



The Scroll

APRIL 2024



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



Pastor's Note

FROM PASTOR HEIDI

Blessed Easter Season, dear St. Luke Siblings in Christ!



It was an honor to walk with you through the season of Lent again this year, and to celebrate our third Easter together. In this season, we celebrate the new life promised to us in Christ Jesus, and we start to notice new life all around us in the natural world. This Spring, I will be giving increased energy to two expressions of "new life" in our midst. The first is continuing to support the youth in their preparations for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July! After the 2021 Gathering was postponed, and then eventually canceled in 2022, being invited by our Churchwide organization to engage in this faith formation event for youth feels like a NEW LIFE moment! Please mark your calendars to join us for "New Orleans Night" on Friday, May 3rd

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Presidential Notes

BY FAWN DEMELLO,
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



As Spring approaches, let us be grateful for all that God has made for us to expand within ourselves. Our own meadow will be budding soon to have flowers that will show the beauty in the yard of St. Luke, so that the community can enjoy.

Council Information –

I have started talks with individuals in our congregation to learn more of what we are looking to achieve over this year. Working on foundations to see how we can grow in our own garden.

The Congregation Council is working within our ministries in learning more about the ground level of each ministry to expand. We have some ad hoc committees that have been formed or looking to be formed, so that we can be more efficient.

As always, the Congregation Council meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. If you have a concern that you would like to bring before the Congregation Council all are welcomed.

Enjoy your Spring.

Peace
Fawn

continued from pg. 1

with New Orleans style food, a silent auction, AND music from the Ledyard High School Jazz Band. It is sure to be a time to show Christ-light to our youth, and to invite neighbors and friends to join us – a community that thrives on the daily new life we have in Jesus!

Also, St. Luke will be the site for an orientation and five training sessions throughout April and May, where we will host the interfaith clergy and lay representatives who are learning how to build a faith-based organizing network so that we might join our energy, voices, and passion for living out our beliefs in the public square for the greater good. This training will help lay and clergy leaders learn how to engage in one-to-one meetings, and to host house meetings where we might start to learn what our community is struggling with, and who has energy to raise up those issues to the larger interfaith group. This broad-based organizing comes with no agenda except to empower faith communities to join together to do more for justice than we can do on our own. This opportunity to live out our faith more actively is an expression of the new life the Spirit is breathing into our congregation and others! Please let me know if you would like to attend the orientation session to learn more about this organizing opportunity. The Orientation will take place on Monday, 4/8 in New London from 6-7:30pm, and then again here at St. Luke on Thursday, 4/11, 6-7:30pm. All are welcome to come learn more about this ministry opportunity!!!

May the new life we have in Christ be made visible to us in all the diverse ways God is working through and around us! Happy Eastertide!

Pastor Heidi Johnston

St Luke Community Garden Composting Restart

BY RAY AND PENNY HELLER

Spring is here and it is time to restart compost collection for the church's community garden. All your compostable food scraps can be brought up the hill beside the church to the wooden bins to the left of the garden behind the shed. For those unable to make the trek up the hill, a black compost bin is available beside the driveway near the back entrance to the church education wing. If you use this bin, please try to keep everything inside the black garbage bag and the bag secured to the top rim of the bin.

WHAT to COMPOST? Fruit and vegetable scraps, egg and nut shells, coffee grounds and tea bags, citrus rinds, spoiled bread and spent flowers. It really helps if larger pieces (such as banana peels and grapefruit rinds) are cut up into smaller chunks so they degrade faster into usable fertilizer. Literally, every little bit helps!

We can provide you with a compost pail and lid if you need one – just ask. Using compostable bags is fine too, and much neater, but be sure they are certified for home composting not just for commercial composting operations. "Bio Bags" and "ANECO" are good brands, available at some grocery stores and on line from Gardeners Supply or Amazon.

Thanks to all of you who supplied compost material last fall and welcome back to all of you and new folks too.

Penny and Ray Heller



Spring Blood Drive

Please make an appointment and join us for our Spring Blood Drive. You can register online at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767. Walk-ins are also accepted. Serving an assortment of delicious homemade refreshments. Stay healthy and hope to see you at the Blood Drive.

Outreach Team Meeting 4/14

Outreach Team will meet on Sunday, April 14 in the Conference Room following worship. At this meeting, we will allocate our budgeted funds to support good works in our community. New and returning members are welcome! Please contact the Outreach Team at outreach@stlukegf.org with questions, suggestions and to serve on the Team.



