

*"Making Christ's Love Visible Through Service and Community"*



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### SEPTEMBER RAMBLINGS

September has arrived. With it, new school year and new students trying to find their way and begin a new adventure in the classroom and with community. Labor Day brings with it the traditional end of the Summer season and tourists heading home, slower paces in the tourist towns. And Cedar Point gets its last bursts of large crowds and begins its wind down leading to Halloween. And, then there are the church conferences, ramping up preparations for charge conference, district conference, and fall offerings of service, fellowship, and learning.

At home, September is a time for new exchange students. This year started off a little different and challenging with a young man who wasn't ready for exchange and had very different expectations and ended his program days after he began. Following him came two young men who are eager to learn, grow and experience a cultural exchange. Sometimes we come with unrealistic or undoable expectations, while other times we open ourselves to great adventures and the possibilities that avail themselves to help us grow, explore, and learn new things in new places. Life can at times be a challenge and at other times a blessing, filled with a blank canvass ready to explore, imagine, and lift off with color and expression. Faith is like that two: sometimes requiring

retreat and rethinking or re-evaluation, sometimes cautious optimism and exploration, while other times fully opening oneself to the spirit's moving in ways we cannot even imagine and certainly don't expect.

In northern climate, September is the door to the seasonal shift. With that comes storms and rainbows, highs and lows in temperatures, and green leaves giving way to an explosion of color. We move from having the air conditioner going full tilt to opening our windows and lighting a bonfire in the back yard. We see our wardrobes change and prepare ourselves for the journey ahead in weather and in activities. The short sleeves give way to hoodies and sweaters and long sleeved shirts. The shorts give way to sweatpants, denim, and khakis. We adapt and we change as the weather speaks to us and alerts us of what lies before us. Faith is like that, two: we grow and we adapt, we change and we transform, wisdom guides us to enable us to know the outfit, the tools, the practices for the seasons of discipleship, worship, and spiritual growth.

September is the season for education. Not only for students in

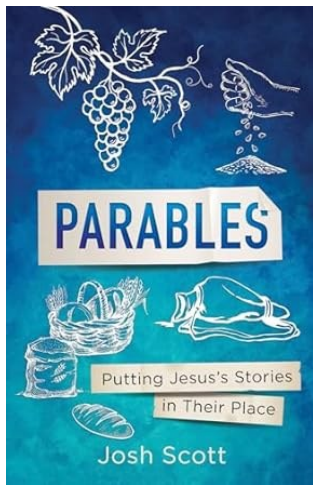


elementary, secondary, and university education, but also in the life of the church. We begin our fall studies as a church: this fall, *Parables, Putting Jesus's Stories in Their Place* will be offered; this study begins September 10 at 11:00 AM at St Luke's. We will learn and explore and discuss six parable narratives and what they may mean for us today. Education can take many different paths: sometimes it is in a classroom, sometimes it is in the street, and at other times it may be a random experience or encounter. God opens pathways for learning and draws us into the circle and invites us to grow, to gain wisdom, to learn as disciples of Christ.

September can be a launching pad, a starting point, an opportunity onramp. How are you opening yourself this month? What opportunities are you seeing, sensing, feeling? Where do you sense God calling you this month? May you feel and sense the presence and gifts of the Spirit this month and find your space in community, in the moments of solitude and discernment, and in the opportunities that are on the path before. September has arrived!

#### NEW BOOK STUDY

##### PARABLES, PUTTING JESUS'S STORIES IN THEIR PLACE



The time has come for our next book study. This month, on September 10, we begin to explore PARABLES, Putting Jesus's Stories in Their Place, as study by Rev. Josh Scott. We will look at six parables, explore their social and historical context and background, and how they may have been received in Jesus' day as well as how we are receiving them now. Parables tell stories and invite us into them.

Parables tell stories and help us to understand larger points and needs. Parables help us to interpret scripture, interpersonal relations, and our place in the larger community context. Parables have historical context and they offer us ways to look at them in a modern context.

Come, join Rev. Scott Manning is a six week study of parables that Jesus used to advance understanding of the kingdom and to cause both the individual and the community to think about what it means to be part of the kingdom and part of the community. Books for this study are available to be picked up. See Pastor Scott for a book and to sign up for this study.



