



The Scroll

OCTOBER 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

Fall Greetings St. Luke Siblings in Christ,

The month of September was a full month, with "God's work. Our hands." day, a beautiful harvest from the St. Luke Community Garden, ongoing efforts to paint and stain the church building, and four funerals! St. Luke worshipers were involved in these happenings to varying degrees, and we, the church leadership, are SO grateful for all of your efforts, put forth in the name of Jesus. Thank you! A funeral director at one of the funeral services commented that "St. Luke is blessed to have so many volunteers! After the funeral, it was like an army of picnic ants, coming out of the kitchen with more and more food." Well done, good and faithful servants.

With all of the working and serving in Christ's name, please accept this invitation to also rest in the Lord. As we start to see leaves fall, and cooler temperatures creep in, please take time to fall into the arms of our



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  Follow Us! @stlukegf

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Creator, and seek care and comfort. Especially for those still grieving the loss of those we laid to rest during September, know that our merciful Redeemer beckons us into relationship with God, but also into relationship with one another, to find support. We do not carry our burdens alone. Well, sometimes we do, but we don't have to! Loss in a community can take a great toll. It is hard to say goodbye, even if we trust in God's promises that death does not have the last say. So, please be tender with yourselves, and with one another. We need time to be refilled and refueled.

There is much more work to do, serving the kin-dom of God. The Holy Spirit promises to fill us up, in worship with the Word, at the Lord's Table, in community, and in quiet time with the Lord. Then we are fortified to continue on, proclaiming comfort, justice, and love for a weary and aching world.

Falling with you into the arms of Jesus,

Pastor Heidi Johnston

Presidential Notes

BY FAWN DEMELLO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Prayer is very powerful. I have learned this even more over the past two months. Prayers are heard no matter how you say them, either out loud or internally. Many people can feel that they do not know how to say a prayer, no matter how you do, God is always listening.

I recently read this about prayers to remember:

1. Heavenly Father make me better
2. Change my heart
3. Renew my mind
4. Calm my spirit
5. Guide my words
6. Lead my steps
7. Strengthen my faith
8. Give my wisdom
9. Keep my home peaceful
10. Make my efforts fruitful

Matthew 7:7-8 - "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

Peace

Fawn



We really need some more volunteers for the New London Community Meal Center. We cook and serve on the first Sunday of every month, as many of you know.

We have had a number of volunteers that can no longer do this, due to normal attrition.

Please consider this even if you can only be a substitute when we get into a "pinch". We won't schedule you if that is your preference.

You can just come and watch anytime, to see if it is something you might be able or willing to do. No strings attached.

We have one group that cooks, and a second group comes in to serve and cleanup. Total time commitment is about 2 hours a month.

CROP Walk 10/18

BY ELAINE REMONDI-SIMPSON

CROP Walk October 18, 2026 needs energetic walkers and generous donors to reach the \$25,000.00 fundraising goal set by our partner churches. Also needed are servers and guests to support the monthly fundraiser breakfast on **Saturday October 3 from 7:30 - 10.00 at Ledyard Congregational Church**. Please join us in making a life affirming difference in the world.

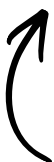


Register Here

We become our best selves when serving others.

Blood Drive 10/1: Saving Lives

BY ELAINE REMONDI-SIMPSON



Register Here

Fall brings a panorama of colorful foliage, cool crisp weather, and a bountiful harvest. The days are invigorating and many people feel grateful to be alive at this time of the year. It is also a time to share the precious gift of life, by giving blood, at our St. Luke **Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday October 1 st from 1:00 - 6:00 PM**. Support our efforts by inviting friends, neighbors and co-workers to donate. Helping to staff the drive or preparing refreshments for the donors is also appreciated. Please drop off refreshments by 12:30 pm. One thing is certain; you will make a life affirming difference in someone's life. **Join us in ensuring the availability of a healthy blood supply.**

A little rain didn't ruin our day! God's Work, Our Hands Sunday was a terrific success. **Huge thanks to everyone who took on a GWOH task and made it happen!**

Thank you to everyone who contributed items, helped organize and pack those items, and to everyone for all the prayers along the way. We provided 10 abundantly filled baskets for people transitioning from unhoused to housed and 10 birthday kits for New London Homeless Hospitality Center.

Thank you to David and Crystal from NLHHC who shared a bit about the mission of NLHHC and then enthusiastically participated in the day alongside us. We look forward to the possibility of other ways to partner with NLHHC in the future.

Special thanks to Nora Brundage for her wonderful idea to have a lemonade stand which raised \$312 for NLHHC. Nora also suggested we assemble "blessing bags" to distribute to people in need. She brainstormed a list of items to include in the bags, and thanks to a Thrivent grant, we were able to provide ingredients for 30 blessing bags. Thank you to Nora for her caring and brave heart! Thank you to her siblings Daisy, June, and Theo, and their grandparents for all their kindness and help for GWOH Sunday.

Thank you to Valentino's for donating 14 large pizzas for a delicious lunch.

Thank you to our intrepid Fellowship Team for setting up tables and chairs for the day as well as providing delicious salad to enjoy with our pizza. You are amazing!

Blood is in short supply and we need your help! **October 1 is our next Bloodmobile from 1:30-6:30.** Please see Elaine Remondi-Simpson to sign up or you can go directly to the Blood Donor app to sign up to donate. The process is easy, painless, and a simple way to help save lives.

Socktober is coming! **Our annual sock drive is starting October 4.** Last year we collected hundreds of pairs of socks which were distributed to local human services. Please consider donating NEW socks for men, women, and children. Socks can be placed in the rolling baskets in the Narthex, beginning October 4.

Socktober

Starting October 4





People have been asking if we're going to have another Furniture Bank tag sale. Our response has been, "When pigs fly!" Well, they're flying!

The tag sales are a lot of work, and we're never sure whether we want to do it again. But they're also a lot of fun, make a lot of money to buy beds for the Furniture Bank, and after resting up for a few months we're ready to do it again. So, pigs are flying and we're having another tag sale. As usual, we're going to need lots of **stuff** for the sale and we're going to need lots of **help**.

We love tag sales, and we hope you do too! So please bring us stuff to sell, come help us organize it, then come to the tag sale 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. Please start cleaning out your basements and garages and attics, and save the good stuff for the sale. You'll get rid of stuff you don't need, somebody else will love it, and the money we earn selling it will provide beds and cribs for people who otherwise could not afford them!

What we need...

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

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

We'll need lots of help!

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

In case you didn't know:

The Furniture Bank, which began in 1982 as an outreach of St. Luke, gives new beds free of charge to people in financial need who are referred by social service agencies, hospitals, 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.

SOUP SUNDAY

The Music program of St. Luke will be sponsoring a Soup Sunday on Reformation Sunday, October 25th. A goodwill offering will be accepted to defray the costs of the professional musicians hired for the Community Christmas Concert.



TRUNK OR TREAT!



Trunk or Treat 2025

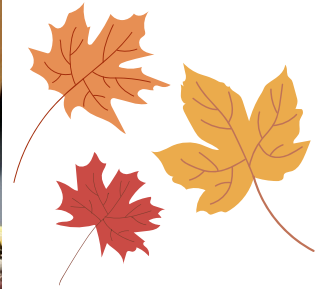
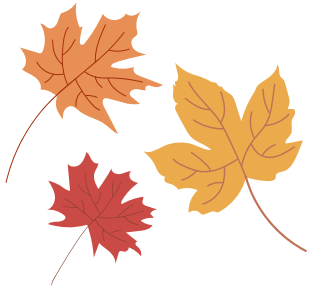
On Friday evening, October 30th, St. Luke is once again participating in Ledyard's Trunk or Treat Event to be held on the Town Green. Preparation help is always needed ahead of time. No theme has been chosen as of yet and so your ideas would be most appreciated. Set-up on the night of the event begins at 4 pm and begins at 5:30 for young children and those who have sensory challenges and ends at 8:00 p.m. Please see Gina if you have any ideas and to volunteer.

LICENSE REPORTING

For all music that is performed, printed, projected, and shown on video St. Luke must have a copyright license to do so. We currently have two separate licenses with CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) and One License. We are required to report usage of our music. One License requires reporting on an ongoing basis in a 12 week time frame. Although CCLI requires reporting only on a periodic basis we report every month.

Based on the information we report, royalty payments are made to the song owners. A BIG THANK YOU to Alice Carter who does our reporting every month and has done so for many years!





Grins & Giggles Preschool News

BY NANCY RUPERT

Welcome to fall! Preschool had a busy first month of school learning the rules and routines, making friends and practicing new skills. We had visits from a dental hygienist, firefighter and police officer during our 'Community Workers' week. Pastor Heidi came in to introduce herself to our newest students and taught them a song, 'This Little Light of Mine' to make them realize each and everyone of them can make a difference in this world. We have a very nice group of children this year and the parents are all supportive and enthusiastic.

The month of October we will be learning how animals prepare for winter with a presentation from the Denison Pequot Sepos Nature Center. They will be bringing their live animals for the children to touch and see. We also will be going on our field trip to the Scott's Yankee Orchard in East Lyme to pick apples and compare the differences and similarities of yellow, red and green apples. Later in class we will be making apple sauce! The end of the month will be devoted to spooky Halloween! Fun month!!

Minutes of the August Congregation Council Meeting

St. Luke Lutheran Church Minutes of the Congregation Council Meeting August 20 2026

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

Recording secretary: Mitchell Robinson

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

Devotions

- Alan Nordquist led devotions.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of the following motion.
- The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded to approve June 18, 2026, Council minutes and the E-Vote on July 24, 2026, for Tiger Construction to repair the outside of St. Luke's building. The motion carried.

President's Remarks

- Thank you to Pastor Mike for his preaching, leadership and pastoral visits.
- Fawn DeMello discussed the Executive Report.
- Helmut said that the North Stonington Congregational Church and St. Mark Lutheran Church reported that their experiences with their clothing drop-off sheds had been positive. John said that Preston Congregational Church reported no major problems with their shed.
- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded that the Congregation Council approve having a clothing drop-off shed located on the property. The motion carried.
- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded that the Congregation Council approve moving RDI as our Cloud Server to Summit for Church windows. The motion carried.

Church Members' Comments/Concerns

- None

Financial Reports

- Please refer to the Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet, and Consolidated Fund Activity Report documents.
- Alan noted that a Certificate of Deposit is maturing and the Council needs to decide whether to buy a new CD or move the money the savings account.
- Alan noted that a Certificate of Deposit is maturing and the Council needs to decide whether to buy a new CD or move the money the savings account.

Minutes of the August Congregation Council Meeting

- Motion: Alan Nordquist moved and it was seconded that the Congregation Council approve and purchase a new policy from The Hartford for the for Workers' Compensation Policy approximately \$1,300.
- Motion to amend: Alan Nordquist moved and it was seconded to amend the policy from The Hartford for the Workers' Compensation Policy for approximately \$1,300 in savings per year." The amendment was passed. The amended motion was approved.
- Alan Nordquist reported that we would renew the property and liability with Church Mutual.
- Alan Nordquist said planning for Stewardship Campaign should begin. He reported that Natalie Donneker has agreed to write the Stewardship Letter again. He proposed November 8, 2026 for Consecration Sunday.
- Motion: Alan Nordquist moved and it was seconded that Council approve not renewing the CD and moving the money to the Dime Bank Savings account.

The motion carried.

Pastors' Reports

- Please refer to the Pastor's report on her sabbatical.
- Pastor Heidi announced that the founding assembly for Southeast Alliance for Interfaith Leadership (SAIL) will be on October 28, 2026 from 6:30-8:30 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Waterford. The Congregation has committed to having 50 people at the assembly and pay \$4,000 in dues.

Purpose Teams Reports

- Evangelism
 - Please refer to the Evangelism report.
 - The Church was represented at Pridefest on August 8. Fawn reported it went well.
 - Janis raised the issue of parking expense as a deterrent to attendance.
- Fellowship
 - Please refer to the Fellowship report.
 - New tables (approximately 16) should arrive soon. Janis asked if old tables should be sold or given to Furniture Bank.
- Lifelong Learning
 - Please refer to the Lifelong Learning Report.
 - VBS went well.
 - Rally Day scheduled for September 13, 2026, to coincide with God's Work, Our Hands.
 - Car wash is scheduled for September 30, 2026
 - Christmas program is being planned for December 20, 2026.
- Outreach Ministry
 - Please refer to the Outreach Report.
 - Discussed planning for God's Work Our Hands Sunday.
- Worship
 - Please refer to the Worship Team Activity Summary and the Director of Music Council Report.
 - Altar Guild in transition after Cathy Hanson's passing. Pastor Heidi is meeting with Altar Guild.
 - **Motion:** Brad moved and it was seconded that the Congregation Council approve a fundraiser during a Soup Sunday to offset some of the costs for the Community Christmas Concert. The motion carried.

Minutes of the August Congregation Council Meeting

- Brad discussed the end of support for Sonic Wall (legacy firewall equipment). He said the choice is between owning the device or leasing it the upgraded system.
- **Motion:** Brad moved and it was seconded that the Congregation Council approve leasing Sonic Wall firewall at cost of \$129/month. The motion carried.

Support Team Reports

- Communications
 - Please refer to the Communications Report.
- Facilities
 - Please refer to the Facilities Report.
 - Motion: John moved and it was seconded that the Congregation Council approve the purchase of supplies up to \$2,500 for staining and painting the outside of the St. Luke building from the Unrestricted Gifts Fund.
 - Amended motion: Alan moved and it was seconded to amend the motion to change the funds source to the General Building Fund. The amendment carried.
 - Amended motion: That the Congregation Council approve the purchase of supplies up to \$2,500 for staining and painting the outside of the St. Luke building from the General Building fund. The amended motion carried.
 - There is a leak in the sanctuary. John Perkins reported on the quotes for repairs. Council approval not required.
 - John reported on the three quotes he received to replace the roof.
 - Pastor Heidi suggested scanning the quotes and distributing them to the Council members.
- Parish
 - Please refer to the Church Office Report.
- People
 - Helmut reported that Elaine Remodi Simpson is stepping away from Memorial Fund

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

New Business

Next meeting will be September 17, 2026, at 6:00 pm in person. Devotions- Erica Sullivan

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 August 2026

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

September 12, 2026

Income Summary

Pledged offering for the month of August was approximately \$2.3K Below the monthly budget. Grace Giving for the month of August was below the monthly budget by approximately \$223, making the total offerings income approximately \$2.3K below the budget for the month. This results in our YTD offerings as of the end of August being \$959 below the YTD budget.

Grins & Giggles income for the month of August was \$1912 less than the monthly budget, resulting in YTD Grins & Giggles income as of the end of August being approximately \$3507 below the YTD budget.

We also earned \$396 in investment income in the month of June primarily from our Thrivent CD's.

With all budgeted income sources combined, our actual total budgeted income for the month of August was approximately \$2.9K less than the monthly budget, making the YTD total budgeted income approximately \$3.3K less than the YTD budget.

A summary of the YTD August 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	21,733.50	24,000.00	240,173.98	243,000.00	371,268.00	131,094.02
Grace Giving	2,777.13	3,000.00	26,936.75	25,000.00	37,700.00	10,763.25
Loose Cash Offering	501.45	333.00	2,720.20	2,664.00	4,000.00	1,279.80
Special Envelopes	0.00	0.00	774.00	900.00	1,700.00	926.00
Offerings	\$25,012.08	\$27,333.00	\$270,604.93	\$271,564.00	\$414,668.00	\$144,063.07
Building Use	530.00	283.00	2,499.41	2,264.00	3,400.00	900.59
Special Collections	1,110.30		1,120.30			
Structures Income	\$1,640.30	\$283.00	\$3,619.71	\$2,264.00	\$3,400.00	\$900.59
Investments Div/Interest	395.58	410.00	3,059.13	3,240.00	4,920.00	1,860.87
Other Income	\$395.58	\$410.00	\$3,059.13	\$3,240.00	\$4,920.00	\$1,860.87
Grins & Giggles Income - Donations	0.00		15.00			
Grins & Giggles Income-Tuition	6,580.00	8,600.00	56,843.34	60,179.00	94,579.00	37,735.66
Grins & Giggles Income-Registration fees	200.00	92.00	550.00	736.00	1,100.00	550.00
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$6,780.00	\$8,692.00	\$57,408.34	\$60,915.00	\$95,679.00	\$38,285.66
Total Budgeted Income	\$33,827.96	\$36,718.00	\$334,692.11	\$337,983.00	\$518,667.00	\$185,110.19

In addition to budgeted income, there was also \$995 of unbudgeted income in the month of August, resulting from a \$750 donation in to the Good Samaritan fund, and several other small donations.

Total Budgeted YTD Expenses of \$359,428.90 is greater than the YTD budget of \$354,645.00 by \$4783.90 as of the end of August. The majority of the YTD expense difference relative to the budget is due to facilities expenses, which is \$9.7K over budget as of the end of August, primarily due to maintenance and repairs, and utilities.

Treasurer's Report for August 2026

Grins & Giggles YTD Expenses of \$55,853.08 is less than the budget of \$61,312.00 by \$5458.92, as there was minimal Grins & Giggles expenses in the month of August. The summer camp was also one week shorter than planned due to teacher availability.

Net Results: As of the end of August 2026 we have an Actual YTD Total Income of \$426,376.30, and Total Expenses of \$401,444.75, resulting in a difference of \$24,931.55. A high-level year to date summary is in the tables below.

Month ending August 31, 2026:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Budgeted Income	\$33,827.96	\$36,718.00	\$334,692.11	\$337,983.00	\$518,667.00	\$185,110.19
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$42,996.15	\$43,986.00	\$359,428.90	\$354,645.00	\$534,359.00	\$189,622.98
Budgeted Income/Expense Difference	(\$9,168.19)	(\$7,268.00)	(\$24,736.79)	(\$16,662.00)	(\$15,692.00)	(\$4,512.79)
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$6,780.00	\$8,692.00	\$57,408.34	\$60,915.00	\$95,679.00	\$38,285.66
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$830.95	\$5,631.00	\$55,853.08	\$61,312.00	\$96,627.00	\$40,788.92
Grins & Giggles Income/Expense Difference	\$5,949.05	\$3,061.00	\$1,555.26	(\$397.00)	(\$948.00)	(\$2,503.26)
Total Income	\$34,822.96	\$36,718.00	\$426,376.30	\$337,983.00	\$534,361.00	\$200,804.19
Total Expense	\$43,507.91	\$43,986.00	\$401,444.75	\$354,645.00	\$534,359.00	\$189,622.98
Total Income/Expense Difference	(\$8,684.95)	(\$7,268.00)	\$24,931.55	(\$16,662.00)	\$2.00	\$11,181.21

Other Treasurer Activity:

- Reviewed bi-weekly payroll
- Reviewed monthly bank reconciliation
- Opened new workers compensation insurance policy with The Hartford
- Closed 12 month CD with Thrivent Bank that matured in August 2026 and deposited ~\$51K in funds into St. Luke Dime Bank account, as approved by the council at the August council meeting

Respectfully Submitted,
Alan Nordquist
Treasurer

Consolidated Fund Activity Report August 2026

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

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.1001.1001	General Operating Fund Balance	25,227.71	33,827.00	42,996.00	-	16,059.52
3.1001.1002	General Fd - Unrestricted	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.1050.1000	<i>Building Fund Balance</i>					
3.1050.1001	General Building Fund Balance	22,452.55	10.00	-	-	22,462.55
3.1050.1002	Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,652.36	10.00	-	-	4,662.36
3.1060.1000	Memorial Fund Balance	6,548.27	-	-	-	6,548.27
3.1070.1000	Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	14,142.68	10.00	-	-	14,152.68
3.1080.1000	Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	125,420.24	-	-	-	125,420.24
3.2001.1000	<i>Worship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2001.1001	Special Music Balance	2,544.61	-	114.00	-	2,430.41
3.2001.1002	Celebrate Team Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2001.1003	Handbell Program Fund Balance	735.81	-	38.00	-	697.00
3.2001.2020	Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	2,541.37	-	229.00	-	2,311.62
3.2002.1000	<i>Administrative-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2002.1001	Purchase reimbursement Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2002.1003	Intransit Items Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2002.1004	Special Gifts Balance	180.04	-	-	-	180.04
3.2002.1006	Staff Development Balance	3,794.80	-	-	-	3,794.80
3.2002.1009	Surplus Allocation Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2002.1012	Sabbatical Fund Balance	12,751.75	-	-	-	12,751.75
3.2002.1100	Internship Program Balance	11,500.00	-	-	-	11,500.00
3.2002.1007	Flowers Balance	227.50	65.00	-	-	292.50
3.2003.1000	<i>Evangelism-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2003.1003	Prayer Shawl Ministry Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2004.1000	<i>Fellowship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2004.1004	Soup Sunday Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2004.1005	Fellowship Special Events Balance	1,962.61	-	-	-	1,962.61
3.2004.1007	Soup-er Bowl Sunday Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2004.1010	Fellowship Furnishings Balance	6,021.56	-	-	-	6,021.56
3.2005.1000	<i>Special Programs Balance</i>					
3.2005.1002	RaiseRight (Scrip) Program Balance	2,035.73	50.00	79.00	-	2,006.73
3.2005.1003	Eagle Scout Project Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2006.1000	<i>Youth-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2006.1003	ELCA Youth Gathering Balance	8,060.48	-	-	-	8,060.48
3.2006.1004	Youth Mission Trip Balance	522.15	-	-	-	522.15
3.2007.1000	<i>Family Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2007.1001	Family Ministry Activities Balance	208.00	-	-	-	208.00
3.2008.1000	<i>Life Long Learning-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2008.1001	Ecumenical VBS Balance	252.58	-	-	-	252.58
3.2008.1002	Adult Bible Study Groups Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2008.1003	Women's Retreat Balance	236.12	-	-	-	236.12
3.2008.1010	Grins & Giggles Donations Balance	188.48	-	-	-	188.48
3.2009.1000	<i>Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
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	-	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1010	Heifer International Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1011	World Hunger Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1012	Lutheran World Relief Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1017	Disaster Relief Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2009.1018	Habitat for Humanity Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2011.1005	Community Garden Fund Balance	0.00	-	-	-	0.00
3.2010.1000	<i>Discretionary Gifts Balance</i>					
3.2010.1001	Pastors' Discretionary Balance	8,389.92	-	50.00	-	8,339.92
3.2010.1002	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	7,551.92	750.00	-	-	8,301.92
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	<i>Facilities Support-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2011.1001	Memorial Garden Balance	3,813.34	100.00	-	-	3,913.34
3.9000.1000	Net Fixed Asset Fund Balance	1,918,224.00	-	-	-	1,918,224.00
Total		\$2,195,578	\$34,822	\$43,507	\$0	\$2,186,893

Imagine you were walking through the woods in the fall and found the most unusual leaf you'd ever seen. Color in the leaf to show what it would look like.

