



The Scroll

SUMMER 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,

To kick off the summer, my immediate family of four took a day-trip to Tree Trails Adventures in Mystic. We were fitted with harnesses and climbed our way into the tree tops for obstacle courses that tested our strength, agility, and most of all, our mental resolve. My pectoral and intercostal muscles are still recovering, but the memory of our time together as a family will be a highlight for years to come. As we tackled different "elements" of the courses, words of encouragement were shouted to each other; "pro" tips and best practices were offered, and tight embraces were shared after some of us fell, dangled, got twisted, and wondered if we could go on. This challenging and fun time together

continued pg. 2

Inside:

Pastor's Note.....	1-2
Presidential Note	3
Ministry News.....	4-8
Music News.....	9
Grins & Giggles News.....	10
Council Mtg Minutes	11-14
Treasurers' Report.....	15-17
Kids Page.....	18
Prayer Requests.....	19
July/Aug Celebrations.....	20
July/Aug Schedule to Serve	21-22
July/Aug Calendar.....	23-24



Follow Us! @stlukegf

reinforced that we can do hard things together, and we have each other's backs!

During the summer months, certain aspects of ministry "slow down" a bit. Our St. Luke choirs take a break, there are no charitable holiday collections, and some of us will be worshiping in other places as we travel for vacation or camp. But, our commitment to being community in Christ continues, unwavering. Whenever we can gather together, it is important that we take those opportunities to grow and make memories that bond us in mission. I won't be asking you to don a harness and climb into the trees to bond with fellow St. Luke worshipers, but when we worship together, or prepare for Vacation Bible School together, or write a note to someone on our prayer list, or pray about and discuss the current events in our world, we are inviting the Spirit to help knit us together. When we spend time together, we have opportunities to exchange words of encouragement and wisdom, to embrace each other in love and support, and be reminded that we can do hard things together. We are in this life together, through the heat of summer, through the heat of life struggles and stress, through the fun levity of life, and in moments of deep grief and pain. Through it all, Christ bonds us to one another.

So, I invite you to seize opportunities to stay connected to your faith family this summer. Worship at St. Luke when you can. If you are traveling, join us online or visit another church. If you can't do that, avail yourself of a devotional or prayer opportunity wherever you might be.

Let's remember this summer that we are connected in Christ Jesus, and together in the Spirit, we've got each other's backs!

In Christ,

Pastor Heidi Johnston



Presidential Notes

BY FAWN DEMELLO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



I am reminded of the Bible when it says to Love Thy Neighbor. I have a t-shirt that states this with the words No Exceptions under the Love Thy Neighbor. As we go forth into the summer months and vacations pick up, we can find occasionally that some may forget this message. My sister recently visited and she told me what the Motto of her church is: A stranger walks through the door and becomes a friend.

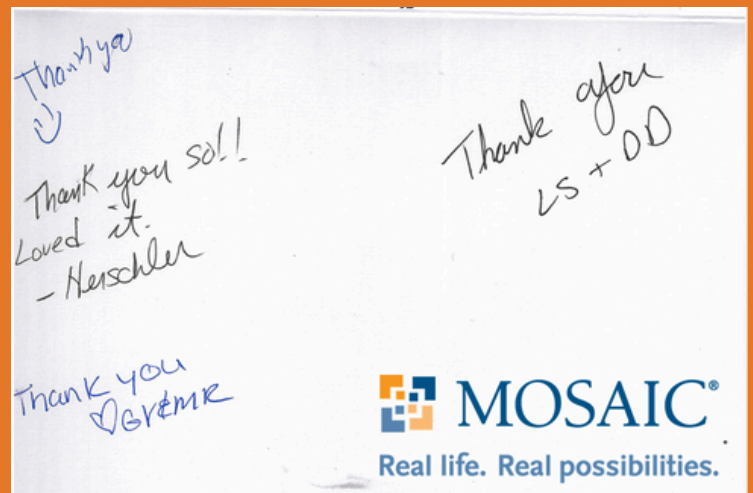
That friend then becomes family.

I have always thought of St. Luke Lutheran Church as a second family. There are times when the only place that I wanted to be was at church. This space is a comfort to me that I know I will not be judged, looked at differently, or not be accepted for who I am. The motto at Holly's church struck me in that I like to think we are this way as well at St. Luke. We help each other, are there for each other and we welcome anyone who walks through our doors. We make a difference in so many lives that we touch. Not just in our own space, but in the community, in our families and with our friends.

Remember as the summer goes on to BE KIND to all that you meet. You never know what battle they may be facing.

Peace

Fawn





Thanks for all the good stuff! We sorted it, arranged it, priced it, sold it, and came away with \$6,000 (higher than we originally thought) that we'll add to grant funds we use to buy beds and cribs for people in financial need. The weather was perfect for a tag sale - a bit rainy at times but not enough to make people stay at home (thank you, Lord!). Everything came in early enough in the week that we were able to sort, display, and price it before the start of the sale.

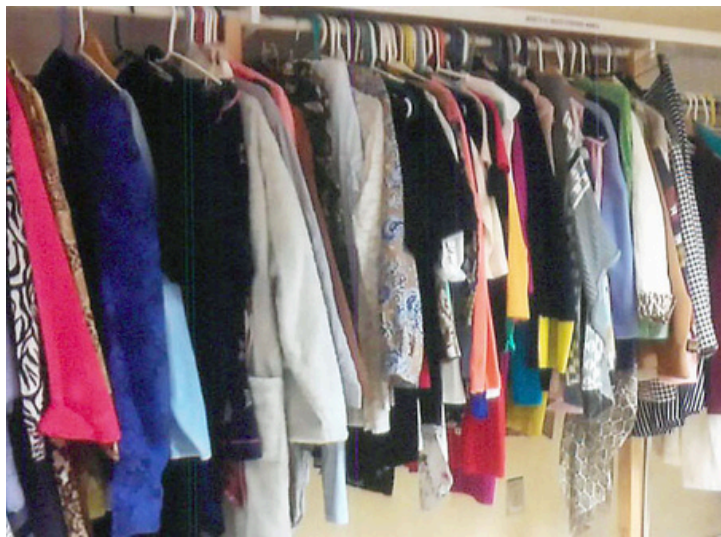
We had lots of help during the sale and a very efficient cleanup crew on Saturday. We brought in and set up tables, clothing racks, and bookcases from our storage shed on Sunday, arranged and priced sale items Monday through Friday, held

the place cleaned up well ahead of the Saturday evening AA meeting.

Special thanks to a team from the Thames Valley Council for Community Action (one of many agencies that refer people to the furniture bank), who helped with the sale, and to some wonderful people who loaded up their cars and trucks with leftovers to take to local charities at the end of the sale.



Rebecca does some tidying up in the Fellowship Hall before we open on Friday evening



Clothes. LOTS of clothes! 5 more racks down the hall and 7 tables in the Fellowship Hall loaded with clothes.

With apologies to anyone we may have left out (please sign in if you help!), thanks to: Brad Adams, Sue Anderson, Kristian Balinski, Sue and Eva Conley, Sue and Aiden Davis, Andy Eld, Dave and Suzanne Etris, Camille Felty, Katie Launer-Felty, Cathie Freamon, Mark Goddette, Noelle Hale, Diane Hansen, Cathy Hanson, Ray and Penny Heller, Pr. Heidi Johnston, Joan Lambert, Mark and Louise Larson, Linda Martin, Al Nordquist, Larry and Laura Parsons, Mike and Rebecca Richardson, Leigh Sammons, Helmut Steinnagel, Pat and Erica Sullivan and Sam, Carson, and Raegan Aberle, Janeese Watson, Marty and Pat Wood, and the TVCCA team: Evelyn, Jazmyn, Yineli, Nancy, and Kim. God bless you all!

-New London Community Meal Center – 95 meals were served on June 1; 70 meals inside, 10 to the Hospitality Center, 15 takeouts. Take-out meals were made with fresh St. Luke supplied food. All in-person guests were fed hot food.

• Chikumbuso Sunday was June 8th, celebrating 20 years of this mission with our choir singing an African song and chatenges decorating the altar rail. Items produced by Chikumbuso participants were offered for sale and a special collection taken yielded \$627. Our thanks to Fellowship for providing refreshments after worship for this special day.

• The Community Garden is planted and growing. There are chores and projects available for all interested parties. Mark Godette made extensive repairs to the shed, for which we thank him very much! Tomatoes planted themselves in the compost bin!

• If your **Plant An Extra Row for the God's Work Our Hands action on September 7** bears fruit before that, please bring the fruit to the Care and Share basket in the church kitchen. It will be placed at the altar, blessed, and brought to the Food Bank.

Upcoming

- **Blood Drives Oct 2, Dec 4** on Thursdays from 1:30 – 6:30 PM
- **CROP Walk October 19** (3rd Sunday)

Kid's Corner

BY LEIGH SAMMONS

Kids' Corner continues to grow and expand as we've moved to twice a month. Thank you to the small but mighty group of volunteers who have helped set-up, lead, and support Kids' Corner. You are appreciated!

In May, our kids created memorial rocks to remember beloved people, pets, and friends. Painted rocks were temporarily placed amongst the rock walls of our Memorial Garden.

In June, kids celebrated our faith with the story of the tiny mustard seed, verses about God's beautiful creation, and that we are called to care about and share with others. Kids planted small pots of flowers as well as a raised garden bed of zinnias. We will harvest these flowers to be shared with the community during God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. Our hope is to send community members home with not only homegrown produce, but with a beautiful bouquet of homegrown flowers.

We are always looking for people to lead a Kids' Corner session. Share your faith through sharing an interest, talent, or favorite Bible lesson with our children. Our next Kids' Corner will be on June 22. Join us!

On June 8th St. Luke celebrated the 20th year of Chikumbuso by welcoming Linda Wilkinson, the founder of the Chikumbuso Women & Orphans Project. During the children's message Linda and Pastor Heidi taught the children the word "zikomo" which means "Thank you" in nyanja., the native tongue of many at Chikumbuso.



Being Pentecost Sunday, Linda shared with the congregation about the work of the Holy Spirit within the Chikumbuso community. How the Holy Spirit has filled widows, teachers, single moms, and other members of the community with the strength and love to do God's works. To look around and see what needs to be done, and do it. Because the Chikumbuso community members have hearts that are open, willing to reach out and help those in need, many, many lives have been changed. Linda ended her sermon with three videos of those at Chikumbuso dancing to songs reflecting the goodness of God.

Viewing Communion During Livestream

St. Luke Lutheran Church is blessed with staff and volunteers that work faithfully to produce a high quality livestream worship option for people who cannot join worship in-person. Church leadership has received feedback from several people who watch the livestream regularly that they would feel more connected to the congregation, and have a fuller "virtual" worship experience if they could see people during Communion. Currently, on most Sundays, the livestream service shows hymn music and lyrics during communion. On July 6th, we will move to showing people coming up for Communion, using the same broad camera view that is used during the sharing of the Peace. If, for some reason, you do not wish to be seen coming up for communion, you may choose to come forward during the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), when the Tech Team often comes forward with their families. This change is to further our mission to connect people to God and the body of Christ. Please send any questions to Pr. Heidi and Gina Williams.

Altar Rails Refresh

BY DIANE HANSEN

Would you sand and varnish?

Is there anyone who would like to use their finely honed wood finishing skills to work on our altar rails? Our altar rails could use refreshing. I thought it would be good if we made them a lighter color, more in harmony with the pews. Seems simple enough. Turns out it is really expensive to have that work done professionally. Please contact Diane Hansen at diane@lukegf.org if you have suggestions or would like to take on this project.

Dear st luke church group
Greetings to you.

During the holiday I was solving Maths and
I was reading the story about the story come
Here in Zambia it becoming cold.

Yours Kvonne
Kewaga



CROP Walk was established in South Dakota more than 50 years ago.

It stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.

Save the date: Sunday, October 19th United Methodist Church 1:00 PM

There are 500 annual walks throughout the US. Our 2024 walk raised \$20,292.56. Hungry local neighbors were fed through the Gemma Moran Food Bank with the \$5,072.89 (25% of funds that remained in southeastern CT). The rest of the funds, \$15,219.67, were distributed through Church World Services. 2025 is our 37th Gales Ferry/Ledyard Walk, with a community goal of raising \$22,000. 75% of funds raised are distributed overseas for programs to provide opportunities that help people improve the quality of their lives. Funds are used for direct feeding programs; they provide tools, training and support to help people raise crops that feed their families and can sell to earn income; clean water, hygiene and sanitation projects to improve health and increasingly disaster relief.

Church World Services has experienced a significant disruption due to severe funding cuts by the federal government to US Aid organizations internationally. Half of the US staff has been cut and operations have been scaled back significantly. Disaster relief is the focus currently. CWS is one of two agencies that responded to the earthquake disaster in Myanmar.

These realities make our local support and participation more important than ever. Please learn more about what is happening by visiting cwsglobal.org and

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/st-luke-lutheran-church-gf-2>

Sign up online under St. Luke Lutheran Church to participate and spread word to others. If we all do a little, we can make a life changing difference in the world.

Register
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

BY GINA WILLIAMS

Thank you to everyone who participated this past year in the music program of St. Luke. We are blessed to have so many people participating! I am looking forward to restarting in late August.

Senior Choir: Bob, Brian, Ginny, Helmut, Katie, Kelly, Kristian, Leslie, Liese, Lisa, Megan, Natalie, Pam, Steve

Celebrate Team: Brad, Jim, Leslie, Liese, Nikolas, Steve

JuBELLation: Beth, Betty, Bonnie, Cathie, Debbie, Elaine, Fawn, Kristen, Kristian, Logan, Mike, Peter, Rob, Steve

Belles & Beau: Betty, Jeanne, Kristian, Lisa

Glory Ringers: Alex, Camille, Everett, Everette, Kenley, Nathaniel, Wesley.

Joyful Noise: Amelia, Elijah, Emilee, Luke, Nathaniel

Memorial Gift

We are now blessed with having all six octaves of hand chimes! This was made possible with a donation from Dave & Suzanne Etris, my mother Joan Heidisch, and myself.

On June 6th we presented the 28th Hallelujah for Handbells concert!!! Special guest choir EmBellish participated, directed by Jane Nolan. Our theme "Look Up to the Sky" included educational videos regarding space, NASA - anything in the sky!



View the "Look Up to the Sky"
Hallelujah for Handbells
Concert here!



Grins & Giggles Preschool News

BY NANCY RUPERT

On June 13th we proudly celebrated the Class of 2025 as they graduated from our preschool. Eighteen children received their diplomas that morning and left the Fellowship Hall with royal blue icing coated across their happy faces. Eight children are going off to kindergarten, nine children will be returning to Grins & Giggles in the fall and one child will be attending a preschool closer to their home. We have filled in the empty places from our long wait list, so we are all set for September!

The ceremony was a bittersweet one, however. Ms. Susanna Curtis, who has been our wonderful Assistant Teacher for five years will be leaving us in August to return to her homeland, Sweden. Susanna has been running our Kids Camp for the last five years as well, and her absence is going to be felt in both programs. Her creativity, gentle manner and enthusiastic attitude towards all that she does will be sorely missed. Thank you for the memories, Susanna!

Now that school is over, I will be concentrating on sewing those Nap Mats. I hope to gather a group of volunteers together to cut, pin, sew, stuff and iron the finished product by August. If you would like to help with the task, please email me with your skill level and what days during the week would be best for your schedule. My goal is to work a few hours each designated day, so you don't feel you have signed up for a 'sweat shop' job!! My email is: nqnrup1926@gmail.com. I'd love to hear from you! Thanks to all who graciously contributed financially towards our goal!! Happy Summer!!

Minutes of the March Congregation Council Meeting

St. Luke Lutheran Church Minutes of the Regular Congregation Council Meeting May 22, 2025

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

Excused absences: Janis Vajdos, Kellie August

Recording secretary: Liese Zitzkat

Congregation members in attendance: Diane Hansen, on behalf of the Outreach Team

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Council President Fawn DeMello.

Devotions

- Erica Sullivan led devotions.
- June devotions will be led by Janis Vajdos.
- No meeting in July.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to have the Congregation Council approve the agenda for May 22, 2025. Motion carried.

Approval of April 24, 2025 Minutes

- Motion was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to approve the April 24, 2025 meeting minutes. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

President's Remarks

- The Council evaluated the recent Congregation Council retreat.
- Safe Church training is on the website.
- The member directory is under review, and new members will be added. By-laws do not indicate that new members must be approved by the Council.

Church Members' Comments/Concerns

- None

Financial Reports

- Please refer to the Treasurer's Report, Balance Sheet, and Consolidated Fund Activity Report documents.

Minutes of the May Congregation Council Meeting

- Audit report update: Edna Johnson and John Felty finished their reviews, Roni Rollinson's review is pending.
- Diane Hansen provided an update about Grins & Giggles hours.
- **Motion** was made (Al Nordquist) and seconded that the Congregation Council authorize the Treasurer to open a new CD account with an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for a term not to exceed one year. Discussion: The \$50,000 is influenced by money from ERTC. \$45,000 would still remain in the Unrestricted Gifts fund. Motion carried.

New Business

- **Motion** was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to table the changes to the Fellowship Continuing Resolutions to our next meeting in June. Discussion: Reason for this is that Janis Vajdos is not present to explain the changes. A vote is not needed for this. Motion was withdrawn.
- **Motion** was made (Fawn DeMello) and seconded to have the Congregation Council approve June 4, 2025 and August 11-14, 2025 as vacation days for Pastor Heidi Johnston. Discussion: None of those days are Sundays. Pastor Heidi will find pastors to provide emergency coverage. Motion carried.

Other New Business

- None

Pastor's Report

- Please refer to the Pastor's Report document.
- Pastor Heidi Johnston highlighted that there is much to celebrate, including the recent Easter season, Mother's Day, Calumet Sunday, and Mosaic Sunday.
- Pastor Heidi will be participating in the upcoming graduation for Grins & Giggles, which is a St. Luke ministry.
- Synod Assembly is next weekend, and Pastor Heidi is serving on the Synod Worship Team.

Purpose Teams Reports

- Evangelism
 - The team did not meet this month.
 - Fawn DeMello shared that Mosaic will team up with St. Luke for PrideFest.
- Fellowship
 - Please refer to the Fellowship Team Report document.
 - Calendar planning will take place in August.
 - Following discussion, it was decided that a Ministry Fair to highlight St. Luke internal ministries will be held on Rally Day, September 14, 2025.
- Lifelong Learning
 - Please refer to the Lifelong Learning Report document.
 - **Motion** was made (Erica Sullivan) and seconded to have Lifelong Learning support the God's Work Our Hands Sunday by planting a raised bed of garden flowers, zinnias, to be given out as small bouquets along with the produce and purchase a raised bed. Discussion: Raised bed will measure 2x8 feet and be placed near the Memorial Garden. A vote is not needed for this type of proposal. Motion was withdrawn.

Minutes of the May Congregation Council Meeting

- Outreach Ministry
 - Please refer to the Outreach Ministry Report document.
 - Diane Hansen requested guidance about recruiting team members for lay ministry (e.g., Communion to homebound, prayer shawls, etc.). Pastor Heidi will follow up on this with Diane.
 - **Motion** was made (Diane Hansen) and seconded to approve a special collection for Chikumbuso on Chikumbuso Sunday, which is June 8, 2025. Discussion: This is a special collection; donations must be designated to Chikumbuso. Motion carried.
- Worship
 - Please refer to the Worship Team Activity Summary document.
 - Diane Hansen will be picking up the center communion rail and is in the process of obtaining estimates to finish the rails.
 - **Motion** was made (Brad Dame) and seconded to have the Congregation Council accept the changes to the Continuing Resolutions 1.01: Worship Purpose Team. Discussion: Brad highlighted some of the changes. Motion carried.
 - Prayer for graduates will take place at the June 8, 2025 worship service, which is also Chikumbuso Sunday.

Support Team Reports

- Communications
 - Please refer to the Communications Report.
 - There was no discussion.
- Facilities
 - Please refer to the Facilities Report document.
 - John requested permission to clean out certain items that do not need to be stored in certain closets. Pastor Heidi, Fawn, and other relevant staff will coordinate.
 - The Charter was copied and re-hung on the wall. The Council thanked John and Julie Perkins for donating the cost.
 - There was discussion about rules/protocol for setting/changing the thermostat. Further discussion will take place at next staff meeting.
- Parish
 - Please refer to the Church Office Report document.
- People
 - Please refer to the People Support Report document.
 - **Motion** (Mark Larson) was made and seconded to accept the revisions to the People Support Team Continuing Resolutions 1.06 as noted with recommended edits. Discussion: Mark summarized the changes. Motion carried.

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

Minutes of the May Congregation Council Meeting

Items for Follow-Up Prior to Next Meeting

- Next Council meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2025. There will be a specific devotion in honor of Juneteenth.
- Fawn DeMello will forward the approved Continuing Resolutions to Rachel Goodman.
- Thermostat regulation will be discussed at the next staff meeting.
- Pastor Heidi will work with Diane Hansen on Outreach Continuing Resolution 1.03.

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 8:14 PM, followed by the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Liese M. Zitzkat
Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report for Month Ending May, 2025

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report for Month Ending
May 31, 2025

June 14, 2025

Income Summary

Pledged offerings for the month of May were approximately \$9.1K below the monthly budget. Grace Giving was below the monthly budget by approximately \$1238, making the total offerings income approximately \$10.2K below the budget for the month. Year to date (YTD) offering is approximately \$15.8K below the YTD budget. YTD pledged income is expected to recover close to the YTD budget by the end of June due to an annual giving donation that was received and deposited with the 6/1/25 offering.

Grins & Giggles income for the month of May was approximately \$986 greater than the monthly budget, resulting in YTD Grins & Giggles income being approximately \$3.4K greater than the YTD budget.

We also earned \$284 in investment income in the month of May from our new Thrivent CD.

With all income sources combined, our actual total budgeted income for the month was approximately \$8.8K less than the monthly budget, and YTD total income is approximately \$11.8K below the YTD budget.

A summary of the YTD May 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	18,885.00	28,000.00	145,782.80	157,000.00	338,147.00	192,364.20
Grace Giving	2,762.39	4,000.00	19,444.39	24,000.00	54,000.00	34,555.61
Loose Cash Offering	404.00	300.00	1,914.30	1,500.00	3,600.00	1,685.70
Special Envelopes	0.00	0.00	520.00	1,000.00	2,600.00	2,080.00
Offerings	\$22,051.39	\$32,300.00	\$167,661.49	\$183,500.00	\$398,347.00	\$230,685.51
Building Use	595.00	208.00	1,455.00	1,040.00	2,500.00	1,045.00
Structures Income	\$595.00	\$208.00	\$1,455.00	\$1,040.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,045.00
Investments Div/Interest	283.98	225.00	586.01	450.00	2,000.00	1,413.99
Other Income	\$283.98	\$225.00	\$586.01	\$450.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,413.99
Grins & Giggles Income - Donations	211.20		211.20			
Grins & Giggles Income-Tuition	8,525.00	8,100.00	43,490.00	40,500.00	85,850.00	42,360.00
Grins & Giggles Income-Registration fees	400.00	50.00	485.00	250.00	700.00	215.00
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$9,136.20	\$8,150.00	\$44,186.20	\$40,750.00	\$86,550.00	\$42,575.00
Total Budgeted Income	\$32,066.57	\$40,883.00	\$213,888.70	\$225,740.00	\$489,397.00	\$275,719.50

We also had \$2076.50 in unbudgeted income for the month of May. This was comprised primarily of donations to the Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund, Memorial Fund, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and the Council Discretionary Fund (which was given for and spent on the council retreat).

Total Budgeted YTD Expenses of \$207,128.78 is greater than the YTD budget of \$200,678.00 by \$6450.78. May expenses were greater than our May budget by approximately \$3.9K. Similar to expenses differences through the end of April, the majority of the YTD expense difference relative to the budget is due to Grins & Giggles staff expenses, which is \$7.5K over budget, which is partially offset by Outreach support, for which the YTD expenses are approximately \$2.8K less than the YTD budget.

Grins & Giggles YTD Expenses of \$40,498.45 is greater than the budget of \$32,970.00 by \$7528.45, mostly due to teacher salaries as noted above.

Treasurer's Report for Month Ending May, 2025

Net Results: As of the end of May 2025 we have an Actual YTD Total Income of \$303,498.87, and Total Expenses of \$226,546.54, resulting in a difference of \$76,952.33. A high-level year to date summary is in the table below:

Account Name	Period Activity	Monthly Budget	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Total Budgeted Income	\$32,066.57	\$40,883.00	\$213,888.70	\$225,740.00	\$489,397.00	\$275,719.50
TOTAL Budgeted Expense	\$39,106.19	\$35,226.00	\$207,128.78	\$200,678.00	\$506,779.00	\$299,671.91
Budgeted Income/Expense Difference	(\$7,039.62)	\$5,657.00	\$6,759.92	\$25,062.00	(\$17,382.00)	(\$23,952.41)
Total Grins and Giggles Income	\$9,136.20	\$8,150.00	\$44,186.20	\$40,750.00	\$86,550.00	\$42,575.00
Total Grins & Giggles Expense	\$8,749.12	\$6,594.00	\$40,498.45	\$32,970.00	\$87,130.00	\$46,640.25
Grins & Giggles Income/Expense Difference	\$387.08	\$1,556.00	\$3,687.75	\$7,780.00	(\$580.00)	(\$4,065.25)
Total Income	\$34,143.07	\$40,883.00	\$303,498.87	\$225,740.00	\$505,255.00	\$291,577.50
Total Expense	\$42,038.93	\$35,226.00	\$226,546.54	\$200,678.00	\$506,779.00	\$299,671.91
Total Income/Expense Difference	(\$7,895.86)	\$5,657.00	\$76,952.33	\$25,062.00	(\$1,524.00)	(\$8,094.41)

At the May council meeting, the council approved a motion to authorize the Treasurer to open a new CD account with an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for a term not to exceed one year. I intend on opening this in July when I am back from vacation.

Other Treasurer Activity:

- Reviewed bi-weekly payroll
- Reviewed monthly bank reconciliation
- Received the payroll and personnel records portion of the audit, and received a preliminary version of the accounts receivable portion of the audit.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alan Nordquist
Treasurer

Consolidated Fund Activity Report May 2025

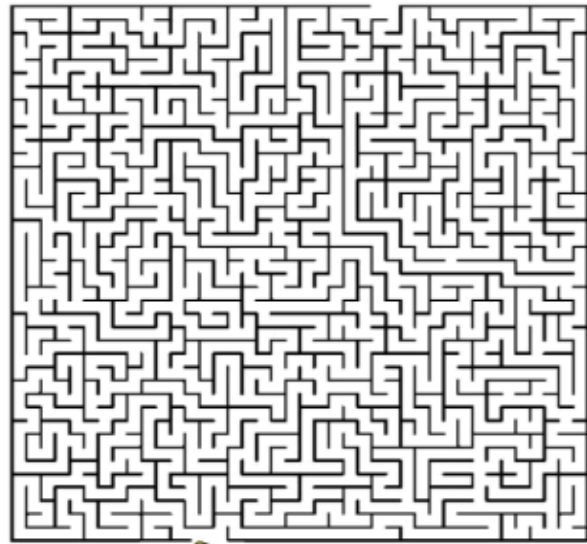
St Luke Lutheran Church - Gales Ferry CT Consolidated Fund Activity Report for May 2025

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.1001.1001	General Operating Fund Balance	62,258.95	31,855.37	39,106.19	-	55,008.13
3.1050.1000	<i>Building Fund Balance</i>					
3.1050.1001	General Building Fund Balance	22,797.58	10.00	321.42	-	22,486.16
3.1050.1002	Sanctuary Renovations Balance	4,502.36	10.00	-	-	4,512.36
3.1060.1000	Memorial Fund Balance	6,293.81	425.50	25.00	-	6,694.31
3.1070.1000	Long Term Contingency Fund Balance	4,022.68	-	-	-	4,022.68
3.1080.1000	Unrestricted Gifts Fund Balance	95,987.99	-	2,000.00	-	93,987.99
3.2001.1000	<i>Worship-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2001.1001	Special Music Balance	1,968.15	-	-	-	1,968.15
3.2001.1003	Handbell Program Fund Balance	1,465.78	-	-	-	1,465.78
3.2001.2020	Embellish (Bells of Fire) Fund Balance	1,648.51	826.00	-	-	2,474.51
3.2002.1000	<i>Administrative-Dedicated Balance</i>					
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	193.74	-	50.00	-	143.74
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	2,478.84	25.00	298.59	-	2,205.25
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	105.00	211.20	-	-	316.20
3.2009.1000	<i>Ministry-Dedicated Balance</i>					
3.2009.1001	Meal Center Balance	1,260.00	-	-	-	1,260.00
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	14,199.72	325.00	117.73	-	14,406.99
3.2010.1002	Good Samaritan Fund Balance	2,385.42	100.00	100.00	-	2,385.42
3.2010.1003	Council Discretionary Fund Balance	3,242.40	355.00	-	-	3,597.40
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	3,644.44	-	20.00	-	3,624.44
3.9000.1000	Net Fixed Asset Fund Balance	1,918,224.00	-	-	-	1,918,224.00
Total		<u>\$2,177,085.25</u>	<u>\$34,143.07</u>	<u>\$42,038.93</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,169,189.39</u>

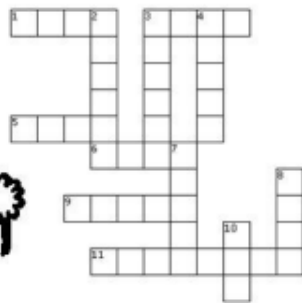


Help the Bee find
the flower



The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. Wild animal that looks like a dog and hunts in packs
3. The period from birth to death
5. A strong feeling of affection
6. Goes faster than walking
9. What we use to speak
11. One who takes care of the sheep

DOWN

2. The male parent
3. To hear or pay attention to something
4. A group of sheep herded together
7. Woolly animals which are similar to goats
8. The opposite of bad
10. A small place where animals are kept

Words Used

good	sheep	runs	listen
shepherd	wolf	father	pen
life	flock	voice	love

Foods of the Bible

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

bread
calf
cucumbers
figs
fish
goat

grapes
herbs
manna
meat
melons
milk

pastries
pulse
quail
raisins
venison

Prayer List

Pray for healing:

Aimee Belhumer (Wife of Roy Belhumer)
Sabina Moran
CA Duke
Layla (relative of Fawn DeMello)
Rachel McCurdy
Linda Snarski (friend of Elaine Remondi-Simpson)
Jim West
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 DeCoster-Crawford (friend of Jill & James Ragland)
John Perkins
Doris Remondi (mother of Elaine Remondi-Simpson)
Kasey Peek
Michele Clements
Claudia Sanchez (sister of Rut Sanchez)
Christopher Derjue
Tammy Nordquist
Chip Moran
Donna (friend of Leigh Sammons)
David Greenstein (Owsley's son-in-law)
Julia Side
Linda Wilkinson
Marie
Link
Stephanie Lucas

Pray for those who are Grieving:

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



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

July & Aug Celebrations

Birthdays:

7/01 Pat Wood
 7/04 Katie Johnson
 Marie Tobiassen
 7/05 Doug Bartkowski
 7/06 Carol Croteau
 7/07 Elaine Remondi-Simpson
 7/08 David Etris
 7/10 Diane Hansen
 Judith Owsley
 Sharon Podojil
 7/11 Betty Caruso
 7/12 Nathaniel Nicki
 7/17 Joanne Erickson
 7/21 Janis Vajdos
 7/24 Kirsten Holmstedt
 7/26 Harlan Felty
 7/27 Marty Wood
 7/29 Dina Ballestrini
 7/30 Heidi Johnston
 Betty Scott
 7/31 Corrine Stevens

 8/01 Bonnie Fear
 8/04 Celaine Towne
 8/06 Edna Johnson
 Joan Lambert
 8/13 Kathy Dame
 Peter Keefe
 8/15 Dennis Sindel
 8/18 Tammy Nordquist
 8/20 Hailey Salen
 8/21 Fawn DeMello
 8/22 Michael Johnson
 8/23 Dan Miller
 8/25 Robert Simpson
 8/28 Bradley Dame
 Georganne Frase
 Daniel Lettiere
 8/29 Mitchell Robinson
 Jim Sammons

Wedding Anniversaries:

(# of Years Married)

Philip & Kari Hammen 7/31 (60)
 Heidi & Ben Johnston 7/31 (14)
 Daniel & Elaine Lettiere 7/21 (24)
 Tom & Betty Scott 7/11 (44)

 John & Jacqueline Kremer 8/22 (38)
 Robert & Robin Nelson 8/05 (36)
 Norman & Judith Owsley 8/28 (60)
 Gerald & Kathleen Swope 8/07 (60)

Baptismal Birthdays:

Balinski, Emilee 07/09/2017
 Calamari, Cory 07/07/1991
 Croteau, Carol 07/??/1936
 Gilletti, Jennifer 07/06/1958
 Hansen, Diane 07/??/1953
 Johnson, Katie 07/??/1992
 Johnson, Olivia 07/15/2007
 Keefe, Elijah 07/15/2018
 Keefe, Luke 07/28/2019
 Kracke, Carolyn 07/31/1949
 Podojil, Sharon 07/27/1952
 Rupert, Nancy 07/??/1951
 Salen, Hailey 07/09/2017
 Schlepp, Sharon 07/01/1946
 Taylor, David 07/09/1961
 Vajdos, Ben 07/29/2001
 Wood, Pat 07/01/1945
 Caruso, Betty 08/19/1955
 Johnston, Heidi 08/22/1982
 Lettiere, Daniel 08/28/1970
 Miller, Clara 08/07/2022
 Portofee, Sue 08/19/1969
 Robinson, Mary 08/01/1954
 Scott, Betty 08/12/1951
 Turner, Travis 08/31/1953

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 – July 2025

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers
7/6								
9:30	Grace DeMarco	John P. Mark L	Cathy Hanson	Bonnie F	Marty Wood & Camille Felty	Everett Steele & Nate Dame	Roni Rollinson & Kristian Balinski	Lisa McCabe
7/13								
9:30	Joan Lambert	David Z. Ray H	Penny Heller	Mary Robinson	Kari Hammen & Robin Nelson	Camille Felty & Everett Steele	Brad Dame & Jim Sammons	Erica Sullivan
7/20								
9:30	Joanne Erickson	Dennis S. Dave G.	Sue Anderson	Bonnie Fear	Leigh Sammons & Pat Robbins	Camille Felty & Nate Dame	Roni Rollinson & Al Nordquist	Fawn DeMello
7/27								
9:30	Barb Candler	John R. Al N.	Cathy Hanson	Mary Robinson	Jerry Swope & Charlie Anderson	Nate Dame & Everett Steele	Jim Sammons & Brad Dame	Cyndi Arnold

This schedule compiled as of 6/24/2025; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

ST. LUKE – SCHEDULE TO SERVE – August 2025

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lay Readers	Communion Deacons	Acolytes	Tech Team	Assisting Ministers
8/3								
9:30	Elaine Remond-Simpson	Ray H. John P.		Bonnie F	Diane Hansen & Nancy Rupert	Camille Felty & Everett Steele	Kristian Balinski & Roni Rollinson	Jackie Leone
8/10								
9:30	Grace DeMarco	John R. Dennis S.			Cyndi Arnold & Robin Nelson	Camille Felty & Nate Dame	Al Nordquist & Brad Dame	Mike Arnold
8/17								
9:30	Cyndi Arnold	David Z. John P.		Bonnie F	Kari Hammen & Marty Wood	Everett Steele & Nate Dame	Jim Sammons & Al Nordquist	Felix Vajdos
8/24								
9:30	Edna Johnson	Al N. Ray H.		Mary Robinson	Pat Robbins & Jerry Swope	Camille Felty & Everett Steele	Roni Rollinson & Kristian Balinski	Erica Sullivan
8/31								
9:30	Joan Lambert	Louise Mark L.			Charlie Anderson & Diane Hansen	Nate Dame & Camille Felty		Katie Launer-Felty

This schedule compiled as of 6/24/2025; Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall for updates.

Church Calendar of Events

JULY 2025

*Community Group

Music Rehearsals:

Monday 5:00pm – Glory Ringers
 Tuesday 6:00pm – Belles & Beaux
 Tuesday 7:00pm – Senior Choir
 Wednesday 9:00am – EmBellish
 Wednesday 5:00pm – Concert Handbell Choir
 Wednesday 7:00pm – JuBELLation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	1 9:30am OA	2 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	3	4	5 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
6 CELEBRATE 9:30am In-person Worship 9:30am Livestream worship 2:30pm New London Meal Center	7 Grins & Giggles Camp 7:00pm AA*	8 Grins & Giggles Camp 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Executive Planning Team	9 Grins & Giggles Camp 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	10 Diane Hansen, bookkeeper birthday Grins & Giggles Camp	11 Grins & Giggles Camp	12 10:00am OA* 1:00pm Fellowship Hall Rental 7:00pm AA*
13 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person Worship 9:30am Livestream worship	14 Grins & Giggles Camp 6:30pm Fellowship Team Meeting 7:00pm AA*	15 Grins & Giggles Camp 9:30am OA* 6:30pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting*	16 Grins & Giggles Camp 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	17 Grins & Giggles Camp 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting* 6:00pm CONGREGATION COUNCIL	18 Grins & Giggles Camp	19 10:00am OA 7:00pm AA
20 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship 11:00am Joyful Noise	21 SCROLL DEADLINE 7:00pm AA*	22 9:30am OA* 2:15pm Staff Meeting	23 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 Worship 9:30am Livestream worship	28 7:00pm AA*	29 9:30am OA* 6:00pm CPR Training*	30 Pastor Heidi's birthday 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	31	1	2

Church Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2025

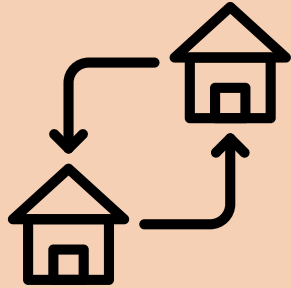
*Community Group

Music Rehearsals:

Monday 5:00pm – Glory Ringers
 Tuesday 6:00pm – Belles & Beaux
 Tuesday 7:00pm – Senior Choir
 Wednesday 9:00am – EmBellish
 Wednesday 5:00pm – Concert Handbell Choir
 Wednesday 7:00pm – JuBELLation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*	2 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
3 CELEBRATE 9:30am In-person Worship 9:30am Livestream worship 2:30pm New London Meal Center	4 7:00pm AA*	5 9:30am OA*	6 9:00am EmBellish 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	7	8	9 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
10 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person Worship 9:30am Livestream worship	11 6:30pm Fellowship Team Meeting 7:00pm AA*	12 9:30am OA* 6:00pm Executive Planning Team	13 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	14	15	16 10:00am OA 7:00pm AA
17 9:30am In-person & Livestream worship	18 SCROLL DEADLINE 7:00pm AA*	19 9:30am OA* 6:30pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting*	20 9:00am EmBellish 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	21 6:00pm CONGREGATION COUNCIL	22	23 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA*
24 Kids' Corner 9:30am In-person Worship 9:30am Livestream worship	25 7:00pm AA*	26 9:30am OA* 2:15pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm CPR Training*	27 11:00am Picnic in the Park 12:15pm KIDSTEPS Sarah Inc.*	28	29	30 10:00am OA* 7:00pm AA* 31 9:30am In- person & Livestream worship

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

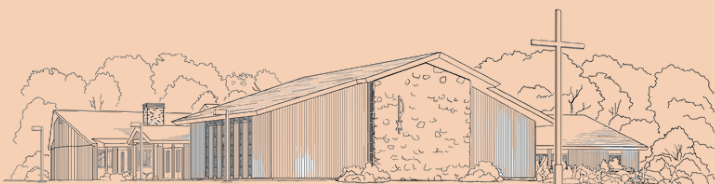


St. Luke Lutheran Church

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