



# NEWSLETTER

September/October 2025

Vol. 33, Issue 9/10

**Embracing our neighbors with unexpected love, St. Luke exists to bring the hope and healing of Jesus to everyday life.**

## A Word from Pastor

Back in April, we held town hall meetings to gather feedback for a 3-year strategic plan. We asked people to rank ideas in three categories: EXIST, EMBRACE, and EVERYDAY – all words from our vision statement. We're still crafting the details of a 3-year plan but let me give you an update on EXIST and share some initial steps for EMBRACE.

Revamping our website for better Google SEO (to help people find us online) was the highest-ranked idea at our town hall meetings. We've already begun overhauling our website with a local advertising company, including new verbiage to better engage with people. We hope to

have our brand-new website up in October. Then, we'll run some marketing campaigns to boost traffic and gain more Google reviews – all in an effort to make us more visible online to people looking for a local church.

We're also nearing the end of our campus exterior improvement project. We've updated our stucco, paint, and landscaping, and installed a new front on our original sanctuary and a new 40-ton A/C unit in our worship center. We'll soon install new metal artwork panels, new gates, a new north retention wall, and new signage. I believe the 25,000 cars passing our campus everyday will not only see that we EXIST, but that we are a vibrant local church.

So, if someone sees our new exterior, and goes to our new website, we want to EMBRACE

them through meaningful next steps. That's why we're putting together plans to start a MomCo group for young moms and an ALPHA course for spiritual seekers. Both are international programs specifically designed to help people connect with a local church.

There's so much more I could share about things like creative videos for online marketing, a better e-mail service for internal communications, A/V upgrades, etc. But I just want to say how wonderful it is to be a part of a church that is so committed to our vision.

God bless,  
Pastor Luke

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**Embracing our neighbors with unexpected love, St. Luke exists to bring the hope and healing of Jesus to everyday life.**

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## Family Ministry

### See *Light of the World* with Us!

Join St. Luke families at the movies on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>! We've rented a private theater for *The Light of the World*, an animated movie about the life of Jesus through the eyes of His young disciple, John.

We'll serve free lunch at 11:30am at St. Luke before we head to Cinemark Mesa 16 (Riverview) for the 12:30pm showing. We have 118 tickets. [Reserve your free tickets here!](#)

We're happy to provide this event for free. If you'd like to support future St. Luke family events, you can make a [free will donation](#) by putting "for family events" in the "add a message" box.

### Oktoberfest is October 19<sup>th</sup>

Join St. Luke for our annual Oktoberfest on October 19<sup>th</sup>! Immediately following the 10:30 service, we'll have bratwursts, hot dogs, sauerkraut, and more for you to enjoy. Kids will be able to enjoy bounce-houses and yard games, including our inflatable 4-sport carnival game! Also available this day will be extended nursery hours for those kiddos that might need a little break. We can't wait to see you at this free family event!

### Thanks for Joining Us for Fall Class Launch!



Thanks for joining us for Fall Launch Sunday at 8:00 & 10:30 (pictured)!

Thank you all for a wonderful Fall Class Launch! On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, we had a record-breaking 68 people come forward during worship for a Back-to-School blessing, 10 at 8:00 worship and 58 at 10:30! We loved praying over you all, and we hope that you continue to have a wonderful school year!

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### August Sunday School

Preschool	Room	1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	Room 401
- Kinder	409	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	Room 402

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# COMMUNITY CORNER

## September

### Hats, Gloves, Scarves

Although temperatures are still very “summery,” right now, we will be collecting hats, gloves, scarves, and socks to distribute to homeless ADULTS this winter. All your donations will find their way to either Resurrection Street Ministries or the Salvation Army. Both organizations work year-round with the local homeless community. If you have trouble finding these items in the big box stores right now, there are some pretty good deals on Amazon, especially for bulk orders of a dozen or so. Please place your donations in the Community Cubbies throughout the month of September.

## October

### Operation Christmas Child

Yes, we’re already thinking about Christmas! Operation Christmas Child is a Samaritan’s Purse ministry that St. Luke has participated in for many years. Their mission is to provide Christmas shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children around the world with the good news of the gospel and the hope and healing of Jesus. The boxes are sent internationally to areas of poverty, war, natural disasters, famine, and disease. After receiving a Christmas shoebox, the children are invited to participate in a 12-lesson discipleship program, where they will learn about the love of Jesus from ministry partners who frequently establish long-term, caring relationships with these children and their families. The shoeboxes will be available for you to pick up in the worship lobby the weekend of September 28<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to return them by October 26<sup>th</sup>! Each box will come with instructions and a list of recommended items.



