



The Scroll

SUMMER 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 MIKE



Greetings Siblings in Christ,

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with thanksgiving." Psalm 100

We are in our Pentecost season. We are also in the season of graduations and grand adventures as summer comes around again. Our Christian Community at St Luke enjoys a different pace in the summer months, but we take no vacation from serving the undiminished needs of our neighbors.

As we get out more, travel farther and see new places and old friends, we are perhaps even more aware of the need to share the Gospel of Jesus, or to speak a word of peace to a difficult or grievous situation.

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As you are on the lookout for new and exciting events also be on the lookout for how the Holy Spirit is calling you to share the Gospel and be a witness in the gladness of the Lord. There are so many opportunities; even on those challenging days when it's hot or you wish the kids were back in school or the trip didn't turn out how you expected. Even in these tough times there is opportunity to praise the Lord. These are the times when we can look to our community of faith and appreciate the depth of our faith in God.

What a joy it is to serve at St Luke during Pastor Heidi's Sabbatical. I enjoy working with Rachel and Gina and Fawn and Katie, all of the worship helpers, the acolytes and the altar guild. I look forward to the great music from Kathleen, our gifted, accompanist.

Make that joyful noise this summer! Serve the Lord with gladness. Amen

Pastor Mike



Gina with ringers before
Hallelujah for Handbells



Grins & Giggles graduation



After church

Presidential Notes

BY FAWN DEMELLO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



We had a great send off for Pastor Heidi's Sabbatical and welcoming Pastor Mike in May. Thank you to the Fellowship Team for the reception. Pastor Mike and I meet weekly to keep everyone informed on any activities that are happening at St. Luke.

As the summer is upon us, please remember that we still have many events that happen here at St. Luke. As Pastor Mike has mentioned we have many opportunities to join in with events and activities. The SAIL Team, Interfaith Organizing Group, will be conducting more one-on-ones with congregation members. We will be having another training in the fall. Many of our ministry teams are gearing up for events and activities for the fall. God's Work Our Hands with our Outreach Team is in full swing with preparations for September 13th and will coordinate with our Rally Day that same day with Life Long Learning Team and the Fellowship Team. Our Finance Team is preparing our Stewardship Campaign as well.

Another opportunity is coming up in August with our Life Long Learning Team with VBS, Vacation Bible School. This year it is August 3 - 6th at United Methodist Church. We are looking for volunteers to assist. The times will be 5:00 pm dinner, then followed from 5:30-7:30 pm for gathering. Hope you can join us.

Enjoy the summer!

Peace

Fawn

7/19: GWOH Get Fired Up Sunday!

BY LEIGH SAMMONS

Ministry News

Wear your yellow GWOH tee shirt and join us on Sunday, July 19 as we welcome guest speaker, David Horst, from New London Homeless Hospitality Center during worship. David Horst, pastor and street outreach worker for NLHHC will share about his direct experiences working with the unhoused population in our area as well as how we can support this mission to combat homelessness.

Questions? See Leigh Sammons.

9/13: GWOH and Rally Sunday

BY LEIGH SAMMONS

Wear your yellow GWOH tee shirt and join us as we kick-off fall and come together to do God's work on September 13th! We will assemble Welcome Home baskets, birthday kits, enjoy a pizza lunch and have fun!

Adopt a House: Get together with your friends and church groups to sponsor a Welcome Home basket.

Everyone pitches in and fills a basket.

Adopt an Item: Come across a great deal on can openers? Toilet brushes? Shower curtains? Buy a bunch to help fill the baskets.

Feeling random? Buy a few of any items to help fill the baskets.

Please, all items must be new and full-sized (no travel or hotel sizes). JobLot, Dollar Stores, WalMart all have good prices on many of the requested items. Happy shopping!

Camp Firelight VBS 2026!



2026 ECUMENICAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dates: August 3-6, 2026 (Monday-Thursday)

Time: Dinner at 5:00 PM

VBS begins at 5:30 PM and ends at 7:30 PM

Location: United Methodist Church of Gales Ferry,
10 Chapman Lane, Gales Ferry, CT (Upper Level)

Campers: PreK 4-year-olds through 5th grade are invited for songs, Bible stories, crafts, and science experiments.

Volunteers: Youth in 6th grade and older, as well as adults, are invited to serve as cooks, camp leaders, and counselors.

REGISTER



Scan the QR code
or visit:

[forms.gle/
4vkM6bbtsGjhxipe6](https://forms.gle/4vkM6bbtsGjhxipe6)

Sponsored by St. Luke's Lutheran, St. David's Episcopal, and Gales Ferry United Methodist churches. Costs are underwritten by the sponsoring churches.

