



The Scroll

MARCH 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



Blessed Lent, St. Luke Siblings in Christ.

A friend recently sent me a book by Elizabeth Oldfield entitled “Fully Alive; Tending to the Soul in Turbulent Times.” I am still enjoying making my way through the book, full of anecdotes of a progressive female Christian who is also a wife and mom - I can relate 😊

But, it was the inside cover notes of the book that struck me, and have inspired our theme for Soup Study, & Sacrament this year. The inside cover of the book says, “In a world experiencing turbulent change, we need people who are resilient, kind, open, generous, and brave. How do we become those people?” Our lenten Soup, Study, and Sacrament does not follow Oldfield’s book necessarily, but I am grateful for this Spirit-inspired question of how we grow to be more resilient, kind, etc. from a spiritual perspective.

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Follow Us! @stlukegf

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We've already begun gathering on Thursdays from 6-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for a meal together. We read scripture, and contemplate together how the Spirit is working on us to be Resilient (2/26), Kind (3/5), Open (3/12), Generous (3/19), and Brave (3/26). You are most welcome to jump in any week that you can join!

When life feels uncertain, when negativity and hatred, racism and toxic nationalism seem rampant, let's come together and support one another in bringing a different, Jesus-centered energy into the world. Let's support one another when it's hard to choose joy. Let's meditate on scripture for our nourishment, and laugh and eat together, nurturing sacred community. This is why God has knit us together - that we not be left alone, at the mercy of the forces around us and within us, but instead be built up in Christ, strong and resilient in beloved relationality for the good of us all! I'm glad to be journeying with you this Lent.

In Christ's resilience-building grace,
Pastor Heidi Johnston

Presidential Notes

BY FAWN DEMELLO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



At our Annual Meeting on February 1, 2026 a question of needing to vote twice for changes to our Constitution was brought up. The answer is Yes that we do need to have a second vote to approve the updated Constitution from the congregation. No changes can be made to the Constitution prior to the next vote that will take place at our next Annual Meeting:

Constitution C16.02: An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01., shall:

- a. Be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting: and
- b. Be ratified unchanged at the next regular meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.

I also wanted to let the congregation also know of the new members of the Congregation Council:

President - Fawn R DeMello

Vice President - Helmut Steinnagel

Treasurer - Al Nordquist

Worship - Brad Dame, Chair of Team - Brad Dame

Life Long Learning - Erica Sullivan, Chair of Team - TBD

Fellowship - Janis Vajdos, Chair of Team - Louise Larson

Evangelism - Pat Robbins, Chair of Team - Jill Ragland

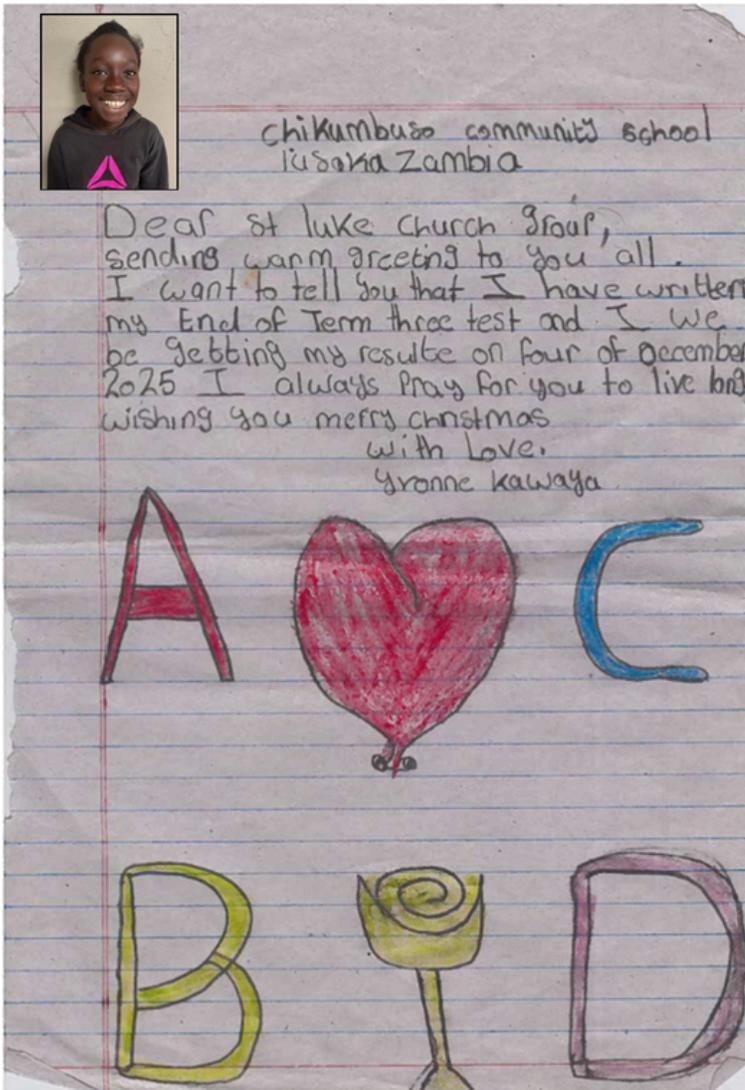
Outreach - Leigh Sammons, Chair of Team - Leigh Sammons

