

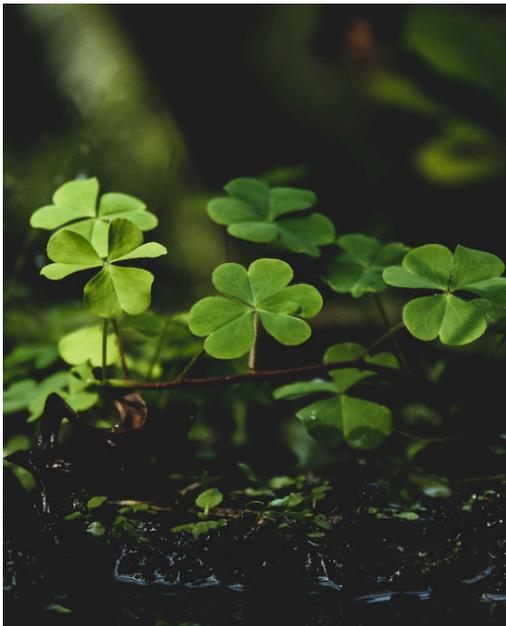


# The Scroll

MARCH 2025



“WE ARE A SPIRIT DRIVEN  
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY  
OF ENGAGED DISCIPLES, CALLED TO  
SERVE, LOVE AND FORGIVE.”  
WE ARE A RECONCILING IN  
CHRIST CONGREGATION.



## Pastor's Note

FROM PASTOR HEIDI

Greetings St. Luke Siblings in Christ,

Anxiety is a feeling, a condition, a word I'm hearing - a lot. For years, I've noticed, anecdotally, more and more people identifying themselves as anxious or struggling with anxiety. While we may place anxiety in the category of an emotional state, many of us have experienced the positive and negative physical ramifications of realized emotions. When we experience an emotion like joy or love, we might physically feel warm, light-as-a-feather, energized, or calm. Feeling anxious can increase our heart rate, shorten our breath, cloud our thinking, rob us of sleep, mess with digestion, and the list goes on.

In Matthew 6, Jesus says, 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your  
*continued pg. 2*



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life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

We might hear verses like this and think anxiety is a symptom of shallow faith or lacking trust in God. No! It is merely a symptom of being human. Our human condition is indeed one that causes us to turn in on ourselves, turning to our own understanding and our own ability to make sense of the world. Jesus encourages us to put our trust in God; put our hope for the future in God; put our hearts in the hands of God, who is already building us up, empowering us, and knitting us into community. Being in community helps us learn and relearn how to trust God, and gives us support so WE DON'T HAVE TO TURN IN ON OURSELVES, or only rely on ourselves.

God puts us into community, and tells us God loves us and cares for us, to help encourage us to reach out and seek help when we experience anxiety, or loneliness, or fear, or, or, or... God calls us to have care and concern for our neighbors, whoever they may be. When we are concerned for ourselves, our families, our neighbors, our country, our world, we might start to feel ANXIOUS. There is no shame in this. This is not a lack of faith. But, it can debilitate us into complacency, or escapism as we try to manage hard feelings or realities.

This is when the Holy Spirit can help us reach out, call out, dive into the breath of God. We do this in spiritual practice, in healthful habits, in worship, in fellowship, in SERVICE. Notice when you feel calm.

Notice what helps you feel whole and sure-footed. Being an active part of a faith community can help alleviate stress and anxiety. Serving others, praying together, singing, breathing, and taking a pause in our week to worship can all help us recalibrate, centering us in our God's loving care.

I'm grateful for many supports in my own life that help me manage anxiety and stress, including you, a congregation seeking to do the will of our God together.

We are in this life together, to lift one another up, and help each other experience the abundant life that God desires for all of Creation, unencumbered by anxiety and fear. Praise be to God, our Creator, and the caretaker of our souls. Amen.



### **Lenten Soup, Study, & Sacrament**

Let's gather on Thursday evenings during Lent for soup dinner, study of Contemplative Practices, and the Lord's Supper.  
5:30-7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10

# Presidential Notes

BY FAWN DEMELLO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Welcome to our new Congregation Council.

