

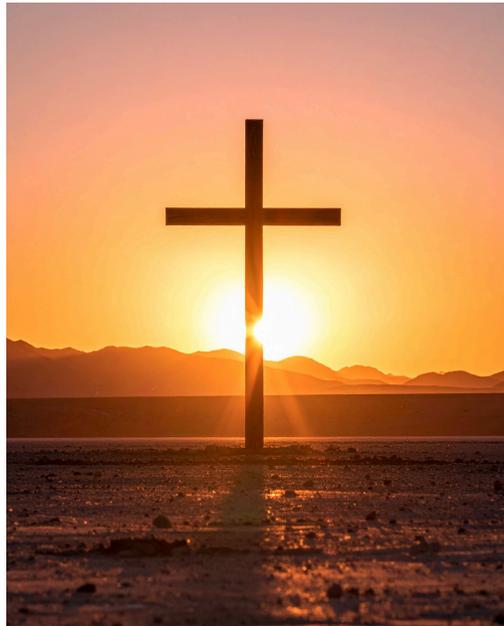


The Scroll

APRIL 2026



“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



Happy EASTER season, St. Luke Siblings in Christ!

In this season of resurrection, we rejoice in the new life we receive through Christ. Martin Luther taught that we experience a daily dying and rising in Christ, so we are truly resurrection people, but also Good Friday people. We experience death - a full acknowledgement of the habits and actions and mindsets that disrupt the abundant life that God desires for us and for all of Creation. Through Christ, we are able to die to that old way of being in the world, separated from God and one another and Creation. We submerge into death with Christ to rise refreshed for a new way of living, inspired and sustained by God's breath and vision for a just and loving world. And then, tomorrow, we get to die and rise AGAIN, because God's grace gives us chances to do better tomorrow than we were able to do today.

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Follow Us! @stlukegf

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With the Holy Spirit's help, we get to put the "old self" of unproductive anger, and destructive despair to rest in the grave, and rise, stirred up with passion for helping bring about God's kin-dom. NEW LIFE doesn't necessarily mean a totally different life, with different people, a different job, or different hair color. It *might* mean transition and making different choices, but God promises us new life in the midst of our right-now lives. New life in Christ today might mean new courage to speak truth, a new outlook on an old problem, or a deeper well of patience for a prolonged and trying life circumstance.

What a joy that we get to support one another, living in gratitude for this invitation into daily dying and rising with Christ.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
Pastor Heidi Johnston

Presidential Notes

BY FAWN DEMELLO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



On March 14th, we had our Congregation Council Retreat this year at Camp Wightman in Griswold. Our theme was "Spiritual Gifts". We did a different perspective on our talk in how we did not do the 60 question assessment, instead we looked at how others see us and our Spiritual Gifts. Pastor Heidi led us in our devotion time, I in turn had us do a puzzle piece in working together, but in silence. I observed how each of us worked together in different ways to achieve our goal.

We learned a great deal about each other when we decorated individual wooden puzzle pieces in expressing ourselves that many of us didn't know about the other person, then put them together as a team. We did one - on - ones where we talked about what we saw in that person. Some people were surprised by what others said and what they have observed of that person.

We concluded with a celebration of our gifts in praying for the person we talked to and how we are willing to grow within ourselves but through Jesus Christ our Savior. It was a great day and I am grateful for a wonderful group of people to lead us into this next year.

Peace
Fawn



Welcome

St. Luke is delighted to welcome Pr. Mike Lembke as the coverage and contact pastor while Pr. Heidi is on sabbatical. Pr. Mike will serve in this capacity May 4 - August 1, 2026. Pr. Mike's main responsibilities will be focused on Word & Sacrament ministry at St. Luke, and emergency pastoral support when needed.



Chikumbuso Update

BY JEANNE STEINNAGEL



This is Olipa Banda, whom St. Luke has been sponsoring for several years now. Olipa has been working very hard at her studies since she started school. She passed her ninth-grade exams with very high marks and is now in grade 10. She has two years to finish her high school. Olipa is very grateful for the sponsorship she receives from St. Luke's church.