## Save the Date: Produce On Wheels

Our next produce distribution event will be on **Saturday morning, November 8<sup>th</sup>**! Normally, our POWWOW events are on the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the growing season. Since the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of November falls over Thanksgiving weekend, we’ve changed the date to the 8<sup>th</sup>. So, please save the date and join us as we distribute fresh, rescued produce to our community, right from our very own parking lot! Tell your neighbors and friends that they can get 70 pounds of produce for \$15. We need 30-40 volunteers to provide an organized and efficient distribution. Sign-ups will be available in October!





*Auriona's kiddos having a pizza party on their first night in their new apartment*

## St. Luke CPR Teams Launch!

St. Luke has just launched the first official CPR Team (CarePortal Response Team) and we're excited to walk alongside Auriona and her seven children. If you attended the CarePortal lunch in June, you will likely remember Auriona's story. Several months ago, she left a domestic violence situation with nothing but her children and the clothes on her back. She has worked hard to secure employment and housing, but obviously she still has some speed bumps in front of her. We look forward to seeing what God has planned for her and her family, and we are already proud of her dedication to her kids and how hard she is working to keep them all safe and in a stable environment. The four members of the CPR team will

be checking in on her, providing occasional meals, emotional support, a listening ear, and lots of prayer. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of a CPR Team, reach out to [Mj Cornelius](#).

## New Ministry Partner: Prison Fellowship's Ministries

We're excited to partner with a new ministry this year for the Christmas Angel Tree gift drive in December! Prison Fellowship's Ministries provides Christmas presents to children who have an incarcerated parent, including those in foster care. To help reach more kids this season, our Oktoberfest freewill offering will go towards supplies and gifts for the Angel Tree this year. Learn more about the Angel Tree and the children that benefit from your donations in the Nov/Dec newsletter!



Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> @ 11:45 am

Bounce House, Brats, & Apfelkuchen!

Freewill offering for Christmas Angel Tree partnerships!

## Handbells & Choir Resume!

Looking for a musical way to get involved at St. Luke? Check out the handbell or chancel choirs! Not only are handbells fun to play, but they're one of the easier instruments to learn. Practices resume Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Choir practices will resume Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm. Both groups play on various Sundays at 8:00am, Christmas, & Easter.

## HITN Project Update

We're getting so close to the end of the Hope in the Neighborhood Stapley Drive renovation project! Throughout the months of June and July, crews were on site every day for construction, façade work, priming, painting, and landscaping. In August, a new A/C unit to replace the original Worship Center lobby unit was installed. All that's left is artwork, painting, and signage installation! Thank you again to all who have donated to the Hope in the Neighborhood campaign since last year. We're always so blown away by your generosity!



## Sunday Adult Bible Studies at 9:30AM



### **Revelation | Vicar Ethan | September**

Vicar Ethan Berglund continues his study of the book of Revelation in September on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship room at 9:30am. This book is filled with mysteries about things to come, final warnings of how the world will end, and a glimpse of heaven and all the glories to come. Everyone is welcome to join this study as it will help us understand this last book of the Bible.

### **Love, Hate, Light, & Darkness | Steve Hines | October**

Steve Hines will be leading a 10-week study based on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John. The apostle John wrote a letter to Christians; he uses the simplest of language to communicate some of the most profound theology in the Scriptures. The book communicates deep truths about God, the devil, and humanity. Plan to join this thought-provoking study.



## Weekly Bible Studies

*in the Fellowship Room*

Adult Bible Study...Tuesdays @ 10am

Women's Bible Study ...Thursdays @ 10am  
(New study begins 9/18)

Men's Bible Study...Saturdays @ 8am

Sermon Devotional.....4th Saturdays @ 6pm





## Tidings of Comfort and Joy? Facing the Holidays After Bereavement

When you're grieving the death of a family member or friend, you may dread the holiday season. Thoughts of social gatherings, family traditions, and obligations leave you anxious and overwhelmed. Your sadness can seem unbearable. You may wish you could skip these next two months and go straight to the routine of the next year. Please know you aren't alone, and you don't have to face grief during the holidays alone, either.

Join us for a GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" seminar held **Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at St Luke from 12:30-2:30pm.** The 2-hour meeting offers practical, actionable strategies for making it through the holiday season. You'll view a video featuring advice from people in grief who've faced the holidays after their loss. You'll hear insights from respected Christian counselors, pastors, and psychologists. You'll receive a Holiday Survival Guide with practical strategies, encouraging words, helpful exercises, Q/As, and journaling ideas for daily survival through the holiday season. Most importantly, you'll meet with other grieving people and leaders who understand what you're going through. They won't judge you or force you to share but will accept you where you are and will offer comfort and support.