Questions? Contact Joanne Moorehead at QuilterJAM@aol.com or 860-608-4449

WE'RE TIRED (BUT HAPPY!)

THE TAG SALE WAS A LOT OF WORK, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT!



Thanks for all the good stuff! We sorted it, arranged it, priced it, sold it, and came away with \$6,032 – slightly lower than the rough count we announced in church after the sale (we were very tired!), but still very good. It'll buy a lot of beds and cribs for people in financial need.

The weather was beautiful (thank you, Lord!). Everything came in early enough in the week that we were able to sort, display, and price it before the start of the sale, and we had a good turnout.

We had lots of help setting up and running the sale, and a very efficient cleanup crew on Saturday. We brought in and set up tables, clothing racks, and bookcases from our storage shed on Sunday, arranged and priced sale items Monday through Friday, held the sale Friday from 6 to 8 pm and Saturday from 8 to 2, and had the place cleaned up well ahead of the Saturday evening AA meeting..

Once again, our thanks to a team from the Thames Valley Council for Community Action (one of many agencies that refer people to the furniture bank), who took leftovers to Goodwill in a truck provided free of charge by U-Haul. In return for the donation, TVCCA receives vouchers that their clients can use at Goodwill stores. Thanks also to some wonderful people who loaded up their cars and trucks with leftovers to take to local charities.

With apologies to anyone we may have left out (please sign in if you help!), thanks to: Brad Adams, Sue Anderson, Mike Arnold, Kristian Balinski, Sue Conley, Sue and Aiden Davis, Andy and Debbie Eld, Dave and Suzanne Etris, Mark Goddette, Noelle Hale, Kari Hammen, Diane Hansen, Cathy Hanson, Kirsten Holmstedt, Morgan Kern, Carolyn Kracke, Joan Lambert, Mark and Louise Larson, Nancy Lembke, Linda Martin, Al Nordquist, Lane, Norm, and Judy Owsley, John Perkins, Mark Pitluck, Rebecca Richardson, Leigh Sammons, Melanie and Noah Savage, Harry Tobiassen, Maleya Tran, Janeese Watson, Marty and Pat Wood, and the team from TVCCA. God bless you all!



The Friday evening crew pauses for a photo

Mike and Karen Wuesthoff

The New England Synod Assembly, June 4-6, 2026 was held at the DCU in Worcester Ma. St Luke representatives were Jacqueline Leone and Jim Sammons.

The overarching theme of social justice for all was evident in the workshops, direction of resolutions that were passed, and was in keeping with the values and traditions of the ELCA, the New England Synod, and St. Luke as we endeavor to do God's work in our community and beyond.

The following Resolutions were adopted:

- Resolution 26-01, World Council of Churches Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice was modified and approved.
- Resolution 26-02, A call for boycotting companies complicit in Israel's genocide in Gaza and ongoing occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. (Background is available online)
 - Companies include Airbnb and [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com), Burger King, Pizza Hut and Papa John's, Chevron, Coca Cola, Dell, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, McDonald's, Re/Max, Siemens

This boycott is based on action previously taken to end Apartheid in South Africa.

We voted for Pastor Nathan Clements (Old Saybrook) as Dean of the Eastern Connecticut Rivers conference of the New England Synod.

A picnic and concert is in the planning stage to get the congregations together. Location and date will be provided.

Our support of our ELCA missionary in Jerusalem and the West Bank was discussed at a workshop. Bishop Haddad has been installed after Bishop Azar's retirement. Stories were shared about ways to support them amid the current rising violence and oppression.

Thrivent made a presentation on available money available and encouraged us to apply for more.

"Braver Angels" made a presentation and activity-based workshop supported by the NE Synod. Braver Angels makes available a studied, known, effective, and safe platform to communicate and gap from our polarized inner selves in regard to our political cultures. Inner polarization often puts roadblocks in the face of social justice efforts. This forum and program can be done through their online site and at in-person workshops in local areas and congregations as well.

The 2027 Synod assembly will take place on June 11 & 12, with Friday night worship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester and Saturday's plenary at the DCU Center.

More information on the Synod assembly can be found at www.nelutherans.org looking under Synod assembly. This includes a streaming option for all three days. Workshops were not recorded.

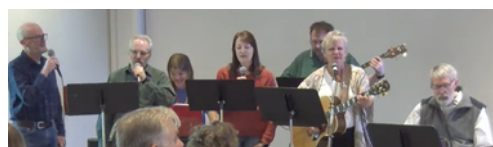
THANK YOU!

