



# St. Luke's Lutheran Church

December 2025

*Helping people make  
life-changing connections  
with God through  
Jesus Christ.*

## Advent 2025 at St. Luke's – The Power of Yes

Every Advent, we step into a holy season of waiting—*watching* for God's coming, *preparing* our hearts, and *listening* closely for God's voice. This year, our Advent journey invites us into a simple but courageous theme: **The Power of Yes.**

In volatile, uncertain times, even the small yeses of daily life can feel weighty. Where do we place our trust? How do we use our time, our energy, our resources, our courage? When so much around us feels fragile, the act of saying “yes” to God's call may feel riskier than ever.

And yet, our Scriptures remind us that we come from a long line of people whose “yes” shaped the world.

This Advent we will trace the unfolding story of God's coming—not only through the familiar names of Mary and Joseph, but through the quiet, brave figures who's yes made room for Christ's birth. Each week we will explore one of these yeses:

**Advent 1 — Elizabeth & Zechariah Said Yes;**

**Advent 2 — John the Baptist Said Yes;**

**Advent 3 — Mary Said Yes; Advent 4 — Joseph Said Yes**

Moving into the Christmas season, we continue:

**Christmas Eve — The Shepherds Said Yes;**

**Christmas 1 — Joseph's Double Yes;**

**Christmas 2 — God Says Yes**



We are living in what feels like a liminal time. A time of upheaval, anxiety, and shifting ground. And yet—this is not the first time God's people have lived through such seasons. Advent reminds us that God's story *always* unfolds through ordinary people whose faithfulness creates space for the extraordinary.

Every yes in Scripture is offered in the shadow of empire, in the uncertainty of fragile lives, and in the vulnerability of real human fear. And yet, God works through these yeses to shape a new future.

Your Yes Matters, so we invite you into deeper participation—not just in worship, but in reflection:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1.) Where is God inviting you to say yes?       | 3.) What yes might bring healing, courage, or joy? |
| 2.) What yes feels difficult for you right now? | 4.) What yes might lead you closer to Christ?      |

Through worship, prayer, and song, we will listen for God together. We will wonder. We will wait. We will say yes—each in our own way—trusting that God is already working through these yeses to open a path toward hope.

I pray that this Advent becomes not just a countdown to Christmas, but a spacious season—a time to breathe, to reflect, to choose courage, and to trust the One who comes to meet us in every fragile yes. May this be a season where we, too, discover **The Power of Yes.**

## A “Reintroduction” of Sorts From Your New Associate Pastor

I am very happy to have accepted the call to Associate Pastor that you all extended to me on November 2! I feel so blessed to have this sacred role of pastor, and I look forward to exploring all God has in store for us together.

A big part of the “pastor-and-people” partnership is relationship building. I look forward to getting to know you all better, and hear how God has been active in your lives.

While I have been here for a while now, I realize I’m also kind of a “newbie!” A member suggested that I take some space in this column to do a “bio” of sorts, and I thought that was an excellent idea. Hopefully it’ll give you a little more background into my formation as a person and as a pastor. I’ll do it in two installments, consider this “Part I – Birth through College” :



I grew up the only child of Dave and Pam Loken, in Maple Grove, MN. My extended family mostly lives either in the Twin Cities or southern MN. The Hooper side of the family mostly lives in the Chicago suburbs, with a few in the Houston, TX area.

I am a “born and bred” Lutheran, my family of origin is very strong in their faith - for example my grandma taught many years of Sunday School and Search Bible Studies, and she was the first woman in her congregation to serve as a Council President. (I still have some of her materials which are filled with copious notes in her lovely handwriting!)

I was fortunate to have great experiences as a youth in my home congregation. I went on youth trips like canoeing in the BWCA, participated in youth group, and was positively influenced by excellent pastors and youth directors. Throughout high school I also had a cross country and track coach and friends who were also very open about discussing matters of faith.

Towards the end of high school, one of my pastors told me he saw gifts in me to be a pastor, and took me to a Seminary Visit Day. It was a nice experience, but at that point I was not super convinced that it was a good fit for my mostly-introverted self! I have always enjoyed writing, so I went off to college with plans to become a journalist.

I loved my four years at Luther College. It was there that my worldview really expanded, as I got to know people from many different backgrounds, experiences and countries. Being a college of the ELCA there were religion requirements - but as I got through the basics, I found myself wanting to take more. Meanwhile the English major was not really geared toward journalism and I was dreading taking Shakespeare with a tough professor I had already encountered! So lo and behold, I found myself switching my major to Religion.