Your holiday season won't be easy; your emotions may ambush you and suck you under at times. But you can choose to walk through this season in a way that honors your loved one and puts you on the path of health and healing. To register or find out more about GriefShare Surviving the Holidays, email [Paul Hoffmann](mailto:Paul.Hoffmann@stluke.org).

## APPS

Aging, Preparation, Planning, and Support (A.P.P.S.) meets the second Sunday of each month at 11:45. Are you caring for a loved one that has health challenges? You may have questions about the best way of supporting them. The APPS group encourages, supports, educates, and prepares those caring for an older adult, or anyone interested in information about challenges that older adults are dealing with as they navigate the aging process. Everyone is welcome to attend! Questions? Please contact [Paul Hoffmann](mailto:Paul.Hoffmann@stluke.org).

### APPS Meetings

11:45am | Fellowship Room

**September 14**

**October 12**

## Breakfast with Pastor Luke

Want to know more about St. Luke? Join Pastor Luke for breakfast! Starting **September 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup>**, breakfast will be served at **9:30am in the Oasis** for those who are interested in learning more and/or potentially becoming members. Each Sunday will cover different topics, so come to as many as you can. They're also a great way to get to know Pastor Luke, the staff, and others new to St. Luke! The nursery and Sunday School classes are available. Please RSVP by scanning the code below or sign up at the info counter in the Worship Center.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Labor Day Office Closed	<b>2</b> 10:00 Bible Study 8:30pm Howe Small Group	<b>3</b> 9:30 Staff	<b>4</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>5</b> Pastor's Family Day	<b>6</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:00 Worship
<b>7</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost 8:00/10:30 Worship 9:30 Bible study/ Sunday school 9:30 Breakfast with Pastor	<b>8</b> 8:00 Lifeline Screenings 6:30 Handbells	<b>9</b> 10:00 Bible Study 8:30pm Howe Small Group	<b>10</b> 9:30 Staff	<b>11</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>12</b> Pastor's Family Day	<b>13</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study 10:00 WM Craft Day 1:00 Elders 2:00 Council 5:00 Worship
<b>14</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost 8:00/10:30 Worship 9:30 Bible study/ Sunday school 9:30 Breakfast with Pastor 11:30 Family Event Lunch & 12:30 Movie 11:45 APPS	<b>15</b> 6:30 Handbells	<b>16</b> 10:00 Bible Study 8:30pm Howe Small Group	<b>17</b> 9:30 Staff 1:00 Care Ministry	<b>18</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>19</b> Pastor's Family Day	<b>20</b> 7:00 SHP Delivery 8:00 Men's Bible Study 5:00 Worship
<b>21</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost 8:00/10:30 Worship 9:30 Bible study/ Sunday school 9:30 Breakfast with Pastor 11:45 HS Plugged In	<b>22</b> 6:30 Handbells	<b>23</b> 10:00 Bible Study 8:30pm Howe Small Group	<b>24</b> 9:30 Staff	<b>25</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b> Pastor's Family Day	<b>27</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study 2:00 Council 5:00 Worship 6:00 4th Sat. Bible Study
<b>28</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost OCC Begins 8:00/10:30 Worship 9:30 Bible study/ Sunday school	<b>29</b> 6:30 Handbells	<b>30</b> 10:00 Bible Study 8:30pm Howe Small Group	<b>31</b> 9:30 Staff			