What a fantastic music year we had! There are so many things to celebrate.



Senior Choir

First of all, **Senior Choir**. We started the fall with 12 vocalists and ended with 16! Senior Choir sang for 12 services this year adding 11 new anthems for a total of 16. Special services included Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Tenebrae and Easter Sunday. Thank you to Kellie August; Kristian Balinski; Natalie Dannecker; Noelle Hale; Katie Launer-Felty; Greg & Jean Martin; Lisa McCabe; Bob McCoy; Amanda Murrizi; Helmut Steinnagel; Ginny & Brian Sturm; Pam Suplicki; Leslie Woods; Liese Zitzkat.



Celebrate Team

The Celebrate Team under the leadership of Leslie Woods led music once a month beginning in September. They sang 5 praise songs at each of these services. Dedicated to this group, I thank Brad Dame; Leslie Woods; Steve Loomis; Jim Sammons; Niko Vajdos; Liese Zitzkat and the newest member, Rob Funk.



JuBellation

JuBellation participated in 8 services learning 10 new pieces. We lost Elaine Remondi-Simpson due to an injury but we gained two new ringers ending with a total of 14 ringers. Thank you to Rob & Beth Ayer; Kristian Balinski; Deb Burgess; Betty Caruso; Bonnie Denton; Fawn DeMello; Catherine Freamon; Steve Gadaree; Peter Keefe; Tori Kelpen; Lisa McCabe; Kristen Smart and Mike Steele.

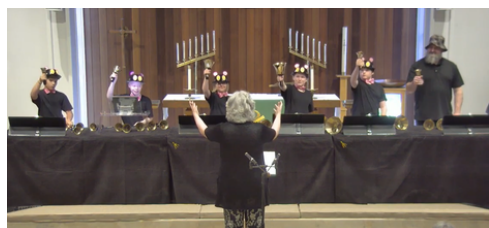


The Belles

The Belles (formerly Belles & Beaux) gained new ringers this year! They rang at 4 services with a new piece each time. Thank you to Dyann Baker; Betty Caruso; Grace DeMarco; Jean Martin and Lisa McCabe.

Last but certainly not least, the **Grace Notes** (formerly Glory Ringers) were the solitary youth handbell choir this year representing a wide range of grades. They rang for a total of 6 services. Thank you to the families and kiddos: Emilee Balinski (3); Nathaniel Dame (6); Camille Felty (8); Alex Nicki (4) and Everett Steele (5).

We have also been blessed to have both Ben Johnston (3x) and Roy Belheumer presenting an Offertory song.



Joyful Noise

Hallelujah for Handbells was a great success this year numbering over 100 audience members. Our guest choir, EmBellish under the direction of Jane Nolan, participated again performing two pieces. JuBellation performed 7 pieces while both the Grace Notes and The Belles performed one apiece. This year's theme was "All Creatures Great and Small".



Grins & Giggles Preschool News

BY NANCY RUPERT

On June 12th seventeen preschoolers in cap and gowns marched into the sanctuary to Pomp and Circumstance amid smiling parents and grandparents. Despite technological microphone issues, the ceremony went off without a single child crying which we call a 'win' in our circles! A reception in the Fellowship followed with cupcakes of white or blue icing leaving blue lips and fingers and happy smiles. It was a bittersweet day having to say farewell to several little ones who had been with us for two years, but we know they are ready for kindergarten which makes us proud to have been a part of their early education.

Prior to Graduation we enjoyed a 'Swimsuit Day' under the sprinkler and in the kiddy pools. We made gifts for our fathers for Father's Day and beautiful sand art and sand castles. Our Kids Camp begins Monday, June 15th in the capable hands of our assistant teachers, Marianne Greenwood and Brittany Quidgeon. The fun continues!!

Minutes of the May Congregation Council Meeting

St. Luke Lutheran Church Minutes of the Congregation Council Meeting May 21, 2026

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

Excused: None

Recording secretary: Mitchell Robinson

Council President Fawn DeMello called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Devotions

- Pat Robbins led devotions.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded to approve the agenda.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded to approve the March 18, 2026, and April 16, 2026, Council minutes. The motion carried.