Come Junior year, I still didn’t really have a clue what I was going to do with a religion major. Then I spent a month in Guatemala, and things began to shift. Immersed in a country with a tumultuous and sometimes violent history, our class explored matters of faith and justice. I witnessed the resiliency of people who had been through so much, and yet their faith in God was so deep. I saw Scripture through new sets of eyes, and heard with clarity the Gospel witness of God’s care and concern for the oppressed and marginalized.

I came back from that trip - still not sure that I was going to enroll in seminary – but confident that whatever I did with this religion major, I wanted to serve God and neighbor and give witness to a God who loves and cares for all – especially for the oft-overlooked and marginalized ones.

Part II to come next month! Meanwhile, wishing you a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Take good care,  
Pastor Maren Hooper



## Music & Fine Arts at St. Luke's Upcoming Events

Thank you to everyone who attended the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble and Wisconsin Wind Orchestra concerts in November! It was such a joy to welcome these two groups to St. Luke's for the first time and hear their beautiful music! We have several great opportunities coming up in December you won't want to miss.

**Friday, December 12, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.:** The Milwaukee Festival Brass returns for their third Christmas concert at St. Luke's. Milwaukee Festival Brass is a British style brass band that travels all over the world playing in competitions for bands. It's always such a treat when they come to St. Luke's! A freewill offering will be collected.



**Friday, December 19, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.:** The Wisconsin Choral Union presents *Choose Something Like A Star*. The Choral Union is now in residency at St. Luke's for their regular rehearsals. They return to St. Luke's for their annual Christmas concert under the direction of Danielle Bridges, including member Paul McCoy. Tickets are available online at [choralunion.org](http://choralunion.org) or at the door.

**Saturday, December 20, at 2:00 p.m.:** The Cream City Brass appears at St. Luke's for the first time. Members from St. Luke's are Ruth Gulotta, Steve Jenson, and John Remmers. There are also some members who have joined our brass ensemble at St. Luke's over the years too!

**Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.:** The Wisconsin Philharmonic will return for their annual family JanBoree concert at St. Luke's, with an instrument petting zoo at 1:00 p.m.

## Christmas Eve Music

It's always a joy on Christmas Eve to have the youth of our congregation join us for making music! At our 3:00 p.m. family service the prelude will be performed by the youth of St. Luke's. If your child would like to play, please contact Mr. Schaner at [mschaner@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:mschaner@stlukeslutheran.org). We will also sing *I Saw Three Ships* at the family service. Anyone who has sung that anthem with Mr. Schaner can come join! It's always fun to have alumni of our Sing for Joy choir come and join us again for one of our favorite anthems!

## Giving for Christmas Décor

As we prepare to enhance our Christmas experience with wreaths, trees, and poinsettia plants, we invite you to consider donating toward this worship space beautification. Your gift can be made in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones, special events, or a ministry. As has been our tradition, poinsettias will be delivered to our homebound members to hopefully brighten their lives. The suggested donation is \$20 and must be received by Sunday, December 14. Any gift will be appreciated. Each will be included in a special tribute mentioned in the Christmas bulletins. Order forms will be in weekly bulletins and at the Welcome Center.

## Christmas Meal for Homebound and Needy

Most of us are fortunate to have family and friends to share the holidays with. But there are many individuals in our area who are either homebound or alone or just having a hard time making ends meet. On Christmas Day, there will be a delivery of a FREE Christmas meal to anyone who may be in this situation. The meals are prepared at St. William's Church, and are available to be delivered or picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. If you or someone you know is in this situation, please contact Marcia Slowinski (262) 798-1520, to arrange for a meal. Requests will be accepted through Friday, December 12.

## Bring Your Nativity Set to Church

Time to start looking for your nativity set! At worship services December 6 and December 7, we will again be blessing each of our nativities. We invite everyone to bring their sets to church beginning Wednesday, December 3. Tables will be arranged at the front of the sanctuary so you can display your set that weekend. Please start thinking about where you placed your nativity after last season. Plan to bring it to worship and have it blessed so that it might be a sign of Christ's presence in your home.

## ELCA Church Council Adopts Child Protection Social Message

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met electronically on November 12. The council, which serves as the ELCA's board of directors, took action on a variety of matters intended to advance this church's mission and ministry.

In his report, Presiding Bishop Curry told the council of his decision to announce an in-person return to work for two days per week for all churchwide organization staff who live within 50 miles of the Lutheran Center in Chicago. Curry said his decision for the return to the workplace — expected to begin February 1, 2026 — was made in consultation with the churchwide organization administrative team and other churchwide organization leaders.