# SEPTEMBER 2025

# OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>5 17<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost</b> 8:00/10:30 Worship 9:30 Bible study/ Sunday school 11:45 MS Plugged In	<b>6</b> 6:30 Handbells	<b>7</b> 10:00 Bible Study 8:30p Howe Small Group	<b>1</b> 9:30 Staff	<b>2</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>3</b> Pastor's Family Day	<b>4</b> 8:00a Men's Bible Study 5:00 Worship
			<b>8</b> 9:30 Staff 1:00 Care Ministry	<b>9</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>10</b> Pastor's Family Day 6:00 WMM Paint Brush Bar (Scottsdale)	<b>11</b> 8:00a Men's Bible Study 1:00 Elders 2:00 Council 5:00 Worship
			<b>15</b> 9:30 Staff	<b>16</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>17</b> Pastor's Family Day	<b>18</b> 7:00a SHP Delivery 8:00a Men's Bible Study 5:00 Worship
<b>12 18<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost</b> 8:00/10:30am Worship 9:30 Bible study/ Sunday school 11:45 HS Plugged In 11:45 APPS	<b>13</b> 6:30 Handbells	<b>14</b> 10:00 Bible Study 8:30p Howe Small Group				
<b>19 19<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost</b> 8:00/10:30 Worship 9:30 Bible study/ Sunday school 11:45 Oktoberfest	<b>20</b> 6:30 Handbells	<b>21</b> 10:00 Bible Study 12:30 GriefShare 8:30p Howe Small Group	<b>22</b> 9:30 Staff 6:30 Choir	<b>23</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>24</b> Pastor's Family Day	<b>25</b> 8:00a Men's Bible Study 5:00 Worship 6:00 4th Sat. Bible Study
<b>26 Reformation Sun.</b> 8:00/10:30 Worship 9:30 Bible study/ Sunday school	<b>27</b> 6:30 Handbells	<b>28</b> 10:00 Bible Study 8:30p Howe Small Group	<b>29</b> 9:30 Staff 1:00 Care Ministry 6:30 Choir	<b>30</b> 10:00 Women's Bible Study	<b>31</b> Pastor's Family Day	



# ST. LUKE YOUTH CASSEROLE FUNDRAISER

## Support the St. Luke Youth and let us do the cooking!

Two delicious casserole options to choose from – just bake in the oven for an easy, no-mess meal!

Orders will be taken in the lobby after services on **October 19<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>**. All orders must be placed by **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. You may also drop your order form and payment in an offering box or bring to the church office. Casserole distribution will be on **November 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>**. **\*\*Casseroles will be frozen.\*\***

Please make all payments at time of order. Checks may be made out to **St. Luke** with “Casserole” in the memo. You may also pay via the app (select “Youth” and put “Casseroles” in the Add a Message box).

**All funds raised support the Youth (Jr. High Camp, HS Serve Retreat, etc.)**

### CASSEROLE OPTIONS

#### **Baked Ziti w/ Sausage Casserole**

(can also be vegetarian, just note on order form)

#### **Chicken Enchilada Casserole**

### SIZE OPTIONS

**Large (~ 9” x 13”) – \$25**

**Small (~ 6” x 8”) – \$15**

Contact the office at 480.969.4414 with questions!

## YOUTH CASSEROLE FUNDRAISER

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

	Large – \$25	Small – \$15	Total
Baked Ziti w/ sausage			
Chicken Enchilada			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**\*\*Please make payment at time of order. Checks may be made out to St. Luke.**

☐ I will pay via the app. (I understand that if my payment is not processed by November 9<sup>th</sup>, my order will be cancelled.)



## Women's Retreat 2026

The 2026 Women's Ministry retreat is March 12-15, 2026, at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ! Join us for a weekend of learning, fellowship, relaxation, and fun! Rooms are double-occupancy, with two queen beds, and are \$110 per night per person for the 3-night stay. All meals are included for overnight guests. Those not wishing to spend the night can still join us each day! Meals will just need to be purchased separately, or you can bring your own. First night's payment is due at time of registration which will begin the weekend of Sep. 20<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms will be available at church & via email. Winter visitors can register via online giving and adding "retreat registration" in the comments or by mailing in a check. Spots are limited, so registration is first come, first serve. For more information, brochures are available in the lobby or [email us!](#)



## Crafters & Crocheters Wanted!

The Women's Ministry is looking for women who can sew or crochet to help with a rewarding project that provides blankets for local children receiving Sleep in Heavenly Peace beds. We're also looking for anyone who has a craft or skill they'd love to teach or share during upcoming Craft Days. For more info about SHP blankets or Craft Days, or to get involved, [please email us.](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Game Day

September 14<sup>th</sup> | 11:45am

St. Luke

Join in a dice game of Quixx or share your own game! Bring your own beverage and snack!

### Craft Day

September 13<sup>th</sup> | 10:00am

St. Luke

Bring a craft or project to work on or join us in learning our featured projects: care candle kits for homebound members or rock painting for the November neighborhood prayer walks.

### The Brush Bar

Friday, October 17 | 6:00-9:00pm

The Brush Bar, Scottsdale AZ

Have a blast sipping your favorite beverage while learning a simple painting! Zero artistic ability required! Bring your own snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Wine can be purchased at the event. \$45 per person. Limited spots available. Signups will be available in the Worship Center in September.

