



St. Luke's Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

July 2021 Newsletter

stlukesgarfield@gctel.com

www.stlukeschurchgarfield.org

PO Box 35 Garfield MN 56332

320-834-2285

"Called by the Truth of the Gospel, enlightened by the Spirit, sent to serve"

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are available to help you through these difficult times. Stephen Ministers will walk beside you listening to your concerns as you discover how to cope with whatever your challenge might be. If you would like someone to talk to, please contact Pastor Dave or Rondi Wussow, our Stephen Minister coordinator. **Stephen Ministry Training meeting Tuesday, July 20th at 6:00 – 8:00 pm.**

Meet Our Stephen Ministers:

Dale Wittiko

Dale was commissioned as a Stephen Minister in May of 2020 and he says he felt led to train as a SM and has recently done additional training to serve as a supervision small group facilitator. Dale and his wife Sherry live in Brandon, but this 20-year Navy veteran is a transplant from ND. Besides being a Stephen Minister Dale is active in Men's Bible study and serves on our church council. He calls himself a "handyman, a putzer, and a tinkerer" you may have seen some of his handiwork during Easter as he's the creator of our tomb display. We thank God that Dale answered the call to share his many gifts as a Stephen Minister.

Sherry Wittiko

Sherry trained as a Stephen Minister because she felt a tug from God to share His gifts of mercy and compassion with others. Sherry is active at church helping out in a variety of ways including putting her artistic talents to work to help decorate for various seasons and church events. Away from St. Luke's Sherry delights in doing artwork, illustrations, thrifting, gardening, and most of all being a grandma to Cole and Jack. Our church is blessed to have this woman of God serving as a Stephen Minister.

How to View Worship Online

Google, St. Luke Worship YouTube with the date to access our 8:30 worship service on Sunday mornings and anytime thereafter.

Friendly Reminders

- Summer means the air conditioning will be on. If you are sensitive to the cold air blowing on, please don't sit on the east side in the last three pews of the sanctuary.
- If you'd like to use the church for an event, it must be scheduled through the church office. **Baptisms** must also be scheduled through the church office and **weddings** must be scheduled with Pr. Davidson and the church office.
- **Confirmants: CHECK YOUR ACOLYTE CALENDAR for summer dates!**

Learning Opportunities

Women's Bible Study is the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month from 1-3 pm. We have been having great discussions, using Dr. Jim Denison's material from his: Biblical Insight to Tough Questions material. Questions like: When I don't understand God's plan, how can I trust His hand? Do I really have to love everyone? Come and see what God's Word says about these questions!

Men's Bible Study Wednesday mornings at 9:45 am *"The Mission of Jesus"*

Mighty Women of Prayer Thursday mornings at 8:00 am at Common Ground

Bible Class "Living with Confidence in a Chaotic World" by Dr. David Jeremiah at 6:30 pm.

Quilters meet on July 6th and 20th. Please come!

Stewardship Moment

"There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse." Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let's explore this topic. Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. And so, He doesn't just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life! Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance to change our minds. It's a conversion of the

mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something. And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that "it's easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:24) "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church-- it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

Ways to Support St. Luke's Financially

1. By check or church envelope with cash
 2. By direct deposit set up with your bank
 3. On-line Giving Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to download for FREE.
- a) Search Enter St. Luke's or tap Find Churches Near Me to start your search. Select your church. Your selected church will be displayed as your default church. Tap donate.
 - b) Select choose a fund and a preset amount or enter another amount. Select Add to add another fund or move forward to the payment information. Scan or enter your card or banking account information
 - c) Submit. Review your donation summary then select Complete Donation

Ice Cream in the City Park

Do you like ice cream cones? Would you like to get to know our Garfield community better? Bring a friend to the Garfield City Park every Wednesday this summer from 6:30-8:00 p.m., from June 23 through Labor Day weekend. We'll be serving up ice cream cones and fellowship and would love to have a huge turnout. If you'd like to donate ice cream, cones or help serve, talk to Pr. Gran. We will need two coolers.