### **Noisy Offering**

Noisy Offering takes place every fourth Sunday of the month. Please bring your spare change, as Noisy Offering goes towards our Ministry Apportionment Shares.

### **Blood Drive**

The next Blood Drive is on Wednesday, October 8 from 1:00pm-7:00pm. Spread the word and sign up now on [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).



### **Charge Conference**

Our Charge Conference will take place on Sunday, October 8 with SPRC meeting at 2:00pm and the Cluster Charge Conference at 3:00pm.



### **End of Summer Cookout**

The Member Care Committee is sponsoring a "End of Summer Pot Luck Cookout." It will be held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, September 6 at 5:00 pm. We will be using our new gas grill. The intention is to rally our troops for the upcoming fall season.

We hope our congregation will come and bring guests with them. The following will be provided: hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments, beverages, and vanilla ice cream. If you could bring a dish to pass, that would be appreciated. There is a sign up sheet available or you can call Bruce Stapleton at 248-375-1649 for more information.

## BALDWIN CENTER UPDATES

What's happening at Baldwin Center? That is a question that pops up from time to time. In an attempt to find out, we made contact with Elizabeth Longley, Executive Director of Baldwin Center, and would like to share with you what we discovered. Since St. Luke's has supported Baldwin for many years with the Giving Tree gifts and the fact that Baldwin came about because the United Methodist Church sponsored and housed the facility, we have a "family" interest in the answer to the question.

For over 40 years The Baldwin Center has provided critical services to the underserved population in the City of Pontiac, Michigan and the surrounding area. Baldwin Center is deeply invested in the community they serve. "Our vision is a thriving community with engaged citizens." Their promise is to provide the tools necessary for individuals and families in need to become vibrant, productive community members. To quote, "We believe in the strength of human dignity and the resilience of the human spirit as we continue to feed, clothe, educate and empower."

In recent years, Baldwin Center has experienced a decline in donations and recently received attention in the Detroit media. The Board is examining the organization and will soon conduct a strategic planning for the future. A grant was received to establish an Interfaith Group. The grant supports a collaborative, facilitated group process and staff efforts to build relationships directly with the group and its members. The goal is transformational relationships with faith communities: relationships in which both faith communities and clients have needs met.

It is hoped that clergy/parishioner representation from many church communities will join this group and act in an advisory capacity to the Executive Director and Board of Directors moving forward into planning for a strong presence in the community. This group is currently meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 10 am – 12 noon. St. Luke's offered to hold the meetings at our church in the immediate future. The group will have the greatest success with many faith community participants. Pastor Scott is a participant as well as John Chiera and myself. We are working to spread the word to other Rochester churches in the hopes that there will be more local participation.

What is the immediate need? They are short staffed in several key areas, including needing an Office Manager, Volunteer Coordinator and Custodial help. These are paid positions and explain why some of the communication from Baldwin has been missing. The current Executive Director is part time, another big impact.

Baldwin currently provides 170-200 lunch takeaway meals every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to anyone who comes with no questions asked. They use takeout containers for full meals. They are currently providing 40 sandwiches and chips daily to the homeless. They estimate that about half of the people directly served by the soup kitchen takeaway program are working, yet still in need of assistance. The other half are homeless.

Baldwin currently partners with Oakland Hope Thrift Store and urges all clothing donors to take their clean, gently used items there. In return for clothing donor support, Baldwin Center receives 30 vouchers monthly. They distribute the vouchers to clients, opening the door to free shopping opportunities for individuals and families. This partnership saves The Baldwin Center \$30,000 and improves the experience for donors and shoppers.

How does this impact St. Luke's? There are opportunities for our congregation and as individuals to assist. In the months to come, we will provide information about these opportunities. Right now, a few immediate ideas come to mind.

Much of the food donations used in preparing the daily meals need to be transported from the

source to Baldwin. There will soon be a Sign Up Genius to volunteer if you are interested in picking up food from major donors, i.e. Costco, and taking it to Baldwin. More information will follow on this.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in one of the open staff positions, put them in touch with the Executive Director. She will be able to provide Job descriptions, hours of work, pay scale, etc.