Ready for Take Off

BY JACQUE LOFTUS

Are you excited to see what comes next on our Evangelism Journey? Before we begin, let us remind you of the central idea for our “trip”. The Evangelism Team here at St. Luke will be displaying a circle formation of little colored flags around the sign outside in front of our church. These flags are colors from the Progress Pride flag. We hope with this display to raise awareness and make members of the community feel truly welcome in our church. Each color has a different meaning: *red represents life, orange is for healing, black and brown signify people of color, white, pink, and light blue denote the transgender community, yellow and green stand for sunlight and nature, and blue and purple for serenity and spirit.* Each month, the Evangelism Team will choose a center flag to be dedicated to a particular group or idea, and we will be sharing more detailed information for that specific theme of the month as the year progresses.

Think of this information when you pass by St. Luke and see the flags on display. If you have any questions about the colors of the flags, the current theme, or any past flags you’ve seen, please feel open to ask the Evangelism Team about it. The more engaged our church members are, the more we can work together to celebrate inclusion and diversity for the community around us.

First Stop: April is Autism Awareness Month! Therefore, the center flag for April will represent Autism Awareness. The flag contains depictions of jigsaw puzzle pieces, which are meant to signify the complexity of the autism spectrum. One of the main colors seen on the autism flag is blue, meant to represent calmness and serenity (a similar meaning to the blue on the Progress Pride Flag).

The Evangelism Team wants to encourage everyone at St. Luke to celebrate the diversity of all people. To help you do this, focus your spirit and mind on the Progress Pride Flag and Autism Flag. Extend a hand to those you know in one of these communities and do what you can to show them that they are one with us. For God loves human life so much that *“the Word became Flesh” (John 1:14).* We know, therefore, that God’s love embraces us totally, including all our differences. (Taken from a statement published by the ELCA).





Grins & Giggles Preschool News

BY NANCY RUPERT, DIRECTOR

By the time you are reading this article Easter will have come and gone, but HAPPY EASTER to everyone! We had our Easter parties with an egg hunt and did the Bunny Hop with our floppy ears and cotton ball tails. We made beautiful crosses and read the story of how God's love made the world new and beautiful again in the spring with His message of life ever after on Easter's morn.

In April we will become 'Pirates' (RRRR...) and bounce into 'Spring' after returning from our spring vacation week. Now that we have finished the alphabet, we will begin reviewing the letters and numbers. We hope to be spending more time outside now that the weather is finally warmer too.

We would like to thank those of you in the congregation that have been donating supplies to us. We have been thrilled to receive a carton of tempera paints, paper towels and various plates, cups and craft supplies. We appreciate your support!

In February we had our annual inspection. We always receive a wonderful review but this year the inspector mentioned that the wood chips on the playground were not 8" thick as they are required to be for safety reasons. She told me she would not write that in her report if I would take care of the short coming before the warm weather allows us to be outside more frequently. Therefore, I am looking for a truck load of playground safe wood chips and a few strong backs to spread the wood chips. I mentioned this need after service on Sunday and suggested that wood chips are often free at the dump if someone would go and pick them up. After the service two individuals came up to me to say that often the 'free' wood chips have poison ivy and other undesirable materials in them that would not be good for a playground. Therefore, a purchase of wood chips (10-20 yards) is needed. Please consider this purchase for our preschool? We would truly appreciate it!!

Enjoy this wonderful spring!

Nancy Rupert, Director

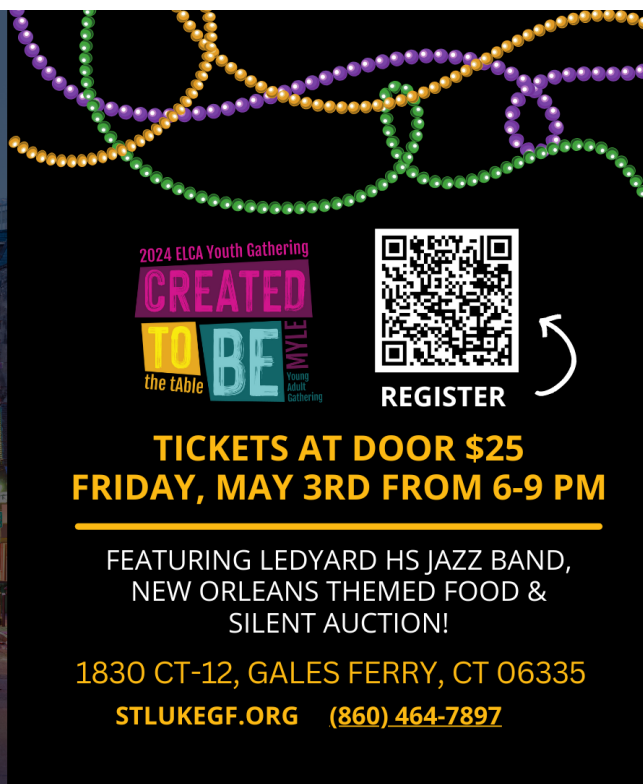


Pre Tour Concert

*Chamber Choir
Select Singers*

**Tuesday, April 16 @ 7:00 pm
St. Luke Lutheran Church**

*Free-will offering accepted to
support the choirs on tour*



OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

(THE FOURTEENTH IN A SERIES ABOUT ST. LUKE'S STAINED GLASS WINDOWS)