June Council Update

- AV Project: Ceiling microphone scheduled to be installed above the baptismal font. Tate and Mark will contact Bob Olson.
- Annual Fish Fry for Missions will be on Friday October 8, 2021
- Brown stack chairs will replace the white folding chairs. White folding chairs to be given away.
- St. Luke's is looking for a Memorial Service coordinator, in the event a funeral home is not used.
- \$1,000 of PPP funds for Stephen Ministry training materials for new Stephen Ministry class of caregivers.
- Beginning June 20th offering will be taken by ushers in the pews and pew registries will be used.
- Pr. Sue will be on vacation June 28-July 4
- Check with Master Builders to "bat proof" the building. Project is not to exceed \$5,000.
- Request bids for installing a circulating hot water pumps for all three sets of bathrooms, utility rooms and kitchen.

Early Christian Describes Fellow Believers

"They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not lust after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives. They love all people and are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death and restored to life. They are poor yet make many rich; they lack all things, and yet abound in all; they are dishonored, and yet in dishonor they are glorified. They are spoken of as evil and yet are justified; they are reviled, and bless; they are insulted, and repay the insult with honor. What the soul is to the body, that are Christians in the world" (*The Epistle to Diognetus* 5–6).

How could they have such peace in the face of such adversity? How can we?

Charles Stanley once said, "We are either in the process of resisting God's truth or in the process of being shaped and molded by his truth." A quick glance at our culture reveals which path most people have chosen, and the results speak for themselves.

"Don't pray for an easier life. Pray instead to be a stronger man or woman of God." Luis knew that it is not the strength of our faith but the object of our faith that counts. We can have faith in wrong directions and get lost as a result. Here's a fact: God is still God. Whether he answers our prayers for healing in this world or the next, He is still LORD. The faith that sustains us in the hardest places is faith in a sovereign King (Psalm 22:28) who is love (1 John 4:8). Circumstances and consequences cannot change His character (Malachi 3:6). Luis Palau

Coffee Servers – Thank you for serving!

Here's what to do: **1st make sure the coffee maker is set up and on** as it takes quite a while to heat up.

July 4: Nettie Billmark, Sarah Meichsner, Mary Olson, **Kathy Niblett**
760-9359 808-6709 759-2219 760-2279

July 11: Jill Erickson, Kristie Tollefson, Christie Converse, **Mary Wussow**
320/491-1225 219-1210 852-7245 808-8875

July 18: **Brenda Haak**, Faye Erlien, Annie Chlian, Rita Metzger
766-3114 834-2645 491-0202 834-3274

July 25: Rondi Wussow, **Mari-ann Bartlett**, Steph Froemming, Carol Juul
834-3180 846-4413 218-770-2871 218-770-4143

August 1: Brenda Buse, Dawn Voit, **Kristi Froemming**, Holly Carlson
834-2028 815-3754 834-2959 808-4851

August 8: Florence Chlian, Sandy Thorson, **Anne Gran**, Georgia Nelson
834-2444 846-9966 762-2684 760-3455

August 15: Kathy Bahn, **Rebecca Froemming**, Cindy Winter, Shelley Diekman
320-429-0424 815-7090 304-4899 808-7611

August 22: **Lisa Meichsner**, Carley Noetzelman, Mary Wussow, Rita Metzger
808-6165 701-205-2849 808-8875 834-3274

August 29: Susan Odegaard, **Mary Olson**, Holly Chlian, Kristie Tollefson
766-0515 759-2219 834-2465 219-1210



July 25-29, Sunday – Thursday

5:30 pm-7:45pm

SUMMER VBS 2021 is about tracking down our ONE TRUE GOD! Come and solve the mystery on MYSTERY ISLAND!

Register now!

3 year old's through 5th grade!

<https://vbsmate.com/events/StLukesGarfieldMN/20525> or paper registrations in the Fellowship Hall. **Confirmants will help the younger kids with crafts, games, snacks and programming.**

DINO-DIG TRIP Participants 2021: Leaving Friday, July 16 and returning Monday, July 19th.

Please pray for each and every participant to have a great educational journey into the wonder and amazement of how our Great God and Creator gave us this planet to live, grow, and thrive on. Dale Witikko, Brian and Megan Lauthen, Jill, Levi, and Ian Johnson, Christie, Colton and Rylin Converse, Florence Chlian, Dana Haak and Shawn Gebhardt, Daryl Giese with Ethan, Walker, and Carter, Donnie, Jennifer, Feona, and Harrison Simonson, John and Rondi Wussow, Greg Niblett with Logan and Easton, Erick Sletto with Hudson Saxton, Emily Esping, Steve and Sue Davidson with Graham Soltis.



