Schoolers! 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7:15 pm; Feb 12 and Feb 27

HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE TRIP TO DULUTH



St. Luke's high schoolers (rising 9th graders through graduated 12th graders) are headed to Duluth, MN, **July 13th-18th** for a week of serving, laughing and being together. Sorting donations at a food pantry, helping elderly residents with light maintenance, and cooking at a homeless shelter are just some of the ways we will serve, and there will be fun too—exploring Duluth's beautiful harbor, Gooseberry Falls and white-water rafting on the St. Louis River.

Sign-Ups are happening now, online!

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR CONFIRMATION CAMP!

June 22-27, 2025 Imago Dei Village, in Clintonville, WI
Register directly with the camp. Once you log in you can click the button on the top of the registration page that says "I belong to a group that has reserved space" .
Once you click that you can select St. Luke's from the drop down OR use this code: StLukesIDV25.

Spots are limited, so we encourage you to register as soon as you can!



Sunday School Children are SINGING - During worship on Sunday, March 2, let the grandparents know

MARCH 2: PRE-LENTEN PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH CARNIVAL GAMES!

All are invited to attend the Lenten Breakfast on **Sunday, March 2** at **10:15 AM** (**Following Worship**). Menu includes pancakes, ham, and breakfast desserts. You'll also learn about the special Lenten offering focus for this year.



This year, we'll set up a few of our Carnival Games for kids (and adults!) to enjoy before and after the breakfast.

Invite your friends and family!

MUSIC CAMP

June 16-June 20th, Mon-Fri, 9AM – Noon

- **ALL children** who have completed kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend.



- Enjoy a morning filled with fun and learning! Participants will learn about music, learn how to play a few instruments, and act out the story of Mary and Martha.
 - **Sign-ups will begin later this spring but for now, save the date and invite your friends!**
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VBS 2025 True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World July 28-July 31, Mon-Thurs 9AM-3PM



- **ALL children** who have completed kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend.
- We have the **BEST** teenage guides for our VBS, so 6th-12th graders, **save the week to help!**
- **Lots of volunteer opportunities for adults, too!**

First planning meeting is Sunday, April 6, after education hour (make your own Easter Garden day!)

OUTREACH OF THE MONTH



The Outreach of the Month for February is **Outreach for Hope**. OFH is an umbrella organization which supports life-giving ministries serving low-income communities within the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA, including some of our long-term partners like Hephatha and Breaking the Chains.

- Chris Manke, the executive director will be with us on Feb 9, preaching in worship as well as leading a presentation during Adult Ed.
 - Save your change for a Noisy Offering on Feb 23!
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OUTREACH TEAM

MEETING SUNDAY, FEB 23 AFTER WORSHIP,

Upper Fellowship Hall

We are filling up the calendar with groups to support in 2025, through the Outreach of the Month initiative. Anyone who wants to be part of choosing who we learn about and support is welcome to join! Please bring suggestions of any “Outreach of the Month” you would like to organize. Thank you!

IT'S “SOUP”ER BOWL TIME!

Once again St. Luke’s men’s breakfast group will sponsor a “Souper-Bowl” challenge.

A “football stadium” will be set up in the gathering space on Sunday, February 9, and you are urged to bring a can of soup when you come to worship. Place the can on the side of the field that represents the team that you think will win (or you want to win) Super Bowl LIX at New Orleans later that day. Everyone in your family can participate. Each can will represent one vote. All the soup will be donated to the food pantry at First Lutheran Church in West Allis.

Last year we correctly picked the Kansas City Chiefs winning the Super Bowl. Can we do it again? The results will be reported the following Sunday.



ADULT EDUCATION

THE INVITATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONTINUES

Feb 2—Chapter 4

Feb 9—Rev. Chris Manke from Outreach for Hope (our Outreach of the Month) will share a presentation.

Feb 16—Chapters 5 and 6

Feb 23—Chapters 7 and 8 (meet in library this day)

DINNER FOR 8

Sign up and you will be placed in a group of 8. Singles or couples can join! Then join us at the **kick-off LUNCH Sunday, February 16** to meet your group and decide on future plans. Some groups have met for brunch or for cookouts, some have played games or watched Packer games together. You decide! Meet throughout 2025, and next year you'll get scrambled into a new group.

Kick-Off Lunch: Feb 16, 11:15 (after education hour), in Upper Fellowship Hall

Sandwiches, Soup and homemade desserts. \$10 per person.

Sign up at the Welcome Center, by Feb 9. Even if you can't make the lunch, you can still join Dinner for 8!

You can GIVE ONLINE, by scanning the QR code.



GIVING REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
Dec. 2024	\$38,163	\$64,800	Surplus \$26,637	\$423,163	\$427,700	Surplus \$4,537