Facilities - John Perkins, Chair of Team - John Perkins

Recording Secretary - Mitch Robinson

I am looking forward to working with our new Congregation Council to continue to move and lead St. Luke Lutheran Church into the future. Please reach out to any Congregation Council member if you have any concerns/issues that you may have.

Peace
Fawn



Below is a letter from Yvonne, the girl that St. Luke Sponsors at Chikumbuso. You may recall seeing her photo in last month's Scroll. Unfortunately, this letter arrived after the Scroll was published.

If anyone would like to respond to Yvonne's letter, or write to Olipa Banda our other sponsored child, I know they would be thrilled. You can email a letter to: chikumbuso@chikumbuso.com or lisa@chikumbuso.com. If you prefer to handwrite a letter or card, you can give it to me before the middle of April, and Lisa, the new director, will take it to Chikumbuso.



Lenten Soup, Study, and Sacrament 2026



Lenten Soup, Study, and Sacrament 2026 will be on Thursdays 6:00-7:30pm.
2/26, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26

St. Luke has always had a vibrant presence in local and worldwide outreach. Between our community garden, Chikumbuso, Gifts for Jesus, support for local food pantries, the New London Meal Center, and other efforts our St. Luke community has made a positive impact in many lives. **Please join us at a brief meeting, following Worship on March 1st.** I'd like to learn what is going well with specific outreach efforts and where help is needed. Have an idea for a way we can have an even greater presence in the community? Snacks will be available. Please join us! There is always room for more ways we can do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Leigh Sammons
Team Lead

Bible Study Beginning March 15th

BY ERICA SULLIVAN, LIFE LONG LEARNING



Life Long Learning is starting an open bible study March 15th right after church. It will be held every third Sunday of the month. It is going to be group lead with basic instructions. We will be discussing the readings and gospel of the following Sunday (4th Sunday). Bring your bible if you want and no prep work is needed. All are welcome.

Many thanks to the New England Synod!

BY PASTOR HEIDI JOHNSTON

St. Luke has received formal notice that the New England Synod Council approved a sabbatical grant for Pr. Heidi Johnston for \$3,645 to fund a retreat at Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health, as well as additional educational resources and sabbatical expenses. We are so grateful for this support from the Synod, which invests in the longevity and health of ministry at St. Luke Lutheran Church. How good to be church together. Please pray for the ongoing work and mission of Bishop Piphon, Synod Vice-President Cassandra Wilson, and the whole New England Synod of the ELCA.

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 that 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



BY GINA WILLIAMS

A number of years ago the previous music director had everyone pray before rehearsals. We would be asked about prayer requests, any thanksgiving, etc. This used to annoy me to no end! Why are we “wasting” time on this when we need to be rehearsing!!! I didn’t get it. As a previous professional performer, I just wanted to get it right, I needed to know my music “perfectly” because it was all about me!

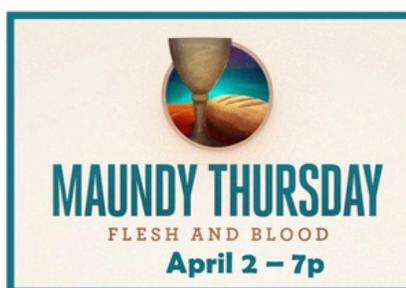
I now get. In the past when asked if anyone would like to pray, I would look at my feet. I was back in class thinking “please don’t look at me”! When I became director and I asked someone to pray I would see the tops of peoples’ heads as they stared at their feet! I was “forced” to pray out loud. Yikes! How scary! Would I sound stupid? Would I be making a fool of myself? Can I sound as eloquent as others? Would I be judged????