We have many items that we are going to accomplish this year, which some of them are listed here:

- Review all Job Descriptions for all of our staff
- Completing the wording in the By-Laws and Continuing Resolutions for all of our Ministry Groups
- Complete the update of the Employee Handbook
- Create a new Model for our New Members Classes
- What it means to be a Leader of the church here at St. Luke

Our devotions this year is all related to being a leader of the church and how we can be able to assist in growing the church.

A Leader is an individual who inspires and guides others, often taking initiative to make decisions and help a group achieve a shared goal.

The Bible says that "leaders should serve, care for, and guide others, and that they should lead by example. In Mark 10:42-45, true leadership is about serving others, not being served.

1 Peter 5:2-3, Leaders should shepherd God's Flock, watching over them with eagerness and serving as examples.

Peace to all  
Fawn R DeMello

## Ministry News

### Our St. Luke Story

Pick up a copy of Carol & Rudy Croteau's St. Luke story in the Narthex!



### Outreach Meeting 3/30

BY DIANE HANSEN, TEAM LEAD

The Outreach Team will meet on Sunday, March 30th after worship to discuss the organizations we will fund in 2025 and our God's Work Our Hands activity. Please join the Team!

[Outreachstlukegf.org](http://Outreachstlukegf.org)

**BY ELAINE REMONDI-SIMPSON**

Have you ever thought of your blood donation as a sacrificial gift for others? Can you spare about an hour of your time to give a gift that keeps on giving? You can make that happen by donating blood at our Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:30–6:30 p.m. Reflecting on Jesus' enduring example of love and sacrifice for those in need, making a blood donation, might be a meaningful way to honor Him. This special gift may turn out to be life-saving for a family member, friend or neighbor. In the true spirit of the Lenten season you may end up helping a complete stranger, a brother or sister in need. One thing is certain; you will make a real difference in someone's life.

According to the Red Cross, every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood and more than 44,000 blood donations are needed every single day. There remains a critical need for blood donations as many drives in disaster areas across the country have been cancelled. Around thirty-eight per cent (38%) of the people in our community are able to meet the requirements to give blood, but around ten per cent (10%) actually make the commitment to donate. Our vital blood supply is dependant on a very small percentage of caring community members. Your donation is essential in maintaining a healthy and plentiful blood supply. We welcome our faithful former donors and encourage first time donors to join us in this essential mission. Donors blessed with the most needed negative blood types are especially encouraged to participate.

The Red Cross tells us the number one reason people give for becoming a blood donor is, "I want to help people." Here is an opportunity for you to help! Signing up to become a donor is easy. You can make an appointment by: scanning the QR code on the poster, sign up online at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org), or at the Blood Drive display table. If you can't donate please let others know about our drive, help by joining our staff or provide some refreshments. We are in need of sandwiches and homemade refreshments to show our heartfelt appreciation to our donors. Two registrars are needed, for a three and a half hour shift. Two staff members are needed to serve refreshments to blood donors also for a three and a half hour shift. Visit the Blood Drive display in the Narthex on Sundays March 16, 23, 30 and April 6 to find out how you can participate and sign up to help. Many hands make light work and you will get to know some wonderful people, as well.

Please join us in making a meaningful life-saving difference in our community. We look forward to seeing you, in the Fellowship Hall, at our spring Blood Drive on Thursday April 10, 2025 from 1:30–6:30 p.m.

In Christ,

Elaine Remondi-Simpson



## *Grins & Giggles Preschool News*

**BY NANCY RUPERT, DIRECTOR**

We felt the 'love' and spread the 'love' during our Valentines Week with parties and lots of chocolate and card exchanges. We wanted some snow and boy, have we gotten it! It's been fun playing outside in the snow and getting some wanted fresh air! The month of February had more than its share of illness both with the staff and the children and we are all looking forward to everyone returning to good health soon.

March brings pirates and fairies and little leprechauns to begin the month and ends with zoo animals and a unit on 'Saving our Earth'. We will be learning about the effect of plastics in our environment, how to recycle and what to recycle and ways we can help keep our earth healthy and happy.



