

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



What's Better Together? PB and J? Dark chocolate and sea salt? (Yes, please!) How about Please and Thank you, or Pledging and Planning?

Our stewardship campaign will kick off in October celebrating all the things that are **Better Together**—especially St. Luke's and You! In a world of increasing loneliness, isolation and division, it's never been more clear that **we need each other**

and are, indeed, **Better Together**. When you make a pledge (a financial commitment of giving for the coming year), you help us know what our finances will look like, which allows us to set a budget and plan our ministry. Thank you for ALL the ways you contribute and thank you for praying about your pledge for 2026.

Each week in worship during the campaign we'll share stories of how we are **Better Together**. You won't want to miss these stories!

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR MONTE

Dear church,

"I can't show *them* grace; *they* don't deserve it."

That's not an exact quote, but I read something along those lines in the midst of a facebook conversation and I can't get it out of my head. Grace is, by definition, **undeserved**. This was from a political conversation—but to be honest the "I" and the "them" could be anyone and any situation, political or not.

Our worship most weeks begins with us sharing the truth that we ALL miss the mark. We get angry at small things, we fail to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. And yet, we are also a church that holds the promise of grace, of forgiveness. We believe that our mistakes and our worst actions don't define us. Week after week, we are reminded of the undeserved grace God shows to each of us—the chance to start again, to do it over.

As we remember and celebrate the Reformation this month—a celebration of grace!--let's look for ways to walk with humility and extend grace to those we encounter, even and **especially** when it's undeserved.

In Christ,

Pastor Monte



We love having new people join us! Membership is NOT a requirement for involvement at St. Luke's, but it is a public expression of a commitment that you make to the community and the community makes to you. We will welcome new members on Nov 16. If you have been attending and would like to know more about

membership, please reach out. If you are married to a member but have never made it "official" yourself, please reach out. If you know for sure you want to be a member, please reach out by calling the church office at 414.421.1670 or using this QR Code.





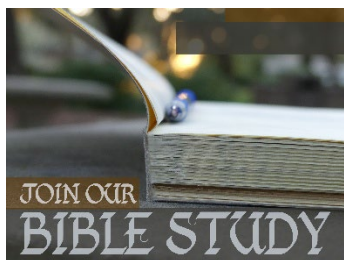
The last Sunday in October is the celebration of Reformation, an important day in the life of the church. The reform movement emphasized the good news of the gospel, showing us then and still now that by grace we are justified by faith and set free. It is a great day for our youth to be confirmed and affirm their faith through their baptismal covenant. A Mighty Fortress, Luther's strong hymn which is based on Psalm 46, will be

sung. Verse 2 is a powerful statement of faith: "If we in our own strength confide, our striving turns to losing; the righteous one fights by our side, the one of God's own choosing."

As we enjoy these beautiful fall days, may we continue to trust and give thanks for our God who is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Blessings and peace, Carol Peterson

Greetings! Our Handbell Choir is coming back from summer break, and we are excited to start learning some selections to share with the congregation and lend to our worship experience. We will be rehearsing Mondays at 6:00-6:45 PM, and we start back up on **Monday, October 6**. If you are interested in learning more about Bells, ringing with us, or subbing for us, reach out to Kate Braatz at musikate@gmail.com. See you in worship!



Join us as we discuss the day's texts.

Oct 5: Intergenerational Sunday School with the WINC Speaker (and animal ambassadors!) In LFH this week.

Oct 12: Luke 17:11-19

Oct 19: Romans 12:1-8 and John 15:1-9

Oct 26: Nehemiah chapter 3:1-2, 6-12 and Luke 6:46-49

Bible on Tap

Want another way to study the Bible in depth? Join this group who meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights at On the Edge Bar and Grill, 6815 W. Edgerton Ave, in Greenfield. Newcomers are welcome! 8:15 pm.



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. Please note we will still meet at 4:30 in October but will change to 2:30 for our November through April meetings. We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month. All are welcome.

