



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



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OCTOBER ADVENTURES

Welcome to October! The month has arrived and Fall technically has come, though it doesn't feel like it yet! The trees are slowly changing colors and perhaps this month we will begin to feel the Fall temperatures go down and the fire pits be lit up for evening adventures around the fires.

October arrived for our Jewish sisters and brothers during a time of retrospection and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, and the prayers of the people for repentance, forgiveness, and the blessings of having their names inscribed in the Book of Life. I pray that we, too, embrace repentance and forgiveness and the blessings of having our names written in The Book of Life, the restorative blessing of creation and all God's people.

For St Luke's, October is also a time for paperwork, paperwork, and more paperwork. We take time to look back over the past year and we look forward to the coming year in the life of the church. This year we are on track to pay 100% our Ministry Share to the connection, where we participate in the Church beyond our walls and parish; through ministry shares, we help to bring the Gospel to the peoples of the world in many nations, languages, and methods. Your ministry shares are sharing the Gospel, building hospitals, medical clinics, supporting primary schools and

universities, and engaging in peace and disaster relief activities in 120 nations.

We continue to advance the mission of Christ through service in community. Of particular interest is our re-engagement with Baldwin Center in Pontiac. More than 200 individuals are regularly served by Baldwin Center for meals, training, and a variety of services; 100 families are served through Christmas Food Baskets and gift giving programs; those in need of clothing for everyday and for job interviews are helped; and infants and toddlers are served through distribution of diapers, clothing, and through voucher gift cards for infant formula. Working with other faith communities, organizations, and corporate sponsors, Baldwin Center is able to reach many in need.

October is pilgrimage time for some from our congregation. I will lead a group of nine, including members from St Luke's, Clawson, and others, will join an Educational Opportunities Tour to Greece and Türkiye. We will journey through the path of Paul and St. John and the Revelation. This tour is an opportunity to experience the path of faith and step into the pages of the New Testament, to experience faith in a different way.



We find later in October how some of that paperwork is put into action. Members of the church will gather,, either in-person or via ZOOM, to do the work of the church. We will elect officers of the church for the next year, set pastoral compensation for 2026, and evaluate our membership, financials, and other reports as may be required. As of this first week in October we can report that we have paid 80% of our Conference Ministry Shares and 100% of our District Apportionment. We will not have names to report on the inactive list for removal this year.

October closes with All Hallow's Eve (and the Hallmark holiday, Halloween). All Hallow's Eve is a sacred tradition of the Church that dates back to the 7th or 8th century (source: various sources online available) and has included marches in the streets, wearing masks, and dropping the masks at the steps of the church as the faithful enter the sanctuary at or near the hour of midnight for an All Saints Service on November 1.

October is filled with adventure and gatherings. It is also a great time to study and pray, to vision and seek the presence of God and the Holy Spirit. October is a time of invitation: Who do you need to invite to the table, to the House of the Lord? Who are you praying for?

We are called to be the people of faith gathered together in the love of Christ. I invite you to look for the signs of blessings this month. Look for signs of hope. Look to see the ways in which you are a sign of blessings. Look to see the ways you are a sign of hope. God isn't providing hope all by God's self, and likewise, the blessings aren't coming solely from God. God utilizes each and every one of us to be those signs of hope, to be those offerings of blessings. When I was hungry, you fed me. When I was naked, you clothed me. When I was lost, you searched for me. When I was weak, you carried me. When I was blind, you were my vision. When I was vulnerable, you protected me. In each of these, you utilized the gifts of hope and blessing that God has given you—given you to share as well as receive for yourself.

October is also, for me at least, a time of faithful reflection for the saints. Before I make it to the sanctuary for the All Saint's Service, I take time to reflect on the saint. And, I begin with my grandmother who passed away in October 1997, followed by my other grandmother who passed away in November 1997. They gave me the foundations for faith and family, for food and fellowship, for love and the care of family and stranger. They provide me an example for those beatitudes lived out in

different ways and I can see the faces of people blessed through their acts of love and blessing, leading me to see God in action through God's people. Who are your saints and how do they help you engage your faith? How do they help you step into the pages of the scriptures, the teachings of Jesus Christ.

As the pilgrimage tour team and I go to Greece and Türkiye, we will take time to lift you in prayer in the historic places and sacred spaces. As we do so, may you feel the blessings of God's love and redemptive grace this month. May you know that your name is inscribed in The Book of Life, a naming in love and blessing in the presence of Christ.

Now, to share in pumpkin spice, hot chocolate, and s'mores! To share in love and blessings. To share in hope and peace. October has arrived!



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, November 12 from 1:00pm-7:00pm. Spread the word and sign up now on redcrossblood.org.