# Minutes of the January Congregation Council Meeting

**Congregation Council Agenda January 16, 2025**

**St. Luke Lutheran Church**

**6:00 P.M.**

Call the Congregation Council Meeting to order at 6:06pm

Attendees: Fawn DeMello, Brad Dame, Marty Wood, Erica Sullivan, Leigh Sammons, Pr. Heidi Johnston, Sue Anderson.

Excused Absences: Al Nordquist, Kellie August.

Secretary, Janis Vajdos (absent) (Pr. Heidi took notes)

Members Present: Pat Wood, Gina Williams

Devotions: Brad - psalm 145 (congregational vitality). Devotional prompt: In regards to faithfulness and spiritual maturity, what are words or phrases to describe your congregation: "Active," "full of joy (smiles)," "good vibes," "people want to be here."

Approval of Agenda (Addition of motion under Worship)

Brad 1st; Leigh 2nd; Motion passes 7-0

Approval of December 11, 2024 Minutes

Marty 1st; Leigh 2nd; Motion passes 7-0

Approval of January 2, 2025 Budget Minutes

Marty 1st; Leigh 2nd; Motion passes 7-0

President's Remarks - Fawn

· "Thank you" to outgoing Council Members (Marty Wood, Leigh Sammons, Sue Anderson (who completed John Perkins' term as liaison to Fellowship), and Janis Vajdos as Recording Secretary) and "Thank you" also to continuing Council Members!

· Exec Team goal for 2025: Review all job descriptions for our staff

· Exec Team goal for 2025: Request all Ministries to complete review of By-Laws and Continuing Resolutions - to be turned in by April Council Meeting

Church Members comments/concerns

Gina Williams - Presented Worship Technology salaries from states comparable to CT cost of living with data gathered from Indeed, Salary.com, and Zip Recruiter. Outlined tasks and responsibilities related to the Worship Technology portion of her position, and expressed disappointment over the 2025 compensation package for the Director of Music and Worship Technology position, focusing on the later portion of the job. Council thanked Ms. Williams for taking time to express her concerns, to illumine her role's responsibilities, and expressed regret over any ill feelings.

Financial Reports -

A question about final 2024 amount taken from unrestricted gifts - it was lower than projected. Perhaps a bill did not come in before close of 2024?

Motion to accept the Audit Report in its finalized version

Marty 1st; Brad 2nd; Motion passes 6 yay - 1 abstain

# Minutes of the January Congregation Council Meeting

## New Business

Continuing Education - Pr. Heidi expressed gratitude to the Council for approving her participation in the Executive Skills for Church Leaders continuing education seminar at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center in Carefree, AZ. Pr. Heidi will share her learning over time, but highlighted the cont. ed. focus on HR best practices, social media strategic plans, conflict management styles, and some possible content for Staff and/or Council retreats.

**Motion:** To allow Ledyard High School to host a concert at St. Luke on Friday, 2/7/25 with a free will offering.

Brad 1st; Erica 2nd; Motion passes 7-0

Encouragement to connect with Louise re: any usage of kitchen amenities. Direction about tables, (do they want to use any table clothes?).

We have a set procedure - a form to fill out. This will facilitate a contact person connection. Brad action item to tell Gina it's approved, but LHS should fill out facility utilization form so it can be on file with Rachel.

## Other New Business

In response to Ms. Gina Williams' comments, discussion ensued around compensation and title history for Dir. Of Music and Worship Technology position. Action item for Exec Team and Team Lead for Worship to meet to establish a schedule for investigating compensation (probably within the next six months).

## Pastor's Report - Please note all reports will be accepted after the last report

Pr. Heidi highlighted ongoing faith-based organizing work, including an upcoming training to facilitate house meetings, inviting Council members to consider attending (2/2/25, 3-5pm, All Souls UU, New London).