Oct 5: Wildlife in Need Center (WINC) speaker

On October 5 during Education Hour we are thrilled to welcome a speaker from the Wildlife In Need Center of Oconomowoc, WI (AND an animal ambassador!) WINC was our Outreach of the Month for September, and we had a Noisy Offering for them on Sept 28. Now we get to hear more about what they do to help rehabilitate injured wild animals.

Hephatha Winter Clothing Drive

It will be cold before we know it!



We are once again partnering with Hephatha Lutheran Church this fall to provide coats, hats/gloves, underwear, diapers and socks for children in their congregation. There will be tags for individual items on the vine and a correlating physical sign-up sheet available in the Gathering Space every Sunday morning beginning on Sunday October 5th. If you would like to sign-up for an item digitally, please email Karen Feucht or Pat Larsen (email addresses below) and they can let you know what items and sizes we are in need of. All purchased items should be returned to church in the

bin near the entrance on or before **Sunday, October 26th**. If you would like to contribute, but don't want to shop, you can also consider a monetary donation and we can do the shopping for you! Donations can be placed in the offering plate and marked for 'Hephatha Winter Clothing Drive'. Thank you for your generosity! Contact Karen Feucht (karebair78@hotmail.com) or Pat Larsen (larsenbobpat@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Butterfly Garden—looking for plants!

Butterflies are amazing--Not only are they delightful to look at, but they teach us about God and are important pollinators. In an effort to attract more butterflies to our landscaping, we are looking for any of the following plants in your garden that you can share with us. Please reach out to Pat Larsen at larsenbobpat@gmail.com —we especially want plants that are low maintenance and non-invasive. Large decorative rocks are also helpful as a place for butterflies to bask.



Lantana
Bee balm
Butterfly Bush
Aster
Coreopsis

Cosmos
Phlox
Cone Flower
Milkweed
Salvia

Shasta Daisies
Sedum
Yarrow
Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed Susans)



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:

- 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.



On October 5th, as we all gather in worship, we will get to hear our Sunday School Children sing the songs they have been learning with our Music Director Carol their first few weeks of Sunday School. Please do invite family and friends as it is always such a joy to hear them sing and share their gift.



PUMPKIN CARVING FUN



St. Luke's Church Family mark your calendars for Sunday, October 26th. During the Education Hour (10:15-11:00) we will be carving pumpkins in Lower Fellowship Hall. This is an event for all ages to come together and create an inspirational pumpkin for us to "let our light shine". We will display in the front of church along Northway for all those passing by to feel the love of our church family.

Have you completed?

Have you completed your Sunday School or Confirmation forms?
They are easy to complete using these QR Codes.



SUNDAY
SCHOOL



CONFIRMATION

Kringle Fundraiser

Be on the lookout for our youth selling Kringles as they fundraise for various future trips. Youthquake, Mission Trips, Confirmation Camp. Your generosity helps our youth participate in memorable faith journeys together. Your support is truly a Blessing.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



We will need some help with speaking parts, set design, and costumes. If you are able to assist with the program in any way, please contact Liz Wiken (lizwiken1978@gmail.com) or the Church Office.

**The Christmas Program will be during Worship on December 14th.
Let's fill the church with friends and family!**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

**Saturday, October 25th
6:00 pm Celebrants Dinner**

Confirmands and their families will gather for dinner and project presentations. Further information will be provided to the families.

**Sunday, October 26th
9:00 am During Worship**



Congrats to all this year's Confirmands: Andrew Banman, Tyler Hessling, Rhylee Nue, Willa Peterson, Kate Williamson! Please plan to join us in worship on October 26th (Reformation Sunday) to support them with your presence and prayers. And remember to wear RED as we celebrate the Holy Spirit's ongoing work and renewal in the church.

SYNERGY

While we are still working out longer-term plans for High School Ministry, including some collaboration with nearby churches, we will continue with Synergy on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights, 7:15-8:30. If you are a high schooler or you are a high school parent, and you aren't getting the text message reminders, please let Pastor Monte know and we'll make sure you get on the list!

