Vol. 21, Issue 11 St. Luke Lutheran Church

The Scroll

November 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



Greetings St. Luke Siblings in Christ,

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7)

November brings, for me, a welcome reminder to be grateful. This is budget season for the church. Teams and staff are submitting the financial numbers we believe we need to meet the mission we are called to for 2027. That includes budgeting enough money to cover housing for a potential Pastoral Intern, and a realization that the cost of our new roof put a significant dent in our Unrestricted Gifts fund. So, it is timely that I

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receive this seasonal reminder to lead with gratitude. Gratitude helps drive us back into the good news of Jesus, and the active presence and promises of our God. Gratitude can help us breathe out anxiety, and inhale (or in-spire) a calming divine breath that encourages us to trust God as we step forward into new ministry territory together.

Gratitude gives us the opportunity to count the many ways we've experienced God's grace and abundance in the past, which encourages us to step into our present (and future) with courage, with confidence, and with hope in Jesus Christ.

We begin November honoring All Saints Day, remembering those who have gone before us. Their legacy, and the current witness of living saints, surrounds us with Holy Spirit vibrancy. We can be grateful for the faithful legacy we continue, for a building that is being cared for and updated, for dedicated staff, for gracious volunteers, for five youth signed up to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2027, for the successful founding of the Southeast Alliance for Interfaith Leadership (SAIL), for a successful Socktober, for an upcoming Tag Sale (with loads of compassion and generosity), and so much more.

Leading with these gratitudes, the Holy Spirit can help us be excited about the ministry into which we are invited. The Holy Spirit can help each of us faithfully contribute from our time, talents, and resources to help bring these ministries to fruition in the name of Jesus. And the Spirit can guide us back into gratitude, guarding our hearts and minds in Jesus. As we move into the "holiday season" may the practice and mindset of gratitude help us rejoice in the Lord for all that God has done, is doing, and invites us to do together as church. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Church! Thank you, each and every one of you. Praise be to God, and thanks!

In gratitude,
Pastor Heidi Johnston

Presidential Notes

BY FAWN DEMELLO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



How are you being called by our Lord to serve:

With the start of the new church calendar starting near the end of this month may we embrace new beginnings. God is not finished with us. New opportunities can be brought before us.

You may be interested in using your gifts on a ministry team. Many are looking for new ideas and perspectives. Some ministry teams are Lifelong Learning – helping teach each other about the Bible, Evangelism – helping others know about God in different events or Fellowship – being there to assist when needed and enjoying each other's company. Maybe you would like to be part of the Worship service – assisting in leading our service or Outreach – helping outside of the church in having others learn about St. Luke in the community. Being a part of Facilities – keep our church looking great – in the garden, the meadow, or keeping the grounds clean. Have you ever wanted to be on the Church Council – expressing your leadership gifts.

There are many opportunities that are available. We need your assistance to keep everything moving forward.

Reflect on how our Lord is calling you to serve:
1 Peter 4:10: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Peace
Fawn

Outreach is living out the Gospel with love, listening, and action. St. Luke is so good at this!

In early October, we hosted a Bloodmobile which provided much needed blood and plasma for local hospitals. Blood is always in short supply so hosting bloodmobiles is an important, valuable part of our outreach into the community. Thank you to Elaine Remondi-Simpson for all her hard work to make St. Luke a welcoming and reliable bloodmobile site. Thank you to everyone who donated blood, welcomed people, made goodies, or served those delicious treats to donors. You help make St. Luke a hospitable and popular bloodmobile location. Our next bloodmobile will be December 3 and we encourage all eligible donors to donate. Help us meet our goal!

Thank you to Penny and Ray Heller and our dedicated group of volunteers who shop, prep, cook, and our monthly meal at the New London Meal Center. We are always in need of Manwich or other brands of canned Sloppy Joe mix.

Our annual Socktober event is always a success and once again, St. Luke delivered! Warm, dry feet are a basic necessity, yet socks are the most requested item in shelters, human services, and schools. Thank you to everyone who donated and to Kids' Corner for sorting and counting the socks. Socks will be delivered to area human service agencies for distribution.

The annual Crop Walk was held on October 18th. This event is a great example of living the Gospel in the community. It was a beautiful day for St.Luke and other members of the community to raise money for and awareness of hunger both locally and globally. Thank you to Elaine Remondi-Simpson for her hard work and passion in making this happen every year! Thank you also to all the dedicated walkers and those who made financial contributions for Crop Walk.