President's Remarks

- Fawn DeMello discussed the Executive Report.
- By-Laws are being reviewed
 - Ministry Team By-Laws have been reviewed and will remain unchanged.
- The Executive Team will be developing an On-Boarding Procedure Manual for new employees.
- Ministry teams will conduct an onboarding process to ensure that new volunteers know more about the ministry team when they join.
- Discussion about having clothing drop-off shed on the premises. It will be continued after additional reflection by the Council

Church Members' Comments/Concerns

- None

Financial Reports

- Please refer to the Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet, and Consolidated Fund Activity Report documents.
- Motion: Al Nordquist moved and it was seconded that the congregation council accept the audit report provided by the audit team on May 17, 2026. Motion carried.

Minutes of the May Congregation Council Meeting

- Motion: Al Nordquist moved and it was seconded that the congregation council approve the changes to Continuing Resolution 15.0: Policy for the Use of St. Luke's Facilities (attached). Motion carried.

Pastors' Reports

- Please refer to the reports from Pastor Johnston and Pastor Lembke.

Purpose Teams Reports

- Evangelism.
 - Pat Robbins noted Ledyard Memorial Day Parade.
- Fellowship
 - Please refer to the Fellowship Report.
- Lifelong Learning
 - Please refer to the Lifelong Learning Report.
 - Open to suggestions for Rally Day. Scheduled for September 13, 2026, to coincide with God's Work, Our Hands.
- Outreach Ministry
 - Please refer to the Outreach Report document.
 - God's Work, Our Hands Sunday will be on September 13, 2026.
 - Tag Sale will be on June 5-6, 2026.
 - The New London Meal Center served 112 meals on Easter Sunday.
 - Pass the Guitar Fund raiser for the Homeless Hospitality Center will be on June 6, 2026, at the Hygienic Art Park.
- Worship
 - Please refer to the Worship Team Activity Summary and the Director of Music Council Report.
 - Tech team is well staffed.
 - Gina is overseeing Acolytes.

Support Team Reports

- Communications
 - Please refer to the Communications Report.
- Facilities
 - Please refer to the Facilities Report.
 - Robert Nelson has list of people to mow the lawn.
- Parish.
 - Please refer to the Church Office Report.
- People
 - Please refer to the People Support Group Report.

Motion to Accept All Reports

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

Minutes of the May Congregation Council Meeting

Old Business

None

New Business

None

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

Devotions-Mitch Robinson

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 7:51 PM, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Robinson, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report for May 2026

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report for Month Ending
May 31, 2026

June 14, 2026

Income Summary

Pledged offerings for the month of May were \$3.9K above the monthly budget, resulting in pledged offerings for the year being \$4.5K above the YTD budget. Grace Giving for the month of May was \$770 below the monthly budget, resulting in YTD grace giving being \$3.6K above the YTD budget. With all offering sources combined, our YTD total offerings are approximately \$8.0K above the YTD budget.

Grins & Giggles income for the month of May was above the monthly budget by \$468, resulting in YTD Grins & Giggles income as of the end of May being \$3.1K greater than the YTD budget.

We also earned \$377 in investment income in the month of May, primarily from our two Thrivent CD's.

With all budgeted income sources combined, our actual total budgeted income for the month of May was \$3.6K greater than the monthly budget, making the YTD total budgeted income \$11.0K greater than the YTD budget.

A summary of the YTD May 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	33,910.87	30,000.00	169,513.18	165,000.00	371,268.00	201,754.82
Grace Giving	2,230.00	3,000.00	19,576.62	16,000.00	37,700.00	18,123.38
Loose Cash Offering	464.75	333.00	1,675.75	1,665.00	4,000.00	2,324.25
Special Envelopes	0.00	0.00	774.00	900.00	1,700.00	926.00
Offerings	\$36,605.62	\$33,333.00	\$191,539.55	\$183,565.00	\$414,668.00	\$223,128.45
Building Use	175.63	283.00	1,488.15	1,415.00	3,400.00	1,911.85
Structures Income	\$175.63	\$283.00	\$1,488.15	\$1,415.00	\$3,400.00	\$1,911.85
Investments Div/Interest	376.65	410.00	1,894.86	2,010.00	4,920.00	3,025.14
Other Income	\$376.65	\$410.00	\$1,894.86	\$2,010.00	\$4,920.00	\$3,025.14
Grins & Giggles Income - Donations	0.00		15.00			
Grins & Giggles Income-Tuition	9,110.00	8,600.00	46,170.00	43,000.00	94,579.00	48,409.00
Grins & Giggles Income-Registration fees	50.00	92.00	350.00	460.00	1,100.00	750.00
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$9,160.00	\$8,692.00	\$46,535.00	\$43,460.00	\$95,679.00	\$49,159.00
Total Budgeted Income	\$46,317.90	\$42,718.00	\$241,457.56	\$230,450.00	\$518,667.00	\$277,224.44

In addition to budgeted income, there was also \$3146 of unbudgeted income in the month of May. This included a \$1000 donation to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, a \$750 donation to the Good Samaritan Fund, \$500 in income to the Sabbatical Fund, \$425 in income from Scrip cards, and multiple smaller donations and payments.

