



## CONNECTIONS

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Turn Back Your Clocks – Saturday, November 1

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### What's Better Together?

Chili and cornbread? Sunday afternoons and football?  
Pumpkin pie and whipped cream? How about St. Luke's and You??

- If you have already returned your pledge for our 2026 Stewardship Campaign, **Better Together**, thank you!
- If you haven't yet, it's not too late!
- We would love to receive them by Nov 9 as we enter the budgeting process for the new year.



As we have said before, in the face of rising loneliness, isolation and division, *God is doing something different at St. Luke's!* We are committed to expanding our mission of responding to Christ's love by reaching out to each other, the community and the world, and we need everyone to do it.

We are, truly, **Better Together!**



Please join us after worship on **Nov 9** for the **Ministry Fair** to learn about the various ministries and opportunities at St. Luke's. With donuts, popcorn, cider and coffee, we will celebrate all the ways we are better together! Note that children will have Sunday school on this day, so parents are free to enjoy the fair.

## GREETINGS FROM OUR PASTOR

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun  
remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us  
that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given  
and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that  
death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.

Autumn may have been delayed this year, but it is definitely here now. I pray that this season in your life, whether it is challenging or joyful or (most likely) some of both, is one in which you are grounded in gratitude and Jesus' love, and in which you feel God's presence with you everyday.

In Christ,  
Pastor Monte

## Thanksgiving Tree

This year our Thanksgiving Tree will grow up the wooden pillars that separate the sanctuary from the gathering space. As you enter worship each week in November, you are invited to write what you are thankful for on a leaf-shaped sticky note, and then add it to the bare trees. You can also take some leaves home in an envelope to fill out as a family—perhaps before or after dinner each night? Then bring them back and add to the tree. Let's fill these trees with thanksgiving!

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

1 Chronicles 16:34

**Get Ready!** That is the title of the first song that the children will sing for their Christmas pageant on December 14. Indeed, this is the season of preparation for our music groups as they plan and rehearse anthems to herald in the marvelous news of Jesus' birth. The choir and handbell choirs are preparing anthems for Advent and Christmas. They will both be part of the Service of Lessons and Carols on December 21. Our instrumental groups are also tuning up to share beautiful seasonal music.

As we make musical preparations for all of the services, may our hearts and minds make preparations as well for this marvelous season of hope and joy. The great Advent hymn, #239 in the ELW, proclaims: "Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let every heart prepare a throne and every voice a song."



***Blessings and peace,***

Carol Peterson, Music Director

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## **A Message from our Council President**

Stewardship is an important part of the Church and critically important to the financial health of St. Luke's. As we embark on the 2026 Stewardship Campaign, "Better Together", it is a good time to review commitments made for 2025. Through September 2025, we are \$16,047 behind in YTD giving. Expenses have continued to increase. Budgeting for 2026 will be challenging. Your prayers and faithful consideration are needed. Your continued support is invaluable as we plan and budget for 2026.

**In Christ, Dick Hensley**

## **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Are you a member of Thrivent? Did you know that you can direct Thrivent to give some of its charitable donations to the charity of your choice? St. Luke's is already a part of the Thrivent Choice Dollar Directory. Just log in to your account and direct Choice Dollars to choose St. Luke's as your donation recipient. As we work to catch up on our remaining budgetary needs for 2025, this is a great way to help!

## November Outreach of the Month

In honor of Veterans Day, November's Outreach of the Month is **Fisher House**. The Fisher House is a home away from home for families of Veterans receiving care at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. The Fisher House provides free temporary lodging only a few blocks away from the medical center.

We will collect items each week that the Fisher House needs to function smoothly:

Nov 2 liquid hand soap, dish soap, all-purpose cleaner, Lysol/Chlorox disinfectant wipes

Nov 9 aluminum foil, plastic wrap, Ziplock bags, paper towels, Kleenex

Nov 16 baking mixes, tea/coffee K-cups (regular and decaf), single-serving coffee creamer (liquid ONLY), cereal and oatmeal

Nov 23 Noisy Offering!

On Monday, Nov 17, we will prepare a dinner for the families staying at the Fisher House. **We need NO MORE THAN 6 people to cook**, as well as a few people to shop. All items need to be prepared in the Fisher House. This will be a fun way to serve together! Approx time will be 3:00 pm-7:00 pm. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Thank you for your support of this outreach!



