

# St. Luke's Monthly

*Sharing Christ's love with those around us*



## Building Our Future

God continues to bless St. Luke's with growth — in faith, in families, and in mission. As we look ahead to Phase 2 of our building project, we remain committed to careful planning and faithful stewardship. Every step we take now lays the foundation for a space that will serve generations to come.

Please continue to keep this project in your prayers: that we would move forward in faith, with clarity, unity, and joyful generosity. We trust that God will provide, in His perfect time and in His perfect way.

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# From the Pastor's Pen

## Sin, Free Will, and the Comfort of the Gospel

Few topics cause more confusion in American Christianity than the question of **free will**. Many churches speak as though human beings are spiritually neutral—capable of choosing God if they simply try hard enough, pray sincerely enough, or “make a decision for Christ.” But Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions teach a far different—and far more comforting—truth.

To understand this clearly, we must distinguish between **earthly free will** and **spiritual free will**.

### Earthly Free Will: Yes, We Have It

The **Formula of Concord** makes an important distinction: human beings retain a measure of freedom in **earthly matters**. We can choose between oatmeal or eggs for breakfast, between becoming a teacher or a mechanic, between telling the truth or telling a lie. Luther calls this “outward righteousness” or “civil righteousness.”

In other words, in the things of daily life—family, work, society—people can make real choices. Even unbelievers can act with kindness, discipline, or generosity. This is part of God’s good creation.

But this earthly freedom does **not** extend into the things of God.

### Spiritual Free Will: No, We Do Not Have It

When it comes to spiritual matters—repentance, faith, conversion, loving God—Scripture teaches that the human will is not free but **bound**. St. Paul writes that we are “dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1). Dead people do not cooperate. They do not reach out. They do not choose.

The **Formula of Concord, Article II (“Free Will”)** states this with clarity:

- After the Fall, the human will is “**dead to what is good**” in spiritual matters.
- The unregenerate person **cannot** choose God, prepare for grace, or cooperate in conversion.
- Faith is **entirely** the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word and Sacraments.

This is not pessimism. It is honesty about sin—and it protects the Gospel.

### Where American Evangelicalism Often Goes Wrong

Much of American evangelicalism blurs or denies this distinction. Common errors include:

- **Decision theology**: “God has done His part; now you must decide.”
- **Altar-call pressure**: Emotional manipulation replaces the Spirit’s work through the Word.
- **Self-generated faith**: Believing is treated as a human accomplishment.
- **The drowning analogy**: The sinner is pictured as weak but still able to grab the rope.

But Scripture does not describe sinners as drowning. It describes them as **dead**. And dead sinners do not “meet God halfway.”

When the human will is given even a small role in salvation, the Gospel becomes uncertain. “Did I choose sincerely enough? Was my decision real? Did I do my part?” The focus shifts from Christ’s finished work to my fragile will.

## The Lutheran Confession: Christ Alone Saves

The Lutheran Confessions reject every form of synergism—every teaching that says God and man cooperate in conversion. The **Augsburg Confession** teaches that faith is created “through the Gospel” (AC V). The Small Catechism confesses, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him.” The **Formula of Concord** insists that conversion is **monergistic**—God alone acts.

This is not a cold doctrine. It is the warm beating heart of the Gospel.

If salvation depended on your will, you could never be sure. But because salvation depends entirely on Christ—His cross, His resurrection, His Word—you can rest in His promises.

## Why This Matters for St. Luke’s

This distinction between earthly and spiritual free will shapes everything we do:

- We preach Christ, not decision.
- We trust the Spirit, not emotional pressure.
- We center worship on God’s action, not ours.
- We comfort sinners with certainty, not with conditions.

The world says, “You are free to choose your own spiritual destiny.” The Scriptures say, “You were dead, and God made you alive in Christ” (Ephesians 2:5). The first message is flattering. The second is saving.

And the second is the one we confess.

In Christ,

*Pastor Schmidt*

## Events to put on your calendar...

### **Mission Festival – Sunday, May 3**

St. Luke's Mission Festival is coming soon, and we hope you'll join us for this joyful day of worship, fellowship, and congregational life. On this special Sunday, we will gather for **one service at 10:00 a.m.** inside the sanctuary, where our preacher will be **Rev. Paul P. Hoemann**, Senior Gift Officer for Seminary Support at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Following worship, we invite all families to bring a **side dish, salad, or dessert to share** for our congregational meal at **11:30 a.m.** The day will conclude with a **Voters' Meeting at 1:00 p.m.**, during which we will elect half of our Council and half of our Elders. Come celebrate the mission of Christ's Church and the work He continues to do among us.

