



The Epistle

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

September 2026

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

Genesis: Finding Home, Trusting Promise

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." We know how Genesis begins. We know many of its stories, too: Adam and Eve, Noah and the flood, the tower of Babel, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob and Esau, Joseph and his coat of many colors. They are some of the oldest and most familiar stories of our faith.

But this year in Search Bible Study, we're going to try hearing them with different ears. Many of the stories of Genesis are very old, passed down through generations of God's people. But Genesis came together as a book during a time when Israel knew a great deal about losing home.

Jerusalem had been destroyed. The Temple was gone, and many of the people had been carried into exile in Babylon. Eventually some returned, but they came home to a place that wasn't quite home anymore. Imagine hearing Genesis from there.

Suddenly, you begin noticing how much of Genesis is about home—and losing it. Adam and Eve leave the garden. Cain becomes a wanderer. Abraham is told to leave everything familiar and travel to a land God will show him. Jacob runs away from home and years later makes the frightening journey back. Joseph is carried into Egypt, and, surprisingly, Genesis ends with the whole family of Israel living outside the Promised Land.

Again and again, God's people find themselves somewhere they didn't expect to be. Again and again, they have to live with promises that have not yet been fulfilled. And again and again, they discover that God is there.

That will be the thread running through our study this year: **Genesis: Finding Home, Trusting Promise**. We'll begin with creation and the remarkable claim that when everything is chaos, God can still make a world. We'll travel with Abraham and Sarah as they learn to live by promises they cannot yet see fulfilled. We'll wrestle with Jacob and his wonderfully complicated family, and we'll follow Joseph into Egypt, where the question becomes whether God's promise still holds when God's people are far from the place they thought they belonged.

Along the way, we'll keep coming back to a question that can open these familiar stories in some surprising ways: Why would this story matter to people coming home from exile? Sometimes the connection will be obvious, and sometimes it may not be there at all. But I think asking the question will help us hear Genesis as more than a collection of stories about what happened long ago.

I suspect it may also help us hear why these stories still matter to us. Most of us know something about plans that didn't work out, places that changed, and things we thought were secure and discovered were not. We know something about looking for home. And we know something about living in that space between what we can see right now and what God has promised.

Genesis: Finding Home, Trusting Promise begins Wednesday, September 16, at 1:00 p.m., and we'll meet each Wednesday. Bring your Bible and a notebook for writing down thoughts, questions, and ideas along the way. We generally use the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) in our Bible studies, but other translations are always welcome at the table.

You don't need to know Genesis well, and you don't need to know anything about the history of ancient Israel. You certainly don't have to commit to being there every week. Come when you can, bring your questions, and join us as we hear some very old stories in ways that help us discover the deep riches of Genesis.



The Value of Gathering

²³ “Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10: 23-25)

How about some real talk: We’re all a bit weary, am I right?!

What’s got you weary these days? Maybe it’s the loss of loved ones, and some mighty pillars of our church. Maybe it’s new or chronic illness for you, family members or friends. Maybe it’s the state of our world, the state of our politics, and our seemingly inability to really listen and empathize with one another. Or maybe you’ve just moved kids back to college, or have launched your kids back into another school year, with all the forms-and-fees, shopping, and immunization checks that requires! And no matter how many cups of coffee you chug, the exhaustion can linger like a stray dog you just can’t seem to get rid of.



I get it. I feel it too. And many times it seems easier to insulate and isolate. But in my experience, that just seems to make matters worse. Yes, it takes a bit of time and energy and planning to be in community – whether that’s arranging dinner with friends, or coming to worship or other events here at church. Always - but especially in times such as these – we desperately need community.

The letter addressed to the Hebrews was also addressing Christians who had lived through a variety of trials. Maybe different than ours, but the fact remains that all generations experience trials of various kinds. The writer of the Hebrews was exhorting the people to not lose heart, and to persevere.

It’s a message for us as well. The call to take heart and to persevere is thankfully an endeavor that was never meant to be done alone! It’s not a “muster up your best effort” sort of project. Rather we are given the gift of community, so that we may encourage one another, and provoke one another to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24,25).

