

JANUARY 2026 CONNECTIONS

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.*

FESTIVE WORSHIP, ANNUAL MEETING, AND CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, January 25, 2026

We will be led in worship by **Flat Creek Highway** (with member Cameron Swallow), then stay for the **Annual Meeting** when we celebrate all God did in 2025 and **look ahead to 2026**. Then we will cap it off with a **Chili and Soup Cook-off**, as a fundraiser for our youth. Make plans now to join us!

Sunday School will be held so parents can join the meeting!

**Please stay, be a part of the decisions that guide our church,
and hear about our strategic planning process.**

Your voice is important!

*"And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more
with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really
matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless."*

Philippians 1:9-10

A Prayer for 2026

O God of steadfast love, trusting you, we devote our hearts to walking.

Teach us truth, that we may walk with courage.

Teach us mercy, that we may walk with humility.

Teach us forgiveness, that we may walk with compassion.

Teach us grace, that we may walk with strength.

Teach us wonder, that we may walk with praise.

Teach us goodness, that we may walk with those in need.

O God of steadfast love, learning from you, may we walk well.

J. Bradley Wigger, Inspired by Psalm 86

As we begin a new year, may we all learn from God how to walk *well*, and how to walk *together*. None of us knows what 2026 will bring, but I do know that whatever it holds, the joys and the sorrows will be sweeter and more bearable together than alone. Let's walk this year together, dear ones of St. Luke's, trusting in the God who leads us and walks with us each step of the way.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Monte

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 likes to share stories over a meal!

Join us for Dinner and Conversation
Tuesday nights in January--Jan 6, 13, 20 and 27, 6 pm
Sign up now: welcome center or online.





“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!” is a great Epiphany hymn. The words proclaim God’s truth and light. The fifth verse exuberantly states that Christ goes with us every day, His love is never ending. These words are a beautiful prayer as we embark on this year and the start of new beginnings. Our music program will have many offerings to proclaim God’s message of love and mercy. The choir will be preparing

Precious Lord, Take my Hand for Martin Luther King day on January 18. The choir is also preparing a Palm Sunday cantata for March 29 and the Sunday School children will bring an anthem in February celebrating Valentine’s day.

Plans are underway for Music Camp to be held in June—dates to be determined. This week for students finishing kindergarten through grade 5 is a wonderful time of learning and being part of a great group. The week includes not only music, but also art and drama. Teen helpers are a vital part of the week along with the many outstanding teachers.

Thank you to all who have participated in St. Luke’s music program for 2025--- Your sharing of many talents has brought joy, inspiration and dedication to our congregation.

Peace and blessings,

Carol Peterson, Music Director

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.

Jan 4: Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

Jan 11: Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

Jan 18: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

Jan 25: NO class, stay for Annual Meeting instead!



Seniors' Lunch and Learn.....and FUN

Thursday, January 15 , 11:45am



James Webb Telescope's Greatest Hits

Dennis Roscoe holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Electrical Engineering and a PhD in Neurophysiology from the University of Arizona, School of Medicine. He has been a professor of biomedical engineering at Case Western Reserve University and a professor of Neurology at UW Madison, College of Medicine. For the past 16 years, he has also developed a passion for astronomy and astrophotography and operates his own personal observatory (RoscoeSkies.com) in Waukesha County. He specializes in the imaging of deep space objects such as nebulae, and in May 2014, his images were published in TIME.com. He is a NASA Solar System Ambassador and teaches astrophotography as a guest lecturer at Carroll University.

Prayer Service for Peace and Unity

Sunday January 18 4:00 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes, 3722 S. 58th St, Milwaukee

January 18-25 is the week of prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated all over the world by Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant churches. The Clergy of the Green Corners are co-sponsoring a Prayer Service for Peace and Unity at Our Lady of Lourdes in Greenfield.

Join us for songs, candles, prayer and testimonies of people working for peace in their lives and in the world.