### VETERAN SUPPORT

Veterans Day will be observed at St. Luke's on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> with a flag presentation at the end of the service, as well as recognition of the veterans present at worship. Lists of members who have served, family members who are currently serving and deceased family members who have served are maintained in the display case at the back of the sanctuary. We especially invite new members to let Rev. Marcie know of your service or a family member's service. Please provide name, branch, years of service, where served or currently serving. We can also send a copy of the ELCA "Prayer Book for the Armed Services" to those currently serving. Contact Ch. Lt. Col. Marcia Strahl, Civil Air Patrol [prmarcie@msn.com](mailto:prmarcie@msn.com) 414-235-8477



## Retiree / Senior Adult Ministry Lunch & Learn

November 13, 2025

### Beer Barons of Wisconsin

Join us Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 11: 45 am in Upper Fellowship Hall to learn about the Beer Barons of Geneva Lake and the four major brewers in Milwaukee. Discover the basics of brewing beer in the 19th century, their response to Prohibition and the difference between ale and lager beer. Presented by Black Point Estate's Lead Interpreter, Michael Rehberg. We will also sample some beer (as part of our research)! Sign-up deadline: November 10, 2025.

November's **Senior Coffee Dates** are Nov 6 and 20<sup>th</sup>. 10 AM, Dia Café. Join us!

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## CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

**November 10 2:30 pm (note winter time change)**

All are welcome to join us as we continue to study the book "Refilling the Reservoirs: Spiritual Care for the Exhausted Caregiver"



## FALL CLEAN UP

Saturday, November 15th 9:00 am – Noon

Join us to clean up the church for winter. Please bring rakes, leaf blowers, or any inside cleaning supplies. Coffee & Donuts will be provided. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Any Questions? Contact Todd Sneed (414) 531-5376



## PACKER PARTY



Sunday, Nov 16, 11:30 (game at noon). Join us as we cheer on the Pack vs. Giants. Sign up to bring apps, sides or dessert; brats and hot dogs provided. Adult beverages permitted, BYO.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS to St. Luke's

On Sunday, Nov 16, we will welcome Jenelle and Grace Montague, Sandi Zeleski, Sue Norville, John Czerwinski, and Michael, Emily and Theodore Frahm as new members. Please introduce yourself when you see them in worship!

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### FAITH JOURNEY IS...

... an opportunity to explore faith, grow in faith, and get to know others in this community of faith.

... for those who are curious about Jesus or deeply committed; for those new to faith or just new to St. Luke's; for anyone who like to share stories over a meal!

Join us for Dinner and Conversation  
Tuesday nights in January--Jan 6, 13, 20 and 27.  
Start marking your calendars now!

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### ADULT EDUCATION

Join us each week after worship in the Upper Fellowship Hall, as we meet to dig deeper and discuss the day's readings.

Nov 2: Ruth 1: 6-11, 14-18; and John 15:12-17

Nov 9: Ministry Fair in Lower Fellowship Hall

Nov 16: Psalm 98 and Luke 21:5-19

Nov 23: Psalm 46 and Luke 23:33-43

Nov 30: Advent Breakfast

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### KRINGLE ORDERS

**Pick up November 16<sup>th</sup> following worship**

Thank you for supporting the youth of St. Luke's!





## CONFIRMATION AND SYNERGY DATES

Confirmation Dates:

Nov 5—Large group learning session

Nov 12—Sort Kringle AND large-group learning session

Nov 19—Large-group learning session

Synergy:

SATURDAY, Nov 8, 6:30-8:30 pm—we are getting together with area churches for a fun night. Scavenger Hunt around Greendale, and then return for a bonfire and s'mores. Bring a friend!

Nov 12—relax with an art jam! Whether you are a budding Picasso or barely passed finger painting, come find your inner Bob Ross.

Nov 26—No Confirmation OR Synergy—Happy Thanksgiving!

Nov 30—Advent Breakfast—fundraiser for all youth!

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## ***QUAKE—FOR ALL 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS!***

Plan to join us for a FUN, faith-shaping weekend in the Dells—inspiring speakers, live music, and of course—waterpark time! Feb 13-15, at Glacier Canyon Lodge (Wilderness Resort). \$275 (\$99 deposit due with registration.) Registration Deadline is Nov 11. Register and apply for Financial assistance at <https://www.slchurch.org/sign-ups> See Kathy with any questions.



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## **Save the date: PAJAMA VESPERS**

**Thursday, December 18th at 6:30 pm**

Children can come in their pajamas and snuggle on the lap of adults as we hear the Christmas story/activity, sing carols, and worship our Lord.