PENTECOST

WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST CAME, THEY WERE ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE (ACTS 2:1).

Before he left them, Jesus promised his apostles that the Holy Spirit would be sent in his name to teach them all things and remind them of everything he had said, thus enabling them to spread the Gospel throughout the world. Their ministry would begin in Jerusalem, and he told them to stay there until they had been clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49).

The promised event took place on the feast of Pentecost, a Jewish holiday celebrated on the 50th day after the Passover.

Acts 2:2-4 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

The ministry began immediately. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they began to teach the people gathered there the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection, and to convey to them His promises of forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Those who accepted this message were baptized, and about 3,000 were added to the body of Christ that day (Acts 2:41). Pentecost is now celebrated by Christians as the birthday of the church.

1 Descending Dove

This symbol for the Holy Spirit comes from the Gospel description of Jesus' baptism, in which the Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove (Luke 3:21-22).

2 Key

Symbol for Peter, the central figure at Pentecost. The symbolism comes from Matthew 16:19, in which Jesus promised Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.

3 Flames

What seemed to be tongues of fire descended upon the disciples at Pentecost (Acts 2:3). The twelve flames represent the twelve Apostles.

4 Sword and Bible

The apostle Paul described the word of God as the sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17). The sword and Bible are also used as a symbol for Paul himself, who after persecuting the early Christians was converted in an encounter with the Lord (Acts 9:1-9) and became one of the greatest missionaries of the early church.

5 Chain

Symbolizes the persecution and imprisonment suffered by Paul and other early missionaries.

6 Crosses

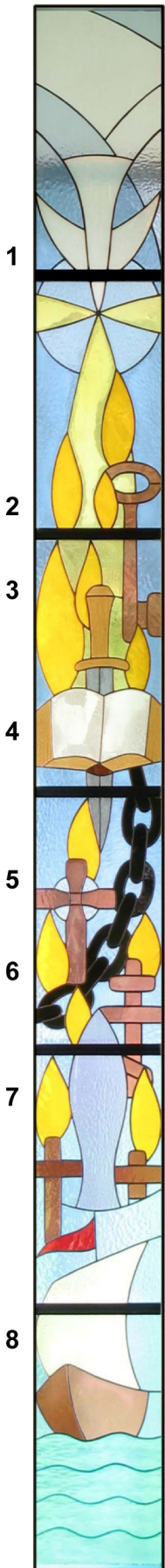
Four different crosses symbolize the spread of Christianity. Clockwise from the top they are: Celtic, Eastern, Greek, and Latin.

7 Fish

Used as a secret sign by which early Christians identified one another. The letters of the Greek word for "fish", *ichthys*, are also the initial letters in the declaration of faith "Jesus Christ, God's son, Savior" (*Iesous Christos Theou Yios Soter*).

8 Ship

Symbolizes the missionary voyages of Paul and other early Christians. The church itself is often symbolized as a ship with Christ as the captain steering through the turbulent waters of the world.



Minutes of the February 15 Congregation Council Meeting

St. Luke Lutheran Church Minutes of the Regular Congregation Council Meeting February 15, 2024

Call to order 6:05PM

Attendance:

Fawn DeMello, President

Leigh Sammons, VP and People Support

Al Nordquist, Treasure

Heidi Johnston, Pastor

Brad Dame, Worship and Music

Kellie August, Outreach

John Perkins, Fellowship

Pam Gray, Evangelism

Marty Wood, Facilities

Janis Vajdos, Secretary

Excused Absence- Erica Aberle, Lifelong Learning

Devotion was given by Fawn DeMello Psalm 51

Agenda

MOTION made to approved agenda by Pam and 2nd by John

Edits made to the agenda:

Change line to pay ELCA World Hunger 50th Anniversary amount sum to \$2007.50 and the fund should be End Hunger Outreach

