



CONNECTIONS

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MAY 2025

*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

You may notice an addition to our calendar: monthly blood drives at the church, in the Lower Fellowship Hall. The Red Cross was looking for a new location after the Hose Tower no longer worked out, and they liked our central location. These blood drives are open to the entire community, and we are invited (and encouraged) to participate as well! Walk-ins are welcome but they appreciate having people sign-up for a time slot. Sign up by calling 1-800-733-2767, or book online: RedCrossBlood.org. It's a wonderful way to serve our community!

Speaking of service, last week, the world lost someone dear, the "people's pope", Pope Francis. By all accounts, he was a man who worked toward common ground, promoted religious dialogue, and sought reconciliation. He was a bridge-builder, truth-teller, and tireless advocate for the poor and marginalized.

It's fitting that Pope Francis took his name from St. Francis, a man known for his willingness to live among and care for the poor, and took as his rule for life: to follow Jesus and walk in his footsteps. That certainly seems to be how Pope Francis sought to live as well. Jesus, was, after all, the original bridge-builder, truth-teller and advocate for the poor.

May we all seek to follow Jesus and walk in his footsteps.



We are thankful to all who contribute their time, talent and energy to the music program at St. Luke's. Our handbell choir, Voices of St. Luke's, Sunday School singers and the many people who share instrumental music all enrich our worship services with their dedication and the playing of beautiful anthems.

Music has always been a vital part of worship in the church. The Psalms are full of references to singing and praising God with instruments. Psalm 96 is a good example: "Sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord all the earth." Martin Luther was trained in music as a young child and sang in choirs and played the lute very well. His quote: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our hearts, minds and spirits." Luther reminds us of the important part music plays in worship and in our lives.

With all of the challenges our world has faced and is facing, music is a balm. The distinguished composer, Leonard Bernstein, has a famous quote: "This shall be our reply to violence; to make music more intensely, more devotedly and more beautifully than ever before."

Thank you to all who contribute to the noble art of praising God through music. Thank you, also, to all in the congregation who sing the hymns and liturgy so heartily. It makes this organist very happy to hear the energetic singing.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Blessings,
Carol Peterson



SPRING CLEAN-UP

SATURDAY, MAY 10th
9:00 am – Noon

Join us to spruce up the church for spring. All are welcome and many hands make light work. Please bring rakes, leaf blowers, or any inside cleaning supplies. Coffee & Donuts will be available to energize the group. Any Questions? Contact Todd Sneed (414) 531-5376.



ST. LUKE'S GOLF OUTING – June 22nd

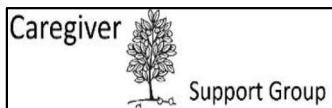
Attention golfers, it's that time of year again to wipe the cobwebs off your clubs and get ready for the annual St. Luke's golf outing. We again are playing at Brookfield Hills, 18 holes with tee times starting at 12:00 noon, and remember we play a scramble, so you don't have to be a pro to play. Cost will be \$30 if you are walking and if using a cart \$46.

- Sign-up sheets will be at the Welcome Center, with additional information and the deadline for signing up. If you have questions, please contact Steve Palecek or Rob Kegel. Hope to see you there!
- Mini-Golf is back this year! If you don't "golf", join us at mini-golf from 2pm – 4pm at Gastrau's Golf Center, 1300 E Rawson Ave.
- 5:00pm – Picnic at St. Luke's - More details to come but **SAVE THE DATE!**

GERANIUMS AND WEAR RED ON PENTECOST June 8th!



- We've ordered Red Geraniums for the chancel for our Pentecost celebration on Sunday, June 8, 2025. The 6" plants are \$8.00 each, and you may take them home to plant following worship.
- Don't forget to *WEAR RED to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost!*



Our next meeting is Monday, May 5, 4:30pm

We will begin using a new book to guide our discussion. It's titled "Refilling the Reservoirs: Spiritual Care for the Exhausted Caregiver" by Brenda Bos, bishop of the Southwest California Synod. Here is a sample of her writing; "All over the city, all over the planet, people are at the end of their ropes." A reviewer went on to write: "With stark chapter titles – 'Chaos', 'Guilt', 'Wrestling' - Bos confronts the many ways that stepping into this role leads to depletion. She then skillfully guides readers through methods to refill – later chapters are titled 'Meaning', 'Gratitude', 'Forgiveness' - and points to ways we can be replenished by hope." If you aren't able to join us, know that this book will be placed in our library at the conclusion of our study. All are welcome and we always have some goodies to share.

VETERANS & MEMORIAL DAY

○ Sunday, May 25th we will again observe Memorial Day at the end of worship with a flag presentation, playing of TAPS and prayer lifting up those connected to our congregation who have served and passed on. Thank you and special blessing to all the families.

○ Ch. Lt. Col. Marcia Strahl, CAP added seven names to the Memorial list of veterans last November, but information such as who they are connected with in the congregation, years of service and where served is missing for several. If you see something is missing, and would like to provide it, please see Rev. Marcie after worship. Thank you, Rev. Marcie, for your continued support of our veterans and their families.



We also congratulate Rev. Marcie who received both the Civil Air Patrol Wisconsin Wing and Great Lake's Region Chaplain of the Year awards at the WI wing conference on April 5th which coincidentally was the date of her chaplain appointment in 1995, marking 30 years of volunteer service.

MOTHER'S DAY MAY OUTREACH



In honor of Mother's Day, we are collecting diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream to donate to our partner church Hephatha's Strong Baby Sanctuary, a ministry to parents and parents-to-be. We are collecting:

- Disposable diapers size 4 through Pullups.
- Diaper rash creams with zinc oxide to treat diaper rash
- Baby shampoo or baby wash and baby lotion

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Thanks to Annie DeArmond and family for heading up this effort!

PET BLESSING: SATURDAY, MAY 17 @ NOON

Pastor Monte will be blessing pets as part of the Greendale Petpalooza. We'll be on the corner of Broad and Northway. Bring your pet and join the fun!



May 4th—Children, bring your families to Sunday school for our All-Ages Jeopardy after church. Children will practice their songs first, then at 10:30 we will begin the fun!

May 11th—Children sing in worship for Mother's Day; last day of Sunday school.



May 18th—"Moving Up" Day in worship! We will celebrate all our kids and teachers in worship, recognize those moving up, and have a special coffee hour.

END OF THE YEAR FOR CONFIRMATION AND SYNERGY



May 14th – Final Synergy of the Year—bonfire night! Hotdogs and marshmallows.

May 21st—Final Confirmation of the Year—games, food, and a chance to use up your fink bucks!

6th-12th graders—YOU are a big part of the success of our Music Camp and VBS! We need teens as guides for the children, shepherding them through their learning stations.

Music Camp: June 16-20, 8:30 AM-12:15 PM

VBS: July 28-31, 8:30 AM-3:15 PM

Use the QR code to sign up to help, and remember, if you help the whole of either week, you get 2 service credits for confirmation!



CELEBRATING GRADUATES: HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE & BEYOND

We would like to recognize those who are graduating from high school, college or any further programs in the June newsletter. **(High school graduates will also be recognized in the June 1 worship service.)** Please let the office know if you or your child are graduating, along with school, degree and future plans, if known.



WORSHIP AND WHIRLYBALL!

Friday, May 30, 7 PM,
Brookfield Conference Center (325 S Moorland Rd)

This year's Synod Assembly Worship will be Youth Gathering Style, led by Tyra Dennis (better known as Tyralucia), one of the worship leaders at last summer's National Youth Gathering. Energetic and contemporary, everyone is invited to attend Friday night's worship, free of charge with no registration required.

YOUTH (6th-12th graders)—we will have a group going together to worship, and going to WhirlyBall afterwards, at Brookfield Square Mall. Bishop Erickson and Tyra Dennis will be there too!

Gather at church at 6:15, leave by 6:30 pm. More details coming but save the date for now!

Lenten Project update

The children's Lenten giving project was raising money to purchase animals for families around the world through "God's Global Barnyard" of the ELCA's "Good Gifts" Program. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$3,193.86, which was enough to purchase 4 barnyards and some additional animals. Each barnyard included: a cow, sheep, goat, pig, duck and 10 chicks.

We surpassed our goal—hooray!





MUSIC CAMP - Monday, June 16th–Friday, June 20th | 9AM – Noon

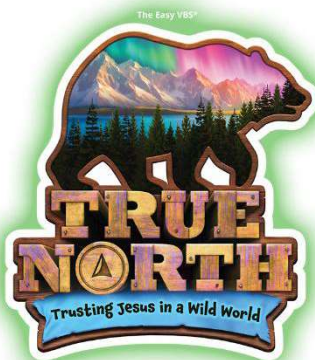
- **ALL children** who have completed kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend.
- Enjoy a morning filled with fun! Participants will learn about music, learn how to play a few instruments, and act out “The Life of the Party” (the story of Mary, Martha and Jesus).
- Sign up forms are located on the table in the Gathering Space or online at



this QR Code

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, July 28th through Thursday, July 31 | 9AM – 3PM



- Before Care (8AM – 9AM) & After Care (3PM – 5:30PM) is available
- Friends, family, neighbors, who have completed kindergarten through 5th grade, are invited to join us as we dive into friendship with God together.
- Registration will begin on May 11.
- Adult Leaders are still needed! Scheduling is flexible AND childcare is available for you while you teach! Please contact Diane Beutin, Robin Gross, or Pastor Monte with any questions. Please say YES to VBS!

UPDATE ON KIA

Kia is a student in Tanzania that St. Luke's has supported through Compassion International since 2015—10 years! He is now 17, and studying at ELCT Karakana Student Center. We have received some recent pictures, and they are posted on the kiosks both in the gathering space and in the lower entryway. Please take a look, and continue to pray for perseverance in his continuing education, healthy friendships, and a spirit of joy and hope in every aspect of life.



St. Luke's Retiree / Senior Ministry Lunch & Learn ... And Fun!

Thursday, May 8 11:45 am
Upper Fellowship Hall

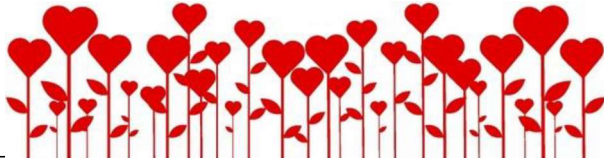
After a light lunch, we will hear from **Colleen Resendiz, of Wehr Birders, WI Metro Audubon Society "Birding in Southeast Wisconsin"**

Please sign up by Monday, May 5, either at the Welcome Center or by calling the Church Office at (414) 421-1670. And ... transportation is available! Let us know if you'd like a ride.

As the bird finds a home
Where her children can nest,
My heart finds in you God
A good place to rest.

J. Bradley Wigger
Inspired by Psalm 84

Note that there is NO Adult Education class in May; but be on the lookout for special summer offerings!



Caught Big Hearted: THANK YOU TO:

- + Carol Van Ryzin who helped lead our Lenten Giving Project.
- + Jeri Smith, who led our Lenten Adult Study.
- + Everyone who helped move furniture before and after the carpet cleaning.
- + Betty Gelhar, who organized the outing to see "Always a Bridesmaid".
- + Steve Roberts for heading up the egg hunt--and his Dinner for 8 group for stuffing the eggs! And the men's group who hosted the coffee hour.
- + All the decorators who made the church look fantastic for both Palm Sunday and Easter.
- + The choir and instrumentalists who led us in worship on both Palm Sunday and Easter.
- + The many narrators and readers for all the services.
- + The handbells for playing at the Agape Supper.
- + The ushers who welcomed so many guests and worshippers to our services and helped them feel at home.
- + The AV angels who helped us all sound good and enable the folks at home to participate.
- + The property and tech folks who helped coordinate the Northway project, updated our lighting switches in the sanctuary and are helping us update our phones, maintain our elevator and update our security system.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Did you know we have a team of church members trained and prepared to help people navigate difficult times in their life? Stephen Ministers have gone through extensive training and continued supervision, and are ready to listen, support and walk alongside members of our church and community who are in need.

Sometimes known as "the after people," Stephen Ministers are there **after** the diagnosis that upends life, **after** the email announcing layoffs, **after** family and friends have heard the story too many times, but you still need to talk. If you have questions or would like to know more, reach out to Pastor Monte.

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP



May 10 – Greendale Kite Fest 12-4, with Grand Launch of Kites at 1pm. Consider bringing a picnic lunch or snacks. There will be kites available to purchase or bring your own. Thank you John Epping for leading this activity.

June 22 - Annual Golf Outing – See information earlier in this newsletter!

July 12 – MILKMEN BASEBALL GAME

- Saturday July 12th @ 6pm
- \$17 Reserved Ticket for each seat (includes a gift)
- 7035 S. Ballpark Dr. Franklin (76th and Rawson Ave)
- Sign up sheet in welcome center
- Payment (checks payable to St Lukes Church) must be received no later than June 29th. Envelopes available at the Welcome Center.
- www.milwaukee milkmen.com



Dick & Judi Hensley: 05/10, 39 years
Daniel & Lori Krenke: 05/11, 34 years
Larry & Carol Hinterberg: 05/11, 40 years
Derek & Katelyn Rekowski: 05/13, 10 years
Kenneth & Colleen Gore: 05/13, 36 years
Ryan & Kristen Dembroski: 05/15, 16 years
Patrick & Tracey Banach: 05/22, 43 years
Craig & Gail Stark: 05/23, 44 years



Brian Ziller 05/02
 Karen Feucht 05/02
 Gwen Van Ryzin 05/03
 Andrew Banman 05/03
 Janet Freitag 05/04
 Michael Rottiger 05/05
 Bob Fiedler 05/06
 Marin DeArmond 05/06
 James Cook 05/07
 Raelynn Gross 05/07
 Richard Bunzel 05/08
 Thomas Neuens 05/09
 Lucas Feucht 05/10
 Myrna Cook 05/11
 Vicki Wenzel 05/14
 Lois Ricks 05/16

Joshua Larsen 05/16
 Daniel Ziermann 05/18
 Emmah Mendelson 05/18
 Beth Krause 05/18
 Michelle Bollig 05/20
 Matt Peterson 05/22
 Caleb Guzlecki 05/23
 Peighton Leszczynski 05/23
 Cindy Hughes 05/24
 Rhylee Neu 05/24
 Marsha Stein 05/25
 Kaleb Leszczynski 05/25
 Payton Klein 05/26
 Elliot Wellen 05/26
 Jessica Anderson 05/28
 Jan Miller 05/29
 Brandon Phillips 05/29
 Carol Peterson 05/30
 Lisa Veidins 05/31

If your birthday or anniversary was missed, please contact the church office
 (stlukes@slchurch.org) so we can update our records.

GIVING REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
March 2025	Offering: \$35,350 Total: \$35,810	\$41,550.00 \$42,196.57	Surplus \$6,386.57	\$106,050.00 \$107,430.00	\$117,024.21 \$118,638.57	Surplus \$11,208.57

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

You can GIVE ONLINE, by scanning the QR code.