Correction: In last month's Scroll, one of the emails for writing to Olipa Banda or Yvonne Kawaya, our sponsored children at Chikumbuso was incorrect. The correct addresses are:

chikumbuso@chikumbuso.com and lisav@chikumbuso.com

On Thursday April 9th , we have another opportunity to host a blood drive to meet the ongoing demand for a healthy viable blood supply for the community. This special gift of a blood donation is always needed, especially during this stormy winter of many cancelled blood drives. About thirty percent of people are able to meet the requirements to donate blood and many of our loyal donors, who have given generously for decades, are less able to participate due to changes in requirements or their health status. New donors are always needed and you certainly will make a life affirming difference in someone's life. Did you know that cancer patients require several units of blood and platelets to rebuild their systems after each chemotherapy treatment?

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. The need is constant and the contributions are essential in order to maintain a healthy and plentiful blood supply. Additionally, the Red Cross policies are always changing and sometimes they exclude blood from donors they had accepted previously in the interest of public safety.

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! There are three easy ways to sign up to become a donor. 1) Sign up at the Blood Drive table in the narthex following our worship services on March 15, 22, 29 and April 5, 2) Make an appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or 3) Sign-up online at www.redcross.org . or scan the QR code. If you can't donate blood, volunteers are always needed to prepare refreshments or staff the blood drive. St. Luke blood drives are well known for providing delicious homemade baked goods and a reason that many donors prefer to donate here. We need a few new volunteers to help staff our drive. If you have not participated before, please consider baking or volunteering a few hours of your time at the drive. You will find the volunteer sign-up list at the Blood Drive table in the narthex, along with information about giving blood.

Won't you spare an hour or two of your time and join us in making a meaningful life- saving difference in the community? We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Blood Drive on Thursday April 9th from 1:30 - 6:30 p.m. (The Thursday after Easter)

Looking forward to warm spring days and signs of new life..

Elaine Remondi-Simpson



Scan here for Rapid Pass



The St. Luke Outreach Team is always doing something to help community needs and help is needed and welcomed!

In April, we will conclude our **ELCA Good Gifts** purchase of chicks which will be given to families in developing countries. At this time, we have purchased 148 broods of chicks.

On April 9, we will host our spring **Blood Drive**. Donors and helpers are needed. We have a reputation for having a great canteen and donations of food are needed. Sign-up sheets are available on Sunday in the Narthex or through redcross.org.

Our spring tag sale to benefit The Furniture Bank of SECT will be held on **June 5 and 6**. Donations may be brought to church beginning Sunday, May 31. The tag sale is a huge undertaking. MANY hands are needed throughout the week to make this major fundraiser a success.

We collaborate with the Vo-Ag department students at Ledyard High School who will start seedlings for **The Community Garden**. Work in the garden has begun and many hands are needed to support this significant community project.

Our support for **Global Ministries through Chikumbuso** continues through financial donations to support 2 students who St. Luke sponsors, additional contributions toward a college fund, as well as helping fund repairs to the roof for one of the widows. The 2 students we sponsor send occasional letters to us and would love to receive a card or note in return. Cards can be given to Jeanne Steinnagel who will ensure they make it to Zambia.

The newly formed **Card Ministry** continues to send cards to members on our prayer list. The cards are very well-received and appreciated by recipients. We are always in need of blank cards, thinking-of-you cards, and sympathy cards which can be left in the box in the office work room.

We have many opportunities for **Outreach** throughout the year and are always in need of "hands on" as well as "behind the scenes" help. Please see Leigh Sammons to find out how you can become involved.





Grins & Giggles Preschool News

BY NANCY RUPERT

In March we traveled the world learning about Italy, England, India, Peru, France and the Netherlands. We all had our 'passports' stamped in each country, and we decided 'how' we were going to travel to each country. During St. Patrick's week the leprechauns invaded hiding their pots of gold for the children to find and rainbows showing up in the artwork all week. We finished the month preparing for Easter and all of springs new beginnings. Our Easter Egg hunt will be the first week of April.

The children had 'Photo Day' on March 25th and thankfully there were smiles all round! After Easter we will have a week called 'Our Beautiful Earth' focusing on ways to take care of our planet; Reduce, reuse and recycle and Say No to plastic, Say Yes to Life. The children will be using recycled materials to create a craft so we are looking for clean, random materials that they can use to design their masterpieces. If you have any to donate, please drop them off in the office before April 9th. Thank you! During April we will be enjoying our Spring Vacation and then return to the theme, 'Spectacular Spring'!

Interviews have begun for the fall and at this writing the MWF class is one short of full and the TTh class is half full. Two of our three kids camp weeks are full as well!