As I reflect on that past, I realize now how important prayer is to music because music is prayer! Music is fellowship. Music is evangelism. It’s all there and I never used to see it. At the beginning of all rehearsals we pray, we talk, we share our lives with each other, we become one. Matthew 18:20 - “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

When we recognize that we are worshiping with our singing, with our ringing, and with our playing, we understand that our musical prayer is a prayer shared with others.

1 Corinthians 14:15-16 - “What should I do then? I will pray with the spirit, but I will pray with the mind also; I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will sing praise with the mind also. Otherwise, if you say a blessing with the spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since the outside does not know what you are saying?”

As I read that scripture it becomes an awesome thing to know that even though I’m not very eloquent in praying out loud (I tend to ramble...), I can share my prayer through my music. I think that’s really cool!!!!





Grins & Giggles Preschool News

BY NANCY RUPERT

We all had fun playing in the snow in February, a treat not often realized in southeastern Connecticut! Making snowmen, mittens and snow globes brought the outside weather inside in creative ways. Our Valentines card exchange brought smiles to our preschoolers as they learned to appreciate their friends and family during the holiday of love.

In March we began the unit on 'People Around the World'. With 'passports' in hand, the children will be learning about a different country in each class. We would like to invite anyone in the congregation that has traveled to another country to come in and share your experience with our classes. Do you have some souvenirs to show the children?

St. Patricks Day and Easter are also celebrated in the month of March. We will be searching for pots of gold and being thankful for the new eternal life God gave us on the first Easter Sunday. Naturally with preschoolers we will be looking forward to the Easter Bunny too! We are looking for shoe boxes with removeable lids. If you have one to spare, please donate to our preschool? Thank you!

Minutes of the January Congregation Council Meeting

St. Luke Lutheran Church Minutes of the Congregation Council Meeting January 1, 2026

Call to Order

Congregation President Fawn DeMello called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Opening Prayer

Pastor Heidi Johnston led an opening prayer.

Establishment of a Quorum

A quorum was established (72 voting members in attendance).

Election of Secretary and Parliamentarian

A motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to appoint Liese Zitzkat as Recording Secretary and Katie Launer-Felty as Parliamentarian. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to approve the agenda for the Annual Meeting and please make a pen and ink change to Council position of Outreach Ministry to Leigh Sammons. Discussion: The date on the agenda needs to be changed to February 1, 2026. The motion passed unanimously, with the correction.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded that the reading of the minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting, January 26, 2025, be approved and that we dispense with the reading of these minutes. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Receive Reports

A motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to accept the reports of the pastor, officers, staff, and teams, and that we dispense with the reading of the reports. Discussion: There is a change to page 10 of the President's Report: Last paragraph should read "2026." The motion passed unanimously.

Nomination and Election of Officers (1-year term)

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Leigh Sammons requested nominations from the floor for Vice President. Helmut Steinnagel nominated himself.

A motion was made (Leigh Sammons) and seconded to elect the following officers for 2026 for a 1- year term: President - Fawn DeMello, Vice President - Helmut Steinnagel, Treasurer - Alan Nordquist. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of the January Congregation Council Meeting

Nomination and Election of Councilors (2-year term)

A motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to elect Leigh Sammons as Church Councilor for a 2-year term for 2026. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Council Secretary

Nominations from the floor were requested to fill the position of Council Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor.

Nomination of Audit Team (3-year terms)

A motion was made (Leigh Sammons) and seconded to elect Jen Gilletti to a 3-year term for the Audit Team. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Nomination and Election of Nominating Team (Six 1-year terms expiring January 2027)

Nominations were requested from the floor for four Nominating Team members. Noelle Hale and Grace DeMarco were nominated from the floor.

A motion was made (Leigh Sammons) and seconded to elect the following members to the Nominating Team for 2026 for a 1-year term: Mark Larson, Kellie August, Jacqueline Leone, Bob Nelson, Noelle Hale, and Grace DeMarco. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Nomination and Election of Lay Synod Assembly Members (Three 1-year terms: 2 adults and 1 youth)

Nominations were requested from the floor for a youth to attend the Synod Assembly. No nominations were received from the floor.

A motion was made (Leigh Sammons) and seconded to elect the following to attend the Synod Assembly this June: Jim Sammons and Jacqueline Leone. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Constitution

A motion was made (Mark Larson) and seconded to approve the updates to the Constitution for St. Luke Lutheran Church to be forwarded to the New England Synod for approval. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Sabbatical

Pastor Heidi Johnston's sabbatical will take place from May 4, 2026 to August 2, 2026. Pastor Mike Lembke will be the presiding minister during this period.