In many churches, including ours, September is the month of “Rally Days.” (Our Rally Weekend is September 12 and 13). It’s a simple reminder and invitation to “not neglect to meet together.” We all, like the Hebrews, fall away or get out of the habit at times. Yet please don’t read this Scripture as a guilt-trip. There is no judgment in it, only graceful invitation: to encounter the God who has promised to be faithful to us.

As we meet together, we are strengthened for our life together. Through Word, Sacrament, music, food, fellowship and more, our proverbial “tanks are filled” with the goodness of God.

So how will you let yourself be impacted by the gift of community this Fall? Find your people, perhaps find a new ministry to try on for size: sing with the choirs or ring some bells! Volunteer with one of our ministry partners or volunteer with the youth! Come to Book Club or a Bible Study! Suggest to the pastors/staff/Council a new idea that’s been bouncing around in your head!

Above all, remember that you are worthy of God’s peace and joy and wholeness. My prayer this month is that you may find it, in both the ordinary and extraordinary moments.

God’s peace always,
Pastor Maren Hooper

Worship Schedule Update

Over the past several months, our congregation has experienced the blessings of gathering together for one Sunday worship service. Worshiping as one community has provided more opportunities to connect, build relationships, and strengthen our life together as the body of Christ. Because of the positive experience and strong sense of community it has fostered, St. Luke’s will continue offering one Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m. indefinitely. Saturday worship will continue at 5:00 p.m. We give thanks for the many ways God brings us together and look forward to continuing to worship, learn, and grow in faith as one church family.

Music Camp 2026 – Thank you!

Thank you to the campers of music camp 2026 for a great week. We had a wonderful time together learning about loving our neighbors around the world, next door, or even in our own families. A huge thank you to Pastor Maren Hooper for her OUTSTANDING devotionals, Anna Kate Morris for her leadership with the morning campers, Nancy Farrell, Kathy Fontaine, Janet Steinquist, Annie Erke, Linda Roberts, Maureen Bestland, and our youth volunteers for all their help throughout the entire week.



St. Luke's Musical Ensembles

Our St. Luke's musical ensembles will soon be starting, even though it seems like we just completed the last program year! If you are interested in joining any of our ensembles, talk to Michael Schaner, Director of Music Ministries.

Starting Wednesday, September 2:

Godsbells: adult handbells - 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. – sanctuary balcony.

Voices of Faith: high school – adult mixed choir - 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. – music room, lower level

Starting Sunday, September 13:

Men's Chorus: 10:40 a.m., after the Sunday service. Open to any men of the congregation. Rehearses the second Sunday of each month.

Starting Thursday, September 17:

Joyful Noise: ensembles for 4 years old - 6th grade - 4:30 p.m. Registration can be completed online at <https://stlukeslutheran.org/joyful-noise-registration/>

Discipleship Training

Welcome Back to DT! Pastor Jordan, Pastor Jim and Cari look forward to walking beside them 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. Starting September 16, we invite you to join us Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. DT will generally meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m., with additional learning, service and community time outside the normal class time. Contact Cari, youth@stlukeslutheran.org for additional information. Parents and DT youth please join us Wednesday, September 16, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., to learn more about what to expect for the upcoming year, train the youth to serve as acolytes, and have fun together.

September Activities

9/16-6:30-8:00 p.m. Youth and Parent Meeting, Registration, and Acolyte Training.

9/20-DT Blessing at 9:30 a.m. service.

9/23-6:30-8:00 p.m. DT in the Youth Room.

9/30-6:30-8:00 p.m. DT in the Youth Room.

9/26-Service Opportunity: OFH Ride/Run/Walk at the E.B. Shurts Building, Waukesha Setup and Run Children's Games and Activities, estimated timing 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Youth Group

Youth Group is open to all youth in 9th-12th grade. Friends always welcome.

September Activities

9/12-Fall Kickoff Cookout 5:00-9:00 p.m. at Tim and Cari's, 2007 Capella Ct, Waukesha. Bring your favorite dish to share. RSVP to Cari, youth@stlukeslutheran.org, or text (262) 312-0505.