Thankfully, our Crisis Meal Ministry is rarely in demand, but when needed we sure do rise to the occasion. This ministry provides dinners for people experiencing a difficult time who could use one less thing to worry about during the challenging time. Thank you to Sue Anderson for organizing this and to all the cooks who provided meals for families this fall.

Pigs must be flying because there IS a fall tag sale to benefit the Furniture Bank of SE CT. It's November 6 and 7! This huge endeavor requires much help during the week leading up to the sale. There are sign-up sheets outside the Fellowship Hall but drop in help is always welcomed, too. Set-up starts after worship on November 1. Clean out those closets, attics, garages and start bringing your items to church on November 1 as well. Thank you to Karen and Michael Wuesthoff for their unfailing dedication to making sure people in need receive a warm bed!

Ledyard Social Services can use our help providing Thanksgiving dinner for families in need. Financial donations are needed and no amount is too small. Look for the special envelopes for contributions in the pews. Please make checks out to St. Luke Lutheran Church with "Thanksgiving" in the memo.

Coming soon...Gifts for Jesus, our annual opportunity to provide gifts for people who might otherwise not receive any Christmas gifts. Stay tuned!

Give a Speacial Gift to the Community

BY ELAINE REMONDI-SIMPSON

It's the most wonderful time of the year to give a special gift that keeps on giving. If you have ninety minutes or so to spare, you can do just that by becoming a donor at our next Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday December 3rd from 1:30 - 6:30 PM. This special gift may turn out to be life-saving for a family member, friend or neighbor. In the true spirit of Christmas, you may end up helping a complete stranger, a brother or sister in need. One thing is certain; you will make a life changing difference in someone's life.

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

Meeting the requirements for adequate iron levels and passing the testing for infectious diseases can be a problem for potential donors. Helpful fact sheets are available at the blood drive table. During the week before the drive, be sure to eat meals with iron rich food. Be sure to avoid fatty food and alcoholic beverages. Get a good night's sleep and drink an extra 16 ounces of water to experience a successful donation.

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

The Red Cross tells us the number one reason people give for becoming a blood donor is, "I want to help people. Here is an opportunity for you to help! Visit the Blood Drive table in the narthex following our worship services on Nov. 8, 15, 22 and 29. If you can't donate blood, volunteers are always needed to: prepare refreshments, set-up, register donors, staff the refreshment table, sanitize surfaces or clean-up after the blood drive. A volunteer sign-up list is also on the Blood Drive table in the narthex.

Please join us in making a special life-saving gift to the community at our Blood Drive on Thursday December 3rd from 1:30 - 6:30 PM. We encourage everyone who is able, especially healthy younger donors, to participate. Many of our older donors are no longer able to donate blood. We look forward to welcoming you at our next blood drive.

Enjoy safe travels and blessed holidays.
Elaine Remondi-Simpson

SIGN UP FOR AN APPOINTMENT

CROP Walk Results

BY ELAINE REMONDI-SIMPSON

Celebrating the 38th year of Gales Ferry Ledyard CROP Walks, **sixteen (16) St. Luke members, (3) guest walkers** along with a beloved cat and dog stepped up to meet the challenge of addressing poverty with our partner churches in southeastern Connecticut. On October 18, 2026, multi-generation family members, friends and newcomers gathered to share an enjoyable **38th Gales Ferry/Ledyard CROP Walk** on a beautiful autumn afternoon. Our St. Luke walkers have raised four thousand, one hundred, sixty-seven dollars, (**$4,167.26**) as of October 22, 2026. There are some funds that are expected to be turned in soon and your participation, as always, is greatly appreciated.

There were one hundred one faithful participants in the event. We are grateful for the twenty thousand, two hundred sixty-seven dollars **($23,267.02)** that has been raised to date. ***At this time, we are close to our community goal of $25,000.00. Online donors are encouraged to contribute and donations are accepted through December 31, 2026.*** Final results for the community will be made available when all of the funds have been received and tallied. Hungry neighbors in southeastern CT will benefit from **25%** of the amount raised through a donation to the Gemma Moran Food Center. We are grateful for all the committed walkers who participated in this worthy event. A very special thank you is extended to all of the generous donors who stepped up to be hunger fighters. Thank you for caring about our neighbors close to home and far away. All of your efforts are sincerely appreciated and life affirming for those in need of our help. Gathering together as a community unified in mission in Jesus name, we strengthen our community of believers; as we help our neighbors deal with the struggles they are facing in their daily lives. We are making a difference in the world.