### In key action, the council:

- Adopted "Child Protection" as an official social message of the ELCA. See <https://www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/current-social-writing-projects/child-protection>
- Authorized reconsideration of identified sections in the social message "Homelessness: A Renewal of Commitment" (1990).
- Directed the Theological Discernment unit in the Office of the Presiding Bishop to begin development of study resources related to social teaching on white supremacy.
- Revised the spending authorization for fiscal year 2026 from \$61,500,000 to \$63,150,000.
- Approved recommendations for the churchwide organization, synods and congregations to support educational debt relief for rostered ministers, particularly rostered ministers who are women and/or members of historically under-represented groups. This action is in response to the final report of the Educational Debt Task Force, which was appointed by the Church Council in 2022.
- Authorized the Executive Committee to assess and respond to a request from the Endowment Fund of the ELCA (the ELCA Foundation).
- Approved revisions of "Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the ELCA" related to amendments to the ELCA constitutions approved by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.
- Elected the Rev. Ralph Dunkin, Wheeling, W.V., to the Church Council for a six-year term ending August 2031. He fills a vacancy left by the Rev. Daniel Collins, who has resigned.
- Approved amendments to ELCA churchwide organization personnel policies.
- Appointed and elected members to fill vacancies on the following: Audit Committee; Committee of Hearing Officers; Committee on Appeals; board of directors for Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University; board of trustees for United Lutheran Seminary; council liaison to the Corporate Social Responsibility review team.
- Approved amendments to continuing resolutions in "Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA" related to governance of the new Association of Synod Vice Presidents.
- Approved amendments to the restated bylaws of the board of pensions of the ELCA.
- Approved new health plan benefit options and proposed amendments to the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan, effective Jan. 1, 2026.
- Received reports and updates from the church officers and council committees.

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with 2.7 million members in more than 8,400 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church Reformer, Martin Luther.

## Discipleship Training Updates

Discipleship Training (DT) is St. Luke's middle school youth ministry and is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older youth who wish to affirm their baptism. Pastor Jordan, Pastor Jim and Cari look forward each week to walking beside our youth on their faith journey with our middle school and older youth who wish to affirm their baptism through stories, service projects, conversation, food, silly games, fun and laughter. It is not too late to join us in the Youth Room on Wednesday nights. DT will generally meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. with additional learning, service and community time outside the normal class time. Contact Cari ([youth@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:youth@stlukeslutheran.org)) for additional information.

**December Activities**-meetings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room  
12/3 Theme: Jesus: Palm Sunday and Holy Week

12/10 Theme: Jesus: Easter

12/11 Christmas Cookies Prep Day 1 — 5:30 — 7:30 p.m.

12/12 Christmas Cookies Prep Day 2 — 5:30 — 7:30 p.m. IF NEEDED

12/13 Box Christmas Cookies 9:00a.m. — 12:00p.m.

Cookie donations needed

Christmas Cookie Sale 4:30 — 6:30 p.m.

12/14 Christmas Cookie Sale 7:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

12/17 Activity Night—Christmas Celebration & White Elephant Exchange  
Bring your favorite Christmas Treat to share and a wrapped “gift” for the White Elephant gift exchange — \$5 limit

12/24 & 12/31 NO DT—Christmas Break—Wednesday Classes resume 1/7

### Looking Ahead

Sundays in January between services, 9:30 - 10:25 a.m., we will be planning and preparing for the youth led weekend on 1/31 and 2/1, Youth, H.S. and D.T. will lead all the services.

## Youth Group

Youth Group is open to all in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Friends always welcome.

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## Calling All Bakers

Anyone interested in baking treats for the Christmas cookie sale, please contact Cari [youth@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:youth@stlukeslutheran.org). Cookies need to be dropped off at the church by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 13.

## Saturday Social

We will resume Saturday Socials in January, watch for details. There will not be a Saturday Social in December. Have a blessed Christmas and safe New Year's.

## Christmas Cookies Sale

### December 13 & 14

No Cinnamon Rolls for December as Santa's Elves have been busy baking and decorating cookies for the Christmas season. What is better than yummy Christmas cookies with no mess? The youth will be selling these cookie options, pre-packaged: 1 dozen variety, could contain nuts &/or nut butter, gluten-free, and no nuts. Pre-orders recommended to guarantee availability of your preferred option. To pre-order, please see Cari or one of the youths on Sunday mornings, or email Cari at [youth@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:youth@stlukeslutheran.org), or call her (262) 312-0505.

