



# CONNECTIONS

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

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Dear Church,

August is the month that society gears up for the school year to begin again, and it's no different in church! Families shop for school supplies, Packers fans get ready for the opening game, Carol is busy picking out music for the choir, Kathy is prepping Sunday school lessons, and Council is working on Strategic Planning for the year ahead. In all of this, it's easy to focus on our lists and preparations and overlook prayer as part of getting ready.

So, this August is going to be a month of prayer! Each week will have a different focus, starting with St. Luke's, and then getting wider. We have suggested prayer topics for each day, and ask you to take a moment to lift up whatever it is. Whether it is during your morning walk, or before dinner with the family, please join us in prayer!



The list is in this newsletter, at the Welcome Center, and/or you can also sign up for a daily text message or email reminder. (These lists will ONLY be for the prayer prompts—no other announcements, and will cease at the end of August.) (Email [stlukes@slchurch.org](mailto:stlukes@slchurch.org) if you would like to be added to the text or email list. Put August Prayer in the subject line.)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7, NRSVUE

“Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.” Philippians 4:6-7, *The Message*

Pastor Monte

## August – A Month of Prayer!

### **August 3-9: Praying for St Luke's**

- Aug 3: Musicians: our choir, handbells, soloists, instrumentalists, accompanist, Andrea and directors, Carol and Kate
- Aug 4: Sunday school: our children, our teachers, our Parish Ed team, and director Kathy
- Aug 5: Confirmation and High School Ministry: our youth, our guides, Kathy, the search for a High School Leader
- Aug 6: Senior Ministry: our elders, our homebound members, the Lunch and Learn Ministry and home communion ministry
- Aug 7: Our Staff and Church Council, as they lead and make decisions
- Aug 8: Our other groups: Needles and Prayers, Quilters, WINGS, Dartball, Bible on Tap, Stephen Ministry, Caregivers, Men
- Aug 9: The other groups that meet in our building: Greendale Senior Club, Red Cross Blood Drive, NA, AA, bagpipes

### **August 10-16: Praying for Milwaukee**

- Aug 10: Schools—teachers and staff getting ready, leaders, safety and protection for all
- Aug 11: Parents—who have the hard job of keeping kids healthy and safe in a world with new pressures and challenges
- Aug 12: Churches—especially those in the “Green Corners”, along with Hephatha, Faith Santa Fe, First in West Allis and Unity
- Aug 13: First Responders, especially continued healing for Officer McCray, and all who grieve the death of Officer Corder
- Aug 14: Breaking the Chains and those who have “graduated”
- Aug 15: Local and state government officials, along with our representatives in Washington, D.C.
- Aug 16: Healthcare and Business Leaders—all whose decisions impact others

### **Aug 17-23: Praying for the USA** (from David French's Five Ways to Pray for the USA)

- Aug 17: **Peace:** Pray for an immediate end to violence and division, and for restraint in words and actions.
- Aug 18: **Justice:** Ask for a just and equitable society, where fairness prevails in all areas.
- Aug 19: **Grace:** Pray for the ability to extend grace to others, even those who are different or act as enemies.

Aug 20: **Repentance:** Pray for personal and national repentance for wrongdoing.

Aug 21: **Reconciliation:** Pray for healing and unity among divided groups and individuals.

Aug 22: Pray for our armed forces, our veterans and their families

Aug 23: Pray for our leaders, for wisdom and courage in all they do

### **Aug 24-31: Praying for the World**

Aug 24: North and Central America

Aug 25: South America

Aug 26: Europe

Aug 27: Africa

Aug 28: Asia

Aug 29: Australia

Aug 30: Places of active conflict and violence, especially Ukraine, Israel/Gaza, Haiti, Venezuela, South Sudan

Aug 31: Places where our Lutheran World Relief quilts and other assistance goes to provide comfort and aid.

## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP AUGUST 10<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 10, 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 Forward Scholars, a tutoring program with Common Ground. Join us!



## **ALL CHURCH FAMILY FUN NIGHT**



On Thursday, Aug 14, 6 pm, join us at **Whitnall Park Beer Garden** for a picnic and games. You can bring your own food or buy something from the Gift of Wings Grill. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and yard games. Look for balloons to find the group. See you there!

## OUTREACH OF THE MONTH

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTERS

Every year during VBS, we choose a global mission project, and this year we chose to support our quilters, who make quilts to send all over the world through Lutheran World Relief. We are continuing this as our outreach of the month for August.

Quilts made by churches are blessed and shipped off each October, where they are collected together, and ready to be distributed whenever and wherever the need arises. Sometimes they are shared in the wake of a natural disaster, and sometimes they go to refugees fleeing war or violence. They are used for warmth, for shelter, for groundcover, and even as a bag to hold personal belongings.

How can you help??

+Come join the quilters, Monday mornings 9 am-12 noon. Come for any or all of the time. There are jobs for sewers and non-sewers alike!