St. Luke's could sponsor a program offered by Baldwin that is a 6-hour, one day training and education program for faith communities, helping them understand the complications of poverty and how to better walk alongside the poor, impoverished, and in need. This program is a great opportunity to learn and to share with other faith communities in Rochester.

St. Luke's could contribute food items to be used in the sack lunches distributed to the homeless.

There soon will be a request for volunteers to help renovate buildings on the Baldwin campus that can be used as temporary housing for clients and other needs.

There is no shortage of ways we can assist Baldwin Center. Stay tuned for more ideas to be offered in our Newsletters. If you have questions or want more information, please ask Pastor Scott, John Chiera or me.

Kay Smith  
248-884-2322

## 8/21/25 AD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

*If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please talk to an Ad Council member.*

**ATTENDING:** Amy C., Pastor, Kay Smith, Chris Ariss, Stacy Swank, Tom Thompson, Rich Gorman

### **I. APPROVED MINUTES FROM 7/17/25**

### **II. REPORTS:**

#### **A. FINANCE**

**-Reconciling Our Accounts with Bank Statements** - Ongoing. It was discovered that our Church Windows accounting program does generate checks but does not record automatic payments. This has caused issues with reconciling our "books" with the bank's. We are now back on track.

**-Cash Flow / Short-Term Money Market Options** will be completed once reconciliation is done.

**-QR Code for Tithely** - This addition will make online donating through Tithely easier since you simply focus your camera on the QR code, and it will take you directly to the giving site.

**B. SPRC** - Will be meeting soon to work on Pastoral Evaluation, Pastoral Compensation, and the Joint Dialog. The Ad Council will have the Pastoral Compensation information for our Thursday, Oct. 2 meeting (changed from Sept. 18).

#### **C. TRUSTEES**

**-Parking Lot** - Deposit made to BLACKTOP SERVICES to topcoat and stripe only. (Will address crack repair in the future - a \$10,000+ job.) / 3-day job but no dates yet. / Hoping to schedule on a Monday to avoid impacting as many groups using the church as possible.

**-Rain Sensor** - Added to irrigation system (\$250) / Looks like it is working!

**-Elevator** - State Inspector "just showed up at the door one day recently." / 3 citations given but state did NOT fine us. / "Fixed and done!" on August 20 / Bill was \$1,800. / "Certificate" to be posted in elevator and the log in the elevator maintenance room will show work is up to date.

**-Minor Electrical Work** - security light in front repaired and security light on side, steeple light, and 2 parking lot lights bulbs were replaced on 7/30/25 (\$1680)

**-Surge protection on electrical panels** - for future discussion

**-Seventh Day Adventists** - Signed a 6-month lease paid in full. / "Enter-leave time" is Saturdays 9:30-2:30 / Sabbath School at 10 and Service at 11 followed by lunch / Also using building 6-9 PM Sept. 18-21 for a special event

**-Advertising** - Pastor will post service times for all churches using the building on our digital sign. / Does not want physical signs displayed except on day they have service. (Exception will be banner SDA will post in front to advertise their special event in September.)

**-Sign at the Bottom of the Driveway** - Pastor would like a physical sign that lists all the churches' services and AA meetings as well as note about handicapped parking being at top.

**-Re-Key building** - Due to the unknown number of building keys that are "out there" and the fact that whether they work or not is hit or miss, we have decided to re-key the building. Received \$1000 from the SDA for an unpaid month that will be used to pay this cost. / 3 keys: (1) outdoor and office, (2) indoor, and (3) Utility (like elevator room and furnace).

**-Floor Cleaning** - kitchen, Fellowship Hall, storage room and exit / Mon., Sept. 8-Tues., Sept. 9 Donation made to cover the cost / WWW will empty areas on Sun., Sept. 7 after 4 PM / Blood Drive on Wed., Sept 10 canceled to give floor time to cure. / The office carpet will also be cleaned by the same company on another day.

**-Ordinance Compliance Request** made from city to cut grapevine overgrowth on "path" in front of church (border of RH and AH). THANK YOU to those who took on this big job as well as the overgrowth onto the parking lot in the back.

**-Metal Door and Frame Replacement** - Motion made/seconded/approved to authorize and decide on company to replace 2 outside doors and frames - Youth Room and Emergency Exit in upstairs hallway - due to extensive rusting. Can no longer be repaired. First quote: \$4400. Additional outside doors need repairs.