Please place pre-orders by December 10. Cookies will be available the weekend of December 13 & 14 before and after all services.

## Kwik Trip Fundraiser

Christmas is coming and KwikTrip gift cards make a great gift and support youth activities. We will be placing the next special-order on December 3 for mid-December arrival. This is an on-going year-round fundraiser for the youth. If you frequent Kwik Trip on a regular basis, please consider purchasing gift cards through St. Luke's to use for your gas and grocery purchases. The youth will get a portion of your everyday purchases. In addition to the gift, gas and grocery cards, we also have 5-count car wash cards available. Cards are available for purchase either via order form, available on the Welcome Station or directly from the stock Sunday mornings. Additional denominations are available upon request, usually within 2 weeks of the order.

Contact Cari  
[youth@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:youth@stlukeslutheran.org)  
with questions or to order cards.

**St. Luke's  
Lutheran Church  
Core Values  
Honoring God and serving  
Jesus Christ:**

1. We share Jesus Christ and make disciples.
2. We worship God together.
3. We are curious, courageous, and open to the Holy Spirit.
4. We celebrate children and lift up families as they are.
5. We practice kindness and uphold the dignity of each individual.
6. We are committed to being an inclusive community of grace.
7. We stand ready to serve and advocate for our neighbors.
8. We honor our past and look to God's future for us.

**CLM Preschool  
Scholarship**

Did you know that you can make an offering towards the CLM Preschool Scholarship Fund? This fund is set aside specifically for families within our half-day Preschool program that need financial assistance, or for families that wish to enroll in Preschool but cannot afford full tuition. Offerings to the CLM Preschool Scholarship Fund can be made through your regular giving envelope or through on-line giving. Thank you!

**Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Do you have a special designation for your Thrivent Choice dollars? All Thrivent Choice dollars are held in the Memorial Fund as undesignated and will be assigned a purpose as needed. If you know where you want your Thrivent Choice dollars to go, please let us know by calling or emailing Cindy in the finance office. Thank you!

**CLM Scrip Fundraiser**

Our St. Luke's Child Life Ministries Scrip Account through RaiseRight is now active! What is Scrip? It's a place where you can purchase gift cards and CLM will get a portion of your purchase kicked back! Going shopping? Get a gift card to pay for your purchase and donate to CLM at the same time, it's that easy! You can order your gift card and have it instantly available to use, right from your phone. There are two easy ways to sign up, follow this link OR scan the QR code. Share with your friends and relatives by sending them a text or email! There's no cost or upcharge, just purchasing gift cards that helps CLM.



**Fall 2025 Preschool Enrollment Time**

It may be chilly outside, but January is the hottest month for preschool registration! If your child/grandchild will be 2, 3, or 4 years of age by 9/1/25, this information is for you! Now is the time to call with your questions and to arrange a visit before the registration process begins. All classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Preschool enrollment dates are as follows:

**January 20:** Priority registration for families with children currently enrolled in the Preschool Program.

**January 26:** Registration for St. Luke's church members, families with children currently enrolled in the Child Care program at St. Luke's and families who have had children in our Preschool Program in past years

**February 1:** Enrollment is open to the community. Spread the word!

**Save the Dates and Tell Your Friend**

St. Luke's Preschool features small class sizes, weekly music classes, Bible stories and songs, Chapel Chats with a pastor, service projects, Pre-K readiness, field trips, and much more. More details can be found at [www.stlukeslutheran.org](http://www.stlukeslutheran.org). Children entering the 3- and 4-Year classes must be toilet trained. Classes follow the school year calendar, and the following options will be available for fall 2025:

**2 Years Old (by 9/1/25):** First Steps to Preschool—Classes meet 1 morning a week-9:00 to 11:00 a.m. (child must be accompanied by an adult).

**3 Years Old (by 9/1/25):** Classes meet 2 mornings a week-9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**4 Years Old (by 9/1/25):** Classes meet 2 or 3 mornings a week-9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Many families choose to attend our Preschool in the morning and our School District of Waukesha 4K in the afternoon!

Contact Liz at (262) 522-6747 or [landerson@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:landerson@stlukeslutheran.org) to learn how your child or grandchild can be a part of the St. Luke's Preschool experience!