### **Congregational Elections on Sunday, May 3**

Our congregation will hold its Voters' Meeting on Sunday, May 3, at 1:00 p.m., during which we will elect half of our Council and half of our Elders. Council positions up for election include President, Vice-President, and the chairs for Parish Communications, Campus Ministry, Stewardship, Elder Chairman, Fellowship & Assimilation, Adult Ministry, and Youth. Each term is two years, with the possibility of serving two consecutive terms. We give thanks for the faithful service of Natalie Winter (Youth Chair), who has reached her term limit, as well as elders Jay Peterson, Vince Redding, and Shane Rengstorf, who are completing their consecutive terms. If you are willing to serve or would like more information, please speak with Mark Hateshol (President) or Shane Rengstorf (Head Elder)

### **Ascension Day Service – Thursday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m.**

The Church rejoices that the risen Christ has not left us but now fills all things for the good of His people. Our service on Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. will celebrate the victory, reign, and abiding presence of our Lord, who ascended not to depart but to be with us always in His Word and Sacraments. Join us as we lift our voices in praise, hear the promises of Scripture, and take comfort in the Savior who reigns for us and remains with us.

### **Early Learning Center Family Fun Night – Thursday, May 21, at 5:30 p.m.**

Join us for a joyful evening at our Early Learning Center Family Fun Night on Thursday, May 21, 5:30–7:30 p.m. We'll share a delicious meal together, celebrate our "big kids" as they graduate and prepare for Kindergarten, and enjoy a lively silent auction that supports the ministry of our ELC. It's a wonderful chance for our congregation and school families to connect, encourage one another, and give thanks for the growth God is working in our children. We'd love to see you there.

### **Vacation Bible School: June 7–11 – Join the Adventure at Rainforest Falls**

Vacation Bible School is coming June 7–11, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. (Sunday–Thursday), and our church will be transformed into Rainforest Falls, a place where children discover God's love, hear the good news of Jesus, and experience the joy of learning together. VBS is one of our most meaningful outreach opportunities, and we need the help of our whole church family to make it flourish—whether through teaching, crafts, snacks, games, music, or simply being a caring presence for kids. Now is also the perfect time to register the children in your life—your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, and the children in your neighborhood. You can sign up to serve or register a child at <https://vbspro.events/p/8114db>. Let's fill Rainforest Falls with laughter, learning, and the love of Jesus.

## From the Director of Christian Education

This spring during my many trips around and across town I saw a church sign that really made me smile. I guess you might say it hit at just the right time. As I drove by the sign said: **Spring Has Sprung...just like Jesus from the tomb. Join us in worshipping Him.** What a fun way to proclaim the Gospel!

It made me think of spring flowers springing up as if to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the new opportunity we have to be in relationship with the Creator and the Redeemer of all things! When the temple curtain was torn in two opening up the Holy of Holies space (access directly to God) for all of us! What a gift we have been given! Alleluia!

I hope as you see the flowers of spring coming up you can join me in seeing them trumpeting the celebration of God's love and His work for us! We are so blessed.

**Spring Has Sprung! Just like Jesus from the tomb! Let us worship together! Alleluia!**

In God's Grace and Peace,

*- William Prann*

Please continue your partnership with me as I pray for our Pastor, our leaders, our volunteers, for all the families at St Luke's. God is working in, around, and through us for His glory and for the benefit of the community around us. In situations like these Satan takes immense pleasure in causing discord and unrest. Please pray that each of us will "Fix our eyes on Christ" and that we would not be distracted by Satan's efforts.

# HAPPENINGS

## Traveling Bulletin

*When you worship at another church, please bring the worship folder and bulletin to the church office with your name on. We will post your name and where you've worshipped, hopefully stimulating conversation of where you've visited. And, our staff will get the chance to see what other churches are doing.*

*Bran & Susan Brunkow, Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS*

*Hamlin & Dorothy Burtness, Larry Wesche, Ascension Lutheran Church, Wichita KS*

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## Early Learning Center

St. Luke's ELC Family Fun Night is fast approaching and we would greatly appreciate your help! This event serves as a large fundraising event for the ELC. Along with the children's ceremony and celebration, we provide a free-will donation offering, meal, games for the children and a silent auction. The event will be held at our facility on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 from 5:30-7:30pm.

We are seeking your support in the form of donations for our silent auction. If you are willing and able, please consider donating any of the following: monetary gifts for purchasing items, gift certificates, personalized items, new toys, new books, new sporting equipment, themed baskets, or any other item that can be auctioned off at the event. You can find suggestions for donations on the middle doors in the entry of St. Luke's Lutheran Church!

