



The Scroll

NOVEMBER 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!

During the month of November, we often take time to offer up gratitudes and thanksgivings. I am grateful for all of you St. Luke folks, for your support and efforts, and for our communal commitment to sustainable mutual ministry. I'm grateful that St. Luke leadership made sure to include regular sabbatical leave as part of my letter of call, to support longevity, creativity, and holistic health for me and the congregation. In keeping with our commitment to one another, I will be taking a sabbatical, or time of renewal leave, for twelve weeks (+ one vacation week) May 4 - August 2, 2025. This was approved during the Council meeting on Thursday, October 16.



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During my renewal leave, I will rest, be with my family, explore local yoga studios, go on retreat, and engage in some self-study under the topics of “coaching – reflective inquiry,” and “faith-rooted organizing.”

Coverage: Pr. Mike Lembke will be offering consistent Word & Sacrament ministry, as well as some pastoral care while I’m away. This provides a great opportunity for the congregation to hear a different voice from the pulpit, and to embrace Martin Luther’s idea of the priesthood of all believers! Being church, being active in faith, is not dependent on the pastor alone (as you all well know), but on the movement of the Holy Spirit in and among all of us.

Gratitude: Thank you to the leadership and members of St. Luke for taking preparatory financial steps to make sure we are ready for this sabbatical.

Lavished with the grace and love of God, may we continue on in meaningful ministry together, rejoicing in our partnership, in the name of Jesus Christ!

In gratitude,

Pastor Heidi Johnston

St. Luke as a possible Internship Site (2027) - Adult Forum 11/23

BY PASTOR HEIDI

Ministry News

At some point in the history of St. Luke Lutheran Church, “Christian Education” was renamed “Lifelong Learning.” This demonstrates an understanding that our Christian education is not just for our early years, but meant to continue throughout our lives. St. Luke worshipers and leadership value the Holy Spirit’s call to provide a faithful place where people can learn about God and experience God through the word and sacraments, through preaching, teaching, music, fellowship, service, stewardship, and community action. Because of this commitment to active, vibrant ministry, St. Luke has been a wonderful site for pastoral interns in the past.

We have an opportunity to again consider if we feel called to host an intern in the future. A generous donor is offering financial support to make this adventure more financially feasible. Hosting an intern is a whole-congregation commitment to nurture a pastor-in-training; to be open to an intern’s gifts and new ideas; to be receptive to whoever the Spirit sends our way, with their own unique gifts, quirks, and learning edges. On Sunday, November 23rd, after worship, an adult forum will offer more information and discussion about this ministry opportunity. Associate to the Bishop for Congregational Care in Connecticut, Pr. Mark Lingle, will join us for this discussion. Please plan to attend this adult forum, and please be in prayer in the meantime, listening for what the Holy Spirit is saying to us at this time, in this place.

Pr. Heidi and the Executive Team

Presidential Notes

BY FAWN DEMELLO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



This year's theme for our stewardship drive is "Rooted in God's Grace". What does this mean to each of us? When I hear or read the word rooted, I immediately think of a plant. The base of a plant is the foundation for which we build upon. The foundation that God provides for us is like the roots of a plant.

We are supported in many ways with our faith journey. God gives us the support with Grace as a free and undeserved gift that includes salvation, forgiveness and power to live a godly life through Jesus Christ.

The stem of the plant is the way we can grow. As in our ministries here at St. Luke, we support each other and build upon that support to do the outreach, worship, learning, fellowship, evangelism and be a part of the building of St. Luke to enrich ourselves, but the community as well.

The flowers on the plant are the many ways that people show their colors to the church and community. We are watering ourselves with God's Love and Grace. We blossom into many ways to reach others.

Our stewardship Pledge Sunday or Consecration Sunday is November 9th. We ask that you carefully consider how you can help St. Luke to grow more into the future. In Titus 2:11 - "For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation for all people."

Peace

Fawn

CROP Walk - Thank You!

Thank you to all the Crop Walk participants and donors! Altogether we raised a total of \$22,858.40.

Our cash and check total was \$2104.
St. Luke had 21 walkers, 2 dogs, and 1 cat!



Ministry News

Thanksgiving Donations to Ledyard Social Services

BY LEIGH SAMMONS

Looking ahead...we will be supporting the local community through Thanksgiving donations to Ledyard Social Services. We will be collecting monetary contributions only, including cash, checks, and gift cards to local grocery stores. Please make checks payable to Ledyard Social Services. Contributions can be placed in the offering plate, marked for LSS, until November 16.



The Furniture Bank Tag Sale is almost here. We're going to need lots of STUFF, and we're going to need more HELP than ever organizing and selling it because we're not as young as we used to be! Please bring us stuff to sell, come help us organize it, then come on November 7 (6 to 8 pm) and 8 (8 am to 2 pm) to buy stuff to fill up the space you gained by getting rid of stuff. Please start cleaning out your basements and garages and attics, and save the good stuff for the sale. You'll get rid of stuff you don't need, somebody else will love it, and if you itemize, you can claim it on your tax return!