+You can sew quilt tops at home. Look for kits and instructions on the welcome center.

+Donating fabric, especially large pieces that can be used as backs.

\*\*\*Important\*\*\* -- fabric cannot have English words, flags, trademarked characters or religious symbols.

+Donating money. The quilters buy the batting to fill the quilts and boxes to ship them in. Envelopes are available in the pews and at the welcome center.

**+Stay for the Quilting Bee on Sunday, August 24, after church!** We will help tie quilts that have been assembled. All are welcome--even children can do this, with adult assistance! Many hands make light work.

## CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP



Monday, August 11, 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.

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

## SUMMERTIME JESUS

Don't forget to continue to send in your pictures of Summertime Jesus. As we receive them they will be posted to social media and in worship. Send your pictures to [Stlukes@slchurch.org](mailto:Stlukes@slchurch.org).

- *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*

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## 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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## RED CROSS AUGUST BLOOD DRIVE

August 1 Noon-5pm

We continue to reach out to the community through offering our space for monthly Red Cross blood drives. The monthly drives continue to grow in volume, and they usually have a special promotion to encourage donation. You can make appointments by using this QR code, going on line at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), or calling 1.800.733.2767 (1 800 RED CROSS). Youth over 16yo can also donate with parent/guardian consent. We have copies of that consent form if it is needed.





## VBS

**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 nearly 50 registered and a wonderful group of middle/high school crew guides.

### **Sunday, August 3rd @ 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 will highlight the week.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING**

Following Outdoor Worship, Sunday August 10 in the Sunday School Room 101 (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom). Meeting will start about 10:15. Teachers and anyone interested in teaching or being a helper should plan to attend. Topics include upcoming curriculum, events and calendar.

## SUMMER POOL PARTY



August 13th 6:00pm – Middle and High School Students, including those who just graduated and incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We will meet at the church to start our own “Amazing Race with a **G**” and end at Karyn Birmingham’s house to eat, play games, and enjoy the pool. Please remember to sign up online.

## **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

This year, we will bless our backpacks on Sunday, August 24. 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.



## **SAVE THE DATE – Rally Day, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>!**

### **9:00am FESTIVE WORSHIP**

Commissioning of the Sunday school teachers.

### **10:00am “AMAZING RACE – WITH A G”**

Students should report to their Sunday School Classroom where they will participate in the own “Amazing Race with a **G**” with their teachers within the church building / grounds.

ALL members of St. Luke’s. We encourage all to participate in an “Amazing Race with a **G**”. This race will include stops through the Greendale Downtown with challenges that will relate to various Bible stories.

**11:00am** Pig Roast and Potluck picnic. We ask you to bring a dish to share. Help will be needed on Saturday to set up. Sign up to attend and help at the Welcome Center.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Watch your e-mail for this year’s registration form or sign up online. This information is very helpful to keep our records correct, know about health conditions, and have Emergency Contact information.

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## **THREE YEAR OLDS**

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 Kathy will contact families to schedule a visit prior to the start of classes (Rally Day). If you do not receive a mailing, please let us know.

## 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 20<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 Kathy if you're unable to attend.
- CONFIRMATION CLASSES for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders will begin Wednesday, September 3rd at 6:00 pm

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

- Retreat in Preparation to be Confirmed - Wednesday, September 3rd - - 7:15pm – 8:30 pm in Lower Fellowship Hall.
- Informational Dinner/Presentation of Confirmation Projects – Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at Pastor Monte's House. More details to come.
- Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation) Service – Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> (9AM Service).



materials are provided. You'll be able to sign up on line or show you are interested, and Kathy will contact you.

Plans for '25-'26 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



## **PARISH EDUCATION HELP NEEDED**



Volunteers do the following: teach/volunteer in a classroom, help with Confirmation (Guide), 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 Kathy or watch for a link to a form on the website you can indicate how you are interested in helping.

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## **BIBLE BREAKFAST and WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE**

All second graders and their families are invited on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast & a walk through the Bible. It will be in the Lower Fellowship Hall. Students will receive their Bibles in worship on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Watch your mail for your official invitation. Be sure to notify Pastor Monte or Kathy 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.



## **Caught Big-Hearted**

Everyone who helped donate items and contribute towards VBS—all the teachers and leaders, youth helpers, families who came, and people who prayed!

The folks who have hosted coffee-hours recently. Thank you for adding to our hospitality and fellowship!

Ushers, scripture readers, and communion servers—you all serve so faithfully week after week and we don't always acknowledge you, but thank you for being there and helping our services running smoothly. A big part of our hospitality to each other and to guests!

Travis, Robin, Brinlee and Raelynn Gross who made communion bread for August!

## GIVING REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
June 2025	Offering: \$35,350 Total: \$35,810	\$36,935 \$37,543	Surplus \$1,585 \$1,733	\$212,100 \$214,800	\$215,591 \$219,156	Surplus \$3,491 \$4,296

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