Internship

A motion was made (Pastor Heidi Johnston) and seconded that the Congregation of St. Luke Lutheran Church approve to be an internship site starting November 2026. Discussion: Pastor Heidi clarified that November 2026 is the deadline for submitting the paperwork to become an internship site. Following additional discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of the January Congregation Council Meeting

2026 Operating Budget

A motion was made (Alan Nordquist) and seconded to adopt the following resolution: Be it resolved that the St. Luke Lutheran Congregation approve the proposed 2026 operating budget in the amount of \$534,360.20. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Announcements

Fawn DeMello thanked outgoing Councilors (Mark Larson and Kellie August), Recording Secretary for Congregation Council (Liese Zitzkat), Nominating Team (Leigh Sammons, Mark Arnold, Pam Suplicki, Felix Vajdos, Bonnie Fear, and Helmut Steinnagel), Audit Team (Roni Rollinson), and the many volunteers that we have here at St. Luke.

Blessing of the Ministry and Support Teams

Pastor Heidi Johnston provided a blessing.

Resolution of Thanksgiving

Fawn DeMello read the following: Be it resolved that we thank our Lord and Savior for His continued presence and guidance in all that we do, our Pastor for her continued leadership and ministry, our staff for their dedication and commitment for the mission of the church, all our volunteers and leaders who donate their time and talents to our church and our church community, and our outgoing Congregation Councilors for their time and leadership in our congregation.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liese M. Zitzkat

Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report for January 2026

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

February 13, 2026

Income Summary

Pledged offerings for the month of January were approximately \$1.2K below the monthly budget. Grace Giving for the month of January was above the monthly budget by approximately \$530. With all offering sources combined, our YTD total offerings are approximately equal to the YTD budget. The monthly income allocated for the month of January is greater than other months of the year to recognize that there are some giving units who give their entire years' worth of pledge at the beginning of the year. As compared to January 2025, total giving for January 2026 is approximately \$8K less than January 2025.

Grins & Giggles income for the month of January was \$763 greater than the monthly budget and is approximately \$400 less than Grins & Giggles income from January 2025.

We also earned \$394 in investment income in the month of January, primarily from our two Thrivent CD's.

With all budgeted income sources combined, our actual total budgeted income for the month of January was slightly greater than the monthly budget, and approximately \$8K less than our total income from January 2025.

A summary of the YTD January 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	43,835.07	45,000.00	43,835.07	45,000.00	371,268.00	327,432.93
Grace Giving	4,529.62	4,000.00	4,529.62	4,000.00	37,700.00	33,170.38
Loose Cash Offering	159.00	333.00	159.00	333.00	4,000.00	3,841.00
Special Envelopes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
Offerings	\$48,523.69	\$49,333.00	\$48,523.69	\$49,333.00	\$414,668.00	\$366,144.31
Building Use	475.63	283.00	475.63	283.00	3,400.00	2,924.37
Structures Income	\$475.63	\$283.00	\$475.63	\$283.00	\$3,400.00	\$2,924.37
Investments Div/Interest	393.74	400.00	393.74	400.00	4,920.00	4,526.26
Other Income	\$393.74	\$400.00	\$393.74	\$400.00	\$4,920.00	\$4,526.26
Grins & Giggles Income - Donations	15.00		15.00			
Grins & Giggles Income- Tuition	9,390.00	8,600.00	9,390.00	8,600.00	94,579.00	85,189.00
Grins & Giggles Income- Registration fees	50.00	92.00	50.00	92.00	1,100.00	1,050.00
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$9,455.00	\$8,692.00	\$9,455.00	\$8,692.00	\$95,679.00	\$86,239.00
Total Budgeted Income	\$58,848.06	\$58,708.00	\$58,848.06	\$58,708.00	\$518,667.00	\$459,833.94

In addition to budgeted income, there was also \$5535 of unbudgeted income in the month of January. The majority of this is not actual income but is transfers of \$2500 and \$2100 from our general operating fund, where they are recorded as expenses, to the sabbatical fund and ELCA Youth Gathering fund, respectively. Here were also donations of \$600 to

Treasurer's Report for January 2026

the Good Samaritan Fund, \$153 to the Embellish Fund, \$100 of Scrip program income, and several other small donations.

