



CONNECTIONS

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - September 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*



Sept 7, 2025

Festive, Bluegrass Worship 9:00 AM

Amazing (G)Race 10:15 AM – for Sunday school children AND their parents AND other adults! Meet in the UFH—children will find their classes and adults will be divided into teams.

PIG ROAST Potluck lunch 11:00 AM

\$5 per person/\$20 per family. Bring money or Venmo on the day

Bring a side dish or dessert. Sign up at Welcome Center or online. See you there!



Season of Creation 2026: GROUNDED

When the world feels chaotic and life is hectic and out-of-control, how do we respond? In the words of our VBS theme, what is our “True North?” The world God created has much to teach us about cycles, systems, ebbs and flows, and how to remain **grounded**, whatever the external circumstances in our life.

Our theme for this year’s Season of Creation is **Grounded**. We will explore Biblical stories of creation, connectedness and care. We will root down, look up, and together be more grounded in God’s good creation.

Join us each Sunday as we worship together (and send in your nature photos to be shared as part of each week’s worship slideshows!), and stay to learn from our various guests.

Sept 28 Education Hour: Rev. Larry Harpster, developer and pastor of **Milwaukee Wild Church**, a new worshipping community in our synod, will share about nature spirituality and hearing God speak to us through creation. This is the day of the youth brat fry & car wash, so grab a brat and stay to hear Pastor Larry!

Sept 28, 2:00 pm: Join Wild Church in a **worship hike** at Lion’s Den Gorge in Grafton.

Oct 5 Education Hour: To celebrate St. Francis Day, we will hear from **Wildlife in Need Center** in Oconomowoc, WI, who rescues and cares for wildlife (our outreach of the month).

May this Season of Creation nurture your wonder and awe at our Creator and this beautiful, wild world we live in, and may you be grounded in creation, and grounded in the Creator’s love.

Take care,

Pastor Monte



As summer winds down and fall approaches, we are busy planning for the music schedule to begin with rehearsals and programs. The Voices of St. Luke's, our church choir, will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3 at 7 p.m. You are cordially invited to be part of this energetic and dedicated group.

The rewards of participating in a musical ensemble are many: community, sharpened brain activity, and growth in faith are just a few of the benefits.

Bell choir will be starting in October and director Kate Braatz would love to talk with you about this excellent group.

We have many opportunities for people to share their instruments with us in worship. In addition to "high holy days" such as Reformation, Christmas and Easter, we appreciate adding instruments at other times along with the organ and grand piano.

We look forward to involving youth in worship this year with the singing of anthems and in helping with liturgy. The Sunday School children have singing as part of their curriculum. The songs learned tie in with the day's lessons.

The Welsh tune, Let all things now living, with words by Katherine K. Davis, is a great hymn to have in mind as we begin Fall '25: "Let all things now living, a song of thanksgiving, to God the creator triumphantly raise."

Blessings,
Carol Peterson, Music Director

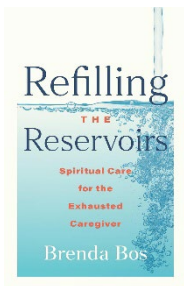
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Sept 14, join us in the UFH during Education Hour as we discuss the day's texts.

Sept 14: Water: John 4:5-14 and Jeremiah 2:9-13

Sept 21: Fire, Exodus 3:1-7 and Matthew 3:11-12

Sept 28—hear from Rev. Larry Harpster about Nature Spirituality (see pastor's letter)



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Monday, September 8, 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 2nd 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.

SEASON OF CREATION - GROUNDED



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 for our photo slideshows during the prelude and offertory. Thank you!



September Retiree / Senior Adult Ministry Lunch & Learn & Fun Women in Aviation in the 1970s

Join us Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 11:45 a.m. in the Upper Fellowship Hall. Our own Rev. Marcie will share about her “first life” as an Aeronautical Engineer working on the DC-10s in the 1970s. Includes lunch. If you need a ride, we'll provide one! Simply call the Church Office at 414-421-1670. The sign-up deadline is September 15, 2025.

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH OF THE MONTH

Wildlife in Need Center: Connecting People and Wildlife through Rehabilitation, Education and Research since 1994.

Located in Oconomowoc, WI, WINC seeks to care for injured, diseased, or orphaned indigenous wildlife, and return healthy viable animals to appropriate habitats in the wild. They answer over 10,000 phone calls from people asking for advice or help with wildlife issues and admit approximately 3,000 animals annually.

- **Noisy Offering on Sept 21 to help injured, orphaned, or sick wildlife treated at WINC's wildlife hospital.**
 - **Hear from an educator and an Animal Ambassador on October 5 during education hour.**
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Home Communion Ministry



Our Home Communion Ministry team will, once a month, bring communion to those who have a difficult time getting to church. If you, or a family member, would like to receive communion at home on a monthly basis, **please** contact the office to let us know. It would be a blessing to serve you in this way.

Our handbell choir is looking forward to another great season of ringing and fellowship. Rehearsals will resume in October on Monday evenings 6:00-6:45. If you've ever wondered what it would be like to ring, we'd love to have you join our ranks! If weekly rehearsals aren't feasible, please consider adding your name to our sub list! We can always use help covering rehearsal and/or performance absences, as every ringer plays such an important part. To sign up or ask questions, please contact Kate Braatz at musikate@gmail.com.