Treasurer's Report for May 2026

Expense Summary

Total Budgeted YTD Expenses of \$217,495.57 is less than the YTD budget of \$223,394 by \$5898.03 as of the end of May. May budgeted expenses were greater than the monthly budget by \$5674.77.

Grins & Giggles YTD Expenses of \$39,072.14 is less than the YTD budget of \$43,930.00 by \$4857.86.

Net Results: As of the end of May 2026 we have an Actual YTD Total Income of \$320,409.00, and Total Expenses of \$253,543.16, resulting in a difference of \$66,865.84. 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	\$46,317.90	\$42,718.00	\$241,457.56	\$230,450.00	\$518,667.00	\$277,224.44
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$45,570.77	\$39,896.00	\$217,495.97	\$223,394.00	\$534,359.00	\$318,437.08
Budgeted Income/Expense Difference	\$747.13	\$2,822.00	\$23,961.59	\$7,056.00	(\$15,692.00)	(\$41,212.64)
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$9,160.00	\$8,692.00	\$46,535.00	\$43,460.00	\$95,679.00	\$49,159.00
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$9,031.60	\$8,831.00	\$39,072.14	\$43,930.00	\$96,627.00	\$57,569.86
Grins & Giggles Income/Expense Difference	\$128.40	(\$139.00)	\$7,462.86	(\$470.00)	(\$948.00)	(\$8,410.86)
Total Income	\$49,463.90	\$42,718.00	\$320,409.00	\$230,450.00	\$534,361.00	\$292,918.44
Total Expense	\$49,211.42	\$39,896.00	\$253,543.16	\$223,394.00	\$534,359.00	\$318,437.08
Total Income/Expense Difference	\$252.48	\$2,822.00	\$66,865.84	\$7,056.00	\$2.00	(\$25,518.64)

Other Treasurer Activity:

- Reviewed bi-weekly payroll
- Reviewed May bank reconciliation
- Discussed Audit report with audit team lead
- Reviewed insurance policy given findings of audit report
- Prepared and submitted revision of Continuing Resolution 15 (Building Use) to the council for approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Alan Nordquist
Treasurer

Consolidated Fund Activity Report May 2026

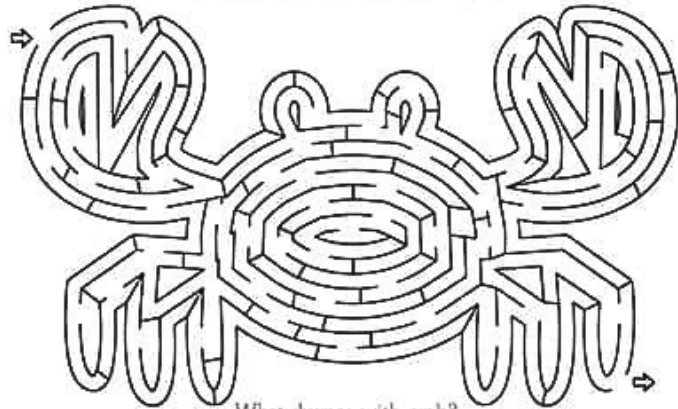
St Luke Lutheran Church - Gales Ferry CT Consolidated Fund Activity Report for May 2026