Jesus reminds us, "What you did for the least of mine you did for me."

Elaine Remondi- Simpson



Tag Sale 11/6 & 7!

BY MICHAEL WUESTHOFF



The Furniture Bank Tag Sale is almost here. We're going to need lots of STUFF, and because some of our usual helpers won't be here, we're going to need lots of

HELP organizing and selling the stuff. Please bring us stuff to sell, come help us organize it during the week of November 1, then come on November 6 (6 to 8 pm) and 7 (8 am to 2 pm) to buy stuff to fill up the space you gained by getting rid of stuff!

What we need...

Anything usually found at tag sales is welcome, but please note that it must be in good condition, and that we cannot accept items that are difficult to sell or dispose of, such as hazardous materials, paint, CRT (oldstyle) TV sets, kitchen cabinets (yeah, we've gotten those!), large appliances (refrigerators, washing machines, etc.), tires, automobile batteries, or sets of encyclopedias. Stuff to sell can be brought to the church beginning on Sunday, November 1, after the service. If you have stuff that you've just gotta get rid of before then (like you're moving to Florida), give us a call at the furniture bank number (860 381-9224) and we'll see if we can arrange something.

We'll need lots of help!

It takes a whole week to set up and run the sale, and to clean up the church after the sale. It's a huge undertaking, but also a fun and rewarding way to reach out to the community. The more people who help out, the easier and more fun it becomes. Please consider joining us! We start setting up for the sale on November 1 right after church, and we'll need lots of help!

Come and get it!

After the sale, we will have to load all remaining merchandise into a dumpster. We don't like to throw stuff away, so please consider coming and taking away anything you'd like, either for yourself or to take to local charities. We will begin promptly at 2:00 pm on November 7.

In case you didn't know:

The Furniture Bank, which began in 1982 as an outreach of St. Luke, gives new beds and cribs free of charge to people in financial need who are referred by social service agencies and churches. To date, we estimate that we have helped over 21,000 people. We have been running tag sales at St. Luke for 36 years (since 1990). The proceeds are used to supplement grant funds to purchase beds and cribs. Donations for the tag sale are tax-deductible. For further information, ask Karen or Mike Wuesthoff, or call the furniture bank at 860 381-9224.

Music News

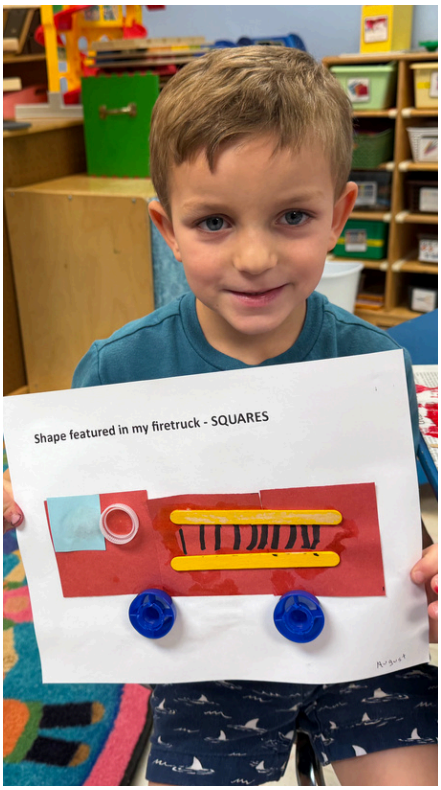

Community
Christmas Concert
Friday, December 4, 7 pm
Tono Dolce Community Choir
JuBellation Handbell Choir
St Luke Senior Choir
Ledyard HS Carolers
Orchestra
St. Luke Lutheran Church
1830 Route 12
Gales Ferry, CT
Handicap accessible
stlukegf.org











Grins & Giggles Preschool News

BY NANCY RUPERT

October was a very busy month for visitors at preschool. We had the Ledyard Fire department come and teach the children about fire safety and we had the Ledyard Police department come and talk about how the police keep us safe and what to do in an emergency. We were able to sit in a fire truck AND a police car too!! After taking our field trip to the apple orchard we made apple sauce and many apple crafts. The Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center came in to tell us about how animals get ready for winter. We were able to pet turtles, snakes and guinea pigs! The children are making friends and enjoying coming to school. It's wonderful to see!

Our annual Halloween party is coming up and the children are excited about what they will be wearing as costumes. The parents and our St. Luke staff will be participating in the fun by dressing up and passing out treats in our hallway. Beware of the upcoming sugar rush!!

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

Councilors in attendance: Pastor Heidi Johnston, Fawn DeMello, Helmut Steinnagel, John Perkins, Alan Nordquist Erica Sullivan, Leigh Sammons, Janis Vajdos

Excused Absenses: Brad Dame, Pat Robbins

Recording secretary: Mitchell Robinson

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

Devotions

- Erica Sullivan 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 August 20, 2026, Council minutes and the E-Vote on September 8, 2026, for the 12-month Certificate of Deposit not to be renewed. The motion carried.

President's Remarks

- Fawn DeMello discussed the Executive Report.
- New Clothing Shed is set up.
- Calendar Meeting update.
    - Budget Information is due to the Treasurer by November 19, 2026
    - Council Budget Meeting December 15, 2026 at 5:30 (Zoom)
    - Budget Review Meetings January 23-24, 2027
    - Annual Meeting January 31, 2027
- By-laws, there are a few changes that will be presented to the Congregation Council at the October meeting. Then there will be an information meeting set up for the congregation to review the changes. The Congregation will vote on the changes at the Annual Meeting. The congregation needs 60 days prior to the vote to review.
- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded that the Congregation Council approve that Fressy Leon be allowed to use the Fellowship Hall for a Baby shower on October 18, 2026 and to serve beer and wine. The motion carried.

Church Members' Comments/Concerns

- None

Minutes of the September Congregation Council Meeting

Financial Reports

- Please refer to the Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet, and Consolidated Fund Activity Report documents.
- The two Certificates of Deposit with Thrivent that matured and were closed were valued at $156,000.
- Alan Nordquist is working with Natalie Dannecker to write the Stewardship Letter. Consecration Sunday will be on November 8, 2026.
- The Council discussed the proposals for replacing the roof and the financing alternatives. Alan Nordquist will contact the Mission Investment Fund to determine what financing alternatives are available.
- Motion: Helmut moved that the Council approve using All-Site Builders to replace the roof including removal and replacement of the solar panels as described in their proposal of August 10, 2026 and their revision dated September 9, 2026 in the amount of $115,998. Erica seconded. Motion carried.
- The target for the Congregational meeting to approve the contract is October 4, 2026.

Pastors' Reports

- Please refer to written report.
- Pastor Heidi noted with gratitude the volunteer support for the four funerals during the month.
- Pastor Heidi encouraged the Council to attend the founding assembly for Southeast Alliance for Interfaith Leadership (SAIL) on October 28, 2026 from 6:30-8:30 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Waterford.

Purpose Teams Reports

- Evangelism-There was no meeting.
- Fellowship
  - Please refer to the Fellowship report.
  - Two more funerals are scheduled.
  - Helmut said some people had problems with the sign-up software. Janis said if anyone has problems with the sign-off software they should send an email directly to her or just bring something.
  - Helmut asked how the Fellowship Team covers expenses. Pastor Heidi and Janis said the families donate some money. Thought should be given to increasing the Fellowship Team budget.
- Lifelong Learning
  - Please refer to the Lifelong Learning Report.
  - Car wash earned $900.
  - Christmas program is planned for December 20, 2026.
  - Pastor Heidi noted Grins and Giggles registration is down.
- Outreach Ministry
  - Please refer to the Outreach Report.
  - God's Work Our Hands Sunday went well.
  - Leigh will find out if there is a written Mission Statement for the Community Garden and prepare a statement if required.
  - Will give greater visibility to the Caring Sharing basket.
  - David Horst of the Homeless Hospitality Center has offered to do a Lifelong Learning session.
- Worship
  - Please refer to the Worship Team Activity Summary and the Director of Music Council Report.

Support Team Reports

- Communications
  - Please refer to the Communications Report.
  - Janis suggested that the signs in front of the church should be reevaluated.

- Facilities
  - Please refer to the Facilities Report.
  - Thanked volunteers who helped with painting and staining.
- Parish
  - Please refer to the Church Office Report.
- People
  - Noting to 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.

Old Business

None

New Business.

None

Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 6:00 pm in person.

Devotions- Bradley Dame

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 8:00 PM, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Robinson, Recording Secretary

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report for Month Ending
September 30, 2026

October 19, 2026

Income Summary

Pledged offering for the month of September was approximately $13.9K above the monthly budget. Grace Giving for the month of September was below the monthly budget by approximately $135, making the total offerings income approximately $13.6K above the budget for the month. This results in our YTD offerings as of the end of September being $12.7K above the YTD budget.

Grins & Giggles income for the month of September was $2112 less than the monthly budget, resulting in YTD Grins & Giggles income as of the end of September being approximately $5619 below the YTD budget.

We also earned $263 in investment income in the month of September primarily from our Thrivent CD, which has now been closed. Since both CD's have now been closed to make this money available to pay for our new roof, we will no longer be earning any significant monthly interest income, and thus this income at the end of the year will be below the annual budget by approximately $1.6K.

With all budgeted income sources combined, our actual total budgeted income for the month of September was approximately $11.9K greater than the monthly budget, making the YTD total budgeted income approximately $8.6K greater than the YTD budget.

A summary of the YTD September 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	43,862.37	30,000.00	284,036.35	273,000.00	371,268.00	87,231.65
Grace Giving	2,864.50	3,000.00	29,801.25	28,000.00	37,700.00	7,898.75
Loose Cash Offering	251.00	333.00	2,971.20	2,997.00	4,000.00	1,028.80
Special Envelopes	0.00	0.00	774.00	900.00	1,700.00	926.00
Offerings	**$46,977.87**	**$33,333.00**	**$317,582.80**	**$304,897.00**	**$414,668.00**	**$97,085.20**
Building Use	575.63	283.00	3,075.04	2,547.00	3,400.00	324.96
Special Collections	255.08		1,375.38			
Structures Income	**$830.71**	**$283.00**	**$4,450.42**	**$2,547.00**	**$3,400.00**	**$324.96**
Investments Div/Interest	263.45	420.00	3,322.58	3,660.00	4,920.00	1,597.42
Other Income	**$263.45**	**$420.00**	**$3,322.58**	**$3,660.00**	**$4,920.00**	**$1,597.42**
Grins & Giggles Income - Donations	0.00		15.00			
Grins & Giggles Income-Tuition	6,580.00	8,600.00	63,423.34	68,779.00	94,579.00	31,155.66
Grins & Giggles Income-Registration fees	0.00	92.00	550.00	828.00	1,100.00	550.00
Total Grins and Giggles Income	**$6,580.00**	**$8,692.00**	**$63,988.34**	**$69,607.00**	**$95,679.00**	**$31,705.66**
Total Budgeted Income	**$54,652.03**	**$42,728.00**	**$389,344.14**	**$380,711.00**	**$518,667.00**	**$130,713.24**

In addition to budgeted income, there was also $2968 of unbudgeted income in the month of September, primarily from donations to the ELCA Youth Gathering Fund (from the car wash held on 8/30/26), Fellowship Special Events, the Good Samaritan Fund, and the General Building Fund.

Treasurer's Report for September 2026

Total Budgeted YTD Expenses of $384,626.64 is less than the YTD budget of $393,375.00 by $8748.36 as of the end of September. We have spent significantly more than our budget in the Facilities category by $10.6K, but have underspent in other categories enough to offset the facilities expenses.

Grins & Giggles YTD Expenses of $60,743.25 is less than the budget of $70,144.00 by $9400.75, as Grins & Giggles expenses in the month of September were well under the monthly budget, and the summer camp was also one week shorter than planned due to teacher availability.

Net Results: As of the end of September 2026 we have an Actual YTD Total Income of $483,996.47, and Total Expenses of $443,289.58, resulting in a difference of $40,706.89. A high-level year to date summary is in the tables below.

Month ending September 30, 2026:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Budgeted Income	$54,652.03	$42,728.00	$389,344.14	$380,711.00	$518,667.00	$130,713.24
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	$25,197.74	$38,730.00	$384,626.64	$393,375.00	$534,359.00	$152,178.63
Budgeted Income/Expense Difference	**$29,454.29**	**$3,998.00**	**$4,717.50**	**($12,664.00)**	**($15,692.00)**	**($21,465.39)**
Total Grins and Giggles Income	$6,580.00	$8,692.00	$63,988.34	$69,607.00	$95,679.00	$31,705.66
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	$4,890.17	$8,832.00	$60,743.25	$70,144.00	$96,627.00	$35,898.75
Grins & Giggles Income/Expense Difference	**$1,689.83**	**($140.00)**	**$3,245.09**	**($537.00)**	**($948.00)**	**($4,193.09)**
Total Income	$57,620.17	$42,728.00	$483,996.47	$380,711.00	$534,361.00	$146,407.24
Total Expense	$41,844.83	$38,730.00	$443,289.58	$393,375.00	$534,359.00	$152,178.63
Total Income/Expense Difference	**$15,775.34**	**$3,998.00**	**$40,706.89**	**($12,664.00)**	**$2.00**	**($5,771.39)**