### September 28<sup>th</sup> Sign-ups!

**Menopause the Musical**

Chandler Center for the Arts

Nov. 16 @ 2:00



# Church Stewardship

	July 2025		YTD July 2025		2025 Budget
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
Donations	\$66,487	\$64,150	\$498,126	\$561,350	\$946,300
Other Revenue	\$9,798	\$15,691	\$95,056	\$108,241	\$186,696
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$76,285</b>	<b>\$79,841</b>	<b>\$593,182</b>	<b>\$669,591</b>	<b>\$1,132,996</b>
Expenses	\$81,395	\$94,409	\$601,788	\$660,864	\$1,132,910
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>(\$5,110)</b>	<b>(\$14,568)</b>	<b>(\$8,606)</b>	<b>\$8,727</b>	<b>\$86</b>

## OFFICE UPDATES

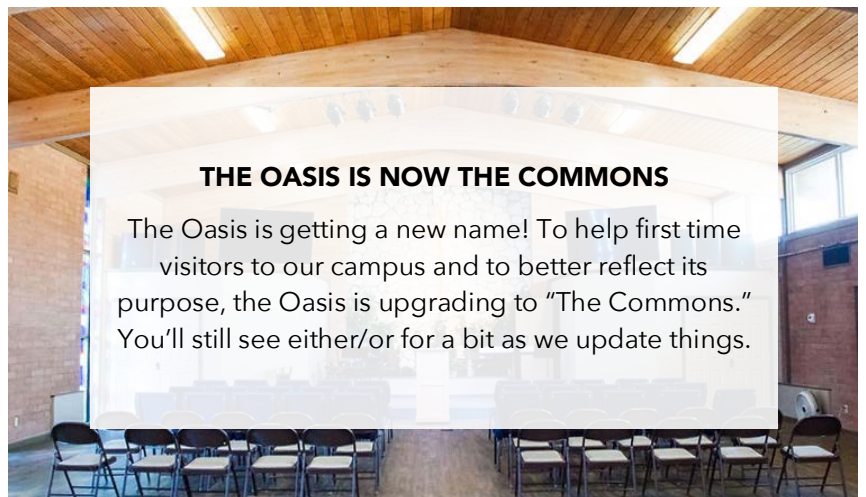
- **Office hours are changing!**  
During the months of June - October, the office will be closed on Fridays. Fridays during the months of November - May will be unchanged (9:00-12:00).
- The office will be closed Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> for Labor Day.
- Did you know we have an online bulletin? Check it out for more details & St. Luke info that can't always fit on the printed bulletin. You can find it on our website or on our app!



## Council Meeting Highlights

August 9, 2025

- o Discussion on logistics & implementation of more young family ministries at St. Luke
- o 2026 planning for budget discussion
- o Review Council survey results
- o IT security review update



### THE OASIS IS NOW THE COMMONS

The Oasis is getting a new name! To help first time visitors to our campus and to better reflect its purpose, the Oasis is upgrading to "The Commons." You'll still see either/or for a bit as we update things.

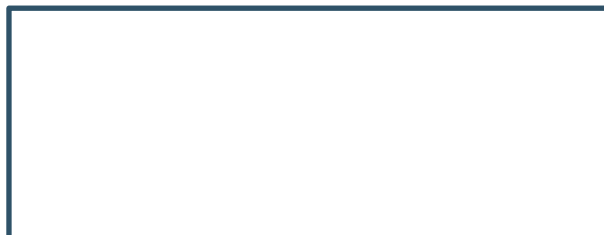




Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 21

Return Service Requested

Sent with blessings to:



480.969.4414  
office@stlukemesa.com

Find our website at [stlukemesa.com](http://stlukemesa.com)

## Youth Calendar

Events Begin @ 11:45am  
with Lunch!

# SEP

**Sep 7** • No Plugged In

**Sep 14** • Plugged In: All Youth  
Movie @ Cinemark!

**Sep 21** • Plugged In: High School

**Sep 28** • No Plugged In

# OCT

**Oct 5** • Plugged In: Middle School

**Oct 12** • Plugged In: High School

**Oct 19** • Oktoberfest!

**Oct 26** • No Plugged In



"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39). It has been so fun to launch back into Bible Boot Camp and Catechism classes. Every year, someone asks me what my favorite Bible verse is. I almost always say this passage from Romans 8. I absolutely love these verses. It is so reassuring that God's love is completely unconditional. The list of things that we feel can come between us and God is endless – school, friends, family, homework, chores, bullies, doubt, fear, the world. However, rest assured that nothing, NOTHING can stand in the way of God loving us.

Come hear more about this awesome love at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. I also encourage youth to join us for our amazingly fun activities (Plugged In) after the 10:30 service on most Sundays. I enjoy talking with you as we hang out and form lasting relationships. Also, if you ever need to get in touch with me for any reason, please don't hesitate to give me a call or text (928.241.8038) or email.