## Purpose Teams Reports (See submitted reports)

- Evangelism - RIC Sunday 2/9/25
- Fellowship
- Life-Long Learning - Mark Larson is stepping down as Chair, and will support as needed until a hand-off is complete.
- Outreach
- Worship

## Support Team Reports

- Communication
- Facilities
- Parish Administrator
- People

## Motion to accept all reports

Marty 1st; Erica 2nd; Motion passes 7-0

Next meeting is Feb 20th, Thurs 6pm

## Motion to Adjourn and Closing Prayer - Lord's Prayer

Brad 1st; Leigh 2nd; Motion passes 7-0

# Treasurer's Report for Month Ending January, 2025

St. Luke Lutheran Church  
Treasurer's Report for Month Ending  
January 31, 2025

February 16, 2025

Pledged offerings for the month of January were approximately \$3.4K above the monthly budget. Note that some givers contribute their entire year's pledge during the month of January each year. Grace Giving exceeded the monthly budget, by approximately \$170, making the total offerings income approximately \$3.5K greater than the budget.

Grins & Giggles income for the month of January was approximately \$1.6K greater than the monthly budget, making the total budgeted income for the month approximately \$5.4K greater than the monthly budget.

A summary of the YTD January 2025 budgeted income is provided in the table below:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Pledges	48,378.20	45,000.00	48,378.20	45,000.00	338,147.00	289,768.80
Grace Giving	7,670.19	7,500.00	7,670.19	7,500.00	54,000.00	46,329.81
Loose Cash Offering	298.51	300.00	298.51	300.00	3,600.00	3,301.49
Special Envelopes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,600.00	2,600.00
<b>Offerings</b>	<b>\$56,346.90</b>	<b>\$52,800.00</b>	<b>\$56,346.90</b>	<b>\$52,800.00</b>	<b>\$398,347.00</b>	<b>\$342,000.10</b>
Building Use	425.00	208.00	425.00	208.00	2,500.00	2,075.00
<b>Structures Income</b>	<b>\$425.00</b>	<b>\$208.00</b>	<b>\$425.00</b>	<b>\$208.00</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>\$2,075.00</b>
Investments Div/Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
Grins & Giggles Income-Tuition	9,707.50	8,100.00	9,707.50	8,100.00	85,850.00	76,142.50
Grins & Giggles Income-Registration fees	85.00	50.00	85.00	50.00	700.00	615.00
<b>Total Grins and Giggles Income</b>	<b>\$9,792.50</b>	<b>\$8,150.00</b>	<b>\$9,792.50</b>	<b>\$8,150.00</b>	<b>\$86,550.00</b>	<b>\$76,757.50</b>
<b>Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$66,564.40</b>	<b>\$61,158.00</b>	<b>\$66,564.40</b>	<b>\$61,158.00</b>	<b>\$489,397.00</b>	<b>\$422,832.60</b>

We transferred \$4000 into the Sabbatical Fund and \$2000 into the ELCA Youth Gathering Fund from the General Operating Fund, in accordance with our approved budget; both of these appear as unbudgeted income on the monthly Treasurer's report. We also had an additional \$3371.90 in unbudgeted during the month of January. Of this additional \$3371.90 in unbudgeted income, \$3000 was a donation from a single donor that requested that \$1000 each be put into the Pastor's Discretionary Income Fund, the memorial Fund, and the Unrestricted Gifts Fund.

**Total Budgeted YTD Expenses** of \$48,289.06 is greater than the YTD budget of \$47,356.00 by \$933.06. Note that the entire year's budget for the Sabbatical Fund contribution and the ELCA Youth Gathering Fund contribution was "paid" in January, and also that staff was paid at their 2024 pay rates in advance of the budget being approved at the annual meeting. Staff will receive retroactive pay during February for the difference in January pay between their 2025 pay rate and their 2024 pay rate. Note that there was no synod benevolence donation recorded in January since the synod donation for December's pledged offerings was recorded as a December 2024 expense, even though it was paid in January 2025.

**Grins & Giggles YTD Expenses** of \$7865.25 is greater than the budget of \$6594.00 by \$1271.25. Grins & Giggles expenses and income usually track very close to the year-to-date budget every month.