Add coin challenge fundraiser for youth to new business

Pam amended the motion to accept changes; 2nd by John

VOTE 9 yea 0 nay MOTION PASSES

Minutes

MOTION made to approve January 18, 2024 minutes by Brad and 2nd by Marty

No discussion

VOTE: 7yea 2 abstain 0 nay MOTION PASSES

Kellie and Al abstained since they were not present at the January meeting

MOTION to approve February 6 E-vote for Youth fundraiser for the potato supper made by John and 2nd by Leigh

VOTE: 9 yae 0 nay MOTION PASSES

Approval of Council Secretary

Fawn appoints Janis Vajdos as Secretary

Approval of Audit Member and Chair

MOTION to approve Roni Rollinson to the Audit Committee for a 2-year term made by Al and 2nd by Leigh

VOTE 9 yea 0 nay MOTION PASSES

Council Meeting Minutes (cont'd.)

President remarks

- Appoint Parliamentarian- Marty volunteered
- Welcome Al and Kellie to council
- Fawn distributed Council Responsibilities through Constitution, By-Laws, and Continuing Resolutions via email

Church members comments/concerns

None present

Financial reports

See report for monthly details.

New business

- Substitute policy for all staff- Leigh

MOTION made by Pam and 2nd by Al to accept the new pay policy for substitutes as:

Substitute employees at St. Luke Lutheran Church are to be paid at the current minimum wage hourly pay rate. At this time (January 2024), that rate is \$15.69 per hour. This includes substitute teachers at Grins and Giggles Playschool, substitute sextons, and the assistant to the director of technology. (The assistant to the director of technology would be the substitute for the director as needed.)

This shall be the pay policy for all substitute employees, unless there are unusual circumstances when pay rate may be otherwise negotiated and deemed appropriate.

Discussion regarding roles for the person subbing may modify the policy

MOTION IS TABLED for further discussion by the executive team

- Sign-up for coffee hour before and after church-Leigh

Proposal was made to have an open sign-up for people to provide coffee before and after church. Requesting support from the Fellowship Team to teach people how to make and clean up after making coffee. The goal is to have coffee on regular basis. Those making coffee would stay for clean-up or have another person sign-up for clean-up. In addition, Ministry teams will take turns hosting the coffee hour with displays about their ministry, perhaps once per month.

Another proposal was made to move coffee hour to the Fellowship Hall.

Fellowship takes the ACTION to discuss with their team. (John is going out of town, so Leigh may contact Louise.)

Leigh will develop signup sheet, if needed

- Pam is requesting permission to have beer and wine at personal event in Fellowship Hall on February 18, 2024

MOTION to allow Pam to have beer and wine at event and no one under 21 will be served. 2nd by Leigh

VOTE: 9 yea 0 nay MOTION PASSES

Council Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

- **MOTION** to pay ELCA World Hunger 50th Anniversary the sum of \$2007.50 from the Consolidated Fund End Hunger Outreach made by Fawn, 2nd by Al

Al confirms we have the money in the fund

VOTE: 9 yea 0 nay MOTION PASSES

- Awareness of comments made during budget review and annual meeting– Fawn
 - Replacement Cycles–computers, handbell refurbishment
 - Sabbatical
 - 3-year strategic plan
 - 10% less usage of energy– not costs
 - 6-month emergency plan/fund
 - Reduce 5% in Constitution of Council Allowance of Payment of Expenses
 - **ACTION:** Marty to check ELCA Model Constitutions and Financial Resources for Congregations
 - Trends– also among ministries
 - Council Retreat–
 - Camp Wightman or Enders Island
 - Preference for a day event, rather than overnight,
 - **ACTION:** Fawn to find more information regarding costs and dates
 - **ACTION:** Each month we will be discussing one of these items

Discussion: Pam requests a list of who is on the committees, including ad hoc.

ACTION: Secretary to create shared drive for lists, reports

Other New Business

MOTION for a coin challenge fundraiser to be held February 18 through the end of Lent for the ELCA Youth Gathering by Fawn, 2nd by John

There will be 2 jars in the Narthex: Youth vs the Pastor

If Pr Heidi gets more money in her jar, then all youths including Fawn will dye their hair pink

If Youth get more money, Pr Heidi dyes her hair green

Modified the motion to say coin challenge fundraiser to be held February 18 through the end of Lent to benefit the St. Luke Youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in July in 2024

2nd by Al

VOTE: 9 yea 0 nay MOTION PASSES

Pastor's Report

- See report: Pr. Heidi highlighted that the community faith-based organizing with lay people is moving forward. She appreciates the Council's support as she serves in the core of 4 people organizing the initiative.
- Pr. Heidi's grandmother is nearing the end of her life. As her grandmother's Pastor, Pr. Heidi may be called away suddenly to perform a funeral in NJ. She is in touch with some local pastors who will be on call to fill in on short notice, if needed.