Other Treasurer Activity:

- Reviewed bi-weekly payroll
- Reviewed monthly bank reconciliation
- Closed 9 month CD with Thrivent Bank that matured on September 13, 2026 and deposited ~$105K in funds into St. Luke Dime Bank account, as approved by the council. Both of our CD's have now been closed.
- Contacted a representative from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to explore the possibility of getting a loan to pay for the roof replacement. The executive team ultimately concluded that paying for the roof in whole from our savings made more sense than getting a loan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alan Nordquist
Treasurer

St Luke Lutheran Church - Gales Ferry CT

Consolidated Fund Activity Report for September 2026

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.1001.1001	General Operating Fund Balance	16,091.54	54,652.00	25,197.00	-	45,545.83
3.1001.1002	General Fd - Unrestricted	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.1050.1000	*Building Fund Balance*					
3.1050.1001	General Building Fund Balance	22,462.55	348.00	1,188.00	-	21,623.05
3.1050.1002	Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,662.36	10.00	-	-	4,672.36
3.1060.1000	Memorial Fund Balance	6,516.25	-	-	-	6,516.25
3.1070.1000	Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	14,152.68	10.00	-	-	14,162.68
3.1080.1000	Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	125,420.24	-	-	-	125,420.24
3.2001.1000	*Worship-Dedicated Balance*					
3.2001.1001	Special Music Balance	2,430.41	-	126.00	-	2,303.70
3.2001.1002	Celebrate Team Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2001.1003	Handbell Program Fund Balance	697.00	-	-	-	697.00
3.2001.2020	Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	2,311.62	-	-	-	2,311.62
3.2002.1000	*Administrative-Dedicated Balance*					
3.2002.1001	Purchase reimbursement Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2002.1003	Intransit Items Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2002.1004	Special Gifts Balance	180.04	-	-	-	180.04
3.2002.1006	Staff Development Balance	3,794.80	-	-	-	3,794.80
3.2002.1009	Surplus Allocation Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2002.1012	Sabbatical Fund Balance	12,751.75	47.00	12,246.00	-	552.44
3.2002.1100	Internship Program Balance	11,500.00	-	-	-	11,500.00
3.2002.1007	Flowers Balance	292.50	130.00	48.00	-	373.60
3.2003.1000	*Evangelism-Dedicated Balance*					
3.2003.1003	Prayer Shawl Ministry Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2004.1000	*Fellowship-Dedicated Balance*					
3.2004.1004	Soup Sunday Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2004.1005	Fellowship Special Events Balance	1,962.61	700.00	339.00	-	2,322.91
3.2004.1007	Soup-er Bowl Sunday Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2004.1010	Fellowship Furnishings Balance	6,021.56	-	-	-	6,021.56
3.2005.1000	*Special Programs Balance*					
3.2005.1002	RaiseRight (Scrip) Program Balance	2,006.73	22.00	-	-	2,028.73
3.2005.1003	Eagle Scout Project Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2006.1000	*Youth-Dedicated Balance*					
3.2006.1003	ELCA Youth Gathering Balance	8,060.48	900.00	-	-	8,960.48
3.2006.1004	Youth Mission Trip Balance	522.15	-	-	-	522.15
3.2007.1000	*Family Ministry-Dedicated Balance*					
3.2007.1001	Family Ministry Activities Balance	208.00	-	-	-	208.00
3.2008.1000	*Life Long Learning-Dedicated Balance*					
3.2008.1001	Ecumenical VBS Balance	252.58	-	-	-	252.58
3.2008.1002	Adult Bible Study Groups Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2008.1003	Women's Retreat Balance	236.12	-	-	-	236.12
3.2008.1010	Grins & Giggles Donations Balance	188.48	-	-	-	188.48
3.2009.1000	*Ministry-Dedicated Balance*					
3.2002.1005	Thrivent Choice Balance	671.00	-	-	-	671.00
3.2009.1001	Meal Center Balance	723.25	-	-	-	723.25
3.2009.1002	Chikumbuso Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2009.1010	Heifer International Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2009.1011	World Hunger Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2009.1012	Lutheran World Relief Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2009.1017	Disaster Relief Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2009.1018	Habitat for Humanity Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2011.1005	Community Garden Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	-	-
3.2010.1000	*Discretionary Gifts Balance*					
3.2010.1001	Pastors' Discretionary Balance	8,339.92	-	2,151.00	-	6,188.09
3.2010.1002	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	8,301.92	700.00	-	-	9,001.92
3.2010.1003	Council Discretionary Fund Balance	2,822.19	-	-	-	2,822.19
3.2010.1004	Camp Calumet Scholarships Balance	1,175.00	-	-	-	1,175.00
3.2011.1000	*Facilities Support-Dedicated Balance*					
3.2011.1001	Memorial Garden Balance	3,913.34	100.00	545.00	-	3,468.34
3.9000.1000	Net Fixed Asset Fund Balance	1,918,224.00	-	-	-	1,918,224.00
Total		**$2,186,893**	**$57,620**	**$41,844**	**$0**	**$2,202,668**