# *Treasurer's Report for Month Ending January, 2025*

**Net Results:** As of the end of January 2025 we have an Actual YTD Total Income of \$75,936.30, and Total Expenses of \$48,289.06, resulting in a difference of \$27,647.24. A high-level year to date summary is in the table below:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Budgeted Income	\$66,564.40	\$61,158.00	\$66,564.40	\$61,158.00	\$489,397.00	\$422,832.60
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$47,850.11	\$47,356.00	\$47,850.11	\$47,356.00	\$505,255.00	\$457,404.89
<b>Budgeted Income/Expense Difference</b>	<b>\$18,714.29</b>	<b>\$13,802.00</b>	<b>\$18,714.29</b>	<b>\$13,802.00</b>	<b>(\$15,858.00)</b>	<b>(\$34,572.29)</b>
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$9,792.50	\$8,150.00	\$9,792.50	\$8,150.00	\$86,550.00	\$76,757.50
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$7,865.25	\$6,594.00	\$7,865.25	\$6,594.00	\$87,130.00	\$79,264.75
<b>Grins and Giggles Income/Expense Difference</b>	<b>\$1,927.25</b>	<b>\$1,556.00</b>	<b>\$1,927.25</b>	<b>\$1,556.00</b>	<b>(\$580.00)</b>	<b>(\$2,507.25)</b>
Total Income	\$75,936.30	\$61,158.00	\$75,936.30	\$61,158.00	\$505,255.00	\$438,690.60
Total Expense	\$48,289.06	\$47,356.00	\$48,289.06	\$47,356.00	\$505,255.00	\$457,404.89
<b>Total Income/Expense Difference</b>	<b>\$27,647.24</b>	<b>\$13,802.00</b>	<b>\$27,647.24</b>	<b>\$13,802.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>(\$18,714.29)</b>

**Other Treasurer Activity:**

- Reviewed bi-weekly payroll
- Reviewed December bank reconciliation
- Composed and sent letters to all staff documenting their new 2025 pay rates
- Conducted two budget review meetings
- Supported annual meeting
- Researched Certificate of Deposit options for opening a CD for St. Luke

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Alan Nordquist  
 Treasurer

# Consolidated Fund Activity Report January 2025

## St Luke Lutheran Church - Gales Ferry CT Consolidated Fund Activity Report for January 2025

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.1001.1001	General Operating Fund Balance	48,959.40	66,564.40	47,850.11	(499.99)	67,173.70
3.1050.1000	<i>Building Fund Balance</i>					
3.1050.1001	General Building Fund Balance	22,551.45	10.00	-	-	22,561.45
3.1050.1002	Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,462.36	10.00	-	-	4,472.36
3.1056.1000	Wedding Facilities Fund Balance	397.80	-	308.78	-	89.02
3.1060.1000	Memorial Fund Balance	5,318.81	1,000.00	-	-	6,318.81
3.1070.1000	Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	4,022.68	-	-	-	4,022.68
3.1080.1000	Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	47,180.00	1,000.00	-	-	48,180.00
3.2001.1000	<i>Worship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2001.1001	Special Music Balance	1,968.15	-	-	-	1,968.15
3.2001.1003	Handbell Program Fund Balance	1,421.78	-	-	-	1,421.78
3.2001.2020	Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	1,896.11	200.00	-	-	2,096.11
3.2002.1000	<i>Administrative-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2002.1004	Special Gifts Balance	1.00	-	-	-	1.00
3.2002.1006	Staff Development Balance	3,886.15	-	-	-	3,886.15
3.2002.1012	Sabbatical Fund Balance	5,750.00	4,000.00	-	-	9,750.00
3.2002.1007	Flowers Balance	16.49	106.50	-	-	122.99
3.2004.1000	<i>Fellowship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2004.1003	Adult Ski Trip Balance	50.00	-	-	-	50.00
3.2004.1005	Fellowship Special Events Balance	2,676.80	-	-	-	2,676.80
3.2005.1000	<i>Special Programs Balance</i>					
3.2005.1002	Great Lakes Scrip Program Balance	2,092.11	21.40	130.17	-	1,983.34
3.2006.1000	<i>Youth-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2006.1003	ELCA Youth Gathering Balance	3,960.48	2,000.00	-	-	5,960.48
3.2006.1004	Youth Mission Trip Balance	522.15	-	-	-	522.15
3.2007.1000	<i>Family Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2007.1001	Family Ministry Activities Balance	208.00	-	-	-	208.00
3.2008.1000	<i>Life Long Learning-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2008.1001	Ecumenical VBS Balance	530.47	-	-	-	530.47
3.2008.1003	Women's Retreat Balance	236.12	-	-	-	236.12
3.2008.1010	Grins & Giggles Donations Balance	105.00	-	-	-	105.00
3.2009.1000	<i>Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2002.1005	Thrivent Choice Balance	68.00	24.00	-	-	92.00
3.2010.1000	<i>Discretionary Gifts Balance</i>					
3.2010.1001	Pastors' Discretionary Balance	4,530.87	1,000.00	-	-	5,530.87
3.2010.1002	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	3,544.23	-	-	-	3,544.23
3.2010.1003	Council Discretionary Fund Balance	3,960.20	-	-	-	3,960.20
3.2010.1004	Camp Calumet Scholarships Balance	700.00	-	-	-	700.00
3.2011.1000	<i>Facilities Support-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2011.1001	Memorial Garden Balance	3,564.44	-	-	-	3,564.44
3.9000.1000	Net Fixed Asset Fund Balance	1,918,224.00	-	-	-	1,918,224.00
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>\$2,092,805.05</u></b>	<b><u>\$75,936.30</u></b>	<b><u>\$48,289.06</u></b>	<b><u>(\$499.99)</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,119,952.30</u></b>