### **III. SEARCH FOR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**-Posted 7-30-25 / No responses yet. / Reached out to former music director at Clawson UMC / PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!**

## V. BALDWIN CENTER (Pastor / Kay)

7

The Baldwin Center Interfaith Group - a consortium of several local faith leaders - has been formed to revitalize Baldwin Center. Meetings are scheduled the 3rd Thursday of the month at St. Luke's with the first meeting on August 14. Biggest program right now: feeding people. Biggest problem right now: staffing. There are several opportunities for mission projects including repairs on a house that can be rented out to house a family in need and 2 other buildings on their property as well as needed repairs to the main building. Many of the materials are already purchased; what is needed is the "talent" to complete these projects. A project manager is really needed to organize the entire project. St. Luke's will spearhead but this will be a shared responsibility of the interfaith community supporting Baldwin Center. Kay is actively reaching out to other churches to elicit their support.

## VII. "LIFE OF THE CHURCH"

**-Round tables and chairs** - Donations have funded the purchase of a total of 9 round tables and 54 new chairs

**-"Spring" Cleaning** - We have lots of items in the building to donate: some metal chairs, some long tables, and items that we acquired in past mergers like extra hymnals, Bibles, and some furnishings.

**-Book Study** to begin Sept. 10. *Pastor will write an article for N&N and the newsletter.*

**-Jimmy John's Baseball** - not scheduled this year

**-End-of-the-Summer Cook Out** - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 at 5 PM / Potluck / Sign up with Bruce Stapleton

**-Fall Raffle** to support Neighborhood House - TBD

**-Trunk or Treat** - October 19 (2-4 PM) - ALMOST set

Submitted by Amy Camaiani, Ad Council Chair

**Next meeting: Thursday, October 2 at 7 PM to work on Charge Conference reports**





## *Cancer Support Group*

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Do you or someone you know have cancer? If so, there is help, hope, and support awaiting you.

This non-denominational support group is open to the community for cancer survivors, both those going through treatment now or in the past, as well as for family members, friends and caregivers. Each session consists of seven meetings, which convene once a week on Tuesday evenings. We are offering both Zoom and in person meetings. The in person meetings are held in the lower level classroom # 128 at:

St. Paul's United Methodist Church,  
620 Romeo Road  
Rochester, MI 48307

The Zoom information will be sent to you once you contact a facilitator below. The next session will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025, and run through Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025. We would love to have you join us for as many of these meetings as you can make during the session.

Agenda:	7:00 – 7:30 pm	Speaker Presentation
	7:30 – 9:00 pm	Group Sharing with a Facilitator

- Receive support from those who have gone through what you are currently experiencing
- Understand your cancer and your reaction to your disease from expert speakers
- Regain control of that part of your life that matters most
- Unburden yourself and give support by sharing your experiences

It takes a lot of courage to walk into your first meeting; but, once you do, you will never be sorry you did. The bonding one feels to others in the group is amazingly supportive, enriching, and vital.

For more information, contact a facilitator: Laura Brickley (248) 736-4473, Celeste Hanes (248) 736-3253 or Alyson Denyer (248) 495-6542

Questions? Talk to Rick Davis, Carla Lindeen, or Amy Camaiani.





### Next Newsletter

The Next deadline for our newsletter will be on September 25th. Please get any and all articles to the office no later than that date!



### September Birthdays

9/3 Judi Tragle  
9/7 Debbie Shultz  
9/7 Betty Greiner  
9/10 Karen Reinhout  
9/16 Robert Teitler  
9/22 Lorene Beutler  
9/26 Mary Schultz  
9/28 Ashley Gorman  
9/29 Karen Pascaretti  
9/29 Rebecca Camaiani  
9/29 Robert Camaiani

### October Birthdays

10/5 Kevin Reinhout  
10/7 Molly Thornberry  
10/12 Susan Bachmann  
10/15 Bryan Botkin  
10/15 Stephanie Botkin  
10/17 Charlene Leasure  
10/13 Karen Roberts  
10/21 Amy Camaiani  
10/27 Rebecca French