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.1001.1001	General Operating Fund Balance	63,634.71	46,317.90	45,570.77	0	64,381.84
3.1050.1000	<i>Building Fund Balance</i>					
3.1050.1001	General Building Fund Balance	22,422.55	10.00	-	0	22,432.55
3.1050.1002	Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,622.36	10.00	-	0	4,632.36
3.1060.1000	Memorial Fund Balance	6,548.27	-	-	0	6,548.27
3.1070.1000	Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	14,112.68	10.00	-	0	14,122.68
3.1080.1000	Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	120,420.24	-	-	0	120,420.24
3.2001.1000	<i>Worship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2001.1001	Special Music Balance	2,544.61	-	-	0	2,544.61
3.2001.1003	Handbell Program Fund Balance	735.81	-	-	0	735.81
3.2001.2020	Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	2,001.33	-	-	0	2,001.33
3.2002.1000	<i>Administrative-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2002.1004	Special Gifts Balance	180.04	-	-	0	180.04
3.2002.1006	Staff Development Balance	3,794.80	-	-	0	3,794.80
3.2002.1012	Sabbatical Fund Balance	12,251.75	500.00	-	0	12,751.75
3.2002.1100	Internship Program Balance	11,500.00	-	-	0	11,500.00
3.2002.1007	Flowers Balance	148.73	25.00	-	0	173.73
3.2004.1000	<i>Fellowship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2004.1005	Fellowship Special Events Balance	2,111.96	300.00	449.35	0	1,962.61
3.2004.1010	Fellowship Furnishings Balance	6,021.56	-	-	0	6,021.56
3.2005.1000	<i>Special Programs Balance</i>					
3.2005.1002	Great Lakes Scrip Program Balance	2,989.53	425.00	1,378.80	0	2,035.73
3.2006.1000	<i>Youth-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2006.1003	ELCA Youth Gathering Balance	8,060.48	0	0	0	8,060.48
3.2006.1004	Youth Mission Trip Balance	522.15	0	0	0	522.15
3.2007.1000	<i>Family Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2007.1001	Family Ministry Activities Balance	208.00	0	0	0	208.00
3.2008.1000	<i>Life Long Learning-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2008.1001	Ecumenical VBS Balance	252.58	0	0	0	252.58
3.2008.1003	Women's Retreat Balance	236.12	0	0	0	236.12
3.2008.1010	Grins & Giggles Donations Balance	188.48	0	0	0	188.48
3.2009.1000	<i>Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2009.1005	Thrivent Choice Balance	596.00	0	0	0	596.00
3.2009.1001	Meal Center Balance	723.25	0	0	0	723.25
3.2010.1000	<i>Discretionary Gifts Balance</i>					
3.2010.1001	Pastors' Discretionary Balance	8,884.92	1000	1495	0	8,389.92
3.2010.1002	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	6,201.92	750	0	0	6,951.92
3.2010.1003	Council Discretionary Fund Balance	3,255.20	116	124.99	0	3,246.21
3.2010.1004	Camp Calumet Scholarships Balance	1,175.00	0	0	0	1,175.00
3.2011.1000	<i>Facilities Support-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2011.1001	Memorial Garden Balance	4,005.85	0	192.51	0	3,813.34
3.9000.1000	Net Fixed Asset Fund Balance	1,918,224.00	0	0	0	1,918,224.00
Total		<u>\$2,228,574.88</u>	<u>\$49,463.90</u>	<u>\$49,211.42</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,228,827.36</u>

Crab Maze

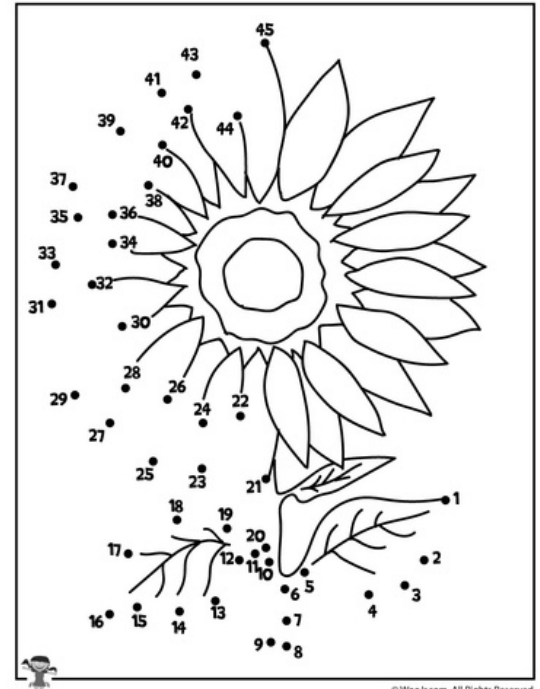
What did the crab catch in it's claws? Draw it!



What rhymes with crab?



www.BrainyMaze.com



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Foods of the Bible

P A S T R I E S N C
U A R S A F I G S B
L V E N I S O N S M
S T B O S E D S B A
E A M L I P A G R N
T O U E N A E S E N
A G C M S R R C H A
E R U X F G B A S B
M Z C Q U A I L I N
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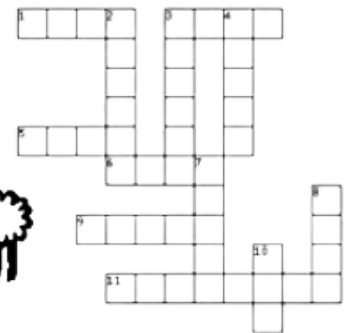
bread
calf
cucumbers
figs
fish
goat

grapes
herbs
manna
meat
melons
milk

pastries
pulse
quail
raisins
venison

The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

- Wild animal that looks like a dog and hunts in packs
- The period from birth to death
- A strong feeling of affection
- Goes faster than walking
- What we use to speak
- One who takes care of the sheep