Happy Spring!

Minutes of the February Congregation Council Meeting

St. Luke Lutheran Church Minutes of the Congregation Council Meeting February 19, 2026

Councilors in attendance: Fawn DeMello, Pastor Heidi Johnston, Helmut Steinnagel, Brad Dame, Alan Nordquist, Erica Sullivan, Pat Robbins, Janis Vajdos, Leigh Sammons

Recording secretary: Mitchell Robinson

Council President Fawn DeMello called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Devotions

- Fawn DeMello led devotions.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded to approve the agenda with the following changes. The motion carried.
 - Backup for Bookkeeper
 - Changes to sexton job description.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded to approve the January 15, 2026, Council minutes.
- The approval of Gina Donovan to serve as Cash Disbursements Clerk via eVote February 10, 2026, was noted.
- There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Appointing Parliamentarian for Congregation Council

Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded to nominate Janis Vajdos as parliamentarian. Motion carried.

President's Remarks

- Fawn DeMello discussed the Executive Report.
- Covenant for Congregation Council
- Calendar Meeting-Planned for March 1.
- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded that Congregation Council to approve paying Pastor Michael Lembke 10% of the salary paid by St. Luke for his retirement and 1% of the salary paid by St. Luke for life insurance and disability in the Sabbatical Contract. Following discussion, the motion carried.
- The Congregation Council one-day retreat is planned for March 14, 2026, at Camp Wightman from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm.
- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded that the Congregation Council approve \$358.00 from the Council Discretionary Fund Balance to pay Camp Wightman for the Congregation Council retreat.

Minutes of the February Congregation Council Meeting

- The next Council meeting will be on March 18, 2026, due to Lenten Soup and Study on Thursday.

Church Members' Comments/Concerns

- None

Financial Reports

- Please refer to the Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet, and Consolidated Fund Activity Report documents.
- The Council discussed the possibility of appointing a backup for the Bookkeeper to perform payroll functions in the event the Bookkeeper is absent. Al Nordquist will follow-up with the cognizant stakeholders.

Pastor's Report

- Please refer to the Pastor's Report document.
 - Plans for a sabbatical sending for Pastor Heidi Johnson and welcome event for Pastor Michael Lembke
 - Pastor Heidi Johnson reported that she received a \$3,645 sabbatical grant from the New England Synod ELCA.

Purpose Teams Reports

- Evangelism
 - Nothing to report.
- Fellowship
 - Please refer to the Fellowship Report document.
 - Janis Vajdos emphasized that the Easter Breakfast cannot happen unless enough people volunteer to help.
 - Motion: Janis Vajdos moved and it was seconded that the Congregation Council approve that the Fellowship Team purchase 12-15 new tables to be funded from the Building Fund for no more \$4,000.
 - Al Nordquist moved and seconded to amend the motion that the tables be funded from the Fellowship Furnishings Fund. Following discussion, the amendment carried. After further discussion, the motion carried as amended.
- Lifelong Learning
 - Please refer to the Lifelong Learning Report document.
- Outreach Ministry
 - Please refer to the Outreach Report document.
- Worship
 - Please refer to the Worship Team Activity Summary and Director of Music Council Report documents.

Support Team Reports

- Communications
 - Please refer to the Communications Report document.
 - The Communications Laptop has charging issues. Brad will follow up to clarify the repairs required.

Minutes of the February Congregation Council Meeting

- Facilities
 - Please refer to the Facilities Report document.
 - Two estimates were received for painting the church exterior (two coats of paint). John Perkins will obtain a third estimate.
 - Pastor Heidi Johnston noted Mark Gaudette helped repair the leak resulting from an ice dam.
 - Pastor Heidi Johnston requested clarity on the requirements of the snow removal contract.
- Parish
 - Please refer to the Church Office Report document.
- People
 - Please refer to the People Support Report document.

Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded that the Congregation Council approve an updated Job Description for the Church Sexton. After the discussion motion carried

Motion to Accept All Reports

- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded to accept all reports, and any changes will be noted in subsequent reports. The motion carried.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Helmut inquired about the \$500 deposit that Calumet is holding for the Adult Ski weekend. Due to the level of attendance for this event, the deposit is no longer required. After discussion, Fawn DeMello instructed Helmut to request that Calumet return the money to St. Luke.

Next meeting will be March 18, 2026, at 6:00 pm in person.