Kid's Jokes

1. Who had the first iPad in the Bible?
2. What type of music does Goliath hate?
3. What is Peter's favorite card game to play?
(Answers elsewhere in Newsletter)

CONFIRMATION REMINDER: Summer Confirmation for 7, 8, and 9th graders with parents begins Sunday, August 1-Thursday, August 5th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Also, on Tuesday, August 3rd, we will take a field trip to I-Point at Twin Oaks and partake of their Christ Hike. Will need drivers to share rides. Watch for a sign-up sheet!

I Point Christ Hike info

ADDRESS: 16157 COUNTY HWY 65, VINING, MN 56588

PERFORMANCES JULY 2nd, 6th, 9th, 14th, 20th, 23rd, 30th (7:45 PM START TIME)

PERFORMANCES AUGUST 3rd, 6th, 11th, 17th (7:30 PM START TIME)

Is Religion Dangerous for Society?

Billy Graham's two most repeated statements were "the Bible says" and "God loves you." That's because the first leads to the second. Far from imposing our personal beliefs on others, evangelism is "a beggar telling beggars where to find bread." The "good news" is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). We need to get back to sharing it with confident compassion because focusing on heaven is the best way to live on earth. Each of us were created by God for God. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin was right: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience."

Conventional wisdom claims that religion is "dangerous" for society. C. S. Lewis pointed out in *Mere Christianity*, "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The apostles went out on foot to convert the Roman Empire, the English Evangelicals abolished the slave trade; all left their mark on earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with heaven. "When Christians cease to think of the other world they become so ineffective in this. Aim at heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in'; aim at earth and you will get neither.



July

(please contact the office if your birthday is missing or incorrect)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Kathy Bahn James Gardner Stefania Winter	2 Sawyer Chlian Tim Fenlason Brian Lauthen	3
4	5	6	7 Eleanor Dahlquist	8 Lydia Esping	9 Brenda Haak Dawn Johnson Wade Lueck Connie Simons	10 Tim Dunn Dick Gulbranson Tanya Pierson
11	12 Nicole Feeken Gianni Jahnke Abigail Johnson	13	14 Dakota Christopherson Sally Ekola Nickolas Stoltz	15 Jessica Anderson	16 Addelyn Froemming	17 McKenzie Gertz Erin Giese Logan Thompson
18	19	20 Davion Jahnke John Schmidt	21 Evan Kalina Aaron Noetzelman	22	23 Margaret Martin Courtney Pearson	24
25 John Wussow	26 Pam Wilson	27 Ann Carlson Chasity Northway Mary Wussow	28 Georgia Nelson Sherry Witikko	29 Carol Goemer Aurora Krog-Nelson	30 Ivy Abdallah Jolene Gertz	31 Kolton Dalluge

Help!

We are in need of someone to record the pew pad registers and send out post cards to our visitors each week. If you'd be able to help with that, please contact Pr. Gran.

A Prayer for the Holy Spirit to Teach You, Article by: Emily Rose Massey

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:26, ESV).

Many have been gifted a Bible. It could be when you became a member of a new church, special celebration like being confirmed or at your graduation. At first with great intentions, you set out to read the whole Bible, and you are so excited to start reading it and learn more about God, but as time went on, may you became more and more intimidated by its pages. Thus asking yourself these type of questions: *Where do I begin? Do I start in Genesis and just read through it beginning to end? Do I need to spend time memorizing what I'm reading? What does this Word mean?*

These thoughts circle your mind and you become hesitant to even dive in for fear that you won't understand what you were reading. It doesn't take long for school, job, friends, or any other extracurricular activities to crowd out time to make space to read your Bible. The Bible soon finds a permanent home on the coffee table, nightstand, or bookshelf left untouched. Then intimidation and distractions keep coming. There may be times, when you sense a need to read it, for example when you are weary, stressed, feeling unloved, but just not ready to dive in. So, where do you begin?

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Not only does He convict me of my sin when I daily fall short, He is my ever-present Help in time of need who also guides me into all truth. I admit that I need help understanding your Holy written Word. Holy Spirit, will you give me a hunger to daily read the Bible? May You supernaturally illuminate what I am reading and give me the ability to comprehend what I am studying, not just for head knowledge, but to help me know You in a deeper way so that I give You the worship You deserve. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Truth will never accommodate to our preferences. There is only one way to deal with the sin issue in life...Jesus.