DOWN

- The male parent
- To hear or pay attention to something
- A group of sheep herded together
- Woolly animals which are similar to goats
- The opposite of bad
- A small place where animals are kept

Words Used

good	sheep	runs	listen
shepherd	wolf	father	pen
life	flock	voice	love

Prayer List

Pray for healing:

Cathy Hanson
Sharon Podojil
Dan & Chandler (family of the Lembkes)
Kim Hotchkiss (friend of Roy Belhumeur)
Jeanne Steinnagel
Jason Francher (neighbor of Elaine Remondi-Simpson)
Sue (friend of the Finleys)
David Erickson (Son of Joanne Erickson)
Ernest Koschmieder (husband of Althea)
Cyndi Arnold
Lisa Burgess (family of Elaine Remondi-Simpson)
Carol Hurlbutt (sister of Mitch Robinson)
Richard Stanton (friend of the Tobiassens)
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)
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:

Tony Lettiere (father of Dan Lettiere)
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

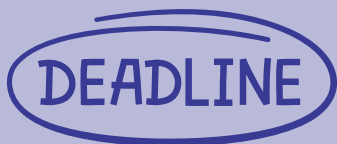
Pray for those with other concerns:

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.



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

July Celebrations

Birthdays:

Dina Ballestrini	7/29
Betty Caruso	7/11
Joanne Erickson	7/17
David Etris	7/08
Harlan Felty	7/26
Diane Hansen	7/10
Kirsten Holmstedt	7/24
Katie Johnson	7/04
Heidi Johnston	7/30
Nathaniel Nicki	7/12
Judith Owsley	7/10
Sharon Podojil	7/10
Elaine Remondi-Simpson	7/7
Betty Scott	7/30
Corrine Stevens	7/31
Marie Tobiassen	7/04
Janis Vajdos	7/21
Marty Wood	7/27
Pat Wood	7/01

Wedding Anniversaries:

(# of Years Married)

Philip & Kari Hammen	7/31 (61)
Heidi & Ben Johnston	7/31 (15)
Daniel & Elaine Lettiere	7/21 (25)
Tom & Betty Scott	7/11 (45)

Baptismal Birthdays:

Emilee Balinski	07/09/2017
Cory Calamari	07/07/1991
Jennifer Gilletti	07/06/1958
Diane Hansen	07/??/1953
Katie Johnson	07/??/1992
Olivia Johnson	07/15/2007
Carolyn Kracke	07/31/1949
Sharon Podojil	07/27/1952
Nancy Rupert	07/??/1951
Sharon Schlepp	07/01/1946
David Taylor	07/09/1961
Ben Vajdos	07/29/2001
Pat Wood	07/01/1945

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.

August Celebrations

Birthdays:

Bradley Dame 8/28
Fawn DeMello 8/21
Bonnie Fear 8/01
Edna Johnson 8/06
Michael Johnson 8/22
Peter Keefe 8/13
Joan Lambert 8/06
Daniel Lettiere 8/28
Cindy Mason 8/23
Dan Miller 8/23
Tammy Nordquist 8/18
Mitchell Robinson 8/29
Jim Sammons 8/29
Robert Simpson 8/25
Dennis Sindel 8/15
Celaine Towne 8/04

Wedding Anniversaries: (# of Years Married)

Roy & Aimee Belhumeur 8/10 (13)
Curt & Cathy Frost 8/28 (55)
John & Jacqueline Kremer 8/22 (39)
Mike & Nancy Lembke 8/18 (47)
Robert & Robin Nelson 8/05 (37)
Norman & Judith Owsley 8/28 (61)
Rut Sanchez LaForte & Yves LaForte
8/31 (2)
Gerald & Kathleen Swope 8/07 (61)

Baptismal Birthdays:

Betty Caruso 08/19/1955
Heidi Johnston 08/22/1982
Daniel Lettiere 08/28/1970
Clara Miller 08/07/2022
Sue Portofee 08/19/1969
Mary Robinson 08/01/1954
Betty Scott 08/12/1951
Travis Tuner 08/31/1953