Devotions: Pastor Heidi Johnston.

Motion to Adjourn and Closing Prayer - Lord's Prayer

- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion. The motion carried.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Robinson, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report for February 2026

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report for Month Ending
February 28, 2026

March 15, 2026

Income Summary

Pledged offerings for the month of February were approximately \$7.2K below the monthly budget, resulting in pledged offerings for the year being approximately \$8.3K below the YTD budget. Grace Giving for the month of February was above the monthly budget by approximately \$4.1K, and far exceeded our typical monthly grace giving. With all offering sources combined, our YTD total offerings are approximately \$3.3K below the YTD budget.

Grins & Giggles income for the month of February was slightly above the monthly budget, resulting in YTD Grins & Giggles income as of the end of February being \$861 greater than the YTD budget.

We also earned \$386 in investment income in the month of February, primarily from our two Thrivent CD's.

With all budgeted income sources combined, our actual total budgeted income for the month of February was \$1.7K less than the monthly budget, making the YTD total budgeted income \$1.5K less than the YTD budget.

A summary of the YTD February 2026 budgeted income is provided in the table below:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Pledges	22,821.37	30,000.00	66,656.44	75,000.00	371,268.00	304,611.56
Grace Giving	7,118.50	3,000.00	11,648.12	7,000.00	37,700.00	26,051.88
Loose Cash Offering	366.00	333.00	525.00	666.00	4,000.00	3,475.00
Special Envelopes ASH WEDNESDAY	534.00	0.00	534.00	0.00	1,700.00	1,166.00
Offerings	\$30,839.87	\$33,333.00	\$79,363.56	\$82,666.00	\$414,668.00	\$335,304.44
Building Use	225.63	283.00	701.26	566.00	3,400.00	2,698.74
Special Collections ELCA GOOD GIFTS	780.40		780.40			
Structures Income	\$1,006.03	\$283.00	\$1,481.66	\$566.00	\$3,400.00	\$2,698.74
Investments Div/Interest	386.39	400.00	780.13	800.00	4,920.00	4,139.87
Other Income	\$386.39	\$400.00	\$780.13	\$800.00	\$4,920.00	\$4,139.87
Grins & Giggles Income - Donations	0.00		15.00			
Grins & Giggles Income-Tuition	8,690.00	8,600.00	18,080.00	17,200.00	94,579.00	76,499.00
Grins & Giggles Income-Registration fees	100.00	92.00	150.00	184.00	1,100.00	950.00
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$8,790.00	\$8,692.00	\$18,245.00	\$17,384.00	\$95,679.00	\$77,449.00
Total Budgeted Income	\$41,022.29	\$42,708.00	\$99,870.35	\$101,416.00	\$518,667.00	\$419,592.05

In addition to budgeted income, there was also \$42,641 of unbudgeted income in the month of February. This included \$36,331 in the latest Employee Retention Tax Credit from the IRS, \$3645 in Sabbatical Grants from the ELCA New England Synod (which is expected to be spent during Pr. Heidi's upcoming sabbatical), and donations to our intern fund.

Expense Summary

Treasurer 's Report for February 2026

Total Budgeted YTD Expenses of \$88,452.28 is less than the YTD budget of \$93,615.00 by \$5162.72 as of the end of February. February budgeted expenses were less than the monthly budget by \$2630.01.

Grins & Giggles YTD Expenses of \$15,372.20 is less than the budget of \$17,536.00 by \$2063.80.

Net Results: As of the end of February 2026 we have an Actual YTD Total Income of \$148,046.36, and Total Expenses of \$90,898.48, resulting in a difference of \$57,147.88. 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	\$41,022.29	\$42,708.00	\$99,870.35	\$101,416.00	\$518,667.00	\$419,592.05
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$42,641.99	\$45,272.00	\$88,452.28	\$93,615.00	\$534,359.00	\$445,921.72
Budgeted Income/Expense Difference	(\$1,619.70)	(\$2,564.00)	\$11,418.07	\$7,801.00	(\$15,692.00)	(\$26,329.67)
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$8,790.00	\$8,692.00	\$18,245.00	\$17,384.00	\$95,679.00	\$77,449.00
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$7,753.94	\$8,831.00	\$15,372.20	\$17,436.00	\$96,627.00	\$81,269.80
Grins & Giggles Income/Expense Difference	\$1,036.06	(\$139.00)	\$2,872.80	(\$52.00)	(\$948.00)	(\$3,820.80)
Total Income	\$83,662.91	\$42,708.00	\$148,046.36	\$101,416.00	\$534,361.00	\$435,286.05
Total Expense	\$44,836.09	\$45,272.00	\$90,898.48	\$93,615.00	\$534,359.00	\$445,921.72
Total Income/Expense Difference	\$38,826.82	(\$2,564.00)	\$57,147.88	\$7,801.00	\$2.00	(\$10,635.67)