**Attention Sunday School Families**

It's that time of year, rehearsal for our annual Christmas Program. It will be the "Old, Old Story" told in a fresh and fun way. You won't want to miss this! Here are the dates to mark on your calendar, Sunday **December 7**, Rehearsals will be during the normal Sunday School time, 9:20-10:20 a.m. **Saturday, December 13:** Final Run-Through, 10:00-11:30 a.m., **Sunday, December 14:** Christmas Program at the 10:30 a.m. Service, stay tuned for a "call time!"



## Congregation Council News

- 1) Council is looking forward to seeing everyone at Pastor Maren's installation on Sunday, January 18 at 9:15 a.m.
- 2) Council would like to thank the members of Diverse Harvest for their dedication to our church band. You have blessed us all with your musical talent and commitment, making our worship services truly special. We are thankful for your hard work and you will be missed as you take a hiatus.
- 3) The Church Council plans to meet next month with a special holiday gathering to celebrate the season and fellowship together at Mayor's Restaurant.

## Diverse Harvest on Hiatus

St. Luke's band, Diverse Harvest is taking a hiatus from worship leadership. We are thankful for the generous gifts shared by members of the band, both current and former. They include: Jim Durnil (leader), Darius and Shelly Outlaw, Renee Carstensen, and Kaitlynn Kellog. Former members include Pastor Steve Bogie, Tim and Kiran Kuehn, Sydney Edlbeck, and Lucas Thorstad. In this time, band members will discern what's next for their ministry. Offer prayers of thanksgiving for these folks.

## Good Samaritan Fund Matching Fund Challenge

Did you know that St. Luke's has a Good Samaritan Fund? This fund is used at the discretion of the pastors, and provides emergency assistance to individuals and families in need. In these challenging times, we have seen a steady uptick in requests for help. A generous member has indicated they will match donations made to this fund, up to \$1,000. Special gifts towards this matching fund challenge will be accepted now through December 31. When donating, please indicate on your check and/or envelope memo line "Good Samaritan Matching Fund."

## Security Cameras Updated

Recent upgrades to the security cameras are now complete. Thank you to the Amigos for all the support you gave to make this transition successful – support that included shuffling offices, moving furniture, and so much more.

## Epistle Online

Are you still receiving a paper copy of The Epistle in the mail? Reading The Epistle online saves paper and postage, allows you to print only the pages you want, and includes live links. If you would like to receive our weekly *Connections* email and our monthly newsletter, The Epistle, by email please contact the church office at (262) 542-2545 or [office@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:office@stlukeslutheran.org).

## Are You Receiving Our Weekly *Connections* Email?

Each week we send out an email called *Connections*. It includes announcements, links, information about worship schedules, community events, and so much more. If you are not receiving it, email the office ([office@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:office@stlukeslutheran.org)) to be added to the email list.

## December Council Contact

**Darius Outlaw**  
[darius@theoutlawfamily.com](mailto:darius@theoutlawfamily.com)  
(810) 986-5899

**The deadline for the next  
Issue of the Epistle is  
Friday, December 12.**

## December Mission: St. Luke's Endowment Fund

The Endowment Committee distributes money from the fund to local and global charities and provides scholarships to St. Luke's members who are attending college or seminary.

## Assisting Minister Training

Assisting ministers play a beautiful role in worship—they remind us that every baptized person shares in the priesthood of all believers. When you serve alongside our clergy, you help show that worship is something we all do together as the body of Christ.

We'd love for you to be part of this ministry!

### Training Details:

- **Date:** Monday, December 15
- **Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Who:** Current assisting ministers and anyone interested in joining. If you already serve and can't make it, please email PJ. If you're curious about serving, this is the perfect time to learn and get started. Come and see how you can make a meaningful difference in worship!

## Use Your Phone to Give.

Point your camera at the QR code to use Omella to make an online gift. Your gifts will be counted as offerings and will support the ministry of St. Luke's Lutheran.



## Online Giving

To start giving electronically or make changes to your on-line giving, please log on to our website and click on "Online Giving" on the far right. You can also fill out the paper authorization form and return it to the church office. Paper authorization forms are available at the Welcome Center.

## Welcome to the Font A Baptismal Gathering

Pre-baptismal gathering, *Welcome to the Font*, is scheduled quarterly in our church. *Welcome to the Font* is a time for parents preparing for baptism to join together with other parents while learning about God's work for them and their children in Holy Baptism. *Welcome to the Font* is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, and March 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Center. Baptisms are scheduled only after attending a *Welcome to the Font* gathering. To attend "Welcome to the Font" call the church office at (262) 542-2545.

## Planning a Wedding

Our website has information about getting married at or through St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Download the *Preparing for a Wedding* booklet from the weddings page of our website and you can learn about ceremonies in our sanctuary, chapel, or offsite. Visit [www.stlukeslutheran.org](http://www.stlukeslutheran.org) for information.