Council Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

Purpose Teams Reports

- Evangelism: see report.
 - Pam highlights that more support for The Traveling Queer Movie Night would be great. Niantic joined recently and brought a group of people. The event is now advertised in The Patch.
- Fellowship: no report
 - John reported a potential for a pizza game night in March with life long learning. Pr. Heidi will work with fellowship to schedule since so many of the youth are involved in both game nights and the events the Youth Gathering is requiring of them
 - John asked if we want an Easter coffee hour: yes with hot cross buns
- Lifelong Learning-see report
 - In Erica's absence, Pr. Heidi highlighted the Sunday Jesus to Christ docuseries and the Wednesday Lenten Soup Studies will be beginning
 - We have arranged for the Ledyard High School Jazz Band to play at a fundraiser for the Youth travelling to New Orleans. The date they are available is April 26. We are planning a multifaceted fundraiser event, with food and silent auction

MOTION brought by Pr. Heidi to approve a fundraising event on April 26 with exact location and details to be confirmed to support St. Luke youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering. 2nd by Marty

VOTE: 9 yea 0 nay MOTION PASSES

- Outreach- Kellie reported that they want to start working on 2024 goals
- Worship-see report
 - Volunteers are needed
 - Brad highlighted that they are planning a Justice & Peace Sunday on April 28

Support Team Reports

- Communications- Katie starting communications about Easter sunday
- Facilities
 - Plow company has been keeping parking lot clear
 - Water is being diverted off the hill from the neighbors yard. We will plan to excavate in the spring to address
 - Heat failure on Ash Wednesday was caused by a circulating pump. It was addressed and is covered under the contract with Emcor
- Parish report
- People report
 - Rachel Goodman was hired to be back-up tech support. Gina is training her.

MOTION to accept all reports made by Fawn, 2nd by John

VOTE: 9 yea 0 nay MOTION PASSES

Old business

none

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 21, 2024

Marty signed up for devotions

MOTION to Adjourn meeting at 7:53 made by Brad and 2nd by Leigh

VOTE 9 yea 0 nay MOTION PASSES

Consolidated Fund Activity Report February 2024

St Luke Lutheran Church - Gales Ferry CT Consolidated Fund Activity Report for February 2024

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.1001.1001	General Operating Fund Balance	89,967.50	31952.16	54647.78	0	67,271.88
3.1050.1000	<i>Building Fund Balance</i>					
3.1050.1001	General Building Fund Balance	22,048.13	10	0	0	22,058.13
3.1050.1002	Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,652.35	10	0	0	4,662.35
3.1056.1000	Wedding Facilities Fund Balance	397.80	0	0	0	397.80
3.1060.1000	Memorial Fund Balance	3,650.06	200	0	0	3,850.06
3.1070.1000	Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	1,522.68	0	0	0	1,522.68
3.1080.1000	Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	45,046.94	0	0	0	45,046.94
3.2001.1000	<i>Worship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2001.1001	Special Music Balance	2,736.73	0	0	0	2,736.73
3.2001.1003	Handbell Program Fund Balance	1,666.31	0	186	0	1,480.31
3.2001.2020	Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	1,030.89	100	0	0	1,130.89
3.2002.1000	<i>Administrative-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2002.1006	Staff Development Balance	4,826.22	0	0	0	4,826.22
3.2002.1012	Sabbatical Fund Balance	5,750.00	0	0	0	5,750.00
3.2002.1007	Flowers Balance	(245.70)	220	0	0	(25.70)
3.2004.1000	<i>Fellowship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2004.1003	Adult Ski Trip Balance	50.00	0	0	0	50.00
3.2004.1005	Fellowship Special Events Balance	2,862.44	350	0	0	3,212.44
3.2004.2000	Dinner Church Balance	45.71	0	0	0	45.71
3.2005.1000	<i>Special Programs Balance</i>					
3.2005.1002	Great Lakes Scrip Program Balance	1,395.23	0	0	0	1,395.23
3.2006.1000	<i>Youth-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2006.1003	ELCA National Youth Gathering Balance	7,745.46	1757.74	0	0	9,503.20
3.2006.1004	Youth Mission Trip Balance	522.15	0	0	0	522.15
3.2007.1000	<i>Family Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2007.1001	Family Ministry Activities Balance	208.00	0	0	0	208.00
3.2008.1000	<i>Life Long Learning-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2008.1001	Ecumenical VBS Balance	530.47	0	0	0	530.47
3.2008.1003	Women's Retreat Balance	236.12	0	0	0	236.12
3.2008.1004	Lutheran Study Bibles Balance	36.06	0	0	0	36.06
3.2009.1000	<i>Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2009.1002	Chikumbuso Balance	100.00	100	0	0	200.00
3.2010.1000	<i>Discretionary Gifts Balance</i>					
3.2010.1001	Pastors' Discretionary Balance	1,310.19	0	0	0	1,310.19
3.2010.1002	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	1,387.92	0	0	0	1,387.92
3.2010.1003	Council Discretionary Fund Balance	4,776.62	0	0	0	4,776.62
3.2010.1004	Camp Calumet Scholarships Balance	700.00	0	0	0	700.00
3.2011.1000	<i>Facilities Support-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2011.1001	Memorial Garden Balance	3,349.60	0	0	0	3,349.60
3.2011.1002	Playground Balance	37.11	0	0	0	37.11
3.2011.1010	End Hunger Outreach Fund Balance	2,007.50	0	0	0	2,007.50
3.9000.1000	Net Fixed Asset Fund Balance	1,918,224.00	0	0	0	1,918,224.00
Total		\$2,128,574.49	\$34,699.90	\$54,833.78	\$0.00	\$2,108,440.61