9/13-Rally Day Picnic at St. Luke's.

9/26-Service Opportunity: OFH Ride/Run/Walk at the E.B. Shurts Building, Waukesha Setup and Run Children's Games and Activities, estimated timing 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

9/27-Youth Group in the Youth Room 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. pizza, games and your voice matters. Come eat, hang out and help shape what Youth Group looks like for 2026-2027.

Kwik Trip Cards Fundraiser

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 regular gas and grocery purchases and 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 an order form, available on the Welcome Station, or directly from the stock Sunday mornings. Additional denominations available upon request, usually available within two weeks of order. Contact Cari, youth@stlukeslutheran.org, with any questions or to order cards.

Discipleship Training Gearing Up for the Fall

We are continuing our Discipleship Training program. Discipleship Training is the name of our Middle School Confirmation Ministry. All youth, grades 6-8, are invited to be involved. We will meet Wednesday nights, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. We will no longer be serving a meal.

DT is specifically designed for youth to deepen their faith in a social setting. Each week, there'll be food, fun, a bit of silliness, and a spiritual focus designed to help youth engage in questions about their faith. PJ will continue to work with Discipleship Training. He loves the energy of Middle School Youth and looks forward to helping them grow in faith. There will be great conversations, engaging activities, and meaningful interactions—perhaps with some silly string added in.

The first gathering for Discipleship Training will be Wednesday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. We will walk through particulars of the ministry, train youth to serve as acolytes, and have fun together. DT Gatherings will happen most weeks throughout the school year. Sunday, September 20, we'll pray over each DT participant at the 9:30 a.m. service, asking God to guide them in their faith journey through the year. We will also give each new DT student a "Lutheran Study Bible" as a gift to help them grow in faith. We will use this Bible weekly in our gatherings. Youth should bring their Bibles with them each week, along with the Small Catechism they will receive as the program begins.

Please encourage youth to participate in the program. We look forward to this time and growing in our faith together.

Discipleship Training Affirmation of Baptism

DTAB is for DT Youth that have completed DT and are ready to affirm the baptismal promises that were made on their behalf. The focus of DTAB is preparing for and writing the youth's faith statement as a final step toward affirming their baptism. Registration and youth/parent information meeting will be Sunday, September 13 at 10:45 a.m. in the Youth Room. DTAB will meet in the Youth Room Sunday mornings 10:45–11:45 a.m. starting September 13. The Affirmation of Baptism will be October 18 during the 9:30 a.m. service.

Schedule

9/13-10:45 a.m. in the Youth Room Registration and Information meeting

9/20-10:45–11:45 a.m. Class 1 Affirmation Verse Due

9/27-10:45–11:45 a.m. Class 2

10/3-9:00–11:00 a.m. Writing Workshop-optional-RSVP required

10/4-10:45–11:45 a.m. Class 3

10/7-Faith Statement due via email

10/11-One-on-One interviews-sign up required

10/17-11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Affirmation of Baptism Practice

10/18-Affirmation of Baptism at 9:30 service, group picture at 8:45 a.m.

Memorials

In gratitude, we received memorials to support 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 will be listed here each month. During the month of **JULY**, the following memorials and honorariums were made:

<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Given By</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Connie Weare Borck	Virginia Borck	Youth
Lynn Heis	Marty Heis	New Van
Lynn Heis	Marty Heis	New Roof
Mick Hendrickson	Ginny Dietzler	New Van
Keith Jurkowski	Dave & Julie Doepke	Amigos
Keith Jurkowski	Carolyn Fish	Undesignated
Keith Jurkowski	Chris & Allan Jackson	Good Samaritan
Keith Jurkowski	Judith Jurkowski	New Roof
Keith Jurkowski	Joanna Nana & MIF/FCU	Undesignated
Keith Jurkowski	Ed & Arlene Raether	New Roof

Rally Weekend

The weekend of September 12/13, we rally for the fall, as we roll out our fall programming and celebrate Life-Changing Faith. We'll celebrate the weekend with a picnic in the parking lot, or in Hospitality if the weather doesn't cooperate. For questions about Rally Weekend, reach out to Wendy Bacon (262) 547-6221, or Julie Doepke (414) 750-4524 / doepkejulie@gmail.com. Watch for more information about Sunday School, Bible Studies, and other activities for the fall.