Expense Summary

Total Budgeted YTD Expenses of \$45,761.29 is less than the YTD budget of \$48,343.00 by \$2581.71 as of the end of January.

Grins & Giggles YTD Expenses of \$7618.26 is less than the budget of \$8605.00 by \$986.74, mostly due to Head Teacher salaries.

Net Results: As of the end of January 2026 we have an Actual YTD Total Income of \$64,383.45, and Total Expenses of \$46,013.39, resulting in a difference of \$18,370.06. 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	\$58,848.06	\$58,708.00	\$58,848.06	\$58,708.00	\$518,667.00	\$459,833.94
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$45,761.29	\$48,343.00	\$45,761.29	\$48,343.00	\$534,359.00	\$488,612.71
Budgeted Income/Expense Difference	\$13,086.77	\$10,365.00	\$13,086.77	\$10,365.00	(\$15,692.00)	(\$28,778.77)
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$9,455.00	\$8,692.00	\$9,455.00	\$8,692.00	\$95,679.00	\$86,239.00
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$7,618.26	\$8,605.00	\$7,618.26	\$8,605.00	\$96,627.00	\$89,023.74
Grins & Giggles Income/Expense Difference	\$1,836.74	\$87.00	\$1,836.74	\$87.00	(\$948.00)	(\$2,784.74)
Total Income	\$64,383.45	\$58,708.00	\$64,383.45	\$58,708.00	\$534,361.00	\$475,527.94
Total Expense	\$46,013.39	\$48,343.00	\$46,013.39	\$48,343.00	\$534,359.00	\$488,612.71
Total Income/Expense Difference	\$18,370.06	\$10,365.00	\$18,370.06	\$10,365.00	\$2.00	(\$13,084.77)

Other Treasurer Activity:

- Reviewed bi-weekly payroll
- Reviewed January bank reconciliation
- Composed and sent letters to all staff documenting their 2026 pay rates
- Conducted two budget review meetings
- Supported annual meeting
- Signed multiple checks in absence of cash disbursements clerk
- Conversated with multiple people who expressed interest in cash disbursements clerk position

Respectfully Submitted,
 Alan Nordquist
 Treasurer

Consolidated Fund Activity Report January 2026

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

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
<i>Administrative-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Sabbatical Fund Balance	9,750.00	2,500.00	-	-	12,250.00
Special Gifts Balance	180.04	-	-	-	180.04
Staff Development Balance	3,794.80	-	-	-	3,794.80
<i>Building Fund Balance</i>					
General Building Fund Balance	22,382.55	10.00	-	-	22,392.55
Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,582.36	10.00	-	-	4,592.36
<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	4,251.92	600.00	-	-	4,851.92
Pastors' Discretionary Balance	11,218.85	-	200.00	-	11,018.85
Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	2,121.43	153.00	-	-	2,274.43
<i>Facilities Support-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Memorial Garden Balance	4,005.85	-	-	-	4,005.85
<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	2,111.96	-	-	-	2,111.96
Flowers Balance	(141.34)	52.39	-	-	(88.95)
General Operating Fund Balance	43,546.31	58,833.06	45,746.29	-	56,633.08
<i>Life Long Learning-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Ecumenical VBS Balance	252.58	-	-	-	252.58
Grins & Giggles Donations Balance	188.48	15.00	15.00	-	188.48
Women's Retreat Balance	236.12	-	-	-	236.12
Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	14,072.68	10.00	-	-	14,082.68
Memorial Fund Balance	7,098.27	-	-	-	7,098.27
<i>Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Meal Center Balance	723.25	-	-	-	723.25
<i>Special Programs Balance</i>					
Great Lakes Scrip Program Balance	2,382.25	100.00	-	-	2,482.25
Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	93,727.25	-	-	-	93,727.25
<i>Worship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
Handbell Program Fund Balance	787.91	-	52.10	-	735.81
Special Music Balance	2,544.61	-	-	-	2,544.61
<i>Youth-Dedicated Balance</i>					
ELCA Youth Gathering Balance	5,960.48	2,100.00	-	-	8,060.48
Youth Mission Trip Balance	522.15	-	-	-	522.15
Total	<u>\$246,337.52</u>	<u>\$64,383.45</u>	<u>\$46,013.39</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$264,707.58</u>



ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH

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

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

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



Prayer List

Pray for healing:

Joanne Cutler Law (friend of Sharon Podojil)
Jeffrey Brown (friend of Elaine Remondi-Simpson)
Stacey Stone (daughter-in-law of the Tobiassens)
Grace DeMarco
Baby Eliana Marshall (friend of Lauren Brundage)
Chris Hansen (friend of the Lettieres)
David Okrasinski (Uncle of Laura Parsons)
Kathy West
Madysen Lent (friend of Elaine Lettiere)
Steve Roman (Brother of Sandy Wimmermark)
Pam Roman (sister-in-law of Sandy Wimmermark)
Crystal Dame
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
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
Claudia Sanchez (sister of Rut Sanchez)
Chip Moran
Donna (friend of Leigh Sammons)
Linda Wilkinson
Joy Elisabeth (daughter of Patricia Carroll-French)
Sandy (friend of Patricia Carroll-French)

Pray for those who are Grieving:

Including the family & friends of
John Dirlam

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:

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

Pray for those with other concerns:

the ELCA AMMPARO Migrant Ministry
The St. Luke Prayer Shawl Ministry



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

March Celebrations

Birthdays:

Alice Leen	03/05
Pat Robbins	03/08
Anna Lettiere	03/09
Mary Robinson	03/11
Harry Tobiassen	03/15
Emilee Balinski	03/17
Mike Lembke	03/24
Jessica Vajdos	03/24
Camille Felty	03/27
Luke Keefe	03/29

Wedding Anniversaries: (# of Years Married)

David & Suzanne Etris	03/20	(50)
Jill & James Ragland	03/17	(3)
Dennis & Amy Sindel	03/06	(44)

Baptismal Birthdays:

Dame, Kathy	03/??/1952
Frost, Curt	03/05/1950
Johnson, Steve	03/21/1987
Johnston, Ben	03/??/2011
Nordquist, Al	03/16/1969
Sindel, Dennis	03/08/1960
Watson, Janeese	03/17/1983

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 - March 2026

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers
3/1								
9:30	Sue Bibeau	Ray. & John Perkins	Cathy Hanson		Diane Hansen & Jerry Swope	Everett & Nate	Roni & Kristian	Felix Vajdos
3/8								
9:30	Barb Candler	Dennis & Al	Linda Martin	Natalie D.	Marty Wood & Nancy Rupert	Everett & Nate	Dave & Brad	Fawn DeMello
3/15								
9:30	Joanne Erickson	John Perkins & Ray	Penny Heller	Liese Z.	Leigh Sammons & Robin Nelson	Camille & Everett	Kristian & Al	Lisa McCabe
3/22								
12:00	Grace DeMarco	John Robbins & Dennis	Deb Eld	Robert N.	Robin Nelson & Pat Robbins	Camille & Nate	Jim & Brad	Cyndi Arnold
3/29								
9:30	Joanne Erickson	Mark & Louise Larson	Sue Anderson		Jerry Swope & Charlie Anderson	Nate & Alexander	Dave & Brad	Katie Launer-Felty

This schedule compiled as of 3/31/2026; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

Church Calendar of Events

MARCH 2026

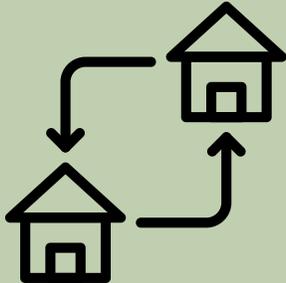
*Community Group

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
1 CELEBRATE 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Fellowship Hall Rental 2:30pm New London Meal Center	2 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA*	3 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	4 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	5 9:00am Grins & Giggles	6 9:00am Grins & Giggles	7 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
8 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting*	9 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA*	10 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	11 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	12 9:00am Grins & Giggles	13 9:00am Grins & Giggles	14 10:00am OA* 10:30am Women's Group 7:00pm AA*
15 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	16 SCROLL DEADLINE 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Girls Scouts 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA*	17 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Executive Planning Team 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	18 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	19 9:00am Grins & Giggles 6:00pm CONGREGATION COUNCIL	20 9:00am Grins & Giggles	21 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
22 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	23 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA*	24 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	25 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	26 9:00am Grins & Giggles	27 9:00am Grins & Giggles	28 10:00am OA* 10:30am Women's Group 7:00pm AA*
29 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	30 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA*	31 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	1	2	3	4

*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
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
mwl Larson@yahoo.com
Vice-President

Alan Nordquist
treasurer@stlukegf.org
Treasurer

St. Luke Lutheran Church

1830 Route 12
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*A member of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

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