AD Council Meeting

The next AD Council meeting is on Thursday, October 2 at

Charge Conference

Our Charge Conference will take place on Sunday, October 26 with SPRC meeting at 2:00pm and the Cluster Charge Conference at 3:00pm.



FAMILY FRIENDLY! TREATS AND GAMES! PRIZES AND FUN!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

**ST. LUKE'S UMC
3980 WALTON BLVD.
ROCHESTER HILLS, MI 48309
stlukesrochester.com**



FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY! INDOOR EVENT!



TRICK OR TREATERS: Wear your costume (non-gruesome, non-violent), grab your bag, and get ready for SWEET TREATS AND FUN ACTIVITIES. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



ADULTS/TEENS: Costumes optional. (Non-violent costumes, masks, or props, please!)

SPREAD THE WORD!! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT!

VOLUNTEER INFO



SIGN-UP GENIUS



2024 PICTURES



Questions? Contact Amy Camaiani at camaiani3@gmail.com or #248-505-3123.

We also welcome donations of candy, small trinkets, cider and donuts! Cash donations too!

2025 TRUNK OR TREAT VOLUNTEERS

JOB	TIME	# SLOTS	DESCRIPTION
WELCOME CENTER	2-4 PM	2	Welcome guests, hand out "maps, and direct them to activities.
DECORATE A TABLE	1:30-4 PM	10	Decorate a 3'x6' table - our version of a "trunk" - and pass out treats! (We'll supply the treats.) No gruesome and excessively scary settings, please. See pictures on our website (stlukesrochester.com or the QR code above) for set up & ideas.
MAN A PRE-DECORATED TABLE	2-4 PM	4	1 person per table needed. If you would rather, we can decorate a "TRUNK" for you! Your responsibility would be to greet our guests and hand out treats. (We'll supply the treats.)
GRUESOME GAMES	2-4 PM	9	Run a game and award the prizes to everyone!
FACE PAINTING	2-4 PM	2	Use your artistic skills to decorate the faces of our trick or treaters. (Supplies provided - including stencils.)
FREAKY PHOTOS	2-4 PM	2	Pose our Trick or Treaters with some freaky props using your phone and then print them a copy to take home! (Photo printer and props provided.)
TAKE-A-BREAK STATION	2-4 PM	3	This station will be for quieter activities: simple crafts, coloring, etc.
S-S-SNACK STATION	2-4 PM	2	Serve donuts and cider.
RAFFLE	2-4 PM	2	Guests will fill out a ticket nominating their FAVORITE TRUNK for a chance to win a \$20 ColdStone gift card.
CLEAN-UP CREW	4-5 PM	6	A most underrated but important job!



SAT., SEPT. 6, 2025



BALDWIN CENTER NEWS YOU CAN USE



Did you know that 200 people are fed each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Baldwin Center? Organizing and maintaining that program involves many hands belonging to staff and volunteers. Currently there is a need to cover Fridays ... the shift hours are 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Currently the client clothing needs are met by sending Baldwin clients to Oakland Hope Thrift Store near the intersection of Walton and Baldwin Roads. Donations of gently used clothing are currently being received at Baldwin Center on the 1st

Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This is a newly established day and time so a call ahead to verify is suggested until the program has been in operation for a while. By doing this it will be easier for Baldwin to get credit for donations.

Did you know that infant formula is extremely expensive? It also has a short shelf life and expires quickly. Baldwin is asking for gift cards from Walmart so that client Moms can purchase needed formula. Apparently Walmart has a great price for this product and your donation from there will go further in fulfilling the need.

There is a need for office volunteers, particularly with organizational skills. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. If you are interested in helping out in the office, contact the Executive Director for more information and to see if this is a good fit for you.

The Holiday Food Basket program is fast approaching and 100 families will participate this year. The program costs between \$6,000 and \$7,000 annually. A \$500 donation from our UM Men's group will certainly make a difference. A monetary donation from you will add to this gift. See Pastor Scott for more information.

That's about it for now. Stay tuned for more monthly updates on this wonderful mission happening right down the road from St. Luke's.

Questions ... call Kay Smith at 248-884-2322.

Be a Difference Maker

Help Feed, Clothe, Educate and Empower with The Baldwin Center



September/October 2025

Volunteer in Pontiac: *Weekly Office Support*

Use your office, administrative, data entry and/or computer skills and support The Baldwin Center. Knowledge of Salesforce a plus. Looking for a weekly commitment during regular office hours, Monday-Friday, between 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Contact Liz Longley, elongley@baldwincenter.org or call 248-332-6101

For over 40 years The Baldwin Center has been providing critical services to the underserved population in the City of Pontiac, Michigan and the surrounding area. The Baldwin Center envisions a thriving community with engaged citizens. They value honesty, respect, integrity and compassion, and believe in the strength of human dignity and the resilience of the human spirit as they continue to feed, clothe, educate and empower.