Sunday School Registration & Rally Day

It's almost time for another exciting year of Sunday School at St. Luke's! Registration is now open for children in PreK through 5th Grade. Families can register online at <https://stlukeslutheran.org/2020-2021-sunday-school-registration/>. Our Sunday School year kicks off on Rally Day, Sunday, September 13. Join us for worship at 9:30 a.m., followed by a parking lot picnic and an all-church service project as part of the ELCA's "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. Together, we will assemble Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. All ages are encouraged to participate. Beginning this fall, families will worship together at the 9:30 a.m. service. Following the "Change to Change the World" offering, children will head out for Sunday School and will be dismissed by 11:00 a.m. We will continue using the Spark curriculum and Spark Story Bible. Mark your calendars: August 30 – Blessing of Backpacks, September 20 – Bible Sunday. Questions? Contact Pastor Maren Hooper at pastormaren@stlukeslutheran.org or (262) 542-2545.

Search Bible Study Resumes This Fall

If you'd like to be part of a group of Christians growing in faith, join our weekly Search Bible Study when it resumes September 16 at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome! There is no registration requirement. Bring a friend. All levels of experience with the

Bible are welcome. We normally have been having 20-25 people. There is always room for you.

Outreach for Hope 2026 Family Ride Run Walk

The 2026 Outreach for Hope Family Ride, Run, Walk, will be on Saturday, September 26. This is the Outreach for Hope's biggest fundraiser of the year. They are hoping to raise \$175K by October 31 for grants to ministries serving communities experiencing material poverty in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA. To register, volunteer, and/or donate, go to OFHRRW.ORG.

Forever 40 Outing to the Domes

Join Forever 40 on Saturday, September 12, for a fun trip to the Mitchell Park Domes Orchid Show! We'll meet at 12:00 p.m. in the church parking lot to carpool to the Domes. General admission is \$10 per person. After enjoying the beautiful orchid display, we'll gather for dinner at a location to be determined. Please contact Vonda Bickett at (414) 416-0246, or the church office with questions and to RSVP by Monday, September 7. We hope you'll join us for this afternoon of fellowship, flowers, and fun!

Forever 40 Mutts Gone Nuts Canine Cabaret

Join Forever 40 on Friday, October 2, for an evening of laughs and amazing canine talent at the Mutts Gone Nuts Canine Cabaret! We'll carpool from church at 4:30 p.m. for dinner at Olive Garden in Delafield before heading to the show at the Oconomowoc Arts Center. The show features eight world-class stunt dogs performing incredible tricks, athletic feats, and hilarious comedy. Tickets are \$33 per person. Please contact Vonda Bickett at (414) 416-0246 or the church office with questions and to RSVP by Friday, September 18.

Needle & Thimble

Please join Needle and Thimble starting again on Tuesday, September 8 at 8:30 a.m. They meet every Tuesday 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.

Introducing Theology Cracked Open

Join us Monday, September 14 at Raised Grain Brewery, 6:00 p.m. Kind of like Theology Uncorked or Theology on Tap...but with a bit of a revamp! We'll be using a road-tested curriculum created by pastors, who describe it in this way: "Brewed Theology is a conversation facilitation curriculum, with a mission of building Christ-centered community, through guided discussions on topics at the intersections of faith, church, and the world. Our method centers on what we call our "Crafted Conversations" - 60-minute, timed and guided table discussion. Accessible questions, and timed sections, keep conversations active, while avoiding both soapboxing and awkward silences." We will gather in groups of three to six so that everyone has a chance to speak and be heard. Our first session is entitled, "Listening 101: Can You Hear Me Now? Listening as the First Act of Love." Schedule: 6:00-6:15 p.m. - Grab a beverage, find our tables on the patio, and settle in! If the weather is inclement, we'll move indoors. 6:15-7:15 p.m. - Crafted Conversations. When our time is up, you're welcome to linger a while longer or head out. Each session will be a stand-alone topic, so if you miss a month, no worries. Just hop right back in when you can! Questions? Contact Pastor Maren Hooper.