What we need...

Anything usually found at tag sales is welcome, but please note that it must be in good condition, and that we cannot accept items that are difficult to sell or dispose of, such as hazardous materials, paint, CRT (old style) TV sets, kitchen cabinets (yeah, we've gotten those!), large appliances (refrigerators, washing machines, etc.), tires, automobile batteries, or sets of encyclopedias.

Stuff to sell can be brought to the church beginning on Sunday, November 2, after the service. If you have stuff that you've just gotta get rid of before then (like you're moving to Arizona), give us a call at the furniture bank number (860 381-9224) and we'll see if we can arrange something.

Please note that we are no longer collecting used furniture for the Furniture Bank, and have very limited space for furniture at the tag sale. Furniture may be acceptable for the sale, but please **do not bring it to the sale** without checking with us first (can't stress this enough!). We may have to reject items that are too old, too large, in poor condition, or of limited utility.

We'll need lots of help!

It takes a whole week to set up and run the sale. It's a huge undertaking, but also a fun and rewarding way to reach out to the community. The more people who help out, the easier and more fun it becomes. Please consider joining us! We start setting up for the sale on November 2 right after church, and we'll need lots of help!

In case you didn't know:

The Furniture Bank, which began in 1982 as an outreach of St. Luke, gives new beds and cribs free of charge to people in financial need who are referred by social service agencies and churches. To date, we estimate that we have helped over 21,000 people. We have been running tag sales at St. Luke for 35 years (since 1990). The proceeds are used to supplement grant funds to purchase beds and cribs. Donations for the tag sale are tax-deductible. For further information, ask Karen or Mike Wuesthoff, or call the furniture bank at 860 381-9224.

Kids' Corner continues to meet the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

We are gearing up for our annual **Christmas Pageant** which will be presented on December 21. Noelle Hale will spearhead this year's multi-generational production, with support from other LLL teams members. However, additional volunteers are needed to help with rehearsals, costumes, and supervision. Please consider helping with this short-term project! As always, all children are welcomed to join us and teen/adult help is always needed and appreciated.

Middle School Youth Group is looking for adults to help coordinate and supervise events and activities for our 5th through 8th graders. Activities could include Halloween trunk or treat, bowling, corn maze, game night, movie night, and so on. Please see Leigh Sammons for more information.

In November, we'll host a single-session **Adult Forum**, led by Pr. Mark Lingle, Associate to the Bishop for Congregational Care. More information is coming soon!

Beginning in the new year, we are looking for people to lead adult forum learning opportunities. This could be a single-session on a topic or experience you'd like to share or a multi-week discussion group.

Nursery attendants are still needed. This is a paid position that can be job shared.

Please contact Leigh Sammons at lesammons@gmail.com for more information about lifelong learning opportunities at St.Luke.



The Crisis Meal Ministry team provides simple meals for church members and their families experiencing a crisis which makes meal preparation a burden. When help is needed, a volunteer on the Meal Ministry volunteer list is contacted to prepare a meal for the individual/family. This helps ease the burden of shopping and preparing meals while the family is spending time providing personal care, traveling to and from a hospital, and assisting with doctor appointments. The meal is then delivered to the family's home or in some cases the church kitchen for family pick-up. Thank you to all our "silent" volunteers who respond to a call to prepare simple meals for St. Luke folks. Dietary restrictions will be provided.

Could you help with this ministry? If you are a great cook or if you do take out, you can be part of this team. You will be called on infrequently.

Sue Anderson is the coordinator of the Crisis Meals ministry. To recommend someone who could be helped by having some meals prepared, please contact Pastor Heidi, the church office or Sue Anderson directly.

Advent Festival — A Celebration for Everyone!

BY LOUISE SWETLAND

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 30, for an Advent Festival Worship Service! An abbreviated time of word and sacrament will flow right into an all-ages celebration, perfect for kicking off the Advent season with joy, creativity, and community. Whether you're a lifelong member or joining us for the first time, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Sip on **coffee or cocoa**, nibble on **snacks**, and enjoy a cozy afternoon filled with fun and fellowship as we **decorate the church for Advent** and make it shine bright for the season.

There's something for everyone:

- **Cookie decorating** for kids and kids-at-heart
- **Advent wreath making** with three crafting levels:
 - A **beginner wreath** for preschoolers and young children
 - An **intermediate wreath** for those ready to craft a bit more
 - An **advanced wreath** using fresh evergreens for our experienced makers

Child care will be available, so everyone can take part in the festivities.

To make this meaningful event happen, we're looking for volunteers to help organize gathering fresh evergreens, prep wreath-making supplies, bake cookies, or assist at one of the fun activity stations on the day of the festival.

If you'd like to lend a hand, please sign up on the **Fellowship Bulletin Board** or contact **Louise Larson** at fellowship@stlukegf.org.

Come ready to create, connect, and celebrate the hope and beauty of the Advent season together!