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BALDWIN CENTER REQUEST



We also have a challenge request to help the mission at Baldwin Center. We will be taking special offerings for the Baldwin Center Food and Holiday meal programs. During the Christmas holiday Baldwin Center prepares food baskets for 100 families, along with the gift collections that we participate in during November and early December. The Holiday Food Baskets include both perishable and nonperishable foods; there is a need to raise \$6,000 for the purchase of perishable food items for those baskets and we have a challenge to see if we can raise \$500 in the next month to help purchase perishable food items for the Christmas Holiday Baskets.

In addition to the Holiday Baskets, the Baldwin Center needs to raise at least \$50,000 for its food program; any amount over the \$500 raised will be designated to help Baldwin purchase food for its regular food programs that provide meals throughout the year.

To make a donation you may place your gift in an offering envelope payable: St Luke's United Methodist Church, with "Baldwin Food" written in the Memo Line. You may place offerings in the Sunday offering plate, bring them to Corey in the Office, or mail them to the church; we will make sure that the Baldwin Center receives these funds so that those in need of food assistance may be helped.

Halloween Luncheon



Whooooo - All You Church People
 Whhhhaat - The Fall/Halloween Luncheon
 Where (or Wear) - St. Luke's Fellowship Hall and wear a costume or orange & black
 Whennnn - Thursday, October 23, 2025
 Tie-mmm - 11:30 am (sharp) to 1:30 pm



Yes, it's that time of year when the leaves turn color and fall, The harvest is on and so is the party. It is no secret that we love to see those inventive costumes. BUT, if you are a party pooper, at least wear orange and black or some other goofy duds. The menu is not firmed up, but the word is out that the meat will be from a pig. So think about that and decide if you can bring some sort of food dish to pass. A sign up sheet will be available in Fellowship Hall or contact Bruce Stapleton by e-mail (bstapes@att.net) or call 248-375-1649.

Thanks - Bruce Stapleton

MINUTES - AD COUNCIL 10/2/25

ATTENDED: Pastor, Amy Camaiani, Brian Mitchell, Chris Ariss, Stacy Swank, Kay Smith, and Rich Gorman and Robert Teitler by ZOOM.

I. APPROVED MINUTES FROM 8/21/25

II. REPORTS:

A. FINANCE

-Reconciliation / Cash Flow - Goal is to complete reconciliation this month. It has been a very long and difficult process.

-Amplify - Sent letter to cancel old and unused on-line giving program

-QR Code for Tithely - Amy has figured out how to create QR codes. Need to roll out.

B. SPRC

-Pastoral Compensation - 2% increase (the minimum recommendation) / a few changes in other areas like lower utilities for the parsonage and 5% increase in health insurance / **APPROVED** by Council

-NEW Sick Leave Requirements - Will be added to employee time sheets.

C. TRUSTEES

-Parking Lot - Cracks filled 10/2/25. Still don't have a date on the resurfacing. / Brian will transfer funds from Capital Improvements and authorize check for \$12,500.

-Snow Plow Contract - Gresham's Snowplowing - **APPROVED** by Council

-Metal Door and Frame Replacement - 2 doors / \$4800 / Motor City Door Co. / will be painted / Money from Capital Improvement. / No start date yet although Tom requested "first week in October". (WWW is working on repairs to other doors with rust.)

-"Advertising" - Discussion about advertising by churches using St. Luke's. Pastor said the lease for each church states that we will add their service time(s) to the digital sign. The Council feels that any physical signs can be placed outside prior to their service but they should not be a permanent part of the landscape.

-Furnace Replacement - A furnace in the Education Wing needs to be replaced. Estimating cost at over \$4000.

-ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS / PROJECTS:

*Re-keying doors / *Surge protection on electrical panels / *Sign at bottom of drive

III. JOB OPENINGS - UPDATE

A. Pianist / Accompanist - One person contacted us but no further response.

B. Custodians - Have one possible applicant.

IV. MEDIA / TECH UPDATES

A. New speakers / amplifier - installed 9/3/25

B. Digital Mixer - to be installed Friday, 10/10/25

C. Digital Sign - Working great!

D. "Engagement Platforms" - Pastor interested in an all-in-one platform that would provide a variety of services like online giving, mobile apps, and website. More discussion needed before we decide to commit to the expense.

V. BALDWIN CENTER UPDATE

-Very positive outlook from Kay and Pastor. Monthly meetings at St. Luke's continue¹⁰ and the network of community support grows. Kay and Pastor feel the new Executive Director - Angela Tabb - is a "good fit" for the position. What Baldwin Center continues to need is "sweat equity" and office assistance - something that was mentioned in a flyer in our bulletin on 9/28. Without Pastor and Kay's leadership, Baldwin Center's future would certainly be in jeopardy.