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**Facebook:** facebook.com/sllcwauk**Pastor Lindsay Jordan****Senior Pastor**pj@stlukeslutheran.org**Pastor Maren Hooper****Associate Pastor**pastormaren@stlukeslutheran.org**Michael Schaner****Director of Music Ministries**mschaner@stlukeslutheran.org**Cari Thompson****Youth Director**youth@stlukeslutheran.org**Shari Higgins****Assistant for Engagement**shigs@stlukeslutheran.org**Laurie Rohrwasser****Care and Prayer Ministries**lrohrwasser@stlukeslutheran.org**Cindy Maigatter****Financial Administrator**finance@stlukeslutheran.org**Courtney Stangl****Director of Child Life Ministries**

(262) 522-6738

cstangl@stlukeslutheran.org**Liz Anderson****Preschool Administrator**

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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.

September Council Contact

Gloria Brechlin

denglor522@gmail.com

(262) 547-8096

September Mission

Hadfield Elementary School

St. Luke's has a relationship with Hadfield Elementary School.

People from St. Luke's volunteer in the school building regularly.

We also provide for students who have special needs.

Congregation Council News

1. Deepest Thanks to

Ron Pederson and the Amigos

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ron Pederson for his exceptional leadership and vital decision-making throughout our recent facility repairs. We also owe a massive thank you to the Amigos, for the endless hours and hard work they poured into putting things right.

2. Many Hands Make Light Work Thank You, Volunteers

The Church Council extends a warm thank you to every volunteer who came out Monday, August 10 to help move our sanctuary pews. Your quick action and strong muscles made a heavy task look easy. Thank you for giving your time and energy.

3. Mark Your Calendars for the Rally Day Picnic

Fall is just around the corner, and that means Rally Day is almost here! Join your church family on Sunday, September 13, immediately following our worship service for our annual Rally Day Picnic. We will be gathering right out in the church parking lot for food, fellowship, and fun. We can't wait to kick off the new season together!

Personal Care Kit Collection

Help us share Christ's love with people facing disasters, displacement, and hardship around the world. By donating items for a Personal Care Kit, you can provide basic hygiene supplies that restore comfort, health, and dignity to those in need. We will be collecting donations starting now through September 13. These gifts will provide essential care and encouragement to people in crisis. Stay tuned for the time we will be meeting on September 13, to assemble the kits, and volunteers are needed. If you can help or have any questions, please contact Julie Doepke (414) 750-4524. Thank you for supporting this important ministry and helping us extend God's love to those who need it most. Items Needed: cotton or cotton blend bath-size towel, 20" - 27" x 40" - 52" (dark color preferred,) individually wrapped bath-size bars of soap, 8-9 oz, adult toothbrushes, sturdy combs, and metal nail clippers. These items can be dropped off in the narthex.

Bible Sunday for Youth

On Sunday, September 20, at the 9:30 a.m. worship service, we will celebrate God's Word and present Bibles to children and youth in the following age groups: Children in kindergarten through 2nd grade will receive a Spark Story Bible. Children in 3rd grade will receive a Spark Bible. New Discipleship Training (DT) students will receive a Lutheran Study Bible. To confirm that you would like to receive a Bible, please call the church office at (262) 542-2545 or email, office@stlukeslutheran.org by Sunday, September 13.

Trunk or Treat

Please join CLM and St. Luke's as we hold our 5th Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 9, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. If you would like to host a trunk, please contact Courtney Stangl at cstangle@stlukeslutheran.org. We are also looking for donations to give away, candy, treats, snacks, fidgets, etc. Please look for a box outside the church office or inside the CLM entry.

CLM Scrip Fundraiser

We have some exciting news! Our St. Luke's Child Life Ministries Scrip Account through RaiseRight is 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. Follow the link below and 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. <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=FDC-D7A8962586>

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!