It's the most wonderful time of the year to give a special gift that keeps on giving. If you have ninety minutes or so to spare, you can do just that by becoming a donor at our next Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday December 4th from 1:30 – 6:30 PM. This special gift may turn out to be life-saving for a family member, friend or neighbor. In the true spirit of Christmas, you may end up helping a complete stranger, a brother or sister in need. One thing is certain; you will make a life changing difference in someone's life.

There are some things you can do to make the most of your time and have a successful experience donating. Schedule a convenient appointment time on the sign-up sheet in the narthex, online at RedCrossBlood.org. or scan the QR appointment code. Within hours of your appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org/rapid pass to read materials. When you check-in and have completed the short survey, your time will be recorded on your name tag. Donors will be called in order of that time. It is likely that donors with early appointments will be processed more quickly than those with later appointments. There are 52 appointment slots available.

Meeting the requirements for adequate iron levels and passing the testing for infectious diseases can be a problem for potential donors. During the week before the drive, be sure to eat meals with iron rich foods and drink lots of water. Be sure to avoid fatty foods and alcoholic beverages. Pick-up a helpful fact sheet at the blood drive table, get a good night's sleep and drink an extra 16 ounces of water to experience a successful donation.

According to the Red Cross, every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood and more that 44,000 blood donations are needed every single day. The need is critical with many medical procedures delayed due to inadequate blood supplies. Contributions are essential in order to maintain a healthy and plentiful blood supply. The holidays bring a greater need than usual, due to increases in travel and corresponding increases in auto accidents, according to DMV statistics.

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! Visit the Blood Drive table in the narthex following our worship services on Nov. 9, 16, 23 and 30. If you can't donate blood, volunteers are always needed to: prepare refreshments, set-up, register donors, staff the refreshment table, sanitize surfaces or clean-up after the blood drive. A volunteer sign-up list is also on the Blood Drive table in the narthex.

Please join us in making a special life-saving gift to the community at our Blood Drive on Thursday December 4th from 1:30 p.m.– 6:30 p.m. We encourage everyone who is able, especially healthy younger donors, to participate. Many of our older donors are no longer able to donate blood. We look forward to welcoming you at our next blood drive.

Enjoy safe travels and blessed holidays.



Thanks to the generosity and support of our faithful donors at our October 2nd blood drive **33 useable units** of blood were collected. **99 people** will benefit from receiving a precious gift of life including: red cells, plasma and platelets. You are very **special donors** who are ensuring that there is a healthy blood supply available to save lives of those in need throughout the region. We were especially grateful to our St. Luke donors: Kristian Balinsky, Brad Dame, Fawn DeMello, Katie and Michael Johnson, John and Julie Perkins, Mary Robinson, Leigh and Jim Sammons, Brian Sturm and Erika Sullivan for their ever faithful commitment to serving community health.

Our dedicated St. Luke volunteers staffing the blood drive did a wonderful job. Our capable registrars Erika Sullivan and Linda Martin warmly welcomed and assisted donors with computer check-in. Peter Keefe and Elaine Remondi-Simpson provided set-up services. Canteen volunteers Gerry Swope, Sue Anderson, Linda Martin and Elaine Remondi-Simpson served donors homemade refreshments. Many thanks to: Joanne Erickson, Louise Larson, Elaine Lettiere, Linda Martin, Robin Nelson, Julie Perkins, Elaine Remondi-Simpson and Sandy Wimmermark for preparing delicious sandwiches and desserts for the appreciative donors. They were delighted with the selection provided for them. Linda Martin and Elaine Remondi-Simpson cleaned up efficiently at the end of the drive.

Thank you for coming together to support this worthy cause. We sincerely appreciate your time and efforts, especially during this time of critical need. You are essential to the success of our drives and investing in the health of our community. What a blessing to the givers and receivers alike! May God's abundant blessings be with you.

Save the Date

St. Luke will be hosting our annual December Blood Drive on
Thursday, December 4th from 1:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Select a convenient appointment time by: calling **1 (800) RED-CROSS** or sign up online www.redcross.org or by scanning the QR code at the table in the Narthex. The need for blood is still critical, and every single unit is precious to the health and well-being of the community. Donors make a huge difference in the quality of the lives of our neighbors, and it is a great way to reach out in the true spirit of Christmas giving.

Won't you consider investing in the health of the community by making a life saving donation?

Elaine Remondi-Simpson



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
FROM 1:30 - 6:30 P.M.

Dear St Luke church group,
and my family. Greeting to you
W finished writing
our end of term two test, we are going
to collect the results on the 8th August
and then we will close for a month.
we will be back in school on 8th
September. Thanks a lot
SV MRE KAWASA.



Dear ST LUKES,

Greetings to you all and to all the entire family, As for me
here am doing great. Am so happy to write this lovely letter to
inform you all how i wrote my mock exam, It was district
mock and it was fair. Am preparing for the Final exam and
i will start writing on the 20th November, 2025, am working
extra hard so that i can obtain good results. on my free
time i usually go to the library to read different kinds of
books, after reading a book i like to write a summary.
During ART subject we do different activities such as
making Ceramics, drawings, paintings, printings, sculptures,
Christmas cards, birth-day cards and graduation cards.
I even know how to make bottle deco and decorating
fabrics, I enjoy learning Art. When producing Crafts
we use different material. When making belts, bags,
shoes leather is used. At school every learner must
participate in every activities conducted during sports,
I enjoy watching netball a lot.