Color Me!



Have an  
A-MAZE-ing  
Lent!



ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

H	F	D	J	Z	A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	H	R	R
N	O	A	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	J	E	S	B	O	E	E
G	O	L	P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	P	A	S	F	O	R	L	S	S
T	T	M	Y	B	M	F	J	E	S	U	A	J	A	C	K	A	Y	U	U
N	W	S	P	S	G	O	L	O	V	E	L	E	C	E	D	N	T	R	R
N	A	G	R	F	A	R	L	P	A	L	M	B	R	A	N	C	H	E	R
J	S	I	A	A	F	T	P	L	Y	E	S	E	I	S	O	J	U	S	E
C	H	V	Y	S	O	Y	U	J	Y	N	U	A	F	T	A	E	R	U	C
J	I	I	E	T	R	D	R	R	M	T	N	S	I	E	H	S	S	T	
A	N	N	R	I	H	A	P	W	D	J	D	T	C	R	X	U	D	W	I
N	G	G	C	N	O	Y	L	W	E	A	A	E	E	Y	G	S	A	Z	O
W	E	D	N	G	L	S	E	H	O	L	Y	W	E	E	K	H	Y	C	N

o

- Ash Wednesday
- Sacrifice
- Almsgiving
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Holy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Easter
- Palm Sunday
- Purple
- Palm Branch

- Forty Days
- Jesus
- Passover
- Foot Washing
- Resurrection
- Love



# Prayer List

## Pray for healing:

Kasey Peek  
Mike Wuesthoff  
Phillip Riley  
Michele Clements  
Kate Beckett (niece of Pat Robbins)  
Dina Ballestrini  
Gina Donovan  
Daniel Marrison  
Claudia Sanchez (sister of Rut Sanchez)  
Christopher Derjue  
Jan Barrows (aunt of Elaine Lettiere)  
Curt Frost  
Tammy Nordquist  
Chip Moran  
Sabina Moran  
Donna (friend of Leigh Sammons)

David Greenstein (Owsley's son-in-law)  
Jim West  
Julia Side  
Geoff (brother-in-law of Patricia Carroll-French)  
Linda Wilkinson  
Marie  
Link  
Stephanie Lucas

## Pray for those who are

### Grieving:

Including the family & friends of  
Terry Blair  
Marge Johnson

## Pray for active duty military:

Brady Moorehead  
Henry Yanaway  
Joshua Robeson  
Christian Conrad  
Adrian Estrella  
Martin Wuesthoff  
Andy Sammons  
Derek Raymond  
Patrick Wimmermark

## Pray for those with other concerns:

Joy Elisabeth (daughter of Patricia Carroll-French)  
Saditha  
Sandy (friend of Patricia Carroll-French)  
Paul Roman  
Chikumbuso Project

## Pray for homebound, those receiving long-term

### care, & their caregivers:

Kathy Dame  
Terry Blair  
Richard Simpson (former member)  
Fred Launer  
Pauline Wanner  
Bob Chernansky  
Jenny Waller  
Lynn Minichino



## Scroll Deadline: Third Monday of the Month

The deadline for the Scroll is the third Monday of each month.