## Preparing for a Funeral

Our ministry of walking with people at times of death is an important work of this church. To help families prepare for a funeral, we've developed a booklet entitled, *Preparing for a Funeral*. You can download this resource from the funerals page of our website. Our pastors are available for any who would like to prepare for a funeral.

## Prayer Team

Scripture encourages us to bear one another's burdens. Lifting others up in prayer is a way to do that. The need for prayer and for people to pray grows daily! Please consider becoming a member of our Prayer Team. There are no meetings or phone calls. You will receive prayer requests via email and are asked to pray daily. No specific prayer, but suggestions are given. Simply ask God to guide you. Did you know you can pray any time and any place? How about while brushing your teeth or showering, during your kids' practices or games, while waiting for appointments? All that is asked is that you pray daily. Please consider joining this vital ministry. For information, contact Laurie Rohrwasser.

## Prayer Ministry

How can our Prayer Team pray for you, a friend or loved one? We are ready to lift up prayers for you during the joys and trials of your life. If you or someone you know needs prayer for any reason, please contact Laurie Rohrwasser, [lrohrwasser@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:lrohrwasser@stlukeslutheran.org). Perhaps you know of someone who could use a note of encouragement or well wishes, please let her know.

## Extending Care for You

Our pastors make visits and calls to people in need of pastoral care. If you would like pastoral care, please call the church office at (262) 542-2545. This is especially important if you are going through life-transitions, illness, or trauma. If you change your address or enter a care facility or rehab center, please update the church office.

## Museum of Wisconsin Art and Anna French

The Museum of Wisconsin Art, (MOWA,) 205 Veterans Ave, West Bend, has accepted a painting done by long time St. Luke's member Anna French, to be included in their Member Show 2025! Her painting is a still life oil on canvas entitled "Persimmons." Art of all types is accepted once per year from 175 MOWA supporting members. This year Anna is one of those 175! The Member Show will be held from November 22, 2025, through January 11, 2026. Please stop by MOWA and take a look Anna's "Persimmons" as well as the rest of the wonderful collection in what most experts call "The Best Small Art Museum in the World." Anna is now residing at Heritage Court in Waukesha.





## Memorials

In gratitude, we received memorials supporting the ongoing ministry of St. Luke's. You, too, can memorialize others with gifts to St. Luke's. You can also honor loved ones with honorariums given to St. Luke's. Memorials and honorariums are listed here each month. During **OCTOBER**, the following memorials and honorariums were made:

<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Given By</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Marion Chapman	Chris Jackson	Centennial Scholarships
June Boadwine	Chris Jackson	Music
<u>In Honor of</u>	<u>Given By</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Edison Messerschmidt	Paul & Darrell Pilon	Discipleship Training

## Needle & Thimble

Please join Needle and Thimble on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. They meet every week unless there is no school. Everyone is welcome. You don't need to be able to sew. There are other things that can be done. Please call Marilyn Olson if you have questions, (262) 844-2519.

## Needle & Thimble Needs Your Fabric and Thread

Needle and Thimble is our church sewing group that makes quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We rely on fabric and thread donations; our stash is getting low at this time. If you have fabric (please no little scraps) and / or thread, that you will not need, please consider donating to Needle and Thimble. We especially welcome gently used bedsheets. You may drop off these items anytime at the church office, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, please contact Gwen Kieso (262) 442-1749 or Marilyn Olson (262) 844-2519.

## Prayer Shawl, There is Still a Need

Busy knitter and crocheters, please do not stop! The items you donate will still be blessed and packaged. Lap robes and prayer shawls are available in the display cabinet located in History Hall. If you know someone who needs a hug from God, feel free to choose an appropriate one from the display. There is a clipboard to record the recipient's name. Share the LOVE! Also, thank you for keeping our prayer patches full! Please feel free to take yarn from the shelves by the History Hall. Please call Gloria for dimensions of what you make and with any questions at (262) 547-8096.

## Serving in Worship

There are a variety of ways to serve the community whenever we worship. Each of the ways are equally important to our weekly experience of God's grace. You can serve as a lector, an usher, a member of the altar guild, a communion assistant and more. We use "Ministry Scheduler Pro," an online tool, to help people schedule their worship ministry involvement. If you have an account on Ministry Scheduler Pro, you received an email inviting you to update your profile and involvement. That email also contained your credentials to log in. The spotlight section of our website's homepage also has a link to our Ministry Scheduler that you can follow. Our goal is to develop schedules that use the many gifts and talents present in our congregation.