Looking forward to hear from you soon.

With lot of love.

Yours
Olipa Banda

BY GINA WILLIAMS

Join us for our Community Christmas Concert on Friday, December 5th at 7:00PM!

Joining with the St. Luke Senior Choir and JuBellation Handbell Choir will be once again the Ledyard High School Carolers and Tono Dolce Community Choir. A 12 piece orchestra will be performing.

The concert will open with Mannheim Steamroller's "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman" with orchestra and bells. The band will also perform "A New Orleans Nutcracker Suite" as well as the beloved "Sleigh Ride". Some other selections include Senior Choir singing a non-traditional rendition of "Angels We Have Heard on High" and bells rocking to the Beach Boys' "Little St. Nick". Combining all ensembles for the finale (approximately 66 singers, 12 instrumentalists and 13 bell ringers) we will close with the Christmas medley "Sing Joy!" and "White Christmas".

This concert is heavily attended so please come early to get a seat!



Community Christmas Concert

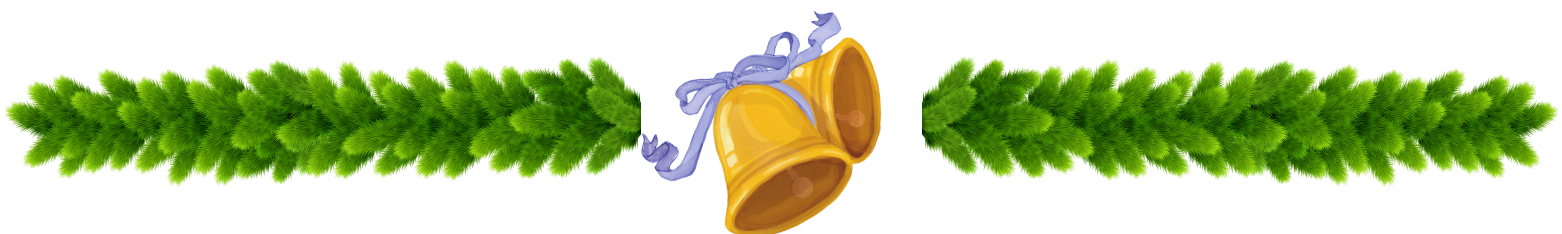
Friday, December 5, 7 pm

*Tono Dolce Community Choir
JuBellation Handbell Choir
St Luke Senior Choir
Ledyard HS Carolers
Orchestra*

St. Luke Lutheran Church
1830 Route 12
Gales Ferry, CT

Handicap accessible

stlukegf.org





Grins & Giggles Preschool News

BY NANCY RUPERT

Our field trip to Scott's Orchard was a huge success. The weather was perfect for picking apples and our families enjoyed the fall activity along with the children. We also enjoyed petting the live animals that the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center brought in to teach us about how animals get ready for winter. We petted a box turtle, rabbit and the pelts from a squirrel, bear and deer and enjoyed seeing a bird up close and personal. The letters "A" through "G" have been discovered and practiced and we have been enjoying our new sensory table. Soon we will be having our Halloween Party with our parents in costume handing out 'treats' to the children. Our focus will be on pumpkins, ghosts and witches and all things that go bump in the night! Our first two weeks of November will be our 'Animal' weeks and our last two weeks will be devoted to 'Thanksgiving'. As we enter the season of giving, we will be learning how important it is to give thanks for all that we have and share our good fortunes with those that do not have all our blessings.

Minutes of the September Congregation Council Meeting

St. Luke Lutheran Church Minutes of the Congregation Council Meeting September 18, 2025

Council Members in Attendance: Fawn DeMello, Mark Larson, John Perkins, Pat Robbins, Kellie August, Pastor Heidi, Brad Dame, and Al Nordquist

Excused absence: Erica Sullivan, Janis Vajdos

Recording secretary: Mark Larson

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Council President Fawn DeMello.

Devotions

- Pat Robbins led devotions.
- October devotions will be led by Kellie August.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to have the Congregation Council accept the agenda for tonight. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Approval of August 21, 2025 Minutes

- Motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to accept the approval of the August 21, 2025 Council minutes. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

President's Remarks

- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved to change the postage for the card ministry to be taken out of the postage budget line item. Motion passed.
- Fawn shared discussion from the President and Vice President Town Meeting with the New England Synod:
 - Stewardship and resources available through the NE Synod Theme "Rooted in God's Grace"
 - Changes to the Portico Benefits for Rostered Ministers: new wording in selecting the Health Insurance Benefits and new Compensation Guidelines will be available soon.
- Reviewing the Constitution for St. Luke Lutheran Church: we have received a Model Constitution from the New England Synod. Council will be updating the St. Luke Constitution to be reviewed and approved by the Congregation at the next annual meeting.