Other Treasurer Activity:

- Reviewed bi-weekly payroll
- Reviewed February bank reconciliation
- Signed multiple checks in absence of cash disbursements clerk
- Added Regina Donovan, our new Cash Disbursements Clerk, to our bank accounts at Dime Bank and removed Kathy West
- Discussed Bookkeeper payroll backup with a St. Luke member who is potentially interested in this position

Respectfully Submitted,
 Alan Nordquist
 Treasurer

Consolidated Fund Activity Report February 2026

St Luke Lutheran Church - Gales Ferry CT Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 02/28/2026

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	End Balance
3.1001.1001	General Operating Fund Balance	43,546.31	99,855.35	88,437.28	54,964.38
3.1001.1002	<i>General Fd - Unrestricted</i>				
3.2002.1017	External Auditor Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.1001.1003	Investments	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.1050.1000	<i>Building Fund Balance</i>				
3.1050.1001	General Building Fund Balance	22,382.55	20.00	-	22,402.55
3.1050.1002	Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,582.36	20.00	-	4,602.36
3.1050.1020	Solar Panel Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.1056.1000	Wedding Facilities Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.1060.1000	Memorial Fund Balance	7,098.27	-	-	7,098.27
3.1070.1000	Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	14,072.68	20.00	-	14,092.68
3.1080.1000	Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	93,727.25	36,330.62	-	130,057.87
3.2001.1000	<i>Worship-Dedicated Balance</i>				
3.2001.1001	Special Music Balance	2,544.61	-	-	2,544.61
3.2001.1002	Celebrate Team Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2001.1003	Handbell Program Fund Balance	787.91	-	52.10	735.81
3.2001.1006	AGEHR/Festival Conference Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2001.1007	Music Programs Uniforms Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2001.1004	Rockin Ringers Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2001.2020	Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	2,121.43	153.00	-	2,274.43
3.2002.1000	<i>Administrative-Dedicated Balance</i>				
3.2002.1001	Purchase reimbursement Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2002.1003	Intransit Items Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2002.1004	Special Gifts Balance	180.04	1,000.00	1,000.00	180.04
3.2002.1006	Staff Development Balance	3,794.80	-	-	3,794.80
3.2002.1009	Surplus Allocation Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2002.1010	Members Scholarship Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2002.1011	Staff Gifts Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2002.1012	Sabbatical Fund Balance	9,750.00	6,145.00	-	15,895.00
3.2002.1015	TSA-Pastor Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2002.1100	Internship Program Balance	0.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
3.2002.1500	Payroll Advance - Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2002.1007	Flowers Balance	(141.34)	127.39	21.25	(35.20)
3.2003.1000	<i>Evangelism-Dedicated Balance</i>				
3.2003.1003	Prayer Shawl Ministry Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2004.1000	<i>Fellowship-Dedicated Balance</i>				
3.2004.1001	Advent Festival Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2004.1002	Men's Breakfast Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2004.1003	Adult Ski Trip Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2004.1004	Soup Sunday Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2004.1005	Fellowship Special Events Balance	2,111.96	-	-	2,111.96
3.2004.1007	Soup-er Bowl Sunday Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2004.1010	Fellowship Furnishings Balance	6,021.56	-	-	6,021.56
3.2005.1000	<i>Special Programs Balance</i>				
3.2005.1002	Great Lakes Scrip Program Balance	2,382.25	175.00	-	2,557.25
3.2005.1003	Eagle Scout Project Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2006.1000	<i>Youth-Dedicated Balance</i>				
3.2006.1001	Hamonasset Weekend Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2006.1002	Youth Events Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2006.1003	ELCA Youth Gathering Balance	5,960.48	2,100.00	-	8,060.48
3.2006.1004	Youth Mission Trip Balance	522.15	-	-	522.15
3.2006.1005	Emmaus Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2007.1000	<i>Family Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>				
3.2007.1001	Family Ministry Activities Balance	208.00	-	-	208.00
3.2007.1002	Family Retreat Weekend Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00