Here's what's coming up:
Oct 8: Bonfire Night
Oct 22: Game Night



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who have received training to minister and walk with people facing a crisis or a challenge. It is highly confidential and has, in the last two years, already been a blessing to members of our congregation.

"I loved my visits with my Stephen Minister. It was comforting to know that they were there to listen without judgement. They weren't "preachy" but exuded a genuine care and kindness that provided a soft place to land amongst all the other chaos of my life at that time." -- a St. Luke's care receiver.

"When Pastor Monte asked me if I would like a Stephen Minister, I was a bit hesitant to share my personal, spiritual and health issues with a stranger..... Boy was I wrong!! Besides establishing a wonderful relationship with my Stephen Minister, I have a new close friend. My visits with my Stephen Minister have been so helpful and uplifting that I've been able to cope with recent serious health problems. In short, I believe that joining Stephen Ministry has positively changed my life." -- a St. Luke's care receiver.

If you or someone you know could benefit from meeting regularly with a Stephen Minister, please reach out to Pastor Monte.

With the success of monthly Senior/Retiree Lunch & Learn appearing to meet the needs of this membership of our congregation, the Retiree's Breakfast has been discontinued. We thank Duane Freitag and Barb Willis for their work with this part of our ministry.

Third Quarter Statements will be emailed out at the beginning of October. Please check your statement to make sure it is accurate. We want to clear up any discrepancies before the end of the year. Thank you!

HEPHATHA MISSION PARTNER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, November 1st 1720 W. Locust Street

Service at 3:00 pm

Dinner following service

RSVP 414-264-0234 by October 25th if possible.

"We thank God for you! We pray for you. We look forward to our annual mission partner appreciation day and hope you will be able join us. To borrow words from St. Paul, we really do thank our God upon every remembrance of you."

Hephatha100.com will contain a "one click" link to join the worship by ZOOM.

Looking ahead to November:

Nov 9: Ministry Fair during Education Hour. Learn more about ministries of the church and how you can get connected!

Nov 16: Packer Party. Cheer on the Pack at this noon game against the Giants.

Nov 30: Advent Breakfast. Stay after Worship for this delicious breakfast, as we enter the season of Advent together.

2026 Flower Chart, Parament Care, and Communion Set up SIGN UPS will be posted in October on the kiosk / bulletin board at the entrance of the Sanctuary. Make your plans to help decorate the church and serve for Worship!

Giving Report

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
August 2025	Offering: \$35,350	\$28,824	Deficit \$6,526	\$282,800	\$270,518	Deficit \$12,282

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



You can **give online**, by scanning this QR Code

Outreach of the Month – September – Lutheran World Relief - **\$971** to support our St. Luke's quilters. Thank You.

First Lutheran Food Pantry Giving Year to Date: **1273** Pounds. We are on track to exceed our 2024 total. Keep up the great work! Thank you.

Soles for Jesus to date, we've collected 14 large garbage-bags full of shoes to donate. Thank you! And keep it up!

❤️❤️ **Caught Big Hearted** ❤️❤️

Thank you to the Fellowship Team who helped put on Rally Day Pig Roast—planning, shopping, setting up and cleaning. A delightful way to start the program year!

Thank you to the Bluegrass group, who led in worship on Rally Day, along with Dave Jensen who set up the sound and Travis Gross who ran AV on the day.

We thank Lindsay Banman, Hans Banman, Liz Wiken, Nora Clark helped serve and clean up the Bible Breakfast for our second grade families

Thank you to those who showed up on Labor Day to help the Cerasoli family by helping pack, moving items, drop off supplies or drop off food, all who have donated financially to help them, and all who brought food for their pantry.

And lastly this month, but not least, thank you to Pat Larsen and Julie Ohlert who put a lot of time into our landscaping and gardening.