# Christmas Pageant DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> DURING 9AM WORSHIP



## REHEARSALS

Saturday, December 6 9am-11am

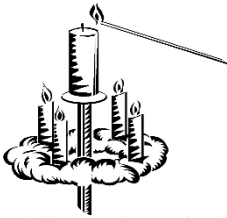
Saturday, December 13 9:00-10:30 ALL

10:30-11:30 SPEAKING parts

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have experience in your High School drama program? We'd like someone to work with the children on "acting" in their parts. We also are in need of a couple of High School Youth or Adults to help with costumes. There are many costumes to choose from, but we want to pick the best! If you are able to offer assistance for these specific needs or assisting in ANY way, please contact Liz Wiken at 414-426-7014 or call the church office.

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## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING & READERS Sign up at the Welcome Center

Families and individuals of all ages are invited to sign up to light the advent wreath and do a brief responsive reading at our Advent worship services: November 30, December 7, & 21.

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## ANNUAL ADVENT BREAKFAST



Sunday, November 30

10:15 am following Worship

Members of all ages will enjoy this time together as we focus on the reason for the season and share a meal. Watch for details in Sunday bulletins & e-mails. Sign up at the Welcome Center.



## Looking Ahead (for your calendar!):

**Christmas Caroling** December 5: During Greendale's Dickens Day – All of the congregation is invited to join in the Caroling, followed by an optional fish fry.

**Christmas Scavenger Hunt** December 10: Fun for ALL Ages – Join us for the SECOND annual scavenger hunt. Teams will have a list of items to find from all over town, and then come back for cookies, hot cocoa, and more fun.

**Lunch and Learn** December 11: festive meal and caroling afterwards.

**Christmas Decorating** December 12, 5pm: at church, followed by pizza.

**Blue Christmas** December 14, 5pm: A contemplative service for when the holidays are hard.

**Second Annual Ladies Retreat** Jan 30-31, 2026, Siena Retreat Center, Racine, WI. Registration opens at the Ministry Fair!

**ELCA Women's Gathering**, July 16-19, 2026, Des Moines, IA. Every three years, ELCA women gather for worship, learning and fellowship. ALL women of St. Luke's are invited to join. More details coming but mark your calendars now!

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## Our 2026 Church Council Needs YOU

We are fortunate to have a dedicated Church Council that helps guide us as we live out our mission. Serving St. Luke's in this way is an extremely rewarding experience. **If you would like to be part of Council, please contact Nomination Committee members, Todd Beutin, Judi Hensley, Glenna Stelzle or Peg Palecek or talk with Pastor Monte.** We ask that you prayerfully consider being part of our Church Council. You can learn more about the needs and commitment at the ministry fair. We will definitely need a co-treasurer, as well as possibly an at-large position.

In addition, every year **we ask for two volunteers (male/female if possible) to represent St. Luke's Lutheran Church at our synod assembly.** If you are interested in attending, please contact Todd Beutin or talk with Pastor Monte. This year's dates **May 29 - 30, 2026** at the Brookfield Conference.

## GIVING REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
September 2025	Offering: \$35,350 Total: \$35,810	\$31,585 \$31,835	Deficit \$3,765 \$3,975	\$318,150 \$322,290	\$302,103 \$306,466	Deficit \$16,047 \$15,824

With an additional 80 lbs of food donated in October, our year to date for 2025 total of food to First Lutheran Food Pantry is 1537 lbs, which exceeds our 2024 donation. Great Job St. Luke's and thank you John Noggle for your commitment.



### GIVING WITH OUR TIME AND TALENT

Thanks to ...

- ❖ Rudy and Jan Miller, Janet Schoba-Orlikowski, Todd and Dianet Beutin for loading and delivering LWF quilts
- ❖ Ladies who have helped with extra cleaning projects at church as well as stuffing envelopes and other office tasks.
- ❖ Pat Larsen and Karen Feucht for organizing the winter clothing drive and all who gave generously.
- ❖ All these folks who donated plants to the Butterfly Garden at St. Luke's: Julie Ohlert, Dave Antoine, Walt Schmitz, Karen Feucht, Tim Shiroda, Kate Braatz, Pat Larsen – Thank you.
- ❖ Todd Sneed for delivering pumpkins for the pumpkin carving!
- ❖ Those who helped move furniture for carpet cleaning, and then moved it back!
- ❖ Jess Williamson, Beth Koehler, Dave Jensen, and Dan Dordel for organizing this year's Stewardship Campaign, "Better Together" and Travis Gross for help with editing videos.