Consolidated Fund Activity Report February 2026

3.2008.1000	<i>Life Long Learning-Dedicated Balance</i>				
3.2008.1001	Ecumenical VBS Balance	252.58	-	-	252.58
3.2008.1002	Adult Bible Study Groups Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2008.1003	Women's Retreat Balance	236.12	-	-	236.12
3.2008.1004	Lutheran Study Bibles Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2008.1006	CE Projects, Gifts & Events Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2008.1007	Advent & Lenten Support Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2008.1008	Men's Ministry Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2008.1009	Lenten Study Bibles/Books Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2008.1010	Grins & Giggles Donations Balance	188.48	15.00	15.00	188.48
3.2009.1000	<i>Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>				
3.2002.1005	Thrivent Choice Balance	0.00	485.00	-	485.00
3.2002.1016	Kuklis Memorialls for Ministry Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1001	Meal Center Balance	723.25	-	-	723.25
3.2009.1002	Chikumbuso Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1007	Mission Trip Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1010	Heifer International Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1011	World Hunger Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1012	Lutheran World Relief Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1017	Disaster Relief Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1018	Habitat for Humanity Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2011.1005	Community Garden Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2011.1010	End Hunger Outreach Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
3.2010.1000	<i>Discretionary Gifts Balance</i>				
3.2010.1001	Pastors' Discretionary Balance	11,218.85	-	1,352.85	9,866.00
3.2010.1002	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	4,251.92	600.00	-	4,851.92
3.2010.1003	Council Discretionary Fund Balance	3,107.20	-	20.00	3,087.20
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	4,005.85	-	-	4,005.85
3.2011.1002	Playground Balance	0.00	-	-	0.00
		246,337.52	148,046.36	90,898.48	-
3.9000.1000	Net Fixed Asset Fund Balance	1,918,224.00	-	-	1,918,224.00
Total		<u>\$2,164,561.52</u>	<u>\$148,046.36</u>	<u>\$90,898.48</u>	<u>\$2,221,709.40</u>



Find all ten words:

- Spring
- Flowers
- Bloom
- Rain
- Umbrella
- Windy
- Seeds
- Sprout
- Birds
- Butterfly

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

How many words can you make from the word **SPRING**?

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The Case of the Empty Tomb

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.
John 20:1 (NIV)

Based on John 20:1-18 (NIV)

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

CRYING	STRIPS	HEAD	DEAD	STONE
WEEK	ANGELS	FIRST	BURIAL	LORD
RISE	REMOVED	TOMB	FOLDED	MARY
BELIEVED	LINEN	DAY	DARK	CLOTH

Color the shapes that have dots in them.

Prayer List

Pray for healing:

Ginny Zitzkat (mother of David Zitzkat)
Stacey Stone (daughter-in-law of the Tobiassens)
Baby Eliana Marshall (friend of Lauren Brundage)
Chris Hansen (friend of the Lettieres)
Kathy West
Madysen Lent (friend of Elaine Lettiere)
Steve Roman (Brother of Sandy Wimmermark)
Pam Roman (sister-in-law of Sandy Wimmermark)
Daniel Miller (son of Kathy West)
Elaine Remondi-Simpson
Dawn Nienow (sister of Cathy Hanson)
Vicki Breuell (friend of the Nelsons)

Mandy Kelly (friend of the Wuesthoffs)
Dick Wimmermark
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
Claudia Sanchez (sister of Rut Sanchez)
Chip Moran
Donna (friend of Leigh Sammons)
Joy Elisabeth (daughter of Patricia Carroll-French)
Sandy (friend of Patricia Carroll-French)

Pray for those who are Grieving:

Pray for active duty military:

Christopher Bushy (nephew of Fawn DeMello)
Nicholas Tavernay (grandson of Althea 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:

Sabina Moran (mother of Gina Donovan)
Ann Stanton (friend of the Tobiassens)
Nick Iario (relative of Kathleen Bartkowski)
Kathy Dame
Fred Launer
Pauline Wanner
Bob Chernansky
Jenny Waller
Lynn Minichino

Pray for those with other concerns:

MOSAIC
ELCA World Hunger



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

April Celebrations

Birthdays:

Philip Hammen	4/4
Hugh Busey	4/10
Denyse LaForge	4/15
Phil Minichino	4/15
Robin Nelson	4/16
Emily Miller	4/18
Sue Portofee	4/21
Liese Zitzkat	4/22
Wesley Johnston	4/29
Kelsey Keefe	4/29
Alexander Nicki	4/30