Consider, where have you seen people working for peace?



GAME NIGHT

When the weather outside is frightful, join us for GAME NIGHT !

Thursday, January 8, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Variety of games for all ages Light Snacks Provided

Sign up at welcome center or online; let us know what kind of games you are interested in and if you can host a table (and teach, if necessary!)



OUTREACH OF THE MONTH: BREAKING THE CHAINS

St. Luke's is a long-time partner of Breaking the Chains Ministry. This year BTCC is celebrating ten years of mutual ministry with incarcerated men at the Felmers Chaney and Kenosha Correctional Centers.

Please consider attending the 10-year Anniversary Fundraising Dinner on Sunday, Feb 1, 4 pm-7 pm. Redeemer Lutheran Church, 631 N. 19th St, Milwaukee.

Enjoy dinner, testimonies from BTCC alumni, a silent auction, and a tribute to Joe and Joyce Ellwanger, who started Breaking the Chains in 2016.

Tickets are \$60 each, reserve your spot by January 12.
Breakingthechainschurch@gmail.com or call 414-671-1212

****Auction / Raffle items are needed for the silent auction****

Please contact Greg Wajerski if you are willing to donate an item.
gwajerski@gmail.com or 414-559-9441 Thank you!



Are You a Caregiver in Need of Support?

We meet next on **January 19 at 2:30 PM**. We meet in the Upper Fellowship Hall and welcome all to join us.



Join us for the **SECOND** annual St. Luke's Ladies Retreat!

5 pm Friday, Jan 30, 2026 --4:00 pm Saturday, Jan 31, 2026.

Siena Retreat Center located along beautiful Lake Michigan in Racine.

All meals, beverages and snacks will be provided. Each participant has a private bedroom and bath with linens

and towels included. Join us for games, laughter, creating, serving and eating together, along with a Bible study workshop led by Rev. Jaime Larson-McCloone, pastor of Bethel, Muskego and Gloria Dei, Menomonee Falls.

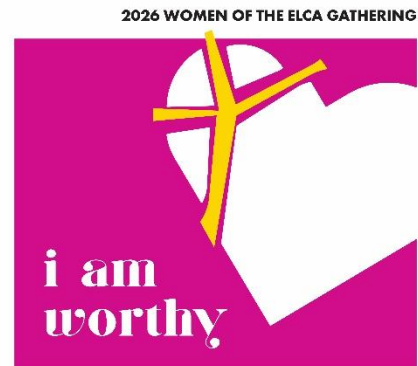
The cost is \$225 for the full retreat and \$95 if you only want to attend on Saturday. Registrations close January 9, 2026. **Financial assistance is available—please reach out if you need help. We don't want anyone to miss out for financial reasons!**

Register online using this QR code:



Women's Gathering Summer 2026

A group from St. Luke's will attend the Women's Gathering in Des Moines, IA, July 16-19, 2026. Early Bird Discount ends January 6. All women are welcome! Let the office know if you are interested, and together we will register and book hotel rooms.



july 16-19, 2026 ✨ des moines, iowa



SUNDAY SCHOOL

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU

to everyone that helped make *The Wonder* a success!

Shout out to Liz, Gina, Kristen, Sunday School Teachers and all the youth helpers who supported the Sunday School children with their performance. Bravo to the Sunday School children who performed. You were all truly wonderful.

Sunday School classes resume
January 4 at 10:15 a.m.

CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH

Confirmation Resumes Jan 7, 6 pm

High school youth event

January 10, at St. Stephen the Martyr, 6 pm

Make-our-own pizzas and church-wide Hide-and-go-seek!

Upcoming Synergy Dates:

Jan 14—no meeting, come to event on Jan 10 instead!

Jan 28—Synergy WILL meet, 7:15 pm



It's almost time to register for Confirmation Camp!

What does all-camp capture the chicken, campfire worship, the golden plunger award, and the service of light have in common? They are all things you will experience at Confirmation camp!