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

Online Giving

To give electronically or make change your on-line giving, 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.

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.

Remembering the Church

Giving to the church in memory of someone who has died is a great way to make a gift. Naming the church as a recipient of memorials is a powerful way to support the ministry that has supported you throughout your life. Memorials are used for a variety of purposes. When giving or designating memorials, you can choose to have gifts given to certain ongoing projects of the church such as music ministry, youth ministry, Christian education, and so on. You can also choose to leave memorials undesignated, in which case the funds will be used to support needs as they arise. Memorial gifts are acknowledged in our monthly newsletter. If you have questions about memorials, talk with Pastor Jordan. He will help you think about ways you can make an impact through memorial giving.

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!

Good Samaritan Fund Continues Ministry

We are blessed to have been able to help so many people through the Good Samaritan Fund. We have helped people secure housing, stay in their homes, afford medicine, participate in drug/alcohol programs, pay for funeral expenses, care for children and so much more. Your help in boosting its balance would allow us to continue to care for people who come to the church looking for help. You can contribute by putting your gift in an envelope clearly marked for the Good Samaritan Fund. Place your gifts in the offering or drop them off in the office. Thank you!

Thanks to All Contributing to Roof and Van

It has been one of those summers when the projects of the church have taken some unexpected turns, and we have found ourselves working together to put things right. Drips from the sanctuary ceiling led to a roof replacement. Then, lights began falling in the sanctuary, moving us out of our regular worship space while repairs could be made. At the same time, one of our ministry vans gave up the ghost and could no longer serve CLM, our ministry to working families.

Through all of this, you have responded well. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so positively during this strange summer. Your flexibility has allowed us to continue worshiping well, even in tight quarters. You have volunteered in many ways to keep things moving toward repair and completion, and you have also responded generously to the financial needs these unexpected projects have created.

As of mid-August, you have donated almost \$25,000 toward the roof project. On top of that, you have given almost \$11,000 toward the purchase of our new van! That is nearly \$36,000 in additional giving to meet needs we did not anticipate a few months ago.

Thank you for these generous gifts and for the many other ways you have helped St. Luke's keep its ministries moving forward.

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 <https://stlukeslutheran.org/weddings/> 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.

Welcome to the Font

A Baptismal Gathering Pre-baptismal gathering, 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
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and their children in Holy Baptism. Welcome to the Font is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Center. Baptisms are scheduled only after attending a Welcome to the Font gathering. To attend call the church office at (262) 542-2545.

Do You Get 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 to be added to the email list.

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

Connecting, Growing, Serving

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 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.

Women of Faith Bible Study

Join us on a journey as we meet Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna in *The Women of Christmas*. Beginning in February, we will be introducing Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary Magdalene in *The Women of Easter*. Both studies are written by Liz Curtis Higgs. You've heard their names, but do you know their stories? Liz Curtis Higgs brings these women to life and helps us deepen our understanding of their relationship with Jesus. Both books are available in hardcover and Kindle editions through Amazon or your favorite bookseller. Join us and bring a friend. All are welcome! For more information, contact Laurie Rohrwasser (262) 542-4664 lrohrwasser@stlukeslutheran.org. Women of Faith Bible Study meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Our first study will be Thursday, September 3, 2026.



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St. Luke's Calendar for September 2026

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	September 1 1st Tuesday Book Club Personnel Committee	Monday 8:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	September 14 Amigos! F&M Committee Theology Cracked Open Al-Anon	Sunday 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	September 27 Worship Mt. Meru Coffee Discipleship Training Affirmation of Baptism Youth Group Men's A.A.
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	September 2 Godsbells N.A. Voices of Faith	Tuesday 8:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	September 15 Needle and Thimble Finance Committee Church Council	Monday 8:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	September 28 Amigos! Al-Anon
Thursday 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	September 3 Women Bible Study Broad Hwy. A.A.	Wednesday 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	September 16 Search Bible Study Godsbells Discipleship Training N.A. Voices of Faith	Tuesday 8:30 a.m.	September 29 Needle and Thimble
Saturday 5:00 p.m.	September 5 Worship	Thursday 4:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	September 17 Joyful Noise Community Meal Women Bible Study Broad Hwy. A.A.	Wednesday 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	September 30 Search Bible Study Godsbells Discipleship Training N.A. Square Dancers Voices of Faith
Sunday 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	September 6 Worship Executive Committee Men's A.A.	Saturday 5:00 p.m.	September 19 Worship	The deadline for the next Issue of The Epistle is Tuesday, September 15. Please Remember all calendar dates and times are subject to change as needed. Check for updates on the online calendar www.stlukeslutheran.org.	
Monday 8:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	September 7 Amigos! Al-Anon	Sunday 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	September 20 Bible Distribution and Pray for Discipleship Training Youth Worship Disipleship Training Affirmation of Baptism Men's A.A.		
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	September 8 Needle and Thimble Worship Committee Welcome to the Font	Monday 8:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	September 21 Amigos! Al-Anon	Stay Connected With What's Ahead Do you want to know what's happening in the days and weeks ahead at our church? Visit our Church Calendar on the church website! It's the best place to find upcoming events, ministry activities, service times, and special announcements. Simply go to our website and click on Calendar to stay updated and get involved. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!	
Wednesday 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	September 9 Generosity Meeting CLM Board Meeting Godsbells N.A. SquareDancers Voices of Faith	Tuesday 8:30 a.m.	September 22 Needle and Thimble		
Thursday 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	September 10 Safe Meeting Broad Hwy. A.A.	Wednesday 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	September 23 Search Bible Study Godsbells Discipleship Training N.A. Square Dancers Voices of Faith	Stay Connected With What's Ahead Do you want to know what's happening in the days and weeks ahead at our church? Visit our Church Calendar on the church website! It's the best place to find upcoming events, ministry activities, service times, and special announcements. Simply go to our website and click on Calendar to stay updated and get involved. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!	
Saturday Rally Weekend 12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	September 12 Forever Forty Worship Youth Group	Thursday 4:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	September 24 Joyful Noise Community Meal Broad Hwy. A.A.		
Sunday Rally Weekend 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:40 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	September 13 Worship Mt. Meru Coffee Rally Picnic Men's Chorus Discipleship Training Affirmation of Baptism Men's A.A.	Saturday 10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	September 26 Outreach for Hope Run/Walk Worship	Stay Connected With What's Ahead Do you want to know what's happening in the days and weeks ahead at our church? Visit our Church Calendar on the church website! It's the best place to find upcoming events, ministry activities, service times, and special announcements. Simply go to our website and click on Calendar to stay updated and get involved. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!	



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Thank You for Strengthening St. Luke's

Thank you for the generosity with which you continue to support the mission of St. Luke's. Through July, congregational offerings were more than \$16,000—or about 5 percent—ahead of the same period last year. That is a meaningful expression of faith and commitment, and we are deeply grateful. Your gifts sustain worship, pastoral care, faith formation, community partnerships, Child Life Ministries, and the many ways God's love is shared through St. Luke's.

Through July, the General Fund had a year-to-date deficit of approximately \$23,500. Because Child Life Ministries has a particularly high volume of income and expenses, our financial reports track that activity separately, even though CLM remains fully integrated into the one mission we share at St. Luke's. The portion of the General Fund apart from CLM—what we commonly call the church side of our financial picture—is currently operating at a deficit, as it commonly does at this point of the year and as it did at the end of 2025. CLM continues to bring in more income than it spends, although that positive balance is smaller than it was a year ago. Churchwide income has come in about \$49,000 below budget, while careful management has kept expenses approximately \$25,000 below budget.

As we move into the fall, we invite every household to prayerfully consider how you can help strengthen the mission we share. If you are able, consider increasing your regular offering, catching up on giving interrupted by summer travel, or making an additional gift. Every gift matters. Together, we can address the present shortfall and ensure that St. Luke's continues to be a strong and faithful congregation—gathering in worship, growing in faith, caring for one another, and serving our neighbors in Christ's name.

September 2026

Connecting, Growing, Serving

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