



ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, in response to Christ's love,
reach out in service to each other, the community, and the world.*

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Date: Sunday, January 26, 2024
Time: 10:15 a.m. - Immediately following worship
Place: Sanctuary

**Please stay, be a part of the decisions that guide our church, and
hear about our strategic planning process. Your voice is
important!**

UPDATING CONSTITUTION

At our congregation's annual meeting on January 21, 2024, a number of proposed amendments to the *Constitution for St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church* were presented and voted upon. At the annual meeting in 2025, the second vote will be held for the constitution changes. We encourage you to review the amendments so that each member is fully informed of the changes being considered.

Paper copies of the proposed constitution changes will be available at the Welcome Center. If you need an electronic file of the changes, please contact the church office.

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR MONTE

Dear ones,

Happy 2025! I love the freshness of a new year. Maybe I just need “new starts” more than most, but I’m happy to celebrate it multiple times during the year—the new school year in September, the new church year at Advent, the calendar year in January, and since living in Hong Kong, we love Chinese New Year as well!

One of my prayers for *this* new start is that we, as a community, lean in to living and walking like Jesus. The fancy church word for this is **discipleship**, but it really just means following Jesus and learning from him. We’re starting a series called “Walking Jesus’ Way” and each week we’ll look at one aspect of what it means to follow Jesus.

Jan 12: Belonging to God

Jan 19: More than Enough

Jan 26: Everyone has a part to play!

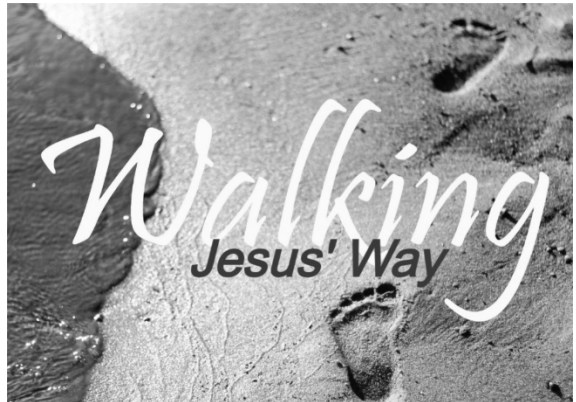
Feb 2: Expect Resistance

Feb 9: Go deeper

Feb 16: Whoa! Don’t stumble on the blessings.

Feb 23: Love everyone—even your enemies

March 2: Seeing Beauty



Another **new** thing: **starting Monday, Jan 6, I’m keeping “office hours” at Dia Café, from 10 am – noon.** Stop by to say hello, or sit down to talk about walking Jesus’ way, or whatever is on your mind! Hope to see you there!

FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR



"How brightly shines the morning star, what sudden radiance from afar, does cheer us with its shining." This great Epiphany hymn jubilantly proclaims the good news of God's message of love and hope which is revealed in the birth of Jesus.

We continue to celebrate throughout this new year with musical expressions.

Thank you to the many people of all ages at St. Luke's who have shared their joy of singing, handbell ringing, and the playing of instruments. We are blessed with the richness and beauty of their contributions.

Looking forward to 2025, the choir will present a cantata on Palm Sunday, April 13. They have already begun practicing for this special service.

The Epiphany hymn in verse one ends with this promise: God's word feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing. Praise, O praise, such love o'erflowing!

Blessings, Carol Peterson, Music Director

PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE AND UNITY

The Churches of the Green Corners (Greendale, Greenfield and Hales Corners—the same group who hosts the Good Friday ecumenical service) invite you to join a "Prayer Service for Peace and Unity."



+ Sunday evening, January 19 at 4pm,

which is Inauguration Day Eve, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Eve
AND the start of the annual, global Week of Christian Unity.

At St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church, 6101 S. 51st St. Greendale.