-Christmas - We will continue to have the Giving Tree to support both Neighborhood House and Baldwin Center. Unwrapped gifts will continue to be placed under the tree while gift cards will be placed in a secure place in the office.

-GREAT IDEA: Discussed having donations of Walmart Gift Cards or cash at Advent by Candlelight so that Baldwin Center has a steady supply of gift cards to give to moms for baby formula.

VI. OTHER

-**Emergency preparedness** - The recent shooting at the LDS church in Grand Blanc has prompted us to re-examine our Emergency Preparedness policy. Pastor will review.

-**UM Conference** - The Conference has slashed millions from the budget over the past few years. Michigan Conference has gone from 13 districts to 7 districts and will be reduced further to 4 districts in July 2026.

-**Apportionment Giving** - We have currently paid 80% of that and are on track to have 100% (\$17,700) paid by the end of the year.

VI. "LIFE OF THE CHURCH"

-**Donations to purchase:** New refrigerator / 10 rectangular tables / some towards the cost of the necessary new furnace for the Education Wing

-**End-of-the-Summer Cookout** - 45ish people attended!

-**Bible Study continues** - 12 (ish) people attending

-**Trunk or Treat - Sunday, October 19 from 2:30-4 PM - WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

-**Charge Conference** - Sunday, October 26 / SPRC-2 PM then General mtg. at 3 PM

-**Fall/Halloween Luncheon** Thursday, Oct. 26 at 11:30 AM

-**Meijer Double Days Fundraiser** - November / Possible raffle

-**All Saints' Sunday** - November 2

-**Pre-Thanksgiving Potluck** - November 23 after service

-**Advent Bible Study**

-**Advent by Candlelight** - Sunday, December 7 at 5 PM

-**Christmas Eve Services** - Wed., Dec. 24 / 4 PM and 11 PM at St. Luke's / 7 PM at Clawson

Submitted by Amy Camaiani



Next Newsletter

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



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

November Birthdays

11/2 Joshua Teitler
11/7 Colleen Vieira
11/22 Natalie Reinout
11/22 Nigel Bachmann
11/27 Judith Bennett

October ANNIVERSARIES

10/30 Tom & Lynette Thompson

November ANNIVERSARIES

11/13 Jose & Patricia Ceppi

If your Birthday or Anniversary does not appear in our monthly newsletter, please email the office at 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			1 9:30 am WWW 10:30 am Yoga 6:00pm Foundation Christian Church (Outside Group) 7:00pm AA Meeting (Outside Group)	2 6:00pm-8:00pm Praise & Worship Center (Outside Group) 7:00pm AA Meeting (Outside Group) 7:00pm AD Council Meeting	3	4 9:30am-2:30pm 7th Day (Outside Group)
5 9:30 am Worship Service; 10:30am Fellowship, Communion 10:00am-2:00pm Foundation Christian Church 2:15-4:00pm Praise & Worship	6	7 9:30am Prayer Group in Cantor Area 6:30pm-8:30pm 7th Day (Outside Group)	8 9:30 am WWW 10:30 am Yoga 1:00pm-7:00pm Blood Drive 7:00pm AA Meeting (Outside Group)	9 6:00pm-8:00pm Praise & Worship Center (Outside Group) 7:00pm AA Meeting (Outside Group)	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship Service; 10:30am Fellowship, 10:00am-2:00pm Foundation Christian Church 2:15-4:00pm Praise & Worship	13	14 9:30am Prayer Group in Cantor Area 6:30pm-8:30pm 7th Day (Outside Group)	15 9:30 am WWW 10:30 am Yoga 7:00pm AA Meeting (Outside Group)	16 6:00pm-8:00pm Praise & Worship Center (Outside Group) 7:00pm AA Meeting (Outside Group)	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship Service; 10:30am Fellowship, 10:00am-2:00pm Foundation Christian Church 2:15-4:00pm Praise & Worship 2:30pm Trunk or Treat	20	21 9:30am Prayer Group in Cantor Area 6:30pm-8:30pm 7th Day (Outside Group)	22 9:30 am WWW 10:30 am Yoga 7:00pm AA Meeting (Outside Group)	23 11:30am Halloween Luncheon 6:00pm-8:00pm Praise & Worship Center (Outside Group) 7:00pm AA Meeting (Outside Group)	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship Service; 10:30am Fellowship, Noisy Offering 10:00am-2:00pm Foundation Christian Church 2:15-4:00pm Praise & Worship	27	28 9:30am Prayer Group in Cantor Area 6:30pm-8:30pm 7th Day (Outside Group)	29 9:30 am WWW 10:30 am Yoga 7:00pm AA Meeting (Outside Group)	30 6:00pm-8:00pm Praise & Worship Center (Outside Group) 7:00pm AA Meeting (Outside Group)	31	



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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

Email: 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