We are also accepting donations of juice boxes and cans of soda for a ring toss game!

All donations can be dropped off in the ELC or Church office by May 15th. Your donation will greatly benefit our current and future students and families! The ELC Board, Staff, Students and Families truly appreciate your continued help and support!

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## Flint Hills Lutherans for Life - Let's Celebrate Moms & Dads!

One of Flint Hills Lutherans For Life's yearly projects is to ask our church members to collect NEW items for Life Choice Ministries. This is done between Mother's Day and Father's Day as a celebration of the moms and dads who choose Life. They also choose to take pre-natal and parenting classes to become better parents. The items we collect will be in the parents' room. Parents earn points for taking classes and then they can choose from the items you donate! The items needed are: toddler boy shoes- sizes 4-9, cabinet locks, muslin swaddles, Dr. Brown baby bottles, stroller fans, baby carriers (the ones you can carry the baby in the front), highchairs (Grab a friend to share the cost!)

# HAPPENINGS

## Special Voters' Meeting

There will be a **Special Voters' Meeting, Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> @ 9:45 a.m.** for the purpose of voting to move forward with the **Phase II Building Project**. During the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Voters' Meeting, a presentation will be made and an opportunity to ask questions will be available.

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## Mission of Love Quilting Circle

The Quilts that were Blessed in April are on their way to Lithuania. It is interesting to see how such a small Mission as our little group at St Luke's can reach those in need in such far distant locations. May God Bless everyone that assists in their transportation keep them safe! May each one that receives one to these quilts Know that someone cares about them & pray they will be led to Christ.

Thanks to everyone who has donated ingredients and to the gals that continue to create the quilts. Anyone that could help in making tops for us or content to help tie on the 2nd Tuesday of each month is certainly appreciated!

Dorothy Burtness. 785-341-5530

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## American Heritage Girls (AHG)

AHG has enjoyed a great year of fun, faith, and service. Activities this spring included lock-ins, a mother-daughter tea, and a trip to Omaha zoo. Our final campout to Sycamore Springs is coming up at the beginning of May. Then in June, we will take some of our girls on a high adventure to Colorado, something we haven't done in a few years. In all that we do, our efforts aim to glorify God. We are so grateful to St. Luke's for your continued support and prayers. As we approach the end of the year, we ask you to consider volunteering with us. **Our biggest need is a treasurer** who has knowledge of Excel and serves on the board. Please prayerfully consider taking on this role to further the ministry of St. Luke's through AHG. We also **invite you to attend our Award Ceremony on May 23, 1-3PM** to celebrate the achievements of our girls over the past year. We hope to see you there!

# MONTHLY CALENDAR

Worship with us | Saturday 6:30 pm | Sunday 8:30 & 11 am

Friday 5/1

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video

Sunday 5/3

- 10 am Mission Fest Service
- 11:30 am Pot Luck
- 1 pm Voters' Meeting
- 3 pm Pastor's New Member Class
- 7 pm Lutheran Layman's League

Monday 5/4

- 6 pm American Heritage Girls
- 6:30 pm Trail Life USA
- 7 pm Card Making

Tuesday 5/5

- 7 am Men's Bible Study
- 10 am LWML/Elizabeth Circle
- 1:30 pm Cancer Companion
- 7 pm Elders' Meeting

Wednesday 5/6

- 9:30 am ELC Chapel
- 5:15 pm Praise & Worship Team Rehearsal

Friday 5/8

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video

Sunday 5/10

- 9:45 am Adult & Children's Sunday School

Monday 5/11

- 9 am Women's Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Trail Life USA Mtg
- 7 pm Card Making

Tuesday 5/12

- 7 am Men's Bible Study
- 9 am Mission of Love Quilting Circle
- 1:30 pm Cancer Companions
- 7 pm LWML-Mary/Martha Circle

Wednesday 5/13

- 9:30 am ELC Chapel
- 5:15 pm Praise & Worship Team Rehearsal
- 6 pm Moms' Group