Wedding Anniversaries: (# of Years Married)

Barbara & Ken Candler	4/06	(41)
Ginny & Brian Sturm	4/10	(43)

Baptismal Birthdays:

Susan Anderson	4/14/1957
Roy Belhumeur	4/??/1970
Alice Carter	4/01/1951
Nathaniel Dame	4/12/2015
Cathy Frost	4/02/1950
Mark Larson	4/13/1975
Anna Lettiere	4/29/2007
Cindy Mason	4/10/1977
Jennifer Nicki	4/28/1985
Angie Phillips	4/10/1949
Amy Sindel	4/22/1962
Carlton Smith	4/03/1999
Gerald Swope	4/23/1944

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 - April 2026

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers
4/2 <i>Maundy Th.</i>								
7:00PM	Edna Johnson		Cathy Hanson		Cyndi Arnold & Charlie Anderson	Nate	Roni & Kristian	Fawn DeMello
4/3 <i>Good Friday</i>								
7:00PM	Sue Bibeau			Liese Z.	Leigh Sammons & Nancy Rupert	Oliver	Al	Felix Vajdos
4/5 <i>Easter Sun.</i>								
8:00AM	Grace DeMarco	Dennis and Mark		Katie L.	Diane Hansen & Marty Wood	Nate	Brad & Kristian	Lisa McCabe
10:00AM	Edna Johnson	Ray and John Perkins			Camille Felty & Nancy Rupert	Camille	Dan & Al	Erica
4/12								
9:30AM	Leigh Sammons	Al and Dave Goodrich	Linda Martin		Cyndi Arnold & Robin Nelson	Nate	Roni & Kristian	Mike
4/19								
9:30	Barb Chandler	Ray and Mark	Penny Heller	Pastor Mike L.	Leigh Sammons & Marty Wood	Camille		Jacqueline
4/26								
9:30	Joan Lambert	John Robbins and John Perkins	Deb Eld	Robert N.	Pat Robbins & Jerry Swope	Camille		Katie Launer-Felty

This schedule compiled as of 3/31/26; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

Church Calendar of Events

APRIL 2026

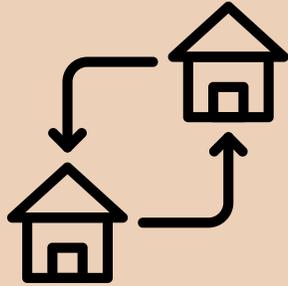
*Community Group

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
29	30	31	1 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	2 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	3 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Worship	4 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
5 8:00am Easter Worship 9:30am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am Easter Worship 2:30pm New London Meal Center	6 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	7 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	8 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	9 9:00am Grins & Giggles 12:30pm Blood Drive	10 9:00am Grins & Giggles	11 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
12 CELEBRATE Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Lifelong Learning Meeting 11:00am New Members Class	13 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	14 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Executive Planning Team 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	15 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	16 9:00am Grins & Giggles 6:00pm CONGREGATION COUNCIL	17 9:00am Grins & Giggles	18 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
19 New Members Installation 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Bible Study 11:00am Coffee Hour	20 SCROLL DEADLINE 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Girls Scouts 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	21 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm The Belles 6:30pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting* 7:00pm Senior Choir	22 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	23 9:00am Grins & Giggles 6:00pm Organizing Note Processing Event	24 9:00am Grins & Giggles	25 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
26 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting*	27 Dean's Retreat 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	28 Dean's Retreat 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	29 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	30 9:00am Grins & Giggles	1	2

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



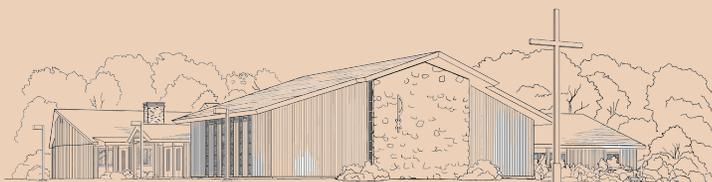
St. Luke Lutheran Church

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.*



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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
dianeh@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

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fdemello@comcast.net
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vicepresident@stlukegf.org
Vice-President

Alan Nordquist
treasurer@stlukegf.org
Treasurer