David Jeremiah

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 8:00 Mighty Women of Prayer at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	2 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	3
4 8:30 Worship 9:45 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship 6:30 Bible Class	5 Pr. Gran's Sabbath Day	6 9:00 – 11:00 Quilting	7 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 8:00 Ice Cream Cones in the Park	8 8:00 Mighty Women of Prayer at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	9 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	10
11 8:30 Worship HC – 9:45 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship HC 6:30 Bible Class	12 Pr. Gran's Sabbath Day	13 1:00 – 3:00 Women's Bible Study	14 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Parish Ed Mtg. 6:30 – 8:00 Ice Cream Cones in the Park	15 8:00 Mighty Women of Prayer at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	16 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day Dino-Dig Trip	17 Dino-Dig Trip
18 8:30 Worship 9:45 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship 6:30 Bible Class Dino-Dig Trip	19 Pr. Gran's Sabbath Day 9:00 August Newsletter Articles Due Dino-Dig Trip	20 9:00 – 11:00 Quilting 6:00-8:00 Stephen Ministry Training	21 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 8:00 Ice Cream Cones in the Park	22 8:00 Mighty Women of Prayer at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office 6:30 Church Council	23 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	24
25 8:30 Worship HC 9:45 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship HC 6:30 Bible Class 5:30 – 7:45 Vacation Bible School	26 Pr. Gran's Sabbath Day 5:30 – 7:45 Vacation Bible School	27 1:00 – 3:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 – 7:45 Vacation Bible School	28 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 8:00 Ice Cream Cones in the Park 5:30 – 7:45 Vacation Bible School	29 8:00 Mighty Women of Prayer at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office 5:30 – 7:45 Vacation Bible School	30 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	31 Kid's Joke Answers 1. Moses (God gave him 2 tablets) 2. Rock 3. Go Fish

**PO Box 35
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Do Strict Parents Make Sneaky Kids? By: Abby Watts, a parent with teens.

I went to high school with a kid who had super strict parents. His curfew was 9 p.m., so he'd sneak out. He wasn't allowed to listen to pop music, so he stashed his CDs in his sock drawer. His 10-year-old brother even hid his toys under his pillow at night. As a kid, I just felt like his parents were unfair. Now, as I make rules for my kids, I wonder if I'm driving them to rebel. Do strict parents really make sneaky kids? These 3 clues will lead you to the answer.

Clue #1: Ask yourself this question. Are you raising a sin concealer or a sin confessor?

axis.org is a site that works to guide parents through the current culture.

Rules don't make kids sneaky any more than laws make citizens commit crimes. What does make your kids sneaky is when they cannot talk to you because you won't listen, don't try to empathize, and won't acknowledge their points of view. They think they have to be sneaky because coming to you is pointless or will just make you pull the reins tighter.

Clue #2: Examine perception versus reality.

Even though you think you're open-minded, your child might still say, "There's no use talking to my parents. They never do what I want and they always tell me I'll understand when I'm older." As parents, we need to go out of our way not only to tell our kids they can talk to us about anything but also to make ourselves available when they do want to talk. That means slowing down, being home when our kids are home, and putting our phones away. **And when our kids do share a mistake or some drama with us, our reaction is key.** If we blow up, we might never get the opportunity again.

If you're not sure where you stand, there's no harm in asking your son or daughter, "Do you think you can tell me everything?" "What keeps you from talking to me about things?" That could be the start of a conversation that changes your relationship.

Clue #3: Reflect on your rules.

Rules should be a reflection of our love for our kids, not just a way to exercise authority. If your kids have no time for fun, don't experience natural consequences because you've got them on too short a leash, and you don't let them make any choices, **it might be time to loosen up.** This is especially true if you find your once-honest child lying frequently.

How do you talk to your kids about why you've made certain rules? ASK YOUR CHILD... Do you feel like you can talk to me about anything? Why or why not? Finally, end your day talking with your child.

What if you spent just a couple of minutes every morning thinking about how to parent well and a couple of minutes every night talking to your child? We know from experience it would change your relationship with your child.

➡ "What can you do if you get angry and feel a fight coming on?" ➡ "Do you feel like I compare you to others?"

➡ "Do you think it's OK to feel sad?" ➡ "Can you think of a time when things turned out differently than you expected?"

➡ "What makes you want to be friends with someone?" ➡ "What makes it easy or hard to talk to someone?"

➡ "As a parent, what's the number one rule you'll give your kids?" ➡ "How do you feel when someone tells you what to do?"