



The Scroll

SEPTEMBER 2025



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



Pastor's Note

FROM PASTOR HEIDI

Greetings St. Luke Siblings in Christ!

On August 10th, from our gospel text, we heard Jesus charge us to "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit...You also must be ready" (Luke 12:35, 40, NRSVUE)

Often, we hear this kind of text in Advent, as we prepare our hearts and minds again for the coming of Christ at Christmas. But, it is a good reminder any time of year. Certainly, in September, we at the church are ready and dressed for action! The program year gets underway this month with "God's work. Our hands." day on September 7th, including a produce give-away and waving to Rt-12 traffic with encouraging signs. Then, Rally Day, including a Ministry Fair, on September 14th will allow us



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Follow Us! @stlukegf

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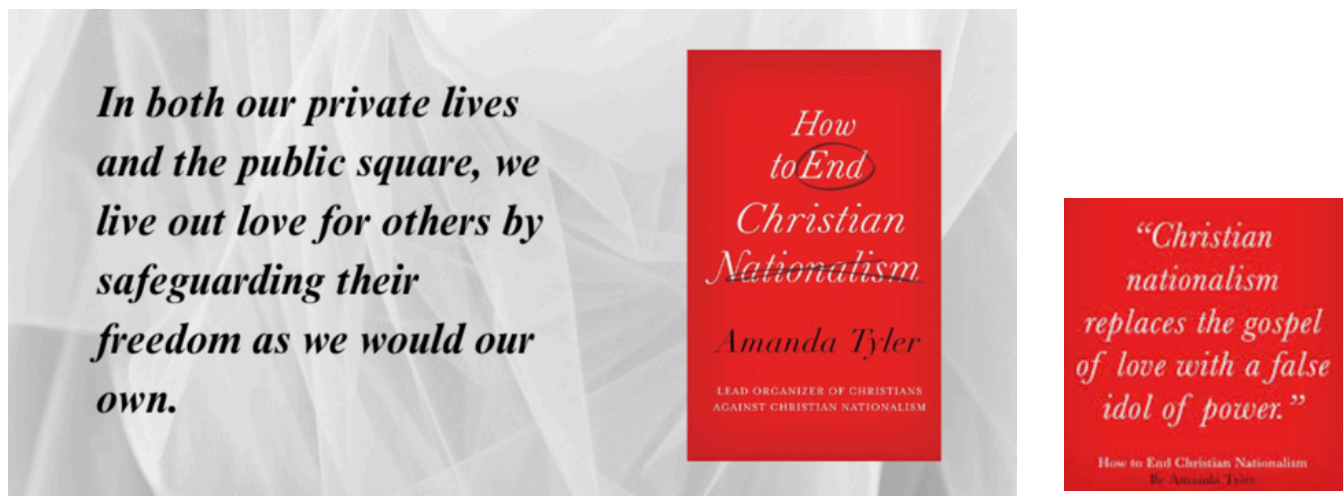
to explore invitations for involvement! These events give us opportunities to get right out there, open to the community, and also open to one another as a congregation and the many ministry options right here at St. Luke.

Additionally, we can become “dressed for action” when we engage in the lifelong practice of learning in Christ. An Adult Forum is being planned for this Fall, dates to be announced soon. This study will be a three session book study based on *How to End Christian Nationalism* by Amanda Tyler. Please consider joining this study. You can buy the book (or we’ll have a few copies if needed), and start reading (hard copy or digital) and taking notes to be ready for our study time together. A sign up will be offered, and I look forward to engaging in this conversation as ONE way that we can seek the Holy Spirit’s support in being ready to bring about God’s loving, just kin-dom in this world.

I hope you’re ready for a meaningful fall season of life together in Jesus! Come DRESSED any way that suits you! What matters is that we are CLOTHED in Christ, dressed for Spirit-led action – ready to worship, serve, and live together in faith.

Ready when you are!

Pastor Heidi Johnston



Presidential Notes

BY FAWN DEMELLO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



We have been very busy this summer with community events and our own ministries here at St. Luke being very active. We hosted Vacation Bible School this July and had a wonderful group of 20 youth and 5 teens as helpers. There were 3 churches involved in VBS. We also hosted a booth at Pridefest at Ocean Beach in New London. It was great to hear from the people that attended that there was support from a church. This year only 2 churches were represented. A presence was highly noted and we were thanked for being there. Mosaic was also at Pridefest next to us and they had many people that came up to their booth to find out more information. I loved their craft for people to do: making God's Eye. Mosaic would like to join us again next year.

Our Community Garden and Meadow, plus the Memorial Garden have been cared for by many volunteers at St. Luke. If we did not have the volunteers that we have, it would be difficult to maintain many ministries. I personally would like to THANK all of our volunteers that we have throughout the year in all of our activities. Blessings to you all.

Our HVAC Ad-hoc team has been busy now with looking at our heating and cooling systems. We also had a calendar meeting with the ministries and thanks to our Parish Administrator, Rachel Goodman for coming in on a Sunday after church to assist us with posting events that we would like to do throughout August 2026.

We have accomplished many things this summer and looking forward to more growth in the near future.

Peace
Fawn



The Outreach Team has plans! Here's what's coming up in 2025.

September 7 is God's Work Our Hands outreach in the parking lot after worship, where we will give away donated produce to whoever from our community stops in.

We continue to cook and serve meals on the first Sunday of each month at the New London Community Meal Center.

The Community Garden was bountiful this year! We unwittingly fed a woodchuck many squashes! We are working on additional fencing!

The Women's Group will continue to purposefully pray over our prayer shawls.

We started a Card Ministry for members on our prayer list.

We will collect socks for SOCKTOBER!

Blood Drives are October 2 and December 4 from 1:30 to 6:30.

CROP Walk is October 19.

We will request donations for Ledyard Social Services Thanksgiving and Christmas benevolence.

Gifts for Jesus and Alternative Gifts will begin November 30 and run through Advent.

We welcome Team Members. Contact Diane Hansen, Kellie August or anyone on the Outreach Team.
outreach@stlukegf.org

God's Work Our Hands Coming Soon!

BY DIANE HANSEN, OUTREACH TEAM LEAD

September 7th is our God's Work Our Hands action day. Please donate produce grown in your garden or purchased locally. Bring produce to St. Luke on Saturday, September 6th from 1 to 3 or on Sunday, September 7th from 9 to 10:45.

Wear your yellow God's Work Our Hands t-shirt and stay after worship to wave a sign on Route 12 and spread the joy! GWOH t-shirts are available in varying sizes, contact outreach@stlukegf.org or pick one up in the Narthex on August 31st or September 7th.

Thanks for your support!



The Red Cross has declared a national alert due to a fifty- percent shortfall of blood donations collected over the summer. 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 2nd 1:30-6:30 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 than 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) Schedule a convenient appointment online at www.redcross.org. 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. 2nd from 1:30-6:30 p.m.** Join us and make a difference!

Save the Date - Rally Day!

BY LOUISE SWETLAND

Ministry News

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 14th!**

Following our worship service, we'll gather together for Rally Day – a special time to celebrate, connect, and look ahead.

Join us for:

- A potluck luncheon
- Fellowship and fun with our church family
- Opportunities to learn about ministries and activities for the upcoming year

Don't miss this chance to kick off the new season with joy, community, and purpose.

We can't wait to see you there!



Sunday October 19, 2025 United Methodist Church
Register from 12:30-1:00 p.m.

We will be gathering at UMC, on Chapman Lane, 12:30-1:00 p.m. with our neighboring churches in the community. After brief remarks at 1:00 p.m., we will be stepping off together to raise awareness and funds to help feed hungry people. Ninety-nine participants in the 2024 walk raised a total of \$20,292.00. Seventy-five percent of the funds, \$15,239.00, funded mainly global disaster relief. The Gemma Moran Food Center received \$5,073.00, 25% of those funds. Our 2025 community goal is to raise \$21,000.00 and continue to address increasing needs.

What's changed since our last walk? Church World Services, our faith based sponsor established 79 years ago, was among the organizations that lost all funding from the federal government. Four hundred employees lost their jobs and their mission has been curtailed. Locally food insecurity for our county has risen 15.1% overall and 18.9% for children. Gemma Moran is providing 6.3% more food for 26,849 people a month visiting pantries, an increase of 14%. Increasing costs and less aid cause more people to find themselves in need of assistance.

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: events.crophungerwalk.org/galesferryct. 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. 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.

Elaine Remondi-Simpson


**Sign Up
Here**



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

Crop Walk funds feed the hungry
around the world!

Join the walk October 19th.
This is a family friendly event happening at
United Methodist Church of Gales Ferry at
10 Chapman Lane in Gales Ferry.



OCTOBER 19

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

When you join the choir, you're not just singing notes together, you're doing life and ministry together.

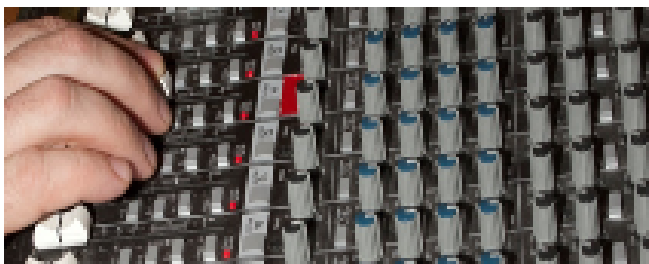
Choir gives us the opportunity to be worship leaders
Choir focuses on DOING rather than OBSERVING
Choir allows praise with body, mind, spirit, and voice
Choir is a gift that will last a lifetime

Rehearsals are on Tuesday nights, 7:00 to 8:30 pm beginning on September 2nd. Can't commit to every week? Talk to us! Try us out. I promise you lots of love and laughter. We participate in worship approximately every 3 weeks beginning September 21st at 9:30. See Gina or sign up outside the music room.



MAD ABOUT RINGING

Handbells are accessible to all levels of experience - even those with no prior musical experience for kindergarteners and older. It provides a fun way to work together, share fellowship, and to contribute to our worship services. Rehearsals and ensembles are still being determined. If you are curious/interested please see Gina or sign up outside the music room.



WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY TEAM MEMBERS WANTED!

Free training & mentoring



Grins & Giggles Preschool News

BY NANCY RUPERT

Summer Camp at G&G was a huge success! We had four weeks of little campers romping in the sprinkler, making homemade popsicles, playing games and making friendships that will last for years. Once camp finished our energies have been channeled towards completing the Nap Mats for this year's class of students and preparing the rooms for the new school year. Carol Keemon, my neighbor and fellow seamstress, helped me prepare a pattern for our mats and compile a list of necessary materials to complete the project. Many thanks to those in the congregation who monetarily donated towards the project and to Lauren, Cindy and Linda who helped to put the mats together. Without your support this addition to our preschool would not have been possible! For two days from 10:00-2:00 the Fellowship Hall was humming with sewing machines!

School begins on Tuesday, September 2nd . Both of our two classes have full enrollment (ten children each) with a wait list. We have six children attending five days a week, four children attending three days a week and four children attending two days a week. With the departure of our assistant of five years, Susanna Curtis, Marianne Greenwood and Brittany Quidgeon will be filling her shoes. Brittany will be assisting Ms. Patricia Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Marianne will be assisting me on Tuesday and Thursday. Both Marianne and Brittany are excited for the opportunity to take on their new roles and both Patricia and I look forward to their new energy and enthusiasm!

Minutes of the June Congregation Council Meeting

St. Luke Lutheran Church Minutes of the Regular Congregation Council Meeting June 19, 2025

Councilors in attendance in person: Fawn DeMello, Pastor Heidi Johnston, Mark Larson, John Perkins, Erica Sullivan, Pat Robbins, Brad Dame, Kellie August

Councilor in attendance via Zoom: Janis Vajdos

Excused absence: Al Nordquist

Recording secretary: Liese Zitzkat

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Council President Fawn DeMello.

Devotions

- Janis Vajdos led devotions.
- No meeting in July.
- August devotions will be led by John Perkins.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to have the Congregation Council approve the agenda for June 19, 2025 as written. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Approval of May 22, 2025 Minutes

- Motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to approve the May 22, 2025 Council minutes. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

President's Remarks

- Executive Team report: Please refer to the document entitled Executive Meeting in June 2025.
- There are no new bylaws or continuing resolutions (CRs) to be approved.
- Fawn DeMello will be meeting with the Parish Administrator next week to update all CRs.
- Motion was made (Janis Vajdos) and seconded to accept the revision of the Fellowship Continuing Resolution. Following discussion, during which one update was made, the motion carried.
- Fawn reported that St. Luke will be receiving another deposit of money from the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC), covering the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2021.

Church Members' Comments/Concerns

- None

Minutes of the June Congregation Council Meeting

Financial Reports

- Please refer to the Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet, and Consolidated Fund Activity Report documents.
- Audit report update: There is only one section left to be completed, awaiting information from congregation members.

New Business

- None

Pastor's Report

- Please refer to the Pastor's Report document.
- Pastor Heidi Johnston added that she is thinking ahead to Fall 2025 and planning a new member class for that time.
- Pastor Heidi is seeking volunteers to help prepare for Vacation Bible School.

Purpose Teams Reports

- Evangelism
 - Please refer to the separate Evangelism Report.
 - PrideFest will take place August 9, 2025 from 11-6 at Ocean Beach, and St. Luke is registered to participate.
- Fellowship
 - Please refer to the Fellowship Team Report document.
- Lifelong Learning
 - Please refer to the Lifelong Learning Report document.
 - **Motion** was made (Erica Sullivan) and seconded that we approve to buy two TVs and two wall mounts, not to exceed \$400 from Unrestricted Gifts Fund balance, for the nursery and the kitchen. Following discussion, the motion carried.
- Outreach Ministry
 - Please refer to the Outreach Ministry Report document.
- Worship
 - Please refer to the Worship Team Activity Summary and Director of Music Council Report documents.
 - Pastor Heidi reported that, while St. Luke remains committed to making the first Sunday of every month Celebrate Sunday, there will be no Celebrate Sunday in July 2025 due to lack of availability of musicians.
 - Starting the first Sunday in July, the livestream will change to include a view of the people in the congregation during Communion. Those who do not wish to be seen on camera can go up to receive Communion at the beginning, along with the Tech Team members.

Support Team Reports

- Communications
 - Please refer to the Communications Report.
- Facilities
 - Please refer to the Facilities Report document.

Minutes of the June Congregation Council Meeting

- John Perkins inquired about replacing the air handlers. He will follow up with the Ad Hoc HVAC Committee.
- Parish
 - Please refer to the Church Office Report document.
- People
 - Please refer to the People Support Report document.
 - **Motion** was made (Mark Larson) and seconded to accept the revisions to the Employee Handbook as noted with recommended edits. Following discussion, during which edits were made, the motion carried.
 - There was discussion regarding adjustment to the compensation for the Director of Music and Worship Technology, to be further discussed by the Executive Team.

Motion to Accept All Reports

- **Motion** was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to accept all reports. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Old Business

- None

Items for Follow-Up Prior to Next Meeting

- Next Council meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2025.

Motion to Adjourn and Closing Prayer - Lord's Prayer

- **Motion** was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion. Motion carried.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Liese M. Zitzkat

Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report for June & July, 2025

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report for Months Ending
June 30, 2025 and July 31, 2025

August 17, 2025

Please note that this report covers the months of June and July since there was no report for month ending 6/30/25.

Income Summary

Pledged offerings for the month of June were approximately \$19.3K above the monthly budget, while pledged offerings for the month of July were approximately \$4.3K above the monthly budget. Grace Giving for the month of June was below the monthly budget by approximately \$1.6K, while grace giving for the month of July was approximately \$3300 below the monthly budget, making the total offerings income approximately \$17.9K above the budget for the month of June, and approximately \$3.9K above the budget for the month of July. This results in our YTD offerings as of the end of July being \$5971 above the YTD budget.

Grins & Giggles income for the month of June was approximately \$6055 greater than the monthly budget, and for the month of July was \$2225 below the monthly budget, resulting in YTD Grins & Giggles income as of the end of July being approximately \$6866 greater than the YTD budget.

We also earned \$294 in investment income in the month of June from our new Thrivent CD, and \$286 in the monthly of July.

With all budgeted income sources combined, our actual total budgeted income for the month of June was approximately \$24.2K greater than the monthly budget, and total budgeted income for the month of July was approximately \$1.7K greater than the monthly budget, making the YTD total income is approximately \$13.7K greater than the YTD budget.

A summary of the YTD June 2025 budgeted income is provided in the table below:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Pledges	47,323.90	28,000.00	193,106.70	185,000.00	338,147.00	145,040.30
Grace Giving	2,428.90	4,000.00	21,873.29	28,000.00	54,000.00	32,126.71
Loose Cash Offering	466.00	300.00	2,380.30	1,800.00	3,600.00	1,219.70
Special Envelopes	0.00	0.00	520.00	1,000.00	2,600.00	2,080.00
Offerings	\$50,218.80	\$32,300.00	\$217,880.29	\$215,800.00	\$398,347.00	\$180,466.71
Building Use	385.63	208.00	1,840.63	1,248.00	2,500.00	659.37
Structures Income	\$385.63	\$208.00	\$1,840.63	\$1,248.00	\$2,500.00	\$659.37
Investments Div/Interest	294.29	200.00	880.30	650.00	2,000.00	1,119.70
Other Income	\$294.29	\$200.00	\$880.30	\$650.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,119.70
Grins & Giggles Income - Donations	180.00		391.20			
Grins & Giggles Income- Tuition	8,200.00	2,425.00	51,690.00	42,925.00	85,850.00	34,160.00
Grins & Giggles Income- Registration fees	200.00	100.00	685.00	350.00	700.00	15.00
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$8,580.00	\$2,525.00	\$52,766.20	\$43,275.00	\$86,550.00	\$34,175.00
Total Budgeted Income	\$59,478.72	\$35,233.00	\$273,367.42	\$260,973.00	\$489,397.00	\$216,420.78

Treasurer's Report for June & July, 2025

A summary of the YTD July 2025 budgeted income is provided in the table below:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Pledges	24,298.63	20,000.00	217,405.33	205,000.00	338,147.00	120,741.67
Grace Giving	3,689.99	4,000.00	25,563.28	32,000.00	54,000.00	28,436.72
Loose Cash Offering	202.00	300.00	2,582.30	2,100.00	3,600.00	1,017.70
Special Envelopes	0.00	0.00	520.00	1,000.00	2,600.00	2,080.00
Offerings	\$28,190.62	\$24,300.00	\$246,070.91	\$240,100.00	\$398,347.00	\$152,276.09
Building Use	225.00	208.00	2,065.63	1,456.00	2,500.00	434.37
Structures Income	\$225.00	\$208.00	\$2,065.63	\$1,456.00	\$2,500.00	\$434.37
Investments Div/Interest	285.62	225.00	1,165.92	875.00	2,000.00	834.08
Other Income	\$285.62	\$225.00	\$1,165.92	\$875.00	\$2,000.00	\$834.08
Grins & Giggles Income - Donations	0.00		391.20			
Grins & Giggles Income-Tuition	200.00	2,425.00	51,490.00	45,350.00	85,850.00	34,360.00
Grins & Giggles Income-Registration fees	100.00	100.00	785.00	450.00	700.00	(85.00)
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$300.00	\$2,525.00	\$52,666.20	\$45,800.00	\$86,550.00	\$34,275.00
Total Budgeted Income	\$29,001.24	\$27,258.00	\$301,968.66	\$288,231.00	\$489,397.00	\$187,819.54

In addition to budgeted income, there was also \$2323 of unbudgeted income in the month of June, and \$2734 in unbudgeted income in the month of July. The income resulted from two donations to the Good Samaritan Fund, the special collection held for Chikumbuso, two donations for the cross restoration, a donation to the handbell fund, and several other small donations.

Total Budgeted YTD Expenses of \$299,291.88 is greater than the YTD budget of \$291,205.00 by \$8086.88 as of the end of July. June expenses were less than our June budget by approximately \$3239.63, and July expenses were greater than the July budget by \$4610.35. Similar to expenses differences through the end of previous months, the majority of the YTD expense difference relative to the budget is due to Grins & Giggles staff expenses, which is \$7.2K over budget as of the end of July.

Grins & Giggles YTD Expenses of \$56,870.27 is greater than the budget of \$49,671.00 by \$7.2K, mostly due to teacher salaries as noted above.

Net Results: As of the end of July 2025 we have an Actual YTD Total Income of \$396,634.21, and Total Expenses of \$322,329.29, resulting in a difference of \$74,304.92. A high-level year to date summary is in the tables below.

Month ending June 30, 2025:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Budgeted Income	\$59,478.72	\$35,233.00	\$273,367.42	\$260,973.00	\$489,397.00	\$216,420.78
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$36,308.37	\$39,548.00	\$243,702.53	\$240,226.00	\$506,779.00	\$263,207.65
Budgeted Income/Expense Difference	\$23,170.35	(\$4,315.00)	\$29,664.89	\$20,747.00	(\$17,382.00)	(\$46,786.87)

Treasurer's Report for June & July, 2025

Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$8,580.00	\$2,525.00	\$52,766.20	\$43,275.00	\$86,550.00	\$34,175.00
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$8,930.01	\$6,594.00	\$49,428.46	\$39,564.00	\$87,130.00	\$37,819.73
Grins & Giggles Income/Expense Difference	(\$350.01)	(\$4,069.00)	\$3,337.74	\$3,711.00	(\$580.00)	(\$3,644.73)
Total Income	\$61,801.47	\$35,233.00	\$365,300.34	\$260,973.00	\$505,255.00	\$232,278.78
Total Expense	\$37,892.18	\$39,548.00	\$264,704.10	\$240,226.00	\$506,779.00	\$263,207.65
Total Income/Expense Difference	\$23,909.29	(\$4,315.00)	\$100,596.24	\$20,747.00	(\$1,524.00)	(\$30,928.87)

Month ending July 31, 2025:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Budgeted Income	\$29,001.24	\$27,258.00	\$301,968.66	\$288,231.00	\$489,397.00	\$187,819.54
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$55,589.35	\$50,979.00	\$299,291.88	\$291,205.00	\$506,779.00	\$207,618.30
Budgeted Income/Expense Difference	(\$26,588.11)	(\$23,721.00)	\$2,676.78	(\$2,974.00)	(\$17,382.00)	(\$19,798.76)
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$300.00	\$2,525.00	\$52,666.20	\$45,800.00	\$86,550.00	\$34,275.00
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$7,441.81	\$10,107.00	\$56,870.27	\$49,671.00	\$87,130.00	\$30,377.92
Grins & Giggles Income/Expense Difference	(\$7,141.81)	(\$7,582.00)	(\$4,204.07)	(\$3,871.00)	(\$580.00)	\$3,897.08
Total Income	\$31,733.87	\$27,258.00	\$396,634.21	\$288,231.00	\$505,255.00	\$203,677.54
Total Expense	\$57,625.19	\$50,979.00	\$322,329.29	\$291,205.00	\$506,779.00	\$207,618.30
Total Income/Expense Difference	(\$25,891.32)	(\$23,721.00)	\$74,304.92	(\$2,974.00)	(\$1,524.00)	(\$3,940.76)

Other Treasurer Activity:

- Reviewed bi-weekly payroll
- Reviewed monthly bank reconciliation
- Opened a second CD with Thrivent Bank with \$50,000, as approved at the May council meeting

Respectfully Submitted,
Alan Nordquist
Treasurer

Consolidated Fund Activity Report June 2025

St Luke Lutheran Church - Gales Ferry CT Consolidated Fund Activity Report for June 2025

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.1001.1001	General Operating Fund Balance	54,742.75	59,298.72	36,198.88	-	77,842.59
3.1050.1000	<i>Building Fund Balance</i>					
3.1050.1001	General Building Fund Balance	22,486.16	10.00	-	-	22,496.16
3.1050.1002	Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,512.36	10.00	-	-	4,522.36
3.1060.1000	Memorial Fund Balance	6,694.31	100.00	-	-	6,794.31
3.1070.1000	Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	4,022.68	-	-	-	4,022.68
3.1080.1000	Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	93,987.99	-	-	-	93,987.99
3.2001.1000	<i>Worship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2001.1001	Special Music Balance	1,968.15	100.00	-	-	2,068.15
3.2001.1003	Handbell Program Fund Balance	1,465.78	-	-	-	1,465.78
3.2001.2020	Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	2,474.51	-	163.44	-	2,311.07
3.2002.1000	<i>Administrative-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2002.1004	Special Gifts Balance	0.00	-	-	240.00	240.00
3.2002.1006	Staff Development Balance	3,886.15	-	-	-	3,886.15
3.2002.1012	Sabbatical Fund Balance	9,750.00	-	-	-	9,750.00
3.2002.1007	Flowers Balance	143.74	50.75	44.98	-	149.51
3.2004.1000	<i>Fellowship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2004.1005	Fellowship Special Events Balance	2,534.64	-	-	-	2,534.64
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	2,205.25	225.00	83.19	-	2,347.06
3.2006.1000	<i>Youth-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2006.1003	ELCA Youth Gathering Balance	5,960.48	-	-	-	5,960.48
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	530.47	-	-	-	530.47
3.2008.1003	Women's Retreat Balance	236.12	-	-	-	236.12
3.2008.1010	Grins & Giggles Donations Balance	316.20	180.00	109.49	-	386.71
3.2009.1000	<i>Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2009.1001	Meal Center Balance	1,260.00	-	-	-	1,260.00
3.2009.1002	Chikumbuso Balance	0.00	727.00	727.00	-	0.00
3.2011.1005	Community Garden Fund Balance	56.31	-	-	-	56.31
3.2010.1000	<i>Discretionary Gifts Balance</i>					
3.2010.1001	Pastors' Discretionary Balance	14,406.99	100.00	75.00	-	14,431.99
3.2010.1002	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	2,385.42	1,000.00	-	-	3,385.42
3.2010.1003	Council Discretionary Fund Balance	3,597.40	-	490.20	-	3,107.20
3.2010.1004	Camp Calumet Scholarships Balance	700.00	-	-	-	700.00
3.2011.1000	<i>Facilities Support-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2011.1001	Memorial Garden Balance	3,624.44	-	-	-	3,624.44
3.9000.1000	Net Fixed Asset Fund Balance	1,918,224.00	-	-	-	1,918,224.00
Total		<u>\$2,168,924.01</u>	<u>\$61,801.47</u>	<u>\$37,892.18</u>	<u>\$240.00</u>	<u>\$2,193,073.30</u>

Consolidated Fund Activity Report July 2025

St Luke Lutheran Church - Gales Ferry CT Consolidated Fund Activity Report for July 2025

Monday, August 4, 2025

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.1001.1001	General Operating Fund Balance	77,442.59	29001.24	55589.35	0	50,854.48
3.1050.1000	<i>Building Fund Balance</i>					
3.1050.1001	General Building Fund Balance	22,496.16	1010	0	0	23,506.16
3.1050.1002	Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,522.36	10	0	0	4,532.36
3.1060.1000	Memorial Fund Balance	6,794.31	257.5	0	0	7,051.81
3.1070.1000	Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	4,022.68	0	0	0	4,022.68
3.1080.1000	Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	93,987.99	0	0	0	93,987.99
3.2001.1000	<i>Worship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2001.1001	Special Music Balance	2,068.15	0	0	0	2,068.15
3.2001.1003	Handbell Program Fund Balance	1,465.78	255	0	0	1,720.78
3.2001.2020	Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	2,311.07	0	0	0	2,311.07
3.2002.1000	<i>Administrative-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2002.1004	Special Gifts Balance	240.00	0	0	0	240.00
3.2002.1006	Staff Development Balance	3,886.15	0	0	0	3,886.15
3.2002.1012	Sabbatical Fund Balance	9,750.00	0	0	0	9,750.00
3.2002.1007	Flowers Balance	149.51	75.13	515	0	(290.36)
3.2004.1000	<i>Fellowship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2004.1005	Fellowship Special Events Balance	2,534.64	0	0	0	2,534.64
3.2004.1010	Fellowship Furnishings Balance	6,021.56	0	0	0	6,021.56
3.2005.1000	<i>Special Programs Balance</i>					
3.2005.1002	Great Lakes Scrip Program Balance	2,347.06	0	0	0	2,347.06
3.2006.1000	<i>Youth-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2006.1003	ELCA Youth Gathering Balance	5,960.48	0	0	0	5,960.48
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	266.08	0	264.39
3.2008.1003	Women's Retreat Balance	236.12	0	0	0	236.12
3.2008.1010	Grins & Giggles Donations Balance	386.71	0	0	0	386.71
3.2009.1000	<i>Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2009.1001	Meal Center Balance	1,260.00	0	0	0	1,260.00
3.2011.1005	Community Garden Fund Balance	56.31	0	0	0	56.31
3.2010.1000	<i>Discretionary Gifts Balance</i>					
3.2010.1001	Pastors' Discretionary Balance	14,431.99	0	1180	0	13,251.99
3.2010.1002	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	3,385.42	1125	0	0	4,510.42
3.2010.1003	Council Discretionary Fund Balance	3,107.20	0	0	0	3,107.20
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	3,624.44	0	74.76	0	3,549.68
3.9000.1000	Net Fixed Asset Fund Balance	1,918,224.00	0	0	0	1,918,224.00
Total		<u>\$2,192,673.30</u>	<u>\$31,733.87</u>	<u>\$57,625.19</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,166,781.98</u>



FALL WORDSEARCH



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

WORD LIST

AUTUMN	PIE
CHILLY	QUILT
CORN	RED
COZY	SCARF
GOLDEN	SOUP



Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY

Guess Who

Match the Bible Character(s) with the Bible story. Each letter is used once.

- ____ 1. He builds a huge boat.
- ____ 2. He is a shepherd who used a slingshot to stop a giant.
- ____ 3. They are thrown into a fiery furnace.
- ____ 4. He delivered the Ten Commandments from God.
- ____ 5. She is the mother of Jesus.
- ____ 6. He is Esau's twin brother.
- ____ 7. She talks to a snake.
- ____ 8. He walks on water.
- ____ 9. He is a king known for his wisdom.
- ____ 10. He is swallowed by a great fish.

Characters

A. Mary

B. Jacob

C. Noah

D. Jonah

E. Jesus


F. 3 Hebrew Boys

G. David

H. Moses

I. Eve

J. Solomon



Answers: 1 - C, 2 - G, 3 - F, 4 - H, 5 - A, 6 - B, 7 - I, 8 - E, 9 - J, 10 - D

Bible Puzzles for Kids

If you know your ABCs, you should be able to solve this Bible puzzle. Remove each letter of the alphabet, in order. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks at the bottom to spell an important Bible verse.

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

Answer: _____

Do you know where this verse is found? _____

Prayer List

Pray for healing:

Gina Donovan
Bernadette (friend of
Leigh Sammons)
Dick Wimmermark
Suzanne Etris
Aimee Belhumer (Wife of
Roy Belhumer)
Linda Snarski (friend of
Elaine Remondi-Simpson)
Billy Johnson (friend of
The Steinnagels)
Kevin Ames (friend of The
Steinnagels)
Cameron Frost (grandson
of The Frosts)
Nadine Zaino (sister of
Jackie Leone)
Livingston Carroll
(brother of Patricia
Carroll-French)
Travis Turner
Linda Lovewell (former
member)

Sue DeCosta-Crawford
(friend of Jill & James
Ragland)
Doris Remondi (mother
of Elaine Remondi-
Simpson)
Kasey Peek
Michele Clements
Claudia Sanchez (sister
of Rut Sanchez)
Christopher Derjue
Chip Moran
Donna (friend of Leigh
Sammons)
Julia Side
Linda Wilkinson
Marie
Link
Stephanie Lucas

Pray for those who are Grieving:

Ellen Sadlier (aunt of
Liese Zitzkat)
Jim West
David Greenstein (Son-
in-law of the Owsley's)

Pray for active duty military:

Caleb
Brady Moorehead
Henry Yanaway
Christian Conrad
Adrian Estrella
Martin Wuesthoff
Andy Sammons
Derek Raymond
Patrick Wimmermark

Pray for homebound, those receiving long-term

care, & their caregivers:

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

Pray for those with other concerns:

Joy Elisabeth (daughter of
Patricia Carroll-French)
Saditha
Sandy (friend of Patricia
Carroll-French)
Paul Roman
Chikumbuso Project
Leaders & Ministry of
Camp Calumet



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
Gina Williams 9/08
Kathleen Swope 9/09
Felix Vajdos 9/10
Nikolas Vajdos 9/11
Karen Wuesthoff 9/13
Noelle Hale 9/16
David Taylor 9/17
Phyllis Turner 9/21
Cedar Nelson 9/23
Cathy Hanson 9/25
Janeese Watson 9/25
Regina Donovan 9/29
Ray Heller 9/29

Wedding Anniversaries: (# of Years Married)

Andrew & Deborah Eld
9/27 (28)
Ray Heller & Penelope Howell-Heller
9/30 (47)
Michael & Katie Johnson
9/28 (23)
Dick & Sandy Wimmermark
9/20 (45)

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 2025								
Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers
9/7								
9:30	Edna Johnson	Dave Goodrich & Ray Heller		Liese Zitzkat	Cyndi Arnold & Pat Robbins		Roni & Krisitan	Lisa McCabe
9/14								
9:30	Joan Lambert	Dennis Sindel & Ray Heller		Fawn DeMello	Jerry Swope & Charlie Anderson		Dave & Brad	Felix Vajdos
9/21								
9:30	Leigh Sammons	Louise & Mark Larson		Robert N	Diane Hansen & Camille Felty		Jim & Al	Fawn DeMello
9/28								
9:30	Joanne Erickson	David Zitzkat & John Perkins			Kari Hammen & Nancy Rupert		Brad & Krisitian	Erica Sullivan

This schedule compiled as of 8/26/2025; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

Church Calendar of Events

*Community Group

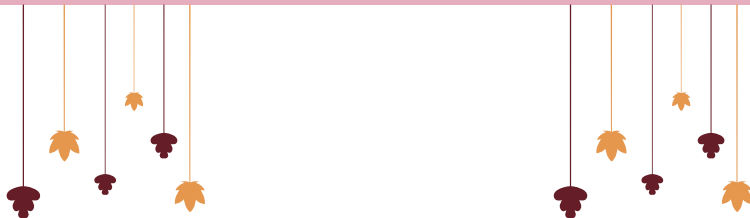
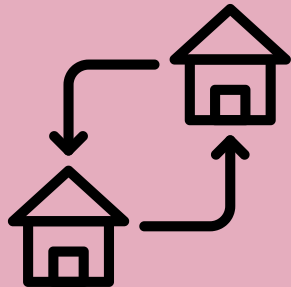
SEPTEMBER 2025

Music Rehearsals:

Tuesday 6:00pm - Belles & Beaux
Tuesday 7:00pm - Senior Choir
Wednesday 7:00pm - JuBELLation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm AA*	2 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA	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 CELEBRATE Free Veggie Day 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 2:30pm New London Meal Center	8 Director of Music Gina's birthday 9:00am Grins & Giggles 6:30pm Fellowship Team Meeting 7:00pm AA*	9 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Executive Planning Team	10 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:00am EmBellish 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	11 9:00am Grins & Giggles	12 9:00am Grins & Giggles	13 Kitchen Reserved 8:00am CPR Training* 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
14 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Rally Day	15 SCROLL DEADLINE 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm AA*	16 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:30pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting*	17 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:00am EmBellish 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	18 9:00am Grins & Giggles 6:00pm CONGREGATION COUNCIL	19 9:00am Grins & Giggles	20 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
21 Aberle Fellowship Hall Rental 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	22 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm AA*	23 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 2:15pm Staff Meeting	24 9:00am Grins & Giggles 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	25 9:00am Grins & Giggles 4:00pm Celebrate Rehearsal	26 9:00am Grins & Giggles	27 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
28 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	29 9:00am Grins & Giggles 7:00pm AA*	30 9:00am Grins & Giggles 9:30am OA* 6:00pm CPR Training*	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.*

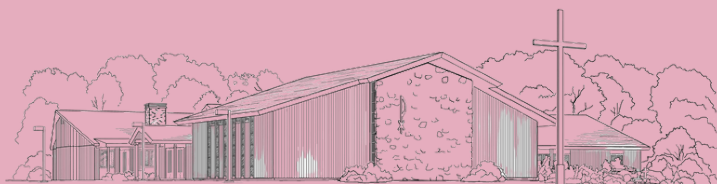


St. Luke Lutheran Church

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 Spera
Custodian

OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Fawn DeMello
fdemello@comcast.net
President

Mark Larson
mwl Larson@yahoo.com
Vice-President

Alan Nordquist
treasurer@stlukegf.org
Treasurer