Retiree / Senior Adult Ministry Lunch & Learn

Our Senior Adult Ministry Lunch & Learn is designed to provide educational and enriching activities for **retirees** with an emphasis on fun. Please “save the date” for these upcoming events:

- Sept. 18: Hear from our own Rev. Marcie about her “first life “ as an aeronautical engineer.
- Oct. 16: Remember the Holocaust with Edith Pump, a victim and a survivor.
- Nov. 13: Learn about the Beer Barons of Wisconsin presented by Black Point Estate’s Michael Rehberg
- Dec. 11: Celebrate the holiday season with a special catered luncheon and holiday sing-along!
- Jan. 15: Visit outer space with Dr. Dennis Roscoe’s James Webb Telescope’s Greatest Hits.

Lunch & Learn takes place on Thursdays at 11:45 a.m. in the Upper Fellowship Hall. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the Church Office to reserve your spot. These gatherings include lunch and a presentation. If you need a ride, we’ll provide one! Simply call the Church Office at 414-421-1670.

PARISH EDUCATION HELP NEEDED



Volunteers do the following: teach/volunteer in a classroom, help with Confirmation (Guide), serve on the Parish Ed, 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.



RALLY DAY, Sept. 7th!

- 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. Sign up to attend and help at the Welcome Center. Or at the QR Code on the front cover.
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AS SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS...

Beginning Preschool? We welcome you into Sunday School this year. We look forward to seeing you grow and learn about Jesus!

Beginning Confirmation? May you continue to learn about your faith and develop meaningful relationships.

Beginning Synergy? May you continue to ask questions and grow in your understanding of God's love.

COLLEGE BOUND? – Let us know your new address / email so we can send you the Connections and emails about activities at St. Luke's – We want you to know we are thinking and praying for you and your new journey. Can't wait to hear all about it when you return on Christmas break...



Speaking of CHRISTMAS

If you have any interest in assisting with the Sunday School Christmas Program in any way this year, please contact Kathy. Areas of need include helping with speaking parts, set design, costumes, divide parts among students / reformat the script, etc.

SUNDAY SCHOOL and CONFIRMATION 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.

Sunday School
K3-5th Grade



Confirmation
6th-8th Grade



THREE YEAR OLDS

All children who will be three years old by September 1, 2025 are eligible to begin Sunday School. Parent letters have gone out 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. You can contact Kathy at Youthandfamilyministries@slchurch.org

BIBLE BREAKFAST and WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

All second graders and their families are invited on Saturday, September 13th 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 14th. 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.



CONFIRMATION BEGINS

for 6th – 8th graders
Wednesday, September 3rd at 6:00 pm

INFORMATION FOR 9TH 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 25th at 6PM at Pastor Monte's House. More details to follow.
- Affirmation of Baptism (Rite of Confirmation) Service – Sunday, October 26th (9AM Service).

SYNERGY

Conversations about life, God, school, friends and staying sane in the midst of it all, plus a lot of fun!. For 9th–12th graders , 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7:15pm.
Begins September 10.

Caught Big-Hearted

Karyn Birmingham, for hosting the youth swim party.

Alex Sneed and Aguirre family for helping out with the youth's Amazing (G)Race.

Everyone who helps keep our lawn, flowers and garden looking nice: Julie Ohlert, Pat Larsen, Ken Orlikowski, Tim Clough, Lukas Stelzle, Todd Sneed, & Bob Larsen.

Todd Beutin for always making sure we have communion wine, cups, and wafers.

Tom Tellefson, Kelly Sneed and Cheryl Dordel, for agreeing to serve a three-year term on the Oversight Committee (audit team), and Duane Frietag, Trent Tellefson, John Noggle, Mark Ohlert and Rob Kegel for their assistance with the Operational Review (ie, audit) conducted in July.

Cheryl and Dan Dordel for starting our Soles for Jesus donations and for hauling those donations, and for everyone who has contributed shoes!

Upcoming “Save the Date’s”

Sept 28 Brat Fry & Car Wash after church. (fundraiser for our youth!) Grab a brat and hear Pastor Larry from Wild Church.

Oct 5 Sunday School Children Sing in Worship (and stay to hear from Wildlife in Need!)

Oct 26 Pumpkin Carving – Invite a friend too! We'll all have pumpkins to carve.

TEXTS FROM ST. LUKE’S

Our new database management software allows us to easily send text messages to various groups within the church, i.e., the August prayer list, confirmation parents, council, etc. Those texts will come from the number “22383” – so you might want to save that number as a contact in your phone under “St. Luke’s texts” or something similar. Note that you can respond to these texts, and we will receive the responses! But it’s not a phone number to call, so you’ll still want our office number for phone calls: 414-421-1670.

June Outreach of the Month, First Lutheran’s Food Pantry: We collected and donated 582 lb. of food.

July Outreach of the Month, backpacks for Hephatha and Faith Santa Fe. We put together 45 backpacks.

Thank you for your Generosity!

GIVING REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
July 2025	Offering: \$35,350	\$26,104 \$26,453	Deficit \$9,246	\$247,450 \$250,670	\$241,694 \$245,609	Deficit \$5,756

	Total: \$35,810		\$9,357			\$5,061
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See Mark Ohlert, Rob Kegel, or John Noggle with any questions.

You can GIVE ONLINE, by scanning the QR code