## Church Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

**Phone:** (262) 542-2545

**Fax:** (262) 542-1254

**Website:** [www.stlukeslutheran.org](http://www.stlukeslutheran.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/sllcwauk](https://facebook.com/sllcwauk)

**Pastor Lindsay Jordan**

**Senior Pastor**

[pj@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:pj@stlukeslutheran.org)

**Pastor Maren Hooper**

**Interim Pastor**

[pastormaren@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:pastormaren@stlukeslutheran.org)

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**Director of Music Ministries**

[mschaner@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:mschaner@stlukeslutheran.org)

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**Cindy Maigatter**

**Financial Administrator**

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**Mikey Schubert**

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**Tonia Rice**

**Administrative Assistant**

[office@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:office@stlukeslutheran.org)

## Support the Food Pantry

You can make monetary donations to the pantry through their website. Leaders of the pantry want us to know that canned fruits and veggies along with soups have been limited the last few months. When shopping for yourself, pick up some for our neighbors and drop them in the food pantry barrels as you leave the grocery store, or bring to church to drop in the cart by door.

## Help For the Hope Center

There are many ways to help the Hope Center. Sorters are needed in the Clothing Shop, prep and serve breakfast and lunch, dates can vary. You can volunteer by contacting (262) 549-8726. Check out their website for their weekly donation request list at <https://hopecenterwi.org/donate-now/>. Hope Center address is 101 W Broadway, Waukesha 53186.

## The Gathering

The Gathering is a group open to all. We will meet on the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the hospitality area. Come share your hobbies, interests and talents, or just listen. Get to know your fellow church members and even make new friends. If you would like to participate and this day and time doesn't work for you call Gloria Brechlin (262) 547-8096.

## Search Bible Study

Join PJ for Search Bible Study on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Grow in faith and engage in great conversations.



## Flower and Coffee Hour Sponsorship

We are very blessed to see so many participating in sponsoring Coffee Hour and Ambo Flowers to honor or celebrate a loved one or a special occasion! If you have signed up on the poster or the Coffee Hour board, please drop off your offerings to cover the sponsorship at the church office, offering plate, or via mail. Please include which sponsorship you are paying in the memo line, envelope detail, or a simple note. The cost of the sponsorships are as follows: Flowers: \$50 per weekend, Coffee Hour: \$30 for 2 weekends or \$55 for a month. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy in the church office. Many thanks!

## 2026 Monthly Coffee Hour Sponsorship

The 2025 Monthly Coffee Hour Sponsorship is now available at Sign Up Central. The fee for the coffee hour is \$30 for 2 weekends or \$55 for the whole month. With the sponsorship, you receive the **option** to have displayed up to 12 pictures on the high tables in the narthex and Hospitality area. The picture(s) must be received in the office no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to your sponsorship month. If no pictures are received, a written acknowledgement of your sponsorship will be displayed. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Hendrickson (262) 542-5940 or Tonia in the church office with questions.

## Community Meal

We will have our community meal for families of our musical ensembles and anyone else who wants to come join us at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday's , We serve family friendly meals each week. For more information, talk to Michael Schaner, Director of Music Ministries, or take a look at the Music & Fine Arts bulletin board.

## Living Lutheran Magazine is Back in Print

Living Lutheran Magazine is back in print! You can sign up for the storytelling you know and love that will be sent out quarterly through [livinglutheran.org/subscribed](http://livinglutheran.org/subscribed) or by calling (800) 638-3522. Each issue is packed with engaging stories and moving reflections of ministry happenings in the ELCA.

## Communication is Important

Communicating when, where, what, why, and how is important. If there is something you would like communicated in the weekly bulletin, weekly *Connections* email, or the monthly Epistle newsletter, it's as easy as writing the announcement and emailing it to [office@stlukeslutheran.org](mailto:office@stlukeslutheran.org) or stopping by the office with your article by the deadlines. The deadlines for the bulletin and *Connections* are 12:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the Thursday or the weekend you would want the information in *Connections* or bulletin. The deadline for the monthly Epistle newsletter is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month unless the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday; then, the deadline is the Friday before. If you have any questions, please reach out either by email or call the church office at (262) 542-2545.