Articles may be submitted as hard-copy or via e-mail to [communications@stlukegf.org](mailto:communications@stlukegf.org).

**DEADLINE**

## Add a Prayer

If you would like to add a prayer request to the Weekly, please complete the Prayer Request form on the reverse side of the yellow Connections form.

Leave the form in the pew and the ushers will collect them and turn them in to the church office. You can also add a prayer request by calling the office at 860-464- 7897

# *March Celebrations*

## **Birthdays:**

Pat Robbins 03/08  
Anna Lettiere 03/09  
Mary Robinson 03/11  
Harry Tobiassen 03/15  
Emilee Balinski 03/17  
Jessica Vajdos 03/24  
Mike Lembke 03/24  
Camille Felty 03/27  
Luke Keefe 03/29  
Sandy Wimmermark 03/31

## **Wedding Anniversaries: (# of Years Married)**

David & Suzanne Etris 3/20/76 (49)  
James & Jill Ragland 3/23/23 (2)  
Dennis & Amy Sindel 3/6/82 (43)

## **Baptismal Birthdays:**

Dame, Kathy 03/??/1952  
Erickson, Bob 03/16/1941  
Frost, Curt 03/05/1950  
Johnson, Steve 03/21/1987  
Johnston, Ben 03/??/2011  
Nordquist, Al 03/16/1969  
Sindel, Dennis 03/08/1960

DID WE MISS YOUR CELEBRATION?  
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE,  
860-464-7897, OR E-MAIL  
PARISHADMIN@STLUKEGF.ORG, SO WE CAN  
BE SURE TO HONOR YOUR SPECIAL DAY.

This schedule compiled as of 2/25/2025; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

ST. LUKE—SCHEDULE TO SERVE – March 2025									
Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers	
3/2									
9:30	Joan Lambert	Ray Heller & John Perkins	Cathy Hanson	Robert N.	Leigh Sammons & Cyndi Arnold		Roni Rollinson & Kristian Balinski	Felix Vajdos	
3/5									
12:00	Joanne Erickson	Ray Heller & John Perkins	Cathy Hanson		Diane Hansen			Felix Vajdos	
7:00	Leigh Sammons	Dennis Sindel & John Perkins	Cathy Hanson		Marty Wood & Charlie Anderson			Fawn DeMello	
3/9									
9:30	Edna Johnson	John Robbins & Ray Heller	Penny Heller	Liese Z.	Charlie Anderson & Ray Heller		Jim Sammons & Kristian Balinski	Fawn DeMello	
3/16									
9:30	Leigh Sammons	Dennis Sinel & Al Nordquist	Linda Martin	Mary Robinson	Jerry Swope & Pat Robbins		Roni Rollinson & Brad Dame	Erica Sullivan	
3/23									
9:30	Elaine Redmond-Simpson	John Perkins & Ray Heller	Deb Eld	Robert N.	Diane Hansen & Camille Felty		Al Nordquist & Kristian Balinski	Katie Launer-Felty	
3/30									
9:30	Katie Johnson	Mark & Louise Larson	Sue Anderson	Liese Z.	Robin Nelson & Fawn DeMello		Brad Dame & Jim Sammons	Felix Vajdos	