**DID WE MISS YOUR CELEBRATION?
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ST. LUKE—SCHEDULE TO SERVE – July 2026									
Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers	
7/5									
9:30	Edna Johnson	John Perkins and Ray	Sue Anderson	Nancy Lembke	Diane Hansen & Pat Robbins		Jim & Al	Jacqueline	
7/12									
9:30	Sue Bibeau	Dennis and Al	Penny Heller	Bob Nelson	Jerry Swope & Charlie Anderson		Roni & Dan	Mike	
7/19									
9:30	Joan Lambert	Mark and Louise	Linda Martin	Bob Nelson	Leigh Sammons & Diane Hansen		Kristian & Brad	Cyndi	
7/26									
9:30	Grace DeMarco	David Zitzkat and John Perkins	Deb Eld	Fawn DeMello	Nancy Rupert & Robin Nelson		Dave & Al	Felix	

This schedule compiled as of 6/23/26; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

ST. LUKE--SCHEDULE TO SERVE - August 2026

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers
8/2								
9:30	Barb Candler	John Perkins and Ray	Gina Donovan	Lay Readers	Marty Wood & Pat Robbins		Jim & Dan	Lisa
8/9								
9:30	Joanne Erickson	Dennis and Al	Roy Belhumeur	Lay Readers	Camille Felty & Jerry Swope		Roni & Kristian	Katie
8/16								
9:30	Leigh Sammons	Mark and Louise		Lay Readers	Pat Robbins & Charlie Anderson		Brad & Al	Erica
8/23								
9:30	Edna Johnson	David Zitzkat and John Perkins		Lay Readers	Robin Nelson & Leigh Sammons		Jim & Dan	Fawn
8/30								
9:30	Joan Lambert		Nancy Lembke	Lay Readers	Nancy Rupert & Charlie Anderson		Roni & Kristian	Jacqueline

This schedule compiled as of 6/23/26; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

Church Calendar of Events

JULY 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
28	29	30	1 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	2	3	4 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
5 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 2:30pm New London Meal Center 3:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental	6 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	7 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 9:30am OA*	8 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	9 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp	10 Diane Hansen, bookkeeper birthday 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 3:00pm Birthday Party Set Up	11 10:00am OA* 12:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental D. Hernandez 7:00pm AA*
12 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	13 Fellowship Team Meeting 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	14 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Executive Planning Team 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	15 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	16 6:00pm CONGREGATION COUNCIL	17	18 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
19 9:30am In-person Worship 9:30am Livestream worship 11:00am Bible Study	20 SCROLL DEADLINE 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	21 9:30am OA* 6:30pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting* 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	22 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	23	24	25 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
26 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 12:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental- Lauria/Goodrich	27 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	28 9:30am OA* 6:00pm CPR Training* 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	29 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	30 Pastor Heidi's birthday	31	

Church Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2026

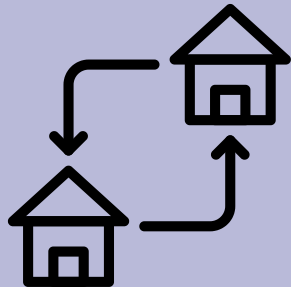
*Community Group

Music Rehearsals:

Monday 5:00pm - Grace Notes
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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
2 CELEBRATE 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 2:30pm New London Meal Center 3:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental	3 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	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 Grins & Giggles Grad Setup 9:00am Grins & Giggles	7 copy	8 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
9 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Lifelong Learning Meeting	10 Fellowship Team Meeting SCROLL DEADLINE 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 5:00pm Girls Scouts 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	11 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 9:30am OA* 7:00pm Senior Choir	12 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 5:00pm Janis Vajdos FH Rental	13 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 6:00pm CONGREGATION COUNCIL	14 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp	15 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
16 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Bible Study	17 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	18 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 9:30am OA* 7:00pm Senior Choir 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	19 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 11:00am Picnic in the Park	20 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp	21 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp	22 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
23 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	24 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	25 9:30am OA* 7:00pm Senior Choir 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	26 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 11:00am Picnic in the Park	27 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp	28 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp	29 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA* 30 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.*

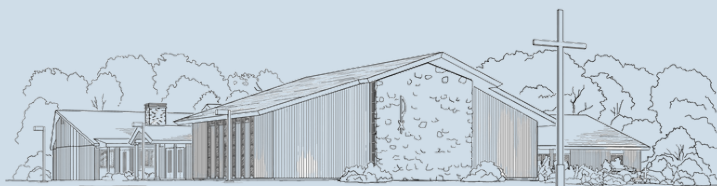


St. Luke Lutheran Church

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

Helmut Steinnagel
vicepresident@stlukegf.org
Vice-President

Alan Nordquist
treasurer@stlukegf.org
Treasurer