Friday 5/15

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video

Sunday 5/17

- 9:45 am Adult School

Monday 5/18

- 6 pm American Heritage Girls
- 6:30 pm Trail Life USA
- 7 pm Card Making

Tuesday 5/19

- 7 am Men's Bible Study
- 1:30 pm Cancer Companions
- 7:30 pm Theology on Tap

Wednesday 5/20

- 9:30 am ELC Chapel
- 5:15 pm Praise & Worship Team Rehearsal

Thursday 5/21

- 5:30 pm ELC Graduation, Family Fun Night, and Silent Auction

Friday 5/22

- Church Office Closed

Saturday 5/23

- 1 pm American Heritage Girls Award Ceremony

Sunday 5/24

- 9:45 am Adult Sunday School

# MONTHLY CALENDAR

Monday 5/25

MEMORIAL DAY - Church Office Closed

Tuesday 5/26

- 7 am Men's Bible Study
- 1:30 pm Cancer Companions
- 7 pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday 5/27

- 9:30 am ELC Chapel
- 10:30 am Moms' Group/Anneberg Park
- 5:15 pm Praise & Worship Team Rehearsal

Friday 5/29

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video

Saturday 5/30

- 11:30 am LWML KS District Transition Meeting

Sunday 5/31

- 9:45 am Adult Sunday School



MAY 1 Cory Dieball  
 MAY 2 Donna Kroenlein  
 MAY 3 Barry Fickbohm  
 David Cederberg  
 Dorothy Burtness  
  
 MAY 4 Derek Winter  
 MAY 7 Kaden Lemaster  
 MAY 8 Pat Oberhelman  
 Seth Wagner  
 Jeff Sturdy  
 Sue Jenkins  
  
 MAY 9 Bill Moore  
 MAY 11 Kelly Burris  
 MAY 13 James Hartsook  
 MAY 15 Joshua Abitz  
 Tracie Hudson  
  
 MAY 16 Nolan Michael  
 MAY 17 Bryce Burris  
 Patsy Havenstein  
  
 MAY 20 Teagen Thiele  
 MAY 22 Gavin Hudson  
 MAY 23 Howard Beikmann  
 MAY 24 Channing  
 Hagenmaier  
  
 MAY 26 Gretchen Hartsook  
 MAY 27 Sarah Larson  
 MAY 29 Nancy Kopp  
 Alyssa Juracek  
  
 MAY 31 Bowen Winter

## ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 3 Doug & LaRae Kraemer  
 Ethan & Hallie Willsey  
  
 MAY 19 Scott & Beverly Winter  
 Michael & Patsy Havenstein  
  
 MAY 22 Paul & Nancy Zidek  
 MAY 23 Jim & Sue Jenkins  
 Logan & Tristen Redding  
  
 MAY 25 Steve & Ann Williams  
 MAY 27 Byron & Melanie Jones  
 Duane & Jeanette Campbell  
 Walt & Marilyn Fick  
 Lynn & Connie Thomas  
  
 MAY 28 Del & Maxine Ganske  
 MAY 30 Jon & Heidi Brott



## **Follow Him in Generosity**

*Originally published in May 2023*

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

# LCMS STEWARDSHIP

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.



# ACOLYTES



## ACOLYTES

<b>MAY 3</b>	<b>MISSION FESTIVAL</b>	Anna Larson	<b>10:00 am</b>
	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 8:30 am	Sun 11:00 am
<b>MAY 9/10</b>		Samuel Lyons	
<b>MAY 14</b>	<b>ASCENSION DAY</b>	Lillian Robinett	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>MAY 16/17</b>	Brynlee Rengstorf	Archer Manning	Claire Deetjen
<b>MAY 23/24</b>		Nolan Michael	
<b>MAY 30/31</b>		Stella Hammons	Jovie Winter

# ELDERS

Jon Brott, 785-410-1670

Paul Stuckwisch, 785-577-6687

Kim Zier, 913-787-2710

Randy Hattesohl, 785-259-5157

Tim Oelke, 785-565-2369

Shawn Thiele, 785-313-3950

Jay Peterson, 785-477-6185

Andrew Hudson, 308-240-1488

Kyle Larson, 913-633-1570

David Hatesohl, 785-845-8124

Vince Redding, 785-587-7957

Shane Rengstorf, 785-556-1277

# COUNCIL

President	Mark Hatesohl, 785-564-0174
Vice President	Dennis Tegtmeier, 785-313-1879
Secretary	Karen Armbrust, 785-341-5908
Treasurer	Logan Winter, 913-209-3396
Adult Ministry	Walt Fick, 785-776-0879
Campus Ministry	Jessica Jones, 307-259-2155
Children's Ministry	Tristen Redding
Christan Care	Julie Hatesohl, 785-236-0493
Outreach/Missions	Garrett Lister, 785-713-1675
Fellowship/Assimilation	Carol Deetjen, 785-565-1982
Parish Communications	Chari Miller, 620-793-0121
Properties Management	Brad Brunkow, 580-716-8187
Preