

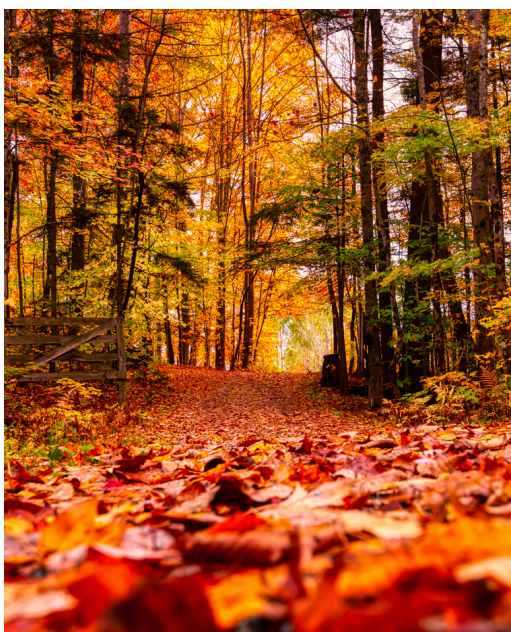


The Scroll

SEPTEMBER 2026



"WE ARE A SPIRIT DRIVEN
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
OF ENGAGED DISCIPLES, CALLED TO
SERVE, LOVE AND FORGIVE."
WE ARE A RECONCILING IN
CHRIST CONGREGATION.



Pastor's Note

FROM PASTOR MIKE



Greetings St. Luke Siblings in Christ!

How good it is to be back together again after a three month pastoral sabbatical. Many, many thanks to Pr. Mike Lembke for serving so fully and faithfully, preaching a meaningful and accessible word in the name of Jesus, sharing music, and attending to the pastoral needs of the congregation. It was much easier for me to "unplug," knowing that Pr. Mike was caring for the congregation. Thank you to our Council President, Fawn DeMello, for attending to details, keeping administrative tasks on track, meeting regularly with Pr. Mike, and continuing as one of St. Luke's committed volunteers! Thank you all for welcoming Pr. Mike, for showing up to worship, keeping our ministries alive and well, and holding one another in the name of Jesus in loss, in crisis, and in everyday fellowship.

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Follow Us! @stlukegf

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I look forward to sharing details of my sabbatical in pictures and a written report throughout the month of September. Overall, it was a rich time of rest, meditation, family time, cleaning-out, and just being. Thank you for embracing this model of sustainable ministry that includes regular pastoral sabbaticals.

Over my time on sabbatical, I was able to attend worship at a few other churches, in-person and online. There are many wonderful worshipping communities out there. St. Luke is one of them! In visiting other sites, I was affirmed in joy and gratitude for the vibrant worshipping body and ministry life the Holy Spirit is sustaining through St. Luke Lutheran Church. A bright, welcoming building, a robust music program, expansive welcome, extensive lay involvement in worship, a capable staff, and overall love for one another make St. Luke a wonderful place to worship, to serve, and to come to know Jesus better.

May our God keep us focused on following Jesus into service of our neighbors and letting the Christ light shine through us.

Glad to be back in the swing of things with you all!

In Jesus' name,

Pastor Heidi Johnston



Kayaking in TN



Ziplining in the Smoky Mountains



Kripalu yoga retreat



Pr. Heidi meets the Revolution's
Fox mascot, Slyde



Newport Cliff Walk on a windy day

Presidential Notes

BY FAWN DEMELLO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Welcome Back to Pastor Heidi from her sabbatical. We are glad to have you back leading us in worship. A HUGE THANK YOU to Pastor Mike for leading us in worship over these past 3 months. It has been a pleasure to work with you. Thank you for all your phone calls and visits to our members.

As fall approaches, I hope that all had a great summer. The Executive Team is reviewing our By-Laws to make sure they are in alignment with our new Constitution. September 13 th is our "God's Work Our Hands" day to put baskets together for the New London Hospitality Center.

We will also begin our project of re-staining and painting the church building. Look for our advertisements.

Our interfaith organizing team "SAIL", Southeast Alliance for Interfaith Leadership will meet on October 28 th at St. Paul's on October 28 th at 6:30 pm. Hope to have many new members be a part of this team.

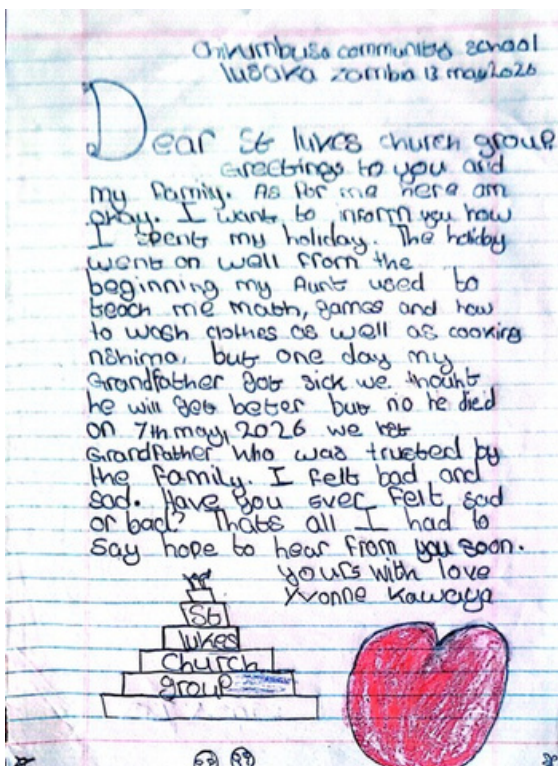
The Executive Team is looking into St. Luke registering in November as an Internship Site for a hopefully a candidate in 2027. Pastor Heidi has completed more training in being a mentor. Many exciting events are coming up. Hope you can join us.

Peace

Fawn

News from Chikumbuso

Ministry News



Chikumbuso Community School
Lusaka, Zambia 13 May 2026

"Dear St. Luke Church Group,
Greetings to you and my family. As for me here am okay. I want to inform you how I spend my holiday. The holiday went on well from the beginning my Aunt used to teach me math, games and how to wash clothes as well as cooking nshima, but one day my Grandfather got sick we thought he will get better but no he died on 7th May, 2026 we lost Grandfather who was trusted by the family. I felt bad and sad. Have you ever felt sad or bad? That's all I had to say hope to hear from you soon.
Yours with love
Yvonne Kawaya

Yours with love
Yvonne Kawaya"

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

The dedication and consecration of the Memorial Garden will take place on June 14th. Please plan on attending this historic service.

I can never begin to express my gratitude to all who made the Memorial Garden a reality. Many people have worked long hours giving of time, talent, muscle, and possessions.

The original ad hoc committee consisted of Jack Stevens, Terry Blair, Ursula Morn, and Marge Johnson. They investigated legalities, formed guidelines, visited other garden, chose a final plan and site and proceeded with initial background work. They were aided with drawings, estimates and ideas from Chad Frost.

A sub committee of interested gardeners met and discussed and planned the garden plantings. This committee consisted of Elaine Remond-Simpson, Lynn Tarozzi, and Al Bruhn. Much preparatory work was done by Elaine, Ursula, Lynn, Ellen Turley and Dick Long meeting each Tuesday morning for most of the summer.

Rock walls were cleared of wild growth and arranged by Doug Meyer and Arnie and Wendy Cooper.

The days of planting brought help from John Smith, Al Bruhn, Jack Stevens, Mark Kuklis, Dick and Jerry Swiontek, Dick Long, Greg Young, Patrick Valko, and Ray Heller.

A special thank you to my dear husband who made the indoor plaque and the benches. As always, he has been my constant support.



None of this could have been accomplished without the most generous financial support of our great congregation. Thank you each and everyone: Stephanie Pazienza, Bob and Florence Ham, Bob and Elaine Remondi Simpson, Leigh and Jim Sammons, Lois Rowley, Corrine and Jack Stevens, Barbara Blair, Terry Blair, Greta and Dick Dagitz, Diane Hanson, Rose Marie and Vern Brasel, Pat and Marty Wood, Holly and Eric Deltgen, Gertrude Higbee, Patty and Jim Sumner, Ed and Dee Petersen, Don and Dot Mallon, Mark and Donna Kuklis, Ray and Penny Heller, Amy and Dennis Sindel, Norm and Judy Owsley, Mike and Karen Wuesthoff, Al and Betty Bruhn, Mary and Karl Mull, Sue and Dave Etris, Helmut and Jeanne Steinnagel, Ursula Morn, and Andy and Angela George.

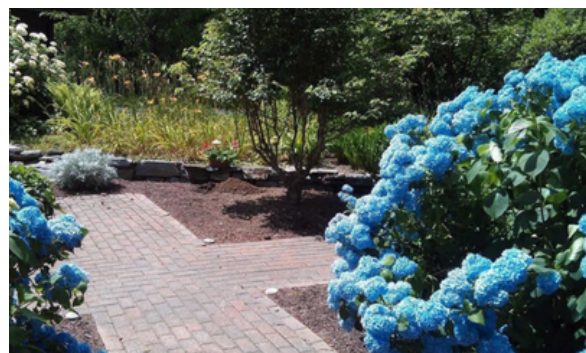
Our Memorial Garden will be a "growing" project, so please watch for coming attractions. Contributions are welcome and may be placed in the offering marked "Memorial Garden."

Please take some quiet time on our new benches to enjoy, meditate and praise God for His magnificent gifts. We have planted and He has given the growth. Praise and Thanksgiving!

"A Memorial Garden is a garden on the grounds of a church which serves as a repository for ashes of parishioners."

My personal thank you to all who have made this project a success. Your cooperation has truly been overwhelming. We have tried to be good stewards. I hope you are pleased.

My love, Donna Kuklis, Ad Hoc chairman



It's almost time! God's Work, Our Hands and Rally Sunday is September 13th!

What will this day look like?

- We will have an abbreviated worship service before heading out to the parking lot in our bright yellow shirts.
- Pop-up tents with tables and chairs will be set up as "stations" stocked with collected items.
- Laundry baskets will be filled with these items.
- Kids, with adult help and supervision, will be decorating the baskets, filling blessing bags with items purchased for this reason, selling lemonade for donations, making cards for and assembling birthday kits.
- A few people will have posters along the road, inviting people to stop.
- A pizza and salad luncheon will be available. This will be served from the kitchen but eaten outside.
- There will be something for everyone to help with on this day. We will especially need help with the kids. There are not a lot of kids but they are enthusiastic and came up with the ideas for the kids' activities. We need to be supportive and encouraging for them.
- See you in your yellow on September 13th!

Many thanks to Ginny Sturm

Ministry News

Please join me in thanking Ginny Sturm for her faithful service as a St. Luke representative on the board of the Ledyard Inter-Church Emergency Assistance Fund (LICEAF). Ginny first became a LICEAF board member to serve as Treasurer, in late 2022. After her time as Treasurer, Ginny continued in her role as one of two lay St. Luke representatives on the LICEAF board, along with Sue Anderson. Lending a sympathetic ear and discerning heart to our deliberations, Ginny was a consistent, calm presence on the LICEAF board. She will be missed. Thank you Ginny, and blessings to you in your other commitments and responsibilities.

St. Luke is seeking a Ledyard Inter-Church Emergency Assistance Fund (LICEAF) Board Member

Might you answer the call to serve? Here's what Ginny Sturm, outgoing board member, has to say about her time as a member of LICEAF, a collaborative local effort between St. Luke and other Christian congregations to aid neighbors in need:

What a powerful experience being on the LICEAF board has been. Hearing firsthand of the more extreme hardships that some of our Ledyard neighbors face has been at times heartbreaking. But, it has been good to witness firsthand the benevolence of the LICEAF Board as it has awarded grants to those in dire circumstances, with the intention that it will provide much needed immediate relief. And, It has been heartwarming to witness the generosity of the Ledyard community with donations large and small to help those in need in our community. What a privilege and a blessing it has been to serve as part of LICEAF.

To learn more about LICEAF talk with Pr. Heidi (pastorheidi@stlukegf.org) or visit <https://www.liceaf.org/>

The Red Cross continues to issue national alerts of blood donation shortages. Hospitals are managing products carefully as they have limited supplies. Many weather related events make hosting blood drives a challenge. Every single donation matters, providing desperately needed life saving products for three people. Please commit to sharing the precious gift of life, by giving blood, at our **Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday October 1st 1:00-6:00 p.m.** This special gift may turn out to be life-saving for a family member, friend, neighbor or even a complete stranger. One thing is certain; you will make a life affirming difference in someone's life.

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. **Universal donors, blessed with type O blood, are especially encouraged to donate.**

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 Sundays in September, 2) Make an appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or 3) Scan the QR appointment code on the poster with your phone. Won't you spare an hour or so of your time and join us in making a meaningful life-saving difference in the community?

*Note: The early appointments schedule quickly.

The quickest ways to book your appointment is to sign-up online.

Can't give blood but want to help? Share the news with others and invite them to make a blood donation. We could also use your help with staffing the drive and preparing delicious homemade refreshments to show our gratitude to our faithful donors. You will find the **volunteer sign-up sheet** to staff the drive or prepare refreshments at the **Blood Drive table in the narthex**, as well. We look forward to your support of our **Blood Drive on Thursday Oct. 1st from 1:00-6:00 p.m.** Join us and make a difference!



We will be gathering at UMC, on Chapman Lane, 12:30-12:50 p.m. with our neighboring churches in the community. After brief remarks, we will be stepping off together to raise awareness and \$25,000.00 to help feed hungry people. Last year, eighty-nine participants raised a total of \$23,932.86. The Gemma Moran Food Center received \$5,073.00, 25% of those funds. That was the second highest year of fundraising, approximately \$ 1,200.00 less than 2021. **Since 1995, the Gales Ferry Ledyard walks have raised a grand total of \$395,221.74. Local food agencies have received \$100,156.10 of those funds to feed hungry neighbors.** Of the 500 CROP Walks in our country, our fundraising ranks among the top 100.

What's changed since our last walk? Church World Services, our faith based tax- exempt 501 (c) (3) CROP Walk sponsor founded 80 years ago, remains committed to its one goal *building a world where there is enough for all*. Highly rated by Charity Navigator, 83 cents of every \$1.00 raised reaches those in need. Locally, food insecurity in our county has risen and more families need help.

Why do communities across the country participate in this annual event? Our mission is to bring awareness to local communities about the ongoing need for all people to have access to: nutritious food, clean water, healthy communities and opportunities to earn a living throughout the world. We raise funds for: direct feeding programs; clean water and hygiene projects; provide people with seeds, tools, animals, and training to help them to provide for their own needs. (75% of funds are dispersed by Church World Services overseas, 25% stays in SECT)

How can I help and join others in making a difference?

Visit the website: bit.ly/gfcropwalk26. Sign up for the Gales Ferry/Ledyard walk online for the St. Luke team or pick-up an envelope at church in September. Share what you have learned with others in your circle. Encourage them to join you in donating funds for the mission. Serve people at the fundraiser breakfast at the Congregational Church on October 3. If you can't walk, make a donation to a walker on line, in cash, or by check payable to **CWS/CROP**. Join us in the ongoing fight to reduce hunger. We walk because they walk!

Let's step out and make a life changing difference together.

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Crop Walk funds feed the hungry
around the world!

Join the walk October 18th.
This is a family friendly event happening at
United Methodist Church of Gales Ferry at
10 Chapman Lane in Gales Ferry.



OCTOBER 18

Register Here



bit.ly/gfcropwalk26

On the difference between Praise Music and Hymns....



A man accustomed to a mainline church went to a contemporary service one Sunday. He came home and his wife asked him how it was.

"Well," he said, "it was interesting. They did something different. They sang praise music instead of hymns."

"Praise music?" said his wife. "What are those?"

"Oh, they're okay, I guess. They're sort of like hymns, only different," said the man.

"What's the difference?" asked his wife. He replied, "Well, it's like this. If I were to say to you,

'Martha, the cows are in the corn,' that would be a hymn. Suppose, on the other hand, I were to say to you:

'Martha, Martha, Martha, Oh, Martha, MARTHA, MARTHA, the cows, the big cows, the brown cows, the black cows, the white cows, the black and white cows, the COWS, COWS, COWS are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, are in the corn, the CORN, CORN, CORN.'

Then, if I were to repeat the whole thing five or six times, that would be a praise song."

As luck would have it, the same Sunday a young woman accustomed to contemporary services, attended a traditional service. She came home and her husband asked her how it was.

"Well," she said, "it was interesting. They did something different, however. They sang hymns instead of praise music."

"Hymns?" said her husband. "What are those?"

"Oh, they're okay, I guess. They're sort of like regular songs, only different," said the woman.

"What's the difference?" asked her husband. She replied, "Well, it's like this. If I were to say to you,

'Ernest, the cows are in the corn,' that would be a regular song. Suppose, on the other hand, I were to say to you:

*'Oh Ernest, dear Ernest, now hear thou my cry;
Incline thine ear to the words of my mouth.
Turn thou thy whole wondrous ear by and by
To the righteous, inimitable, glorious truth.*

*For the way of the animals who can explain?
There is in there heads no shadow of sense!
Hearken they not in God's sun or his rain.
Unless from the mild, tempting corn they are fenced.*

*Yea, those cows in glad bovine, rebellious delight
Broke free from their shackles,
Their warm pens eschewed.
Then goaded by minions of darkness and night.
They all my mild Chilliwack sweet corn have chewed.*

*So look to that bright shining day by and by,
Where all the corruptions of earth are reborn,
Where no vicious animal makes my soul cry,
And I no longer see those foul cows in the corn.'*

Then, if I were to sing only verses one, three and four, and perhaps do a key change on the last verse, that would be a hymn." **Author unknown**

Paul advocates singing three types of music:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God." Colossians 3:16

We all like what we like and both styles of music have their critics. Our personal preferences sometimes drive our assessment of what's correct for worshiping. Are organs rather than guitars better in honoring God? Are projectors inherently less spiritual than hymn books? Any musical style can be unbiblical if it is not coming from the heart.

Diversity of music, instrumentation and so on were normal from the beginning. In scripture you can find many different instruments played in worshiping God – harps, tambourines, trumpets/horns, lyre, pipe/flute, bagpipe, castanets, and cymbals. All styles of music are valid ways to support our worship services, and people are entitled to their opinions but we are so glad at St. Luke to offer two worship styles as well as many different genres of music celebrated by our choirs which will all soon return.

Music has the power to feed our souls and again, we all have different tastes.

You might like eggplant, however
it will NEVER cross my lips,
but I will not tell you not to eat it!



St. Luke
Grins & Giggles Preschool
NOW ENROLLING



St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1830 Route 12, Gales Ferry, CT 06335
Register for the new school year now! Limited enrollment!

Time: 9:00 AM -2:00 PM

St. Luke Grins & Giggles Preschool is a safe and nurturing place where children learn the necessary skills to help them succeed in kindergarten. School readiness is taught in the natural way that children learn - through constructive play. The preschool is led by Nancy Rupert, an experienced preschool educator with her MA in Early Childhood Education. Toilet trained children ages 3-5 welcome!

Monthly Tuition Payments:

- 5 Days a week: \$735
- 3 Days a week: \$ 525
- 2 Days a week: \$385

\$50 non-refundable registration fee for students.

Call today to schedule your interview and tour the facility.



860-464-7897



nqnrup1926@gmail.com

Grins & Giggles Preschool News

BY NANCY RUPERT

It has been a busy summer first with three weeks of Kids Camp and then with hours of organizing and cleaning the supply room and classrooms. Carloads were donated to Jonnycake (a non-profit center that provides to food banks) in Westerly and many items were tucked away to sell at our St. Luke Tag Sale in the fall. Presently our enrollment is not at capacity due to a few uncontrolled factors. Groton opened a new 'free' preschool for 125 Groton residents to name one reason. But we still have 8 children for each class and look forward to welcoming new children every day. Our Parent Orientation is Sunday, August 30th and our first day of school is Tuesday, September 8th . Soon the pitter patter of little feet will once again be heard in the halls of St. Luke!

Minutes of the June Congregation Council Meeting

St. Luke Lutheran Church Minutes of the Congregation Council Meeting June 18, 2026

Councilors in attendance: Fawn DeMello, Helmut Steinnagel, John Perkins, Alan Nordquist, Brad Dame, Pat Robbins

Excused: Janis Vajdos, Leigh Sammons, Erica Sullivan.

Recording secretary: Mitchell Robinson

Call to Order: Council President Fawn DeMello called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Devotions

- Mitchell Robinson led devotions.

Approval of Agenda

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

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded to approve the May 21, 2026, Council minutes. The motion carried.

President's Remarks

- Fawn DeMello discussed the Executive Report.
- The discussion on the clothing drop-off shed was deferred until August. Helmut will contact St. Mark Lutheran Church and John Perkins will contact Preston Congregational Church regarding their experiences with their drop-off sheds.
- Brad discussed the end of support for Sonic Wall (legacy firewall). He will do further research on the costs associated with the new system. He will also provide the vendor's proposal to all the Council members.

Church Members' Comments/Concerns

- None

Financial Reports

- Please refer to the Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet, and Consolidated Fund Activity Report documents.
- Al Nordquist discussed the response to the audit report provided by the audit team on May 17, 2026.
- Al Nordquist said he will explore getting better rates for insurance.
- Al Nordquist suggested we proceed with the inventory recommended by the audit team.

Minutes of the June Congregation Council Meeting

Pastors' Reports

- None

Purpose Teams Reports

- Evangelism
 - Memorial Day Parade was cancelled due to weather.
 - Pridefest is in August.
- Fellowship
 - None
- Lifelong Learning
 - Please refer to the Lifelong Learning Report.
 - VBS scheduled for first week of August.
 - Rally Day scheduled for September 13, 2026, to coincide with God's Work, Our Hands.
- Outreach Ministry
 - Please refer to the Outreach Report document.
- Worship
 - Please refer to the Worship Team Activity Summary and the Director of Music Council Report.
 - Council discussed continued need for hand sanitizer and effects on altar rail finish.

Support Team Reports

- Communications
 - Please refer to the Communications Report.
- Facilities
 - Please refer to the Facilities Report.
 - John Perkins got an estimate from Lowes of less than \$2,000 for stain and paint if the Congregation members were to paint the church.
 - John Perkins is researching repairing the damaged wood.
 - HVAC team is getting proposals to upgrade the Church's HVAC system.
- Parish
 - Please refer to the Church Office Report.
- People
 - Please refer to the People Support Group Report.

Motion to Accept All Reports

- Motion: Fawn DeMello moved and it was seconded to accept all reports.

Any changes will be noted in subsequent reports. The motion carried.

Old Business

None

Minutes of the June Congregation Council Meeting

New Business

None

Next meeting will be August 20, 2026, at 6:00 pm in person.

Devotions- Alan Nordquist

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 June & July 2026

St. Luke Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report for Months Ending June 30, 2026 and July 31, 2026

August 16, 2026

Please note that this report covers the months of June and July since there was no report for month ending 6/30/26.

Income Summary

Pledged offerings for the month of June were approximately \$11.7K Below the monthly budget, while pledged offerings for the month of July were approximately \$6.6K above the monthly budget. Grace Giving for the month of June was below the monthly budget by approximately \$400, while grace giving for the month of July was approximately \$1K below the monthly budget, making the total offerings income approximately \$12.1K Below the budget for the month of June, and approximately \$5.5K above the budget for the month of July. This results in our YTD offerings as of the end of July being \$1.4K above the YTD budget.

Grins & Giggles income for the month of June was \$781 less than the monthly budget, and for the month of July was \$3839 below the monthly budget, resulting in YTD Grins & Giggles income as of the end of July being approximately \$1.6K below the YTD budget.

We also earned \$390 in investment income in the month of June primarily from our Thrivent CD, and \$379 in the monthly of July.

With all budgeted income sources combined, our actual total budgeted income for the month of June was approximately \$13.0K less than the monthly budget, and total budgeted income for the month of July was approximately \$1.6K greater than the monthly budget, making the YTD total income is approximately \$401 less than the YTD budget.

A summary of the YTD June 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	18,330.00	30,000.00	187,843.18	195,000.00	371,268.00	183,424.82
Grace Giving	2,610.50	3,000.00	22,187.12	19,000.00	37,700.00	15,512.88
Loose Cash Offering	255.00	333.00	1,930.75	1,998.00	4,000.00	2,069.25
Special Envelopes	0.00	0.00	774.00	900.00	1,700.00	926.00
Offerings	\$21,195.50	\$33,333.00	\$212,735.05	\$216,898.00	\$414,668.00	\$201,932.95
Building Use	255.63	283.00	1,743.78	1,698.00	3,400.00	1,656.22
Structures Income	\$255.63	\$283.00	\$1,743.78	\$1,698.00	\$3,400.00	\$1,656.22
Investments Div/Interest	390.17	410.00	2,285.03	2,420.00	4,920.00	2,634.97
Other Income	\$390.17	\$410.00	\$2,285.03	\$2,420.00	\$4,920.00	\$2,634.97
Grins & Giggles Income - Donations	0.00		15.00			
Grins & Giggles Income-Tuition	3,640.00	4,379.00	49,810.00	47,379.00	94,579.00	44,769.00
Grins & Giggles Income-Registration fees	50.00	92.00	350.00	552.00	1,100.00	750.00
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$3,690.00	\$4,471.00	\$50,175.00	\$47,931.00	\$95,679.00	\$45,519.00
Total Budgeted Income	\$25,531.30	\$38,497.00	\$266,938.86	\$268,947.00	\$518,667.00	\$251,743.14

Treasurer's Report for June & July 2026

A summary of the YTD July 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	30,597.30	24,000.00	218,440.48	219,000.00	371,268.00	152,827.52
Grace Giving	1,972.50	3,000.00	24,159.62	22,000.00	37,700.00	13,540.38
Loose Cash Offering	288.00	333.00	2,218.75	2,331.00	4,000.00	1,781.25
Special Envelopes	0.00	0.00	774.00	900.00	1,700.00	926.00
Offerings	\$32,857.80	\$27,333.00	\$245,592.85	\$244,231.00	\$414,668.00	\$169,075.15
Building Use	225.63	283.00	1,969.41	1,981.00	3,400.00	1,430.59
Special Collections	10.00		10.00			
Structures Income	\$235.63	\$283.00	\$1,979.41	\$1,981.00	\$3,400.00	\$1,430.59
Investments Div/Interest	378.52	410.00	2,663.55	2,830.00	4,920.00	2,256.45
Other Income	\$378.52	\$410.00	\$2,663.55	\$2,830.00	\$4,920.00	\$2,256.45
Grins & Giggles Income - Donations	0.00		15.00			
Grins & Giggles Income-Tuition	453.34	4,200.00	50,263.34	51,579.00	94,579.00	44,315.66
Grins & Giggles Income-Registration fees	0.00	92.00	350.00	644.00	1,100.00	750.00
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$453.34	\$4,292.00	\$50,628.34	\$52,223.00	\$95,679.00	\$45,065.66
Total Budgeted Income	\$33,925.29	\$32,318.00	\$300,864.15	\$301,265.00	\$518,667.00	\$217,827.85

In addition to budgeted income, there was also \$11,607 of unbudgeted income in the month of June, and \$131 in unbudgeted income in the month of July. Note that \$5000 of this was not actual income, it was a transfer of \$5000 from one fund to another which is recorded as both income and an expense in our financial software. The income resulted from a large donation in June to Unrestricted Gifts fund, donations to the Embellish fund and the Good Samaritan fund, and several other small donations.

Total Budgeted YTD Expenses of \$316,432.75 is greater than the YTD budget of \$310,659.00 by \$5773.75 as of the end of July. June expenses were greater than our June budget by \$8184.22, and July expenses were greater than the July budget by \$3487.56. The majority of the YTD expense difference relative to the budget is due to facilities expenses, which is \$6.0K over budget as of the end of July.

Grins & Giggles YTD Expenses of \$55,022.13 is less than the budget of \$55,681.00 by \$659.

Net Results: As of the end of July 2026 we have an Actual YTD Total Income of \$399,553.34, and Total Expenses of \$357,936.84, resulting in a difference of \$33,616.50. A high-level year to date summary is in the tables below.

Month ending June 30, 2026:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Budgeted Income	\$25,531.30	\$38,497.00	\$266,938.86	\$268,947.00	\$518,667.00	\$251,743.14
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$44,596.22	\$36,412.00	\$262,092.19	\$259,806.00	\$534,359.00	\$279,221.42
Budgeted Income/Expense	(\$19,064.92)	\$2,085.00	\$4,846.67	\$9,141.00	(\$15,692.00)	(\$27,478.28)

Treasurer's Report for June & July 2026

Difference						
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$3,690.00	\$4,471.00	\$50,175.00	\$47,931.00	\$95,679.00	\$45,519.00
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$9,994.24	\$6,236.00	\$49,066.38	\$50,166.00	\$96,627.00	\$47,575.62
Grins & Giggles Income/Expense Difference	(\$6,304.24)	(\$1,765.00)	\$1,108.62	(\$2,235.00)	(\$948.00)	(\$2,056.62)
Total Income	\$37,138.30	\$38,497.00	\$357,497.30	\$268,947.00	\$534,361.00	\$267,437.14
Total Expense	\$50,005.16	\$36,412.00	\$303,548.32	\$259,806.00	\$534,359.00	\$279,221.42
Total Income/Expense Difference	(\$12,866.86)	\$2,085.00	\$53,948.98	\$9,141.00	\$2.00	(\$11,784.28)

Month ending July 31, 2026:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Budgeted Income	\$33,925.29	\$32,318.00	\$300,864.15	\$301,265.00	\$518,667.00	\$217,827.85
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$54,340.56	\$50,853.00	\$316,432.75	\$310,659.00	\$534,359.00	\$229,376.47
Budgeted Income/Expense Difference	(\$20,415.27)	(\$18,535.00)	(\$15,568.60)	(\$9,394.00)	(\$15,692.00)	(\$11,548.62)
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$453.34	\$4,292.00	\$50,628.34	\$52,223.00	\$95,679.00	\$45,065.66
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$5,955.75	\$5,515.00	\$55,022.13	\$55,681.00	\$96,627.00	\$41,619.87
Grins & Giggles Income/Expense Difference	(\$5,502.41)	(\$1,223.00)	(\$4,393.79)	(\$3,458.00)	(\$948.00)	\$3,445.79
Total Income	\$34,056.04	\$32,318.00	\$391,553.34	\$301,265.00	\$534,361.00	\$233,521.85
Total Expense	\$54,388.52	\$50,853.00	\$357,936.84	\$310,659.00	\$534,359.00	\$229,376.47
Total Income/Expense Difference	(\$20,332.48)	(\$18,535.00)	\$33,616.50	(\$9,394.00)	\$2.00	\$4,145.38

Other Treasurer Activity:

- Reviewed bi-weekly payroll
- Reviewed monthly bank reconciliation
- Corresponded with insurance agent from Lamb Insurance to try to find other insurance policy offers

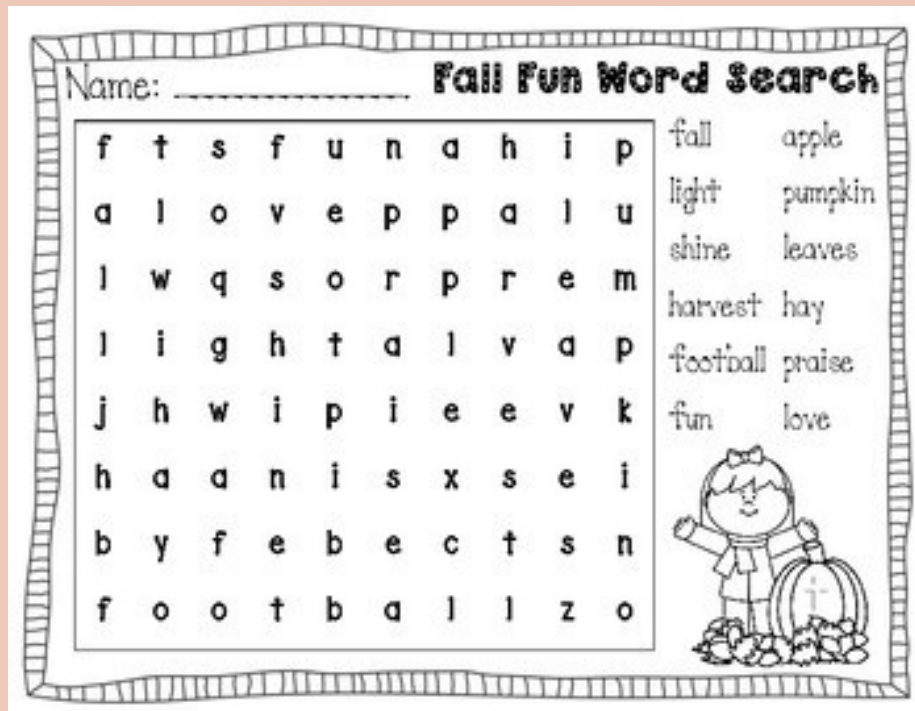
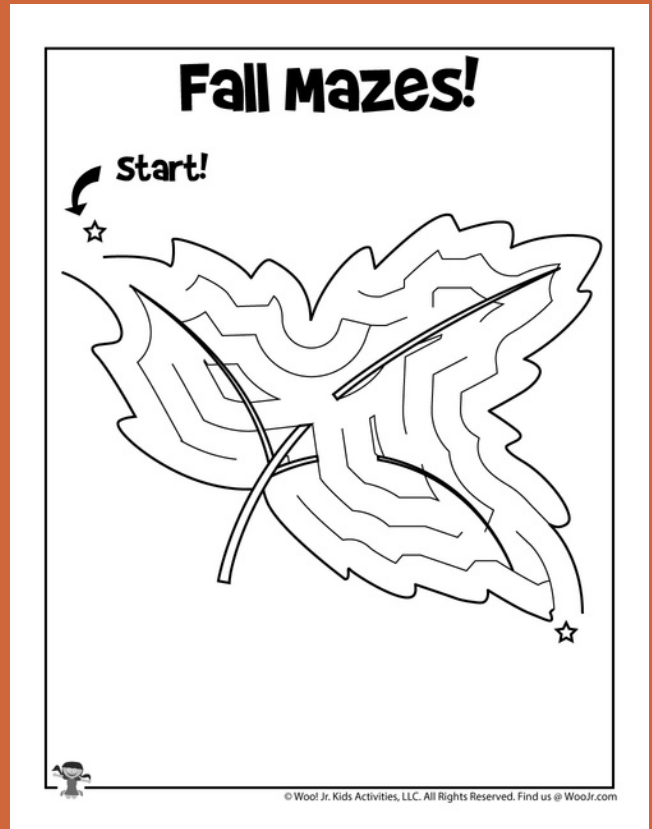
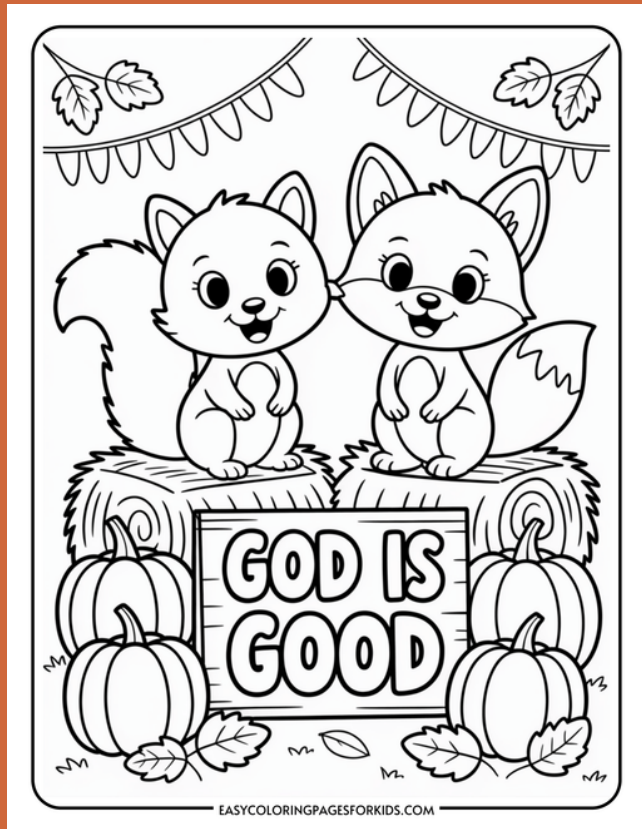
Respectfully Submitted,
Alan Nordquist
Treasurer

Consolidated Fund Activity Report June & July 2026

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

Monday, July 6, 2026

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.1001.1001	General Operating Fund Balance	64,331.84	25,531.30	44,596.22	-	45,266.92
3.1050.1000	<i>Building Fund Balance</i>					
3.1050.1001	General Building Fund Balance	22,432.55	10.00	-	-	22,442.55
3.1050.1002	Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,632.36	10.00	-	-	4,642.36
3.1060.1000	Memorial Fund Balance	6,548.27	-	-	-	6,548.27
3.1070.1000	Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	14,122.68	10.00	-	-	14,132.68
3.1080.1000	Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	120,420.24	5,000.00	-	-	125,420.24
3.2001.1000	<i>Worship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2001.1001	Special Music Balance	2,544.61	-	-	-	2,544.61
3.2001.1003	Handbell Program Fund Balance	735.81	-	-	-	735.81
3.2001.2020	Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	2,001.33	927.00	386.96	-	2,541.37
3.2002.1000	<i>Administrative-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2002.1004	Special Gifts Balance	180.04	5,000.00	5,000.00	-	180.04
3.2002.1006	Staff Development Balance	3,794.80	-	-	-	3,794.80
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	173.73	-	21.98	-	151.75
3.2004.1000	<i>Fellowship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2004.1005	Fellowship Special Events Balance	1,962.61	-	-	-	1,962.61
3.2004.1010	Fellowship Furnishings Balance	6,021.56	-	-	-	6,021.56
3.2005.1000	<i>Special Programs Balance</i>					
3.2005.1002	Great Lakes Scrip Program Balance	2,035.73	-	-	-	2,035.73
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
3.2008.1003	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	596.00	50.00	-	-	646.00
3.2009.1001	Meal Center Balance	723.25	-	-	-	723.25
3.2010.1000	<i>Discretionary Gifts Balance</i>					
3.2010.1001	Pastors' Discretionary Balance	8,389.92	-	-	-	8,389.92
3.2010.1002	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	6,951.92	600.00	-	-	7,551.92
3.2010.1003	Council Discretionary Fund Balance	3,246.21	-	-	-	3,246.21
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	-	-	-	3,813.34
3.9000.1000	Net Fixed Asset Fund Balance	1,918,224.00	-	-	-	1,918,224.00
Total		<u>\$2,228,777.36</u>	<u>\$37,138.30</u>	<u>\$50,005.16</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,215,910.50</u>



Prayer List

Pray for healing:

John Robbins	Pam Roman (sister-in-law of Sandy Wimmermark)
Ellen Peters (friend of Pat Robbins)	Dawn Nienow (sister of Cathy Hanson)
Jeanne Steinnagel	Vicki Breuell (friend of the Nelsons)
Mark Wuesthoff	Kevin Ames (friend of the Steinnagels)
Dick Wimmermark	Livingston Carroll (brother of Patricia Carroll-French)
Robin Buckland (co-worker of Roy B.)	Travis Turner
The Hepburn Family	Doris Remondi (mother of Elaine Remondi-Simpson)
Linda (friend of Laura Parsons)	Chip Moran
Mike Arnold	Donna (friend of Leigh Sammons)
Sharon Podojil	Joy Elisabeth (daughter of Patricia Carroll-French)
Sue Conley	Sandy (friend of Patricia Carroll-French)
Ernest Koschmieder (husband of Althea)	Paul Roman
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)	

Pray for those who are Grieving:

Pray for active duty military:

Hannah (Spouse of Kate McGivern)
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:

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)
Kathy Dame
Fred Launer
Pauline Wanner
Bob Chernansky
Jenny Waller
Lynn Minichino

Pray for those with other concerns:

Lutheran Disaster Response
ReconcilingWorks



Scroll Deadline: Third Monday of the Month

The deadline for the Scroll is the third Monday of each month.
Articles may be submitted as hard-copy or via e-mail to communications@stlukegf.org.

DEADLINE

Add a Prayer

If you would like to add a prayer request to the Weekly, please complete the Prayer Request form on the reverse side of the yellow Connections form. Leave the form in the pew and the ushers will collect them and turn them in to the church office. You can also add a prayer request by calling the office at 860-464- 7897

September Celebrations

Birthdays:

Raegan Aberle	9/02
Gail Chernansky	9/02
Crystal Dame	9/07
Regina Donovan	9/29
Noelle Hale	9/16
Cathy Hanson	9/25
Ray Heller	9/29
Kathleen Swope	9/09
David Taylor	9/17
Phyllis Turner	9/21
Felix Vajdos	9/10
Nikolas Vajdos	9/11
Janeese Watson	9/25
Gina Williams	9/08
Karen Wuesthoff	9/13

Wedding Anniversaries:

(# of Years Married)

Andrew & Deborah Eld	9/27 (29)
Ray Heller & Penelope Howell-Heller	9/30 (48)
Michael & Katie Johnson	9/28 (24)

Baptismal Birthdays:

Quinn Aleshire	9/26/2021
Gail Chernansky	9/04/1940
Crystal Dame	9/07/1975
Logan Dame	9/09/2007
Michael Johnson	9/??/1967
Alexander Nicki	9/18/2016
Judith Owsley	9/20/1942
Norman Owsley	9/07/1941
Elaine Remondi-Simpson	9/21/1952
Felix Vajdos	9/15/1968
Janis Vajdos	9/22/1974
Gina Williams	9/18/1955
Marty Wood	9/??/1943
Michael Wuesthoff	9/12/1965

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 – September 2026									
Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers	
9/6									
9:30	Joanne Erickson	David Zitzkat & John Perkins		Bob N.	Camille Felty	Nate	Roni Rollinson & Kristian Balinski	Katie	
9/13									
9:30	Barb Candler	Al Nordquist & Dennis Sindel		Liese Z.	Marty Wood	Camille & Emilee	Jim Sammons & Dan Morrison	Felix	
9/20									
9:30	Sue Bibeau	Mark & Louise Larson			Leigh Sammons	Everett	Dave Zitzkat & Al Nordquist	Lisa	
9/27									
9:30	Grace DeMarco	Ray Heller & David Goodrich			Jerry Swope	Alex	Brad Dame & Dan Morrison	Jacqueline	

This schedule compiled as of 8/25/26; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

Church Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 2026

*Community Group

Music Rehearsals:

Monday 5:00pm - Grace Notes

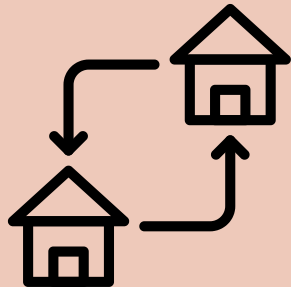
Tuesday 6:00pm - The Belles

Tuesday 7:00pm - Senior Choir

Wednesday 7:00pm - JuBELLation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1 9:30am OA*	2 9:00am EmBellish 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	3 3:00pm Grins & Giggles Meet & Greet	4	5 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
6 CELEBRATE 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 2:30pm New London Meal Center 3:00pm Junior Vocal Recital- Mary J.	7 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	8 Director of Music Gina's birthday 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Executive Planning Team 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	9 9:00am EmBellish 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	10	11 Diane Hansen, bookkeeper birthday 9:00am Grins & Giggles Camp 3:00pm Birthday Party Set Up	12 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
13 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Lifelong Learning Meeting	14 6:30pm Fellowship Team Meeting 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	15 9:30am OA* 6:30pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting* 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	16 9:00am EmBellish 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	17 6:00pm CONGREGATION COUNCIL	18 11:00am Cathy Hanson Memorial Service	19 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
20 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Bible Study	21 SCROLL DEADLINE 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	22 9:30am OA* 6:00pm CPR Training* 6:00pm The Belles 7:00pm Senior Choir 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	23 9:00am EmBellish 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	24	25	26 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
27 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	28 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band	29 9:30am OA* 6:00pm CPR Training* 7:00pm Tao Te Ching Study Group*	30 9:00am EmBellish 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	1	2	3

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

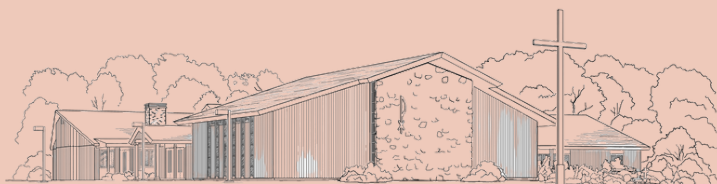


St. Luke Lutheran Church

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