

# CONNECTIONS

**ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - July 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*



During our time in Hong Kong, we belonged to Union Church, the oldest Protestant church in Hong Kong, established 180 years ago. It was interdenominational and international and in its founding documents it said this line, “we differ in small matters but agree in great realities.” With members from literally every continent except Antarctica, we experienced a unity that went beyond shared history or culture. Even though we differed in traditions and language and worldviews, we shared a love for Jesus and a hope for God’s kingdom to transform our world.

As our country and the world continues to experience more unrest, the role of the church as a place of hope and unity is ever more important, particularly hope that is not based on the stock market or political power or anything that the world says gives us security.

This month we celebrate our country’s Independence Day—and the freedom and democracy we share is indeed something to celebrate and protect. But we must be clear about where our hope and security ultimately comes from, and what, in the end, will matter. Anything that we think will save us that isn’t Christ will eventually let us down—that goes for national power, finances, career success, political parties, fantastic health, even other people.

So yes, let’s celebrate the gift of this country, and all the gifts God gives us. But even more, let’s celebrate the God who created, loves and cares for this entire world.

See you in church,

Pastor Monte



Our annual Music Camp has just concluded and I can't get the song, "If You Believe in Me" out of my head. I'm hoping that the songs that the students learned will stay with them for a long time to come. The wonderful message of God's love and constant care is so important in their growing lives. Music that is tied in with great stories from the Bible has a way of ruminating in us. The great teacher, theologian and reformer, Martin Luther, knew this and strongly believed in music for all ages. His famous quote, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest of all gifts," has been an inspiration for the church's mission for over 500 years.

Thank you to the 17 kids who came to the church for 6 days, (including Sunday's worship), and to their parents who brought them, and also to the 8 student helpers who patiently and lovingly guided the students to classes. Thank you, too, to the 15 caring and terrific teachers and leaders who made the week happen. We are also grateful to Thrivent "Choice Dollars" for funding which allowed us to purchase student handbells and supplies for the week.

In closing, Psalm 100 says what the Music Camp strives to teach: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness, come into his presence with singing."

Blessings and peace,  
Carol Peterson, and all of the Music Camp Staff

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## FAMILY SWIM NIGHT

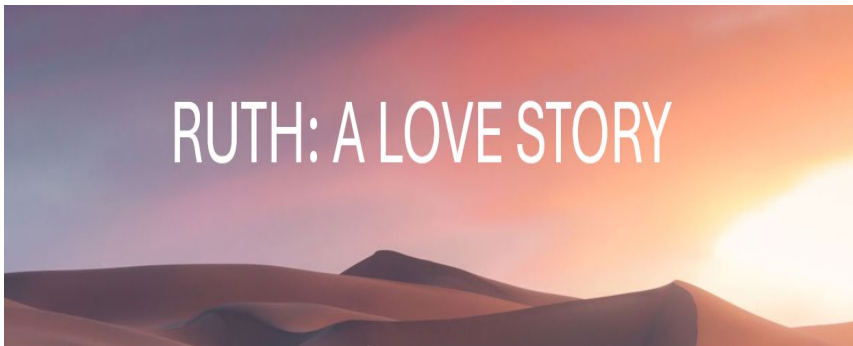
Summer Swim in July! Did you know there is a great place by a Great Lake to go for a night swim? All are invited to meet at **Sheridan Park Pool on Thursday, July 17th for a night swim from 5:30-7:30.** In addition

to a great pool for swimming, there is a children's pool as well as a playground within the enclosed space. Lots to do for all ages, so come one, come all. Cost of admission is \$3 per person. Sheridan Park Pool 4800 S. Lake Drive, Cudahy.

# ♥ 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 to tell us about the Party with Mary, Martha and Jesus!
  - Our Gardening angels – Julie, Pat, Josh, Bob, lots of parents and kids helping with the veggie garden. Check it out!
  - Everyone who brought diapers for the diaper drive and food for the food pantry! What a tremendous outpouring.
  - Dordels for helping organize the Soles for Jesus drive.
  - Fellowship Team for organizing the golf outing and picnic, and moving it indoors when the temperature started rising, and Dan and Derek for cooking over hot grills!
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**The Ruth study continues for two more weeks—July 2 and 9, 7-8 PM. We're meeting in the library, and you can join us even if you've missed the first two weeks.**

Have you ever wondered how (or even if!?) God is involved in the day-to-day joys, struggles and decisions in our lives? The book of Ruth is far more than just a sweet story about a daughter-in-law's loyalty. With famine, enemy tribes, romance, and eventually a happy ending, **this 4 part mini-drama tells the story of God working through the everyday faithfulness of humans; a story about simple acts that change the course of history.**

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**CAREGIVERS SUPPORT** Monday, July 14, 4:30pm  
The group will continue to discuss the book “Refilling the Reservoirs: Spiritual Care for the Exhausted Caregiver” written by Bishop Brenda Bos, who is the bishop of the Southwest California Synod.

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**SENIOR MINISTRY**  
**JOIN US FOR A GERMAN MUSIC CONCERT!**

**DATE:** Sunday, July 13, 2025

**TIME:** 6:45 p.m. The concert runs from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Greendale Gazebo (on the corner of Schoolway and Broad Street)  
Look for the St. Luke's balloon!

Pretzels and water will be provided. Beer and food are available for purchase or you can bring your own. It also is a Brat Fry Fundraiser for Greendale Special Olympics. We'll have some chairs set up but if you have a chair - bring it. If you need a ride, contact the church office.

Enjoy authentic German music with marches, waltzes and polkas.

**EIN PROSIT!**

# SEASON OF CREATION



As you travel, remember to take and send us pictures of creations' wonders! This year, we are working with these categories — Earth, Water, Air, Fire and Flora & Fauna. Send your photos to [stlukes@slchurch.org](mailto:stlukes@slchurch.org) for our photo slideshows during the prelude and offertory. Thank you!

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

We had another wonderful Sunday School year! We will resume Rally Day, September 7<sup>th</sup>, with a Pig Roast for all to join. The first day of Sunday School classes will be September 14<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this great way to kick off the 2025/2026 Sunday School Year. A Great Time will be had by all!

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Plans for the 2025/2026 school year will begin 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 Kathy ([Youthandfamilyministries@slchurch.org](mailto:Youthandfamilyministries@slchurch.org)) if you are interested.

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## Christmas in July – Friday, July 25 6pm

Meeting for planning this year's Christmas Program. All are welcome, all ideas are welcome!

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## VBS VOLUNTEERS

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



## JOIN US FOR "True North" VBS

➤ Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, July 31 9AM – 3PM

➤ \$40/child OR family maximum \$75

➤ For those who need it we have the following available:

- Before Care (8AM - 9AM) - \$5/child
- After Care (3PM – 5:30PM) - \$10/child

➤ ALL children who have completed kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to explore the TRUE NORTH – Trusting Jesus in a Wild World.

➤ Register online at [www.slchurch.org/sign-ups](http://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 20, 2025.** After that date, contact the church office for availability.



## CALLING ALL VBS YOUTH HELPERS

Crew Guide VBS Orientation/Training & Tie Dye Party Wednesday, July 16 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 Kathy.
- Volunteers in 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade can sign up at [www.slchurch.org/sign-ups](http://www.slchurch.org/sign-ups).

## VBS – ITEMS WE NEED

- These are items we would like to borrow for a couple of weeks. We can pick them up and return them if help is needed. Thank You.
    - Pop up small (1-2 person) tent
    - 2'-5' Christmas trees (narrow is best)
    - Sleeping bag (dark color, not Barbie or Spider-Man)
    - Camping lantern
    - Small camp stool
    - Fishing poles and small tackle boxes
    - Old small rickety boat with or without oars
  - **Beginning July 6<sup>th</sup>, choose an item** from the 'vine' located in the Gathering Space (near the VBS table) by July 20<sup>st</sup> or as directed on the paper.
  - **Donate school supplies for the local mission** – Backpacks for Hephatha (list is located on the VBS table in the gathering space and on the next page).
  - **Give offering for the worldwide mission** – Wrapping People in God's Love, with Lutheran World Relief Quilts
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## 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 [Stlukes@slchurch.org](mailto:Stlukes@slchurch.org). 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*
- *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*



# Youth Summer Hangout with Kathy

Let's continue to get together and do whatever! While we are doing "whatever" we are still making plans for events in July and August to stay connected all summer. Bring your ideas and we will smash the rest of the summer. Butterfly Walk – July 2<sup>nd</sup>, both groups meet at church at 6pm. Wear hiking attire: walking shoes, socks, pants, hat.

**Those entering Confirmation in the fall should join us!**

Those who graduated high school this year should join us also!

**6-7:15 PM (rising 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**7:30-8:30 PM (rising 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)**



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **RED CROSS Blood Drives** at St. Luke's
  - Wednesday, July 9, 9am – 2pm. Give a Pint, Get a Pint (of Ice Cream)
  - Friday, August 1, 12noon – 5pm
- **Outdoor Worship**—August 10, 9:00 am. Join us as we worship with St. Stephen the Martyr and St. Thomas of Canterbury, in a service that is a witness to the whole community! Bring your lawn chair and water and join us!  
***(no live-streaming will be available that day.)***
- **Whitnall Park picnic** –All Church Family Fun night, August 14, 6 pm. Bring your own food or buy something from Gift of Wings Grill. Bring Lawn chairs, blankets and yard games. Look for balloons to find the group!
- **Rally Day** – Pig Roast and Potluck, Sunday, September 7, Sunday School resumes on September 14.



**OUTDOOR  
WORSHIP**

## **GIVING REPORT**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Monthly Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Monthly Actual Receipts</b>	<b>Monthly Analysis</b>	<b>Year-to- date Budgeted Amount</b>	<b>Year-to- Date Receipts</b>	<b>Year-to- Date Analysis</b>
May	Offering: \$35,350	\$31,961	Deficit	\$176,750	\$178,656	Surplus
2025	Total: \$35,810	\$33,040	\$3,389 \$2,770	\$179,050	\$181,613	\$1,906 \$2,563

*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.*