### August

### ANNIVERSARIES

9/27 Dean & Susan Bachmann

### October

### ANNIVERSARIES

10/30 Tom & Lynette Thompson

*If your Birthday or Anniversary does not appear in our monthly newsletter, please email the office at [stlukesrh@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesrh@gmail.com) with that information.*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Add your upcoming Meeting or Event to our Calendar by emailing: stlukesrh@gmail.com	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>9:30am</b> Prayer Group in Cantor Area	<b>3</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> WWW <b>10:30 am</b> Yoga  <b>6:00pm</b> Foundation Christian Church (Outside Group) <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting (Outside Group)	<b>4</b>  <b>6:00pm-8:00pm</b> Praise & Worship Center (Outside Group) <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting (Outside Group)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>5:00pm</b> End of Summer Cookout
<b>7</b> 9:30 am <b>Worship Service; Communion</b> <b>1 0:30am Fellowship,</b>  <b>10:00am-2:00pm</b> Foundation Christian Church  <b>3:00pm-5:00pm</b> Praise & Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>9:30am</b> Prayer Group in Cantor Area	<b>10</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> WWW <b>10:30 am</b> Yoga  <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting (Outside Group)	<b>11</b>  <b>6:00pm-8:00pm</b> Praise & Worship Center (Outside Group) <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting (Outside Group)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30 am <b>Worship Service; 10:30am Fellowship,</b>  <b>10:00am-2:00pm</b> Foundation Christian Church  <b>3:00pm-5:00pm</b> Praise & Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>9:30am</b> Prayer Group in Cantor Area	<b>17</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> WWW <b>10:30 am</b> Yoga  <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting (Outside Group)	<b>18</b> 6:00pm- <b>8:00pm</b> Praise & Worship Center (Outside Group) <b>6:00pm</b> 7th Day (Outside Group) Sanctuary <b>7:00pm</b> AD Council <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting (Outside Group)	<b>19</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> 7th Day (Outside Group) Sanctuary  7th Day/Praise & Worship (Outside Group) Sanctuary	<b>20</b>  <b>6:00pm</b> 7th Day/ Praise & Worship (Outside Group) Sanctuary
<b>21</b> 9:30 am <b>Worship Service; 10:30am Fellowship,</b>  <b>10:00am-2:00pm</b> Foundation Christian Church  <b>3:00pm-5:00pm</b> Praise & Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>9:30am</b> Prayer Group in Cantor Area	<b>24</b>  <b>9:30 am</b> WWW <b>10:30 am</b> Yoga  <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting (Outside Group)	<b>25</b>  <b>6:00pm-8:00pm</b> Praise & Worship Center (Outside Group) <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting (Outside Group)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30 am <b>Worship Service; Noisy Offering</b> <b>10:30am Fellowship,</b>  <b>10:00am-2:00pm</b> Foundation Christian Church  <b>3:00pm-5:00pm</b> Praise & Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>9:30am</b> Prayer Group in Cantor Area				



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<b>5</b> 9:30 am <b>Worship Service;</b> <b>10:30am Fellowship, Communion</b>  <b>10:00am-2:00pm</b> Foundation Christian Church  <b>3:00pm-5:00pm</b> Praise & Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>9:30am</b> Prayer Group in Cantor Area	<b>8</b> 9:30 am WWW 10:30 am Yoga  <b>1:00pm-7:00pm</b> Blood Drive  <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting (Outside Group)	<b>9</b> 6:00pm-8:00pm Praise & Worship Center (Outside Group)  <b>7:00pm</b> AA Meeting (Outside Group)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
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New Membership Orientations are scheduled throughout the year. If you are interested in attending the next orientation, please call the church office to sign up at 248-373-6960.

***LOOKING FOR A CHURCH FAMILY?***

*Come experience  
the welcoming spirit of St. Luke's.*



St. Luke's Senior Minister  
Rev. Scott E. Manning



**St. Luke's United Methodist Church**  
**3980 Walton Boulevard**  
**Rochester Hills, MI 48309**

**Website:** [www.stlukesrochester.com](http://www.stlukesrochester.com)

**Email:** [stlukesrh@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesrh@gmail.com)

**Office Phone:** 248-373-6960

**Pastor's Phone:** 248-285-2051

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**9:30 AM - WORSHIP SERVICE**

**10:30-11:00 AM - FELLOWSHIP**