# St. Luke's Calendar for December 2025

<b>Monday</b> 8:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>December 1</b> Amigos! Al-Anon	<b>Thursday</b> 4:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	<b>December 11</b> Joyful Noise Community Meal D.T. & Y. G. Decorate Christmas Cookies Broad Hwy. A.A.	<b>Friday</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>December 19</b> M&FAS Waukesha Choral Union
<b>Tuesday</b> 9:30 a.m. Club 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>December 2</b> 1st Tuesday Book Theology Uncorked Welcome to the Font W.C.U. Rehearsal	<b>Friday</b> 5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	<b>December 12</b> D.T. & Y. G. Decorate Christmas Cookies M&FAS Milwaukee Festival Brass	<b>Saturday</b> 2:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	<b>December 20</b> M&FAS Cream City Brass Worship
<b>Wednesday</b> 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	<b>December 3</b> Search Bible Study Godsbells Discipleship Training N.A. Square Dancers Voices of Faith	<b>Saturday</b> 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	<b>December 13</b> D.T. & Y. G. Box Christmas Cookies Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal D.T. & Y. G. Christmas Cookie Sales Worship	<b>Monday</b> 8:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>December 22</b> Amigos! Al-Anon
<b>Thursday</b> 1:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>December 4</b> The Gathering Joyful Noise Community Meal Broad Hwy. A.A.	<b>Sunday</b> 7:30 a.m. 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. 9:20 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>December 14</b> D.T. & Y. G. Christmas Cookie Sales Sunday School Mt. Meru Coffee Men's Chorus Rehearsals Men's A.A.	<b>Tuesday</b> 5:30 p.m.	<b>December 23</b> Personnel Committee
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 p.m.	<b>December 6</b> Worship	<b>Monday</b> 8:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>December 15</b> Amigos! Sarah Circle Assistant Minister Training Al-Anon	<b>Wednesday</b> 3:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 10:30 p.m.	<b>December 24</b> Family Christmas Service Christmas Eve Service N.A. Christmas Eve Festival
<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. 9:20 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>December 7</b> Worship Sunday School Mt. Meru Coffee Executive Committee Men's A.A.	<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>December 16</b> Needle and Thimble Finance Committee Church Council	<b>Thursday</b> 9:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>December 25</b> Christmas Day Service Broad Hwy. A.A.
<b>Monday</b> 8:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>December 8</b> Amigos! Facilities Committee Al-Anon	<b>Wednesday</b> 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	<b>December 17</b> Search Bible Study Discipleship Training Godsbells N.A. Voices of Faith	<b>Friday</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>December 26</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>December 9</b> Needle and Thimble Worship Committee W.C.U. Rehearsal	<b>Thursday</b> 4:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<b>December 18</b> Joyful Noise Community Meal Broad Hwy. A.A.	<b>Saturday</b> <b>No Service</b>	<b>December 27</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> Cookie Sale Pre 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	<b>December 10</b> Orders Due Search Bible Study Discipleship Training CLM Board Meeting Godsbells N.A. Square Dancers Voices of Faith	<b>Sunday</b> 9:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.		<b>Monday</b> 8:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>December 28</b> Service Men's A.A.
		<b>Wednesday</b> 7:00 p.m.		<b>Wednesday</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>December 29</b> Amigos! Al-Anon
					<b>December 31</b> N.A.

**Please Remember**  
all calendar dates and times are  
subject to change as needed.  
**Check for updates**  
**on the online calendar**  
**[www.stlukeslutheran.org](http://www.stlukeslutheran.org)**



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## Key Worship Dates and Times Coming Up

As we head into the holiday season, we remind you to watch the worship calendar. The following are important dates and times to be aware of. There are a couple of dates coming up when our weekend schedule will be different than normal.

- Christmas Eve: 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.
- Christmas Day: 9:15 a.m.
- Saturday, December 27: No Worship at 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 28: One service at 9:15 a.m.
- Pastor Hooper's Installation Service: Sunday, January 18, 9:15 a.m.

## Installation Service Scheduled

Bishop Paul Erickson of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA will install Pastor Maren Hooper as Associate Pastor of St. Luke's, Sunday, January 18. To celebrate, the congregation will hold one service that weekend: Sunday, January 18 at 9:15 a.m. There will be no Saturday night service that weekend. A meal and time of hospitality will follow.

## 2025 Tax and Giving Information

Thank you for your contributions to St. Luke's. Your gifts to God fund a variety of ministries that change lives. According to IRS regulations, all contributions for the 2025 tax year must be in the church office by 12/31 (or mailed and postmarked by 12/31) to qualify as deductions for the 2025 tax year. Contributions for 2026 should be turned in starting in January. Please update us with all your current information so that your giving and tax statements are sent to the correct address.



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