Seniors' Lunch and Learn.....and FUN

Thursday, January 30, 11:45am

USCG Station Milwaukee: The Brew City Guardians

The US Coast Guard has a long history on the Great Lakes – particularly Milwaukee. What's their function on Lake Michigan and what do they do on a daily basis? And, how do those functions change from summer to winter?

Come join us for lunch, learning and fun. Invite your friends! Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office.

ADULT EDUCATION

Have you ever invited someone to church? Most of us, even those who love their church and are actively involved, hesitate to actually invite anyone.



Beginning January 5, **our Adult Ed class for the winter will read *The Invitational Christian* by Dave Daubert.** This short, simple book walks people through the *why* and *how* to become an invitational Christian in an invitational congregation. Books will be available at church for \$10. (You can also find it on Kindle if you prefer).

In addition, we have the opportunity to hear from and engage with the author at the synod's monthly zoom gathering "Inspired for Mission," Tuesday, Jan 28, 6:30 pm. We will share the zoom link on the website and in emails!

Ladies Retreat

Deeper Friendships - Deeper Faith

Make plans to attend our first St. Luke's Ladies Retreat!

6 pm Friday, Jan 30, 2025 --4:30 pm Saturday, Feb 1, 2025.

Siena Retreat Center located along beautiful Lake Michigan in Racine.

All meals, beverages and snacks will be provided. Each participant has a private bedroom and bath with linens and towels included. Join us for a wine/chocolate/cheese tasting, pub trivia, a service project, a workshop led by Pastor Perrie from Gethsemane in Brookfield, and a craft project to bring home.

The cost is \$195 for the full retreat and \$95 if you only want to attend on Saturday. Registrations close January 5, 2025. Financial assistance is available.



Register online using this QR code:

COMMUNION BREAD BAKING: MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS

St. Luke's Ladies have been baking our communion bread for about a year now. This month we are going to invite our daughters OR mothers to join us for mother-daughter baking day! All ages welcome. Saturday, Jan 25, 11:00 am. It normally takes about an hour or an hour and a half—but you can come when you can and leave when you must. Bring aprons and snacks to help make it through lunchtime!



Are You a Caregiver in Need of Support?

We meet on the **2nd Monday of the month at 2:30 PM**. We meet in the Upper Fellowship Hall and welcome all to join us. Next date is January 13, discussing mental health issues.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU

to everyone that helped make *The Reluctant Innkeeper* a success!

Sunday School classes resume
January 5 at 10:15 a.m.

CONFIRMATION AND YOUTH



Mark your calendars—**Sunday, February 9**, in the afternoon—
Tubing at Crystal Ridge in Franklin. More details coming! We will be
done in time for Super Bowl parties!

Confirmation resumes January 8, 6 pm
Synergy resumes January 8, 7:15 pm.

See you there!

Note that we are *not* having a Winter Carnival this year, but carnival games *will* make an appearance at the Pancake Breakfast (Sunday, March 2). We'll celebrate Carnival!

It's time to register for Confirmation Camp!

What does all-camp capture the chicken, campfire worship, the golden plunger award, and the service of light have in common? They are all things you will experience at Confirmation camp!



June 22-27, 2025

Imago Dei Village, in Clintonville, WI

We ask ALL confirmands to attend camp AT LEAST once during their years of Confirmation—but many keep going because it's so much fun! Camp costs \$685 this year, and financial assistance is available.

Campers need to register directly with camp, using a link specific to St. Luke's. **Watch your emails for the link to use.** Spots are limited, and we don't reserve church spots anymore, so we encourage you to register as soon as you can!

A \$100 deposit is due March 10 (paid to church). A second \$100 is due May 10, and the balance is due before camp begins.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP MEETING: JANUARY 19



St. Luke's high schoolers (rising 9th graders through graduated 12th graders) are headed to Duluth, MN, **July 13th-19th** for a week of serving, laughing and being together. Sorting donations at a food pantry, helping elderly residents with light maintenance, and cooking at a homeless shelter are just some of the ways we will serve, and there will be fun too—exploring Duluth's beautiful harbor and white-water rafting on the St. Louis River.

Parents and youth, join us ***Sunday, Jan 19 after church*** for a meeting to learn more and sign up!

OUTREACH OF THE MONTH : META HOUSE

Our January outreach is Meta House. Since 1963, Meta House has been empowering women to overcome substance use disorder, ending the generational cycle of addiction and strengthening families. It offers residential and outpatient treatment, as well as a Sober Living Community, serving both single women and women with children.

Because early recovery can be a very difficult time, they welcome residential clients with a recovery bag. These bags provide the clients with the items they need to jumpstart the next chapter.

We will collect items for these bags during January, and assemble them during the ladies retreat. All recovery bag items need to be brand-new, unused, full-size and unopened.

Jan 5: Current year planner; shampoo and conditioner

Jan 12: Notebook/journal; Liquid Body wash; lip balm

Jan 19: activity books—coloring, crosswords, word searches, etc.; deodorant; nail polish

Jan 26: Gel pens, markers or colored pencils; toothbrush and toothpaste; hand lotion

Thank you for your support!

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTER UPDATE

The updated job description has been completed, and will be posted in several locations (including our website) in early January. If you know a good candidate, encourage them to apply! Please be in prayer for the team and potential candidates throughout this process: Nate Keller, Robin Gross, Diane Beutin, Melissa Enriquez, and Pastor Monte.



CAUGHT BIG HEARTED:

Everyone who helped with pageant—Lynda Van Dien, Andrea Clark, Carol Peterson, Diane Beutin, Kathy Aguirre, Sheri Trucks, Melissa Enriquez, Nina Gevelinger, Jessica Fellows, Lisa Dettlaff, Dave Jensen, Pat Larsen, Steve and Peg Palecek, Travis and Robin Gross, Rhylee Neu, Kate

Williamson, Bennett Bollig, Mary Van Ryzin, Sue Milarch, Julie Ohlert, all the parents and all the children!

The decorators who made our sanctuary look beautiful for many services.

The musicians who led throughout the many services—handbells, choir, and instrumentalists.

Wajerskis who hosted the decorators at their house for pizza.

Ken Orlikowski, who continues to help keep our building running efficiently!

Janet Orlikowski and the team of ladies who help deep clean!

Gina Bartoszewicz, who donated a Kitchen-Aid mixer to the kitchen, which will help with communion bread-baking!

Dordel family, who introduced and led the Scavenger Hunt to our church family.

Vicki Jensen—leading pajama vespers and starting up the Senior Ministry again.

WINGS ladies who delivered homemade cookies and Christmas cheer to homebound folks in our church.

Marlene Beutin and Ed Mittag who helped organize the Giving Tree, and everyone who gave so generously. Over 40 children's Christmases were brightened considerably!



Are you interested in Archives or preserving our history?

St. Luke's has a lot of archival material, much of which is not being stored securely. We need a team interested in taking on the task of deciding what should be saved and how to best preserve it. If you are interested, talk to Pastor!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Month	Monthly Budgeted Amount	Monthly Actual Receipts	Monthly Analysis	Year-to-date Budgeted Amount	Year-to-Date Receipts	Year-to-Date Analysis
Nov. 2024	\$35,000	\$33,345	Deficit \$1,655	\$385,000	\$362,900	Deficit \$22,100

You can now GIVE ONLINE, by scanning the QR code.



Church Council Nomination Committee

Each year, we are fortunate to have a dedicated Church Council that helps guide us as we live out our mission. Serving St. Luke's in this way is an extremely rewarding experience. Our three member Nomination Committee is responsible for bringing nominations for open positions on Church Council and the Synod Assembly. We meet in the fall of the year and work to fill any openings by the Annual Congregation Meeting held in January.

If you would like to be part of the Nomination Committee, please contact Beth Koehler, Todd Snead, or Mary Van Ryzin, or talk with Pastor Monte. We ask that you prayerfully consider being part of this important committee.