Church members comments/concerns

none

Financial Reports (See ministry report.)

- Al highlighted that giving is tracking closely with expenses.
- Stewardship Campaign: we are looking for someone to lead the fall campaign.
- The Audit Report is on track for acceptance at the October meeting.
- We would like to have a draft budget in November. All budget requests/estimates are asked to be submitted to Council by the October meeting.
- For budget purposes, Pastor Heidi will present a sabbatical proposal in October.

Minutes of the September Congregation Council Meeting

New Business

none

Pastor's Report (See Pastor's report.)

- Based on solicited feedback, Pastor Heidi will lead an adult forum about Christian Nationalism on Tuesday afternoons (9/30, 10/7, 10/14) and Thursday evenings (9/25, 10/2, 10/9) this fall.
- The executive team has been in discussions about the possibility of hosting a seminary intern in the near future. At this time, the consensus is that since the decision to host an intern will include a Congregational vote, we may vote in January, with the intent to host in 2027.

Purpose Teams Reports

- Evangelism (See ministry report.)
- Fellowship (See ministry report.)
- Lifelong Learning (See ministry report.)
- Outreach Ministry (See ministry report.)
 - Motion: (Kellie August) to approve fundraising for Lent with the ELCA Good Gifts. Motion was seconded. Discussion: there will be special envelopes created. Children at Kids' Corner will decide which animal will be funded. Motion passed.
 - Motion: (Kellie August) to use the donation of \$1,125 in the Good Samaritan Fun to purchase hygiene products St. Vincent DePaul. Motion was seconded. Discussion: the online shipping expenses are a concern. Is there a more local source that would eliminate shipping expenses? Motion passed.
 - The tag sale will be held November 7 and 8. The set up will begin November 2.
- Worship (See ministry report.)
 - There are still some issues to be resolved with the microphone system.
 - There will be a Ledyard High School and UConn Choral Concert on October 3.

Support Team Reports

- Communications (See ministry report.)
- Facilities
 - John will be seeking a licensed electrician to look at the ceiling fan in the sanctuary.
- Parish (See ministry report.)
- People Support (See ministry report.)

Motion: (Fawn DeMello) to accept all reports. Motion seconded. Discussion: none. Motion passed.

Old Business

none

The next meeting will be on October 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m., followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Treasurer's Report for September, 2025

St. Luke Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report for Month Ending September 30, 2025

October 9, 2025

Income Summary

Pledged offerings for the month of September were approximately \$7K below the monthly budget, resulting in pledged offerings for the year being approximately \$5.3K above the YTD budget. Grace Giving for the month of September was below the monthly budget by approximately \$1.2K, but generally consistent with previous months, except for the month of January, indicating that we were perhaps too optimistic with our annual budget for grace giving. With all offering sources combined, our YTD total offerings are approximately \$2.8K below the YTD budget.

Grins & Giggles income for the month of September was \$290 greater than the monthly budget, resulting in YTD Grins & Giggles income as of the end of September being approximately \$6.6K greater than the YTD budget.

We also earned \$427 in investment income in the month of September from our two Thrivent CD's.

With all budgeted income sources combined, our actual total budgeted income for the month of September was \$7330 less than the monthly budget, making the YTD total budgeted income approximately \$5.2K greater than the YTD budget.

A summary of the YTD September 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	20,970.10	28,000.00	258,346.03	253,000.00	338,147.00	79,800.97
Grace Giving	2,819.99	4,000.00	31,562.66	40,000.00	54,000.00	22,437.34
Loose Cash Offering	471.00	300.00	3,464.55	2,700.00	3,600.00	135.45
Special Envelopes	0.00	0.00	520.00	1,000.00	2,600.00	2,080.00
Offerings	\$24,261.09	\$32,300.00	\$293,893.24	\$296,700.00	\$398,347.00	\$104,453.76
Building Use	425.63	208.00	2,716.89	1,872.00	2,500.00	(216.89)
Structures Income	\$425.63	\$208.00	\$2,716.89	\$1,872.00	\$2,500.00	(\$216.89)
Investments Div/Interest	426.78	225.00	1,894.92	1,325.00	2,000.00	105.08
Other Income	\$426.78	\$225.00	\$1,894.92	\$1,325.00	\$2,000.00	\$105.08
Grins & Giggles Income - Donations	0.00		391.20			
Grins & Giggles Income-Tuition	8,390.00	8,100.00	67,540.00	61,550.00	85,850.00	18,310.00
Grins & Giggles Income-Registration fees	50.00	50.00	835.00	600.00	700.00	(135.00)
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$8,440.00	\$8,150.00	\$68,766.20	\$62,150.00	\$86,550.00	\$18,175.00
Total Budgeted Income	\$33,553.50	\$40,883.00	\$367,271.25	\$362,047.00	\$489,397.00	\$122,516.95

In addition to budgeted income, there was also \$1526 of unbudgeted income in the month of September, primarily from \$1145 in donations to the Good Samaritan Fund, and several other small donations.