Kid's Page

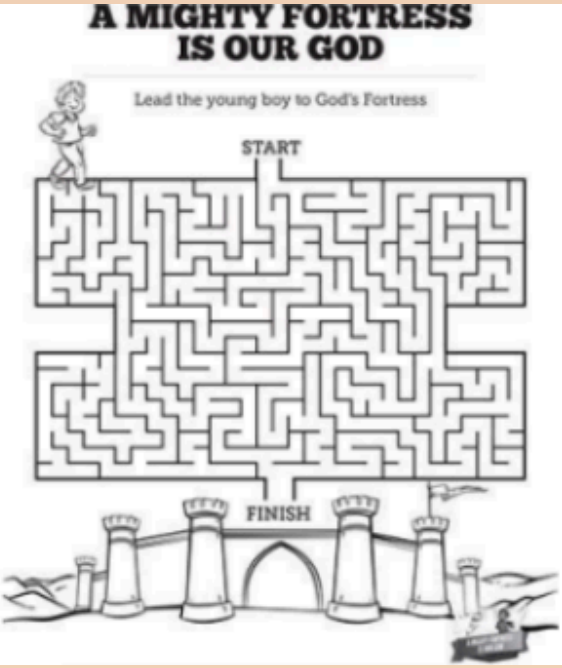
Thanksgiving Word Search

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

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

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





Prayer List

Pray for healing:

David Lucas (brother of Karen Wuesthoff)
Sharon Schlepp
St. Mark Lutheran Church
John Perkins
Kelly Kern (mother of Morgan Kern)
Jeanne Steinnagel
Larry Parsons
Nancy Lembke
Dick Wimmermark
Robin Buckland (co-worker of Roy B.)
Mike Arnold
Sharon Podojil
Cyndi Arnold
Kathy West
Madysen Lent (friend of Elaine Lettiere)
Steve Roman (Brother of Sandy Wimmermark)
Pam Roman (sister-in-law of Sandy Wimmermark)
Vicki Breuell (friend of the Nelsons)
Livingston Carroll (brother of Patricia Carroll-French)
Travis Turner
Doris Remondi (mother of Elaine Remondi-Simpson)
Chip Moran
Donna (friend of Leigh Sammons)
Joy Elisabeth (daughter of Patricia Carroll-French)
Sandy (friend of Patricia Carroll-French)
Paul Roman

Pray for those who are Grieving:

Pray for active duty military:

Hannah (Spouse of Kate McGivern)
Henry Yanaway
Christian Conrad
Adrian Estrella
Martin Wuesthoff
Andy Sammons
Derek Raymond
Patrick Wimmermark

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

Joe Rock (friend of Roy Belhumeur)
Rayanne Chambers
Louise Barrett (aunt of Roy Belhumeur)
Mary (sister-in-law of Marie Tobiassen)
Tony Lettiere (father of Dan Lettiere)
Sabina Moran (mother of Gina Donovan)
Fred Launer
Pauline Wanner
Bob Chernansky
Jenny Waller
Lynn Minichino

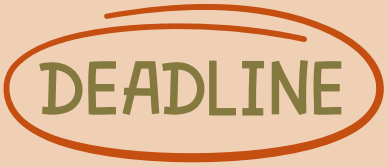


Pray for those with other concerns:

Church World Service & the Ledyard CROP Walk
Southeast Alliance for Interfaith Leadership

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

November Celebrations

Birthdays:

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

Wedding Anniversaries:
(# of Years Married)

Harry & Marie Tobiassen	11/01	(57)

Baptismal Birthdays:

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

Did we miss your celebration? Please call the church office, 860-464-7897, or e-mail parishadmin@stlukegf.org, so we can be sure to honor your special day.

ST. LUKE—SCHEDULE TO SERVE - November 2026

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers
11/1								
9:30	Elaine Remondi-Simpson	Ray Heller & John Perkins	Sue Anderson	Liese Z.	Jerry Swope & Camille Felty	Nate	Roni Rollinson & Kristian Balinski	Katie
11/8								
9:30	Joanne Erickson	Al Nordquist & Dennis Sindel	Linda Martin	Gina Donovan	Nancy Rupert & Charlie Anderson	Alex	Jim Sammons & Kristian Balinski	Jacqueline
11/15								
9:30	Edna Johnson	Mark & Louise Larson	Penny Howell-Heller	Roy Belhumeur	Robin Nelson & Charlie Anderson	Nate & Everett	Dave Zitzkat & Dan Morrison	Lisa
11/22								
9:30	Leigh Sammons	Dave Zitzkat & John Perkins	Deb Eld	Nancy Lembke	Diane Hansen & Leigh Sammons	Camille & Emilee	Jim Sammos & Al Nordquist	Fawn
11/29								
9:30	Elaine Remondi-Simpson	John Robbins & Dave Goodrich	Pat Robbins	Roy Belhumeur	Nany Ruper & Charlie Anderson	Everett	Brad Dame & Kristian Balinski	Felix

This schedule compiled as of 10/27/26; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

Church Calendar of Events

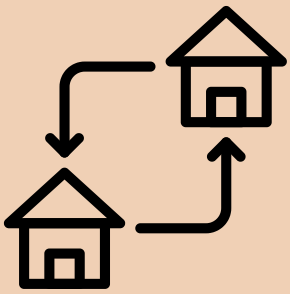
NOVEMBER 2026

*Community Group

Music Rehearsals:
Monday 5:00pm - Grace Notes
Tuesday 6:00pm - The Belles
Tuesday 7:00pm - Senior Choir
Wednesday 7:00pm - JuBELLation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 CELEBRATE 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Tag Sale Set-up 2:30pm New London Meal Center	2 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	3 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Belles & Beau 7:00pm Senior Choir	4 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Narthex 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	5 9:00am Grins & Giggles	6 9:00am Grins & Giggles 6:00pm Tag Sale	7 8:00am Tag Sale 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
8 Consecration Sunday Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Lifelong Learning Meeting	9 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 6:30pm Fellowship Team Meeting 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	10 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Belles & Beau 6:00pm Executive Planning Team 7:00pm Senior Choir 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	11 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	12 9:00am Grins & Giggles 6:30pm CROP Walk Meeting	13 9:00am Grins & Giggles	14 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
15 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Bible Study	16 SCROLL DEADLINE 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	17 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Belles & Beau 7:00pm Senior Choir 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	18 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 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 Fellowship Hall Rental- T. Brown. 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
22 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	23 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	24 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 2:15pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Belles & Beau 6:00pm CPR Training* 7:00pm Senior Choir 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	25 9:00am EmBellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	26 9:00am Grins & Giggles	27 9:00am Grins & Giggles	28 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
29 Coffee Hour Organist Kathleen's birthday Pageant Rehearsal 9:30am In-person Worship 9:30am Livestream worship	30 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	1	2	3	4	5

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

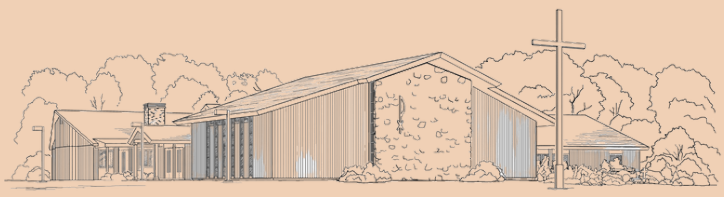




St. Luke Lutheran Church
1830 Route 12
Gales Ferry, CT 06335
Phone: 860-464-7897
Fax: 860-464-7742
Website: stlukegf.org

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
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

Fawn DeMello
fdemello@comcast.net
President

Helmut Steinnagel
vicepresident@stlukegf.org
Vice-President

Alan Nordquist
treasurer@stlukegf.org
Treasurer