Treasurer's Report for Month Ending February, 2024

St. Luke Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report for Month Ending February 29, 2024

March 17, 2024

The total offerings received YTD is \$ 83,811.22 which is below the planned receipts of \$ 90,436.00 by \$ 6624.78 which is 7.3% less than the budgeted amount. Grins & Giggles income YTD is \$1115.00 greater than the budgeted income, making the YTD total budgeted income \$5709.78 less than the budgeted income.

A summary of the YTD February 2024 budgeted income is provided in the table below:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Pledges	19,316.70	26,186.00	73,538.90	83,186.00	348,859.00	275320.1
Grace Giving	4,734.46	3,375.00	9,370.32	6,750.00	40,500.00	31129.68
Loose Cash Offering	297.00	250.00	573.00	500.00	3,000.00	2427
Special Envelopes	329.00	0.00	329.00	0.00	1,000.00	671
Offerings	\$24,677.16	\$29,811.00	\$83,811.22	\$90,436.00	\$393,359.00	\$309,547.78
Building Use	175.00	250.00	300.00	500.00	3,000.00	2700
Structures Income	\$175.00	\$250.00	\$300.00	\$500.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,700.00
Grins & Giggles Income-Tuition	6,995.00	7,000.00	14,940.00	14,000.00	80,475.00	65535
Grins & Giggles Income-Registration fees	105.00	0.00	175.00	0.00	500.00	325
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$7,100.00	\$7,000.00	\$15,115.00	\$14,000.00	\$80,975.00	\$65,860.00
Total Budgeted Income	\$31,952.16	\$37,061.00	\$99,226.22	\$104,936.00	\$477,334.00	\$378,107.78

We also had an additional \$2747.74 in additional income, the majority of which is paying into the ELCA National Youth Gathering fund.

Total Budgeted YTD Expenses of \$86,207.16 is less than the YTD budget of \$91,037.00 by \$4829.84. The primary reasons for this difference are Outreach support, and Facilities expenses which have not yet been realized.

Grins & Giggles YTD Expenses of \$ 15,013.22 is less than the Budget of \$ 15,806.00 by \$ 792.78.

Net Results: As of the end of February 2024 we have an Actual YTD Total Income of \$ 108,680.21, and Expenses of \$86,207.16, resulting in a difference of \$ 22,473.05. A high-level summary of such results is in the table below:

Treasurer's Report for Month Ending February, 2024

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Budgeted Income	\$31,952.16	\$37,061.00	\$99,226.22	\$104,936.00	\$477,334.00	\$378,107.78
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$54,647.78	\$53,757.00	\$85,740.80	\$91,037.00	\$515,138.00	\$429,397.20
Difference	(\$22,695.62)	(\$16,696.00)	\$13,485.42	\$13,899.00	(\$37,804.00)	(\$51,289.42)
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$7,100.00	\$7,000.00	\$15,115.00	\$14,000.00	\$80,975.00	\$65,860.00
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$11,314.58	\$11,407.00	\$15,013.22	\$15,806.00	\$82,075.00	\$67,061.78
Difference	(\$4,214.58)	(\$4,407.00)	\$101.78	(\$1,806.00)	(\$1,100.00)	(\$1,201.78)
Total Income	\$34,699.90	\$37,061.00	\$108,680.21	\$104,936.00	\$515,138.00	\$415,911.78
Total Expense	\$54,833.78	\$53,757.00	\$86,207.16	\$91,037.00	\$515,138.00	\$429,397.20
Difference	(\$20,133.88)	(\$16,696.00)	\$22,473.05	\$13,899.00	\$0.00	(\$13,485.42)
Funds: Allocated for use in current year	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$37,804.00	\$37,804.00

Respectfully Submitted,
 Alan Nordquist
 Treasurer

The Case of the Empty Tomb

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.
John 20:1 (NIV)

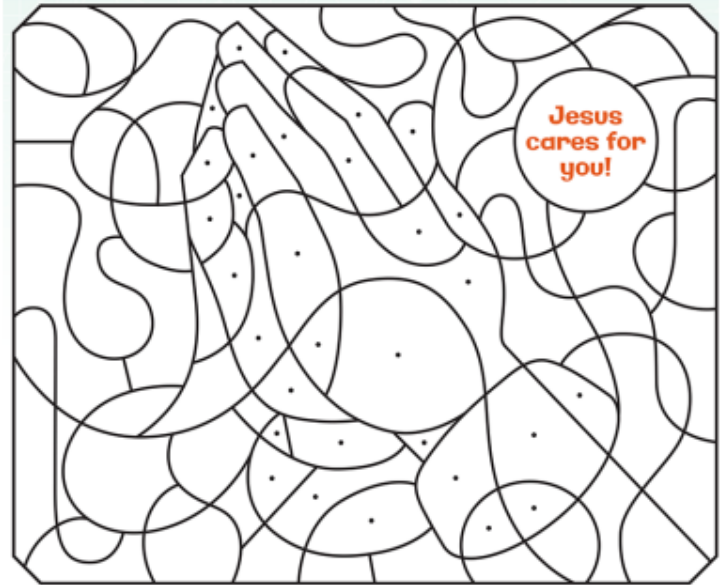
Based on John 20:1-18 (NIV)




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

CRYING	STRIPS	HEAD	DEAD	STONE
WEEK	ANGELS	FIRST	BURIAL	LORD
RISE	REMOVED	TOMB	FOLDED	MARY
BELIEVED	LINEN	DAY	DARK	CLOTH

Color the shapes that have dots in them.



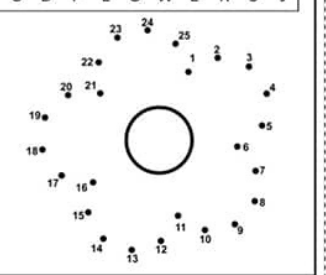


Find all ten words:

- Spring
- Flowers
- Bloom
- Rain
- Umbrella
- Windy
- Seeds
- Sprout
- Birds
- Butterfly

How many words can you make from the word **SPRING**?

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



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Prayer List

Pray for healing:

Sebastian
Rowan
Geoff
Alice Carter
Jill Ragland
Jim West
Grace
Ed Davis
Bill Kracke
Linda Wilkinson
Cori Mackey
Marie
Sabina Moran
Carol Hurlbutt
Joy Elisabeth
Megan & family
Tate Campbell

Stephanie Gryken
and baby Frankie
Jonathan
Dennis
Link
Stephanie Lucas
Gloria

Pray for those who are

Grieving:

Family and Friends of
Rita Usselman &
Marianne Thielbar

Pray for active duty military:

Joshua Robeson
Daniel Walker
Christian Conrad
Adrian Estrella
Owen Lessing
Martin
Andy Sammons
Derek Raymond
Patrick Wimmermark

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

Fred Launer
Pauline Wanner
Bob Chernansky
Jenny Waller
Glenn Rupert
Lynn Minichino
Lynn Tarozzi

Pray for those with other concerns:

Sandy
Paul Roman
Chikumbuso Project



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

April Celebrations

Birthdays:

Abigail Cote 04/09
Lee Eastbourne 04/27
Philip Hammen 04/04
Caile Johnson 04/28
Wesley Johnston 04/29
Kelsey Keefe 04/29
Denyse LaForge 04/15
Emily Miller 04/18
Phil Minichino 04/15
Robin Nelson 04/16
Alexander Nicki 04/30
Shea Portofee 04/05
Sue Portofee 04/21
Brad Roe 04/26
Harrison Roe 04/28
Jen Roe 04/22
Liese Zitzkat 04/22

Wedding Anniversaries: (# of Years Married)

Barbara & Ken Candler 04/06 (39)
Ginny & Brian Sturm 04/10 (41)

**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.**

Baptismal Birthdays:

Ed Davis
04/18/1943
Gerald Swope
04/23/1944
Sandy Wimmermark
04/25/1948
Angie Philips
04/10/1949
Cathy Frost
04/02/1950
Alice Carter
04/01/1951
Vern Brasel
04/03/1952

Baptismal Birthdays:

Marjorie Johnson
04/03/1955
Susan Anderson
04/14/1957
Amy Sindel
04/22/1962
Mark Larson
04/13/1975
Kjrsten Cote
04/01/1979
Lindsay Watson
04/10/1983
Jennifer Nicki
04/28/1985
Carlton Smith
04/03/1999
Carter Smith
04/03/1999
Anna Lettiere
04/29/2007
Emmeline Eastbourne
04/07/2013
Nathaniel Dame
04/12/2015

ST. LUKE—SCHEDULE TO SERVE – April 2024									
Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers	
4/7									
9:30	Edna Johnson	Dennis & Al	Sue Anderson	Bonnie F.	Marty Wood & Diane Hanson	Ian Enslo & Everett Steele	Jim & Al	Felix Vajdos	
4/14									
9:30	Barb Candler	Ray & John Perkins	Deb Eld		Robin Nelson & Jerry Swope	Carson Aberle & Nathaniel Dame	Fawn & Roni	Fawn DeMello	
4/21									
9:30	Katie Launer-Felty	Pat & Marty	Penny Heller	Robert N.	Pat Robbins & Leigh Sammons	Raegan Aberle & Camille Felty	Kristian & Brad	Erica Aberle	
4/28									
9:30	Elaine Remondini-Simpson	Louise & Mark	Linda Martin	Liese Z.	Grace DeMarco & Dyann Baker	Sam Aberle & Nathaniel Dame	Jim & Al	Katie Launer-Felty	

This schedule compiled as of 3/18/2024; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

Church Calendar of Events

APRIL 2024



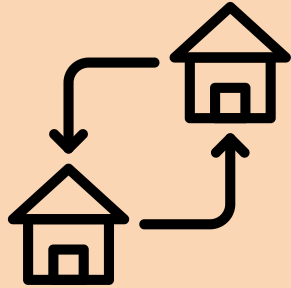
*Community Group

Music Rehearsals:

Mon., 4:45 PM — Glory Ringers
 Mon., 5:45 PM — Joyful Noise
 Tues., 7:00 PM — Senior Choir
 Wed., 9:00 AM — EmBellish
 Wed., 5:00 PM — Concert Handbells
 Wed., 7:00 PM — JuBELLation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	2 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm CPR Training* 7:00pm Senior Choir	3 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	4 9:00am Grins & Giggles	5 9:00am Grins & Giggles	6 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
7 9:30am In-person & Livestream Worship 2:30pm New London Meal Center	8 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	9 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Executive Planning Team 7:00pm Senior Choir	10 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	11 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:00am LICEAF*	12 9:00am Grins & Giggles 12:00pm-5:00pm Blood Drive	13 Ovrebø/Rame Memorial 10:00am OA* 10:30am Women's Group 7:00pm AA*
14 Boggan Baptism 9:30am In-person Worship 9:30am Livestream worship	15 SCROLL DEADLINE 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm AA* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	16 Girl Scouts Troop Meeting 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 7:00pm LHS Concert	17 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	18 9:00am Grins & Giggles 6:00pm CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL 6:30pm Girl Scout Leader meeting*	19 9:00am Grins & Giggles	20 10:00am: OA* 7:00pm: AA*
21 9:30am In-person & Livestream Worship 11:00am Ad-hoc committee	22 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	23 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 7:00pm Senior Choir	24 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	25 Crop Walk Planning Meeting 9:00am Grins & Giggles	26 9:00am Grins & Giggles	27 10:00am: OA* 10:30am: Women's Group 7:00pm: AA*
28 9:30am: In-person & Livestream Worship	29 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous* 7:00pm Thames River Big Band*	30 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 7:00pm Senior Choir	1	2	3	4

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

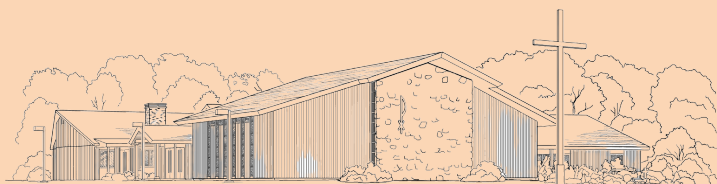


St. Luke Lutheran Church

1830 Route 12
Gales Ferry, CT 06335
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 Sperry
Custodian

OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Fawn DeMello
fdemello@comcast.net
President

Leigh Sammons
l.e.sammons@gmail.com
Vice-President

Alan Nordquist
treasurer@stlukegf.org
Treasurer