June 21-26, 2026 Imago Dei Village, in Clintonville, WI

We ask ALL confirmands to attend camp AT LEAST once during their years of Confirmation—but many keep going because it's so much fun! Camp costs \$685 this year, and financial assistance is available.

Campers need to register directly with camp, using a link specific to St. Luke's. **Watch your emails for the link to use.** Spots are limited, and we don't reserve church spots anymore, so we encourage you to register as soon as you can!

A non-refundable \$100 deposit is due March 8, 2026 (paid to church). Remainder is due by May 31, 2026 (\$585).

Communion Bread Baking with Sunday School Families

This month we are inviting the Sunday School Children and their parents for a family baking day! Come join us **January 17th at noon.** It normally takes about an hour to an hour and a half. Bring your aprons!



YOUTH SAVE THE DATE EVENTS

Following our Annual meeting, **Sunday January 25**, stay to join in a fabulous Soup and Chili Cookoff. This is a fundraiser for the youth and programs that they are engaged in. Bring your "World Famous" soup or chili to be judged by all attending. This is one time we encourage and welcome judgment from each other.

Save the date, **Saturday, February 7** we will meet at church to assemble subs ordered for the Youth Superbowl Sub Fundraiser. When we finish making the subs, we will head to Crystal Ridge for a fun night of tubing. Watch for details in our weekly email blast.

**UPCOMING WEBINAR FOR PARENTS, sponsored by Volition Franklin
Growing Minds and Modern Highs: THC, Hemp & Kratom
January 13th from 12pm-1:30pm**

Explore the latest youth substances, including high-potency THC, hemp products, kratom, and psilocybin, and their effects on developing brains and mental health. Julie Dreifaldt shares the science, product insights, and practical strategies to help parents, educators, and adults guide youth safely.

Register here: www.operationparent.org/webinars



Church Council Nomination Committee

Each year, 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. Our Nomination Committee is responsible for bringing nominations for open positions on Church Council and the Synod Assembly. We meet in the fall of the year and work to fill any openings by the Annual Congregation Meeting held in January.

If you would like to be part of the Nomination Committee, please contact Todd Beutin, Judi Hensley, Peg Palecek or Glenna Stelzle, or talk with Pastor Monte. Please prayerfully consider being part of this important committee.

From David Enriquez Lopez:

Hello St. Luke's community, I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who supported the Row Challenge on December 6th, and to those who came out to row by my side. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise \$2,740! These funds will be used to purchase gifts, clothing, games, beds, linens, and even a refrigerator for about 75 children and families receiving support through the Milwaukee Center for Children and Youth. Thank you for helping make this Christmas brighter for so many!

GIVING REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
Nov. 2025	\$35,350	\$40,889	Surplus \$5539	\$388,850	\$371,283	Deficit \$17,567

You can now GIVE ONLINE, by scanning the QR code.



Noisy Offering for Fisher House (in November): \$410.17

Year-to-date giving to Food Pantry (as of 11/25): 1832 pounds!

Giving with Time and Talent:

Rob and Tony Kegel, for constructing and installing the cross on the Northway wall.

All the folks who put up the **nativity display** on Northway, and Mark Ohlert and Rob Kegel who set up the banner along Northway

All the **decorators, musicians, readers, and ushers** who help us celebrate Advent and Christmas and welcome our many guests.

Jan & Rudy Miller who hosted the decorators at their house for pizza.

Dan Dordel and the Dordel family, who organized and led the Scavenger Hunt.

WINGS ladies who delivered homemade cookies and Christmas cheer to homebound folks in our church.

Thank you to our wonderful **St. Luke's church family** for your generosity in providing Christmas gifts for 53 children. Your compassion made the holidays brighter for local families. A **huge thank you to Marlene Beutin** for her time and effort and making this event a success. Thank you to **Bennett, Livi and Elise Bollig** for sorting and helping with the delivery of the gifts.