# Church Calendar of Events

\*Community Group

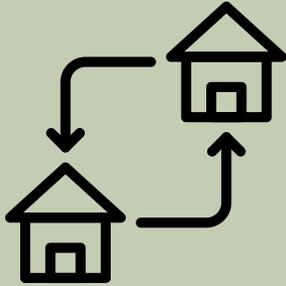
## MARCH 2025

### Music Rehearsals:

Monday 5:00pm – Glory Ringers  
 Tuesday 6:00pm – Belles & Beaux  
 Tuesday 7:00pm – Senior Choir  
 Wednesday 9:00am – EmBellish  
 Wednesday 5:00pm – Concert Handbell Choir  
 Wednesday 7:00pm – JuBELLation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
2 9:30am In-person Worship & Livestream worship 11:00am The Chosen 2:30pm New London Meal Center	3 9:00am Grins & Giggles 4:00pm AGO 7:00pm AA*	4 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Belles & Beau 6:00pm CPR Training*	5 Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser 9:00am G&G 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:00 & 7:00 pm Ash Wed. Worship 2:15pm KIDSTEPS*	6 9:00am Grins & Giggles	7 9:00am Grins & Giggles	8 10:00am OA* 10:30am Women's Group 7:00pm AA*
9 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Joyful Noise 11:00am Lifelong Learning Meeting 11:00am The Chosen	10 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Girl Scouts* 6:30pm Fellowship Team Meeting 7:00pm AA*	11 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Belles & Beau 6:00pm Executive Planning Team	12 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	13 9:00am Grins & Giggles	14 9:00am Grins & Giggles	15 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm SE/CT Traveling Queer Movie Night*
16 Kid's Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am The Chosen	17 SCROLL DEADLINE 7:00pm AA*	18 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:30pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting*	19 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	20 9:00am Grins & Giggles 4:30pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting* 6:00pm CONGREGATION COUNCIL	21 9:00am Grins & Giggles	22 10:00am OA* 10:30am Women's Group 7:00pm AA*
23 9:30am In-person Worship & Livestream worship 11:00am Joyful Noise 11:00am The Chosen 1:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental	24 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm AA*	25 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Belles & Beau 7:00pm Senior Choir	26 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	27 9:00am Grins & Giggles	28 9:00am Grins & Giggles	29 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*

Please inform the Church  
Office of any address,  
telephone number, or email  
changes. Email changes to  
[parishadmin@stlukegf.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlukegf.org) or  
call 860-464-7897.



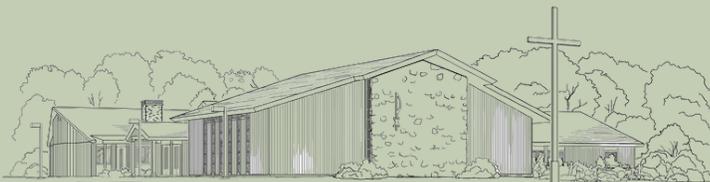
**St. Luke Lutheran Church**

1830 Route 12  
Gales Ferry, CT 06335  
Phone: 860-464-7897  
Fax: 860-464-7742  
Website: [stlukegf.org](http://stlukegf.org)



*A member of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America*

*A Spirit Driven Christian  
Community of Engaged  
Disciples, Called to Serve,  
Love and Forgive.*



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Fax: 860-464-7742  
Emergency #: 860-617-9343  
[www.stlukegf.org](http://www.stlukegf.org)

**Office Hours:**

Monday – Thursday  
9 am to 2:30 pm  
Friday  
CLOSED

**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Pastor Heidi Johnston  
[pastorheidi@stlukegf.org](mailto:pastorheidi@stlukegf.org)  
Emergency #: 860-381-0884  
[www.stlukegf.org](http://www.stlukegf.org)  
*Lead Pastor*

Gina Marie Williams  
[gina@stlukegf.org](mailto:gina@stlukegf.org)  
*Director of Music and  
Worship Technology*

Diane Hansen  
[diane@stlukegf.org](mailto:diane@stlukegf.org)  
*Bookkeeper*

Rachel Goodman  
[parishadmin@stlukegf.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlukegf.org)  
*Parish Administrator*

Kathleen Bartkowski  
*Organist/Accompanist*

Katie Kenney  
[communications@stlukegf.org](mailto:communications@stlukegf.org)  
*Communications Coordinator*

Melissa Spera  
*Custodian*

**OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

Fawn DeMello  
[fdemello@comcast.net](mailto:fdemello@comcast.net)  
*President*

Leigh Sammons  
[l.e.sammons@gmail.com](mailto:l.e.sammons@gmail.com)  
*Vice-President*

Alan Nordquist  
[treasurer@stlukegf.org](mailto:treasurer@stlukegf.org)  
*Treasurer*