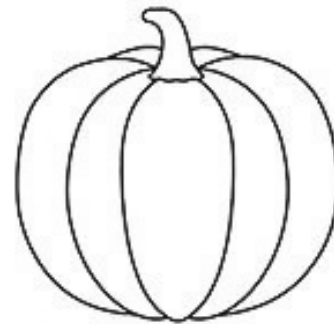


Find your way through the maze to put the apple in the apple basket.

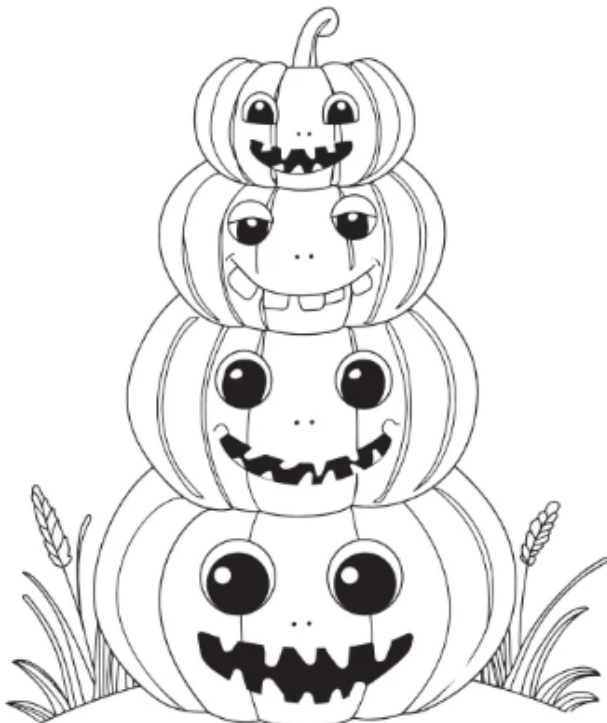


acorn
apples
autumn
crisp
fall
hayride
harvest
leaves
pumpkins
rake

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



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Find and Count - Fall

Write the number of each found in the spaces at the bottom of the worksheet.



	_____		_____		_____
	_____		_____		_____

Prayer List

Pray for healing:

Eleanor Beyer (sister of Marie Tobiassen)
Laura Slater (friend of Roy Belhumeur)
Nancy Lembke
Mary Gardner (sister of Kirsten Holmstedt)
Mark Wuesthoff
Dick Wimmermark
Robin Buckland (co-worker of Roy B.)
Linda (friend of Laura Parsons)
Mike Arnold
Sharon Podojil
Cyndi Arnold
Carol Hurlbutt (sister of Mitch Robinson)
Richard Stanton (friend of the Tobiassens)
Stacey Stone (daughter-in-law of the Tobiassens)
Kathy West
Madysen Lent (friend of Elaine Lettiere)
Steve Roman (Brother of Sandy Wimmermark)

Pam Roman (sister-in-law of Sandy Wimmermark)
Dawn Nienow (sister of Cathy Hanson)
Vicki Breuell (friend of the Nelsons)
Kevin Ames (friend of the Steinnagels)
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)
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:

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)
Ann Stanton (friend of the Tobiassens)
Nick Iario (relative of Kathleen Bartkowski)
Fred Launer
Pauline Wanner
Bob Chernansky
Jenny Waller
Lynn Minichino

Pray for those with other concerns:

Grins & Giggles Preschool
United Lutheran Seminary



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

October Celebrations

Birthdays:

Justin Aleshire	10/05
Alice Carter	10/01
Nathaniel Dame	10/03
John Felty	10/24
Mark Goddette	10/02
David Goodrich	10/18
Kari Hammen	10/21
Stephen Loomis	10/03
Clara Miller	10/11
John Robbins	10/06
Pamela Suplicki	10/30

Wedding Anniversaries:

(# of Years Married)

Bradley & Crystal Dame	10/09 (27)
Charles & Bonnie Fear	10/29 (60)
Mark & Louise Larson	10/11 (23)
Stephen & Jeanne Loomis	10/18 (46)
John & Pat Robbins	10/09 (44)
Felix & Janis Vajdos	10/16 (27)

Baptismal Birthdays:

Charles Anderson Jr.	10/17/1943
Trevin Correia	10/04/2003
Fawn DeMello	10/15/1961
Joanne Erickson	10/27/1935
Charles Fear	10/??/1965
Mark Goddette	10/14/1962
Cathy Hanson	10/24/1948
Peter Keefe	10/29/1989
Corrine Stevens	10/06/1940
Kathleen Swope	10/17/1943

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 – October 2026

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers
10 / 4								
9:30	Leigh Sammons	Ray Heller & John Perkins	Sue Anderson	Nancy Lembke	Diane Hanson & Leigh Sammons	Nate	Roni Rollinson & Kristian Balinski	Jacqueline
10 / 11								
9:30	Grace DeMarco	Al Nordquist & Dennis Sindel	Linda Martin	Robert N.	Jerry Swope & Marty Wood	Everett & Alex	Jim Sammons & Dan Morrison	Fawn
10 / 18								
9:30	Joan Lambert	Mark & Louise Larson	Penny Howl-Heller	Nancy Lembke	Nancy Rupert & Charlie Anderson	Camille & Emilee	Dave Zitzkat & Brad Dame	Erica
10 / 25								
9:30	Barb Candler	Dave Zitzkat & John Perkins	Deb Eld		Diane Hansen & Robin Nelson	Everett	Kristian Balinski & Al Nordquist	Lisa

This schedule compiled as of 9/29/26; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

Church Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 2026

*Community Group

Music Rehearsals:

Monday 5:00pm - Grace Notes

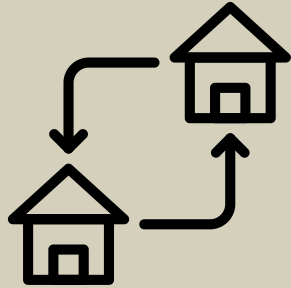
Tuesday 6:00pm - The Belles

Tuesday 7:00pm - Senior Choir

Wednesday 7:00pm - JuBellation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1 9:00am Grins & Giggles 12:00pm Blood Drive	2 12:00pm Blood Drive	3 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
4 CELEBRATE 9:30am Baptism-Josephine Manley 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 2:30pm New London Meal Center	5 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	6 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir	7 9:00am Embellish 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	8 9:00am Grins & Giggles	9 9:00am Grins & Giggles	10 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
11 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Fellowship Hall Reservation-Elaine R.S. 11:00am Lifelong Learning Meeting	12 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm AA*	13 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Executive Planning Team 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	14 9:00am Embellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	15 9:00am Grins & Giggles	16 9:00am Grins & Giggles	17 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
18 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Bible Study 1:00pm CROP Walk 4:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental- F. Leon	19 SCROLL DEADLINE 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 6:30pm Fellowship Team Meeting 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	20 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm CPR Training* 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	21 9:00am Embellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 6:00pm CONGREGATION COUNCIL 7:00pm JuBellation	22 9:00am Grins & Giggles 6:00pm Celebrate Rehearsal	23 9:00am Grins & Giggles	24 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
25 Kids' Corner Soup Sunday 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	26 9:00am Grins & Giggles 5:00pm Grace Notes 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	27 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 2:15pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	28 9:00am Embellish 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.* 7:00pm JuBellation	29 9:00am Grins & Giggles 6:00pm Celebrate Rehearsal	30 9:00am Grins & Giggles	31 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*

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

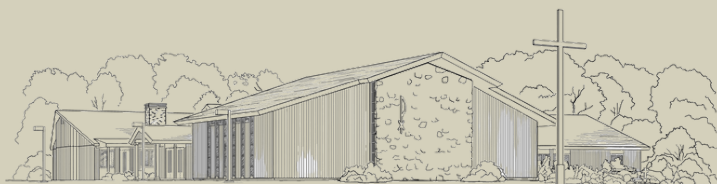


St. Luke Lutheran Church

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