Total Budgeted YTD Expenses of \$373,671.66 is greater than the YTD budget of \$371,473.00 by \$2198.66 as of the end of September. September budgeted expenses were less than the monthly budget by \$923.07.

Treasurer's Report for September, 2025

Grins & Giggles YTD Expenses of \$65,398.41 is greater than the budget of \$64,109.00 by \$1298.41, mostly due to teacher salaries.

Net Results: As of the end of September 2025 we have an Actual YTD Total Income of \$464,805.19, and Total Expenses of \$399,361.45, resulting in a difference of \$65,443.74. A high-level year to date summary is in the tables below.

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Budgeted Income	\$33,553.50	\$40,883.00	\$367,271.25	\$362,047.00	\$489,397.00	\$122,516.95
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$34,230.93	\$35,154.00	\$373,671.66	\$371,473.00	\$506,779.00	\$133,331.54
Budgeted Income/Expense Difference	(\$677.43)	\$5,729.00	(\$6,400.41)	(\$9,426.00)	(\$17,382.00)	(\$10,814.59)
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$8,440.00	\$8,150.00	\$68,766.20	\$62,150.00	\$86,550.00	\$18,175.00
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$6,513.02	\$6,594.00	\$65,398.41	\$64,109.00	\$87,130.00	\$21,867.18
Grins & Giggles Income/Expense Difference	\$1,926.98	\$1,556.00	\$3,367.79	(\$1,959.00)	(\$580.00)	(\$3,692.18)
Total Income	\$35,079.46	\$40,883.00	\$464,805.19	\$362,047.00	\$505,255.00	\$138,374.95
Total Expense	\$34,549.17	\$35,154.00	\$399,361.45	\$371,473.00	\$506,779.00	\$133,331.54
Total Income/Expense Difference	\$530.29	\$5,729.00	\$65,443.74	(\$9,426.00)	(\$1,524.00)	\$5,043.41

Other Treasurer Activity:

- Reviewed bi-weekly payroll
- Reviewed monthly bank reconciliation
- Met with Bookkeeper on 9/30/25 to discuss yearly goals and accomplishments

Respectfully Submitted,
Alan Nordquist
Treasurer

Consolidated Fund Activity Report September 2025

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

Thursday, October 2, 2025

Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
<i>Administrative-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Sabbatical Fund Balance	9,750.00	-	-	-	9,750.00
Special Gifts Balance	225.01	-	-	-	225.01
Staff Development Balance	3,886.15	-	-	-	3,886.15
<i>Building Fund Balance</i>					
General Building Fund Balance	22,735.77	10.00	-	-	22,745.77
Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,542.36	10.00	-	-	4,552.36
<i>Discretionary Gifts Balance</i>					
Camp Calumet Scholarships Balance	700.00	-	-	-	700.00
Council Discretionary Fund Balance	3,107.20	-	-	-	3,107.20
Good Samaritan Fund Balance	5,635.42	1,145.00	-	-	6,780.42
Pastors' Discretionary Balance	13,251.99	-	175.00	-	13,076.99
Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	1,610.67	-	103.24	-	1,507.43
<i>Facilities Support-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Memorial Garden Balance	3,749.68	100.00	40.00	-	3,809.68
<i>Family Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Family Ministry Activities Balance	208.00	-	-	-	208.00
<i>Fellowship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Fellowship Furnishings Balance	6,021.56	-	-	-	6,021.56
Fellowship Special Events Balance	2,534.64	-	-	-	2,534.64
Flowers Balance	(268.10)	50.00	-	-	(218.10)
General Operating Fund Balance	42,454.72	33,553.50	34,230.93	-	41,777.29
<i>Life Long Learning-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Ecumenical VBS Balance	252.58	-	-	-	252.58
Grins & Giggles Donations Balance	265.47	-	-	-	265.47
Women's Retreat Balance	236.12	-	-	-	236.12
Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	4,032.68	10.00	-	-	4,042.68
Memorial Fund Balance	6,501.31	-	-	-	6,501.31
<i>Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Community Garden Fund Balance	56.31	-	-	-	56.31
Meal Center Balance	1,260.00	-	-	-	1,260.00
Net Fixed Asset Fund Balance	1,918,224.00	-	-	-	1,918,224.00
<i>Special Programs Balance</i>					
Great Lakes Scrip Program Balance	2,268.06	175.00	-	-	2,443.06
Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	93,988.99	-	-	-	93,988.99
<i>Worship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Handbell Program Fund Balance	1,473.91	-	-	-	1,473.91
Special Music Balance	2,518.65	25.96	-	-	2,544.61
<i>Youth-Dedicated Balance</i>					
ELCA Youth Gathering Balance	5,960.48	-	-	-	5,960.48
Youth Mission Trip Balance	522.15	-	-	-	522.15
Total	<u>\$2,157,705.78</u>	<u>\$35,079.46</u>	<u>\$34,549.17</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,158,236.07</u>

Thanksgiving Word Search

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

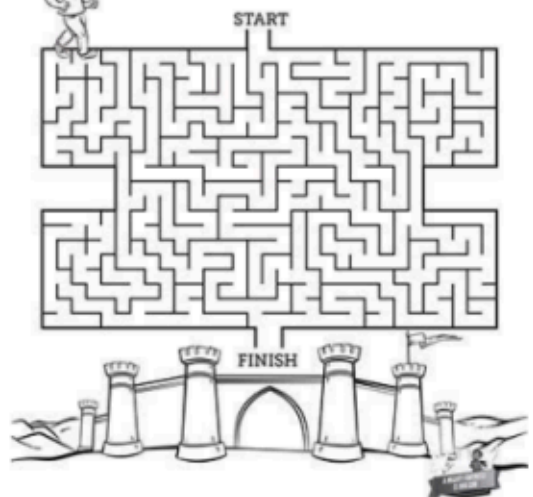
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AUTUMN	LAUGHTER
BAKE	LEFTOVERS
BLESSINGS	LOVE
CHRIST	NAP
CHRISTIAN	NOVEMBER
CHURCH	PARADE
FEAST	PIE
FELLOWSHIP	PRaise
FRIENDS	PRAYERS
GATHERING	PUMPKIN
GIVING	SHARING
GOBBLE	TABLE
BOD	THURSDAY
GRATITUDE	TRADITION
GRAVY	TURKEY
HARVEST	WORSHIP
JESUS	YUM

THANK YOU GOD
FOR AUTUMN!

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

Lead the young boy to God's Fortress



Prayer List

Pray for healing:

Matthew (step-brother of Laura Parsons)
Dawn Nienow (sister of Cathy Hanson)
Chris Domerchie (father in law of Roy Belhumeur)
Vicki Breuell (friend of the Nelsons)
Cheryl Banker (rehearsal pianist)
Mandy Kelly (friend of the Wuesthoffs)
Dick Wimmermark
Suzanne Etris
Linda Snarski (friend of Elaine Remondi-Simpson)
Billy Johnson (friend of the Steinnagels)
Kevin Ames (friend of the Steinnagels)
Livingston Carroll (brother of Patricia Carroll-French)
Travis Turner

Linda Lovewell (former member)
Doris Remondi (mother of Elaine Remondi-Simpson)
Kasey Peek
Michele Clements
Claudia Sanchez (sister of Rut Sanchez)
Chip Moran
Donna (friend of Leigh Sammons)
Julia Side
Linda Wilkinson
Marie
Joy Elisabeth (daughter of Patricia Carroll-French)
Sandy (friend of Patricia Carroll-French)

Pray for those who are

Grieving:

Including the family and friends of
Dolores Nienow (aunt of Cathy Hanson)
Bob Erickson

Sue DeCosta-Crawford (friend of Jill & James Ragland)
Judy Stevens (aunt of Fawn DeMello)
Alan Habbe (neighbor of Jacqueline Leone)
Herbert Holmstedt (father of Kirsten Holmstedt)

Pray for active duty military:

Nicholas Tavernay (friend of Janeese Watson)
Caleb
Henry Yanaway
Christian Conrad
Adrian Estrella
Martin Wuesthoff
Andy Sammons
Derek Raymond
Patrick Wimmermark

Pray for homebound, those receiving long-term care, & their caregivers:

Nick Iario (relative of Kathleen Bartkowski)
Joseph
Kathy Dame
Fred Launer
Pauline Wanner
Bob Chernansky
Jenny Waller
Lynn Minichino

Our partners in ministry & mission:

The Furniture Bank of SE CT
The New London Community Meal Center



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.

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

November Celebrations

Birthdays:

Barbara Candler	11/16
Sue Conley	11/25
Grace DeMarco	11/14
Elijah Keefe	11/20
Mark Larson	11/08
Linda Martin	11/30
Jane Nolan	11/02
Larry Parsons	11/16
Angie Phillips	11/26
James Ragland	11/30
David Zitzkat	11/28
Mikayla Zitzkat	11/12
Tyler Zitzkat	11/29

Wedding Anniversaries: (# of Years Married)

Bob & Gail Chernansky	11/17	(63)
Harry & Marie Tobiassen	11/01	(56)

Baptismal Birthdays:

Aberle, Raegan	11/03/2019
Chernansky, Debbie	11/26/1964
Felty, Harlan	11/01/2015
Heller, Ray	11/02/1952
Keefe, Kelsey	11/04/1990
Lambert, Joan	11/01/1942
Launer-Felty, Katie	11/03/1985
Miller, Oliver	11/17/2019
Minichino, Phil	11/??/1967
Nicki, Nathaniel	11/04/2018
Nordquist, Tammy	11/18/1973
Suplicki, Pamela	11/28/1971

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.

ST. LUKE--SCHEDULE TO SERVE - November 2025

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers
11/2								
9:30	Edna Johnson	David Zitzkat Ray Heller		Liese Zitzkat	Diane Hansen & Jerry Swope		Roni & Kristian	Lisa McCabe
11/9								
9:30	Grace DeMarco	Dave Goodrich Al Nordquist		Bob Nelson	Marty Wood & Nancy Ruptert		Dave & Brad	Felix Vajdos
11/16								
9:30	Joan Lambert	David Zitzkat Ray Heller		Bonnie Fear	Kari Hammen & Robin Nelson		Kristian & Al	Fawn DeMello
11/23								
9:30	Joanne Erickson	Dennis Sindel John Perkins		Fawn DeMello	Robin Nelson & Pat Robbins		Jim & Brad	Erica Sullivan
11/30								
9:30	Barb Candler	John Robbins John Perkins		Bonnie Fear	Jerry Swope & Charlie Anderson		Dave & Brad	Cyndi Arnold

This schedule compiled as of 10/28/2025; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

Church Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 2025

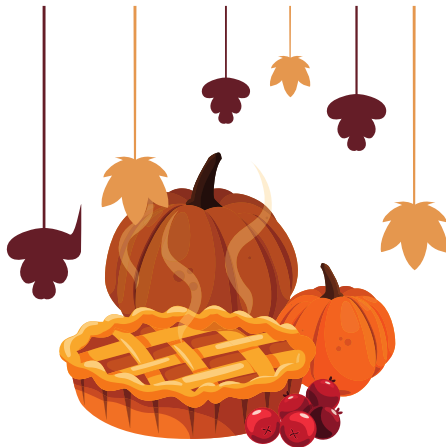
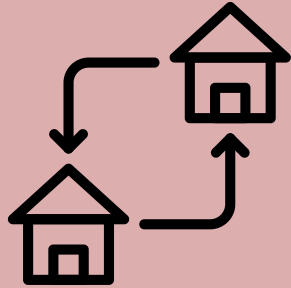
*Community Group

Music Rehearsals:

Monday 5:00pm - Grace Notes
Tuesday 6:00pm - The Belles
Wednesday 9:00am - EmBellish
Wednesday 7:00pm - JuBELLation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 9:00am Bob Erickson Visitation Hours 10:00am Bob Erickson Celebration of Life 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
2 All Saints Day CELEBRATE Coffee Hour Tag Sale Set-up 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 2:30pm New London Meal Center	3 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA*	4 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	5 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	6 9:00am Grins & Giggles	7 Tag Sale 9:00am Grins & Giggles	8 Tag Sale 10:00am OA* 10:30am Women's Group 7:00pm AA*
9 Consecration Sunday Kids' Corner Lifelong Learning Meeting 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	10 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 6:30pm Fellowship Team Meeting 7:00pm AA*	11 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Executive Planning Team 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	12 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	13 9:00am Grins & Giggles	14 9:00am Grins & Giggles	15 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
16 9:30am In-person Worship & Livestream worship	17 SCROLL DEADLINE 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Girls Scouts 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA*	18 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm The Belles 6:30pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting* 7:00pm Senior Choir	19 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	20 9:00am Grins & Giggles 6:00pm CONGREGATION COUNCIL	21 9:00am Grins & Giggles	22 10:00am OA* 10:30am Women's Group 7:00pm AA*
23 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	24 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm AA*	25 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 2:15pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	26 9:00am EmBellish 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 Organist Kathleen's birthday 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA* 30 Advent Festival 9:30am In- person & Livestream worship

*Please inform the Church
Office of any address,
telephone number, or email
changes. Email changes to
parishadmin@stlukegf.org or
call 860-464-7897.*

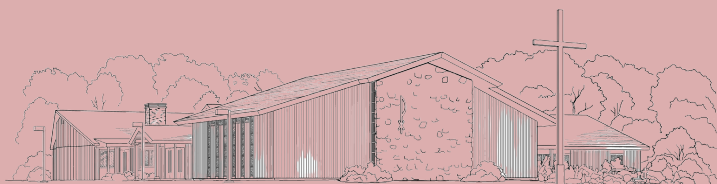


St. Luke Lutheran Church

1830 Route 12
Gales Ferry, CT 06335
Phone: 860-464-7897
Fax: 860-464-7742
Website: stlukegf.org

*A member of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

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



St. Luke Lutheran Church

1830 Route 12
Gales Ferry, CT 06335
Ph. 860-464-7897
Fax: 860-464-7742
Emergency #: 860-617-9343
www.stlukegf.org

Office Hours:

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

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor Heidi Johnston
pastorheidi@stlukegf.org
Emergency #: 860-381-0884
www.stlukegf.org
Lead Pastor

Gina Marie Williams
gina@stlukegf.org
*Director of Music and
Worship Technology*

Diane Hansen
diane@stlukegf.org
Bookkeeper

Rachel Goodman
parishadmin@stlukegf.org
Parish Administrator

Kathleen Bartkowski
Organist/Accompanist

Katie Kenney
communications@stlukegf.org
Communications Coordinator

Melissa Spera
Custodian

OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Fawn DeMello
fdemello@comcast.net
President

Mark Larson
mwlarson1@yahoo.com
Vice-President

Alan Nordquist
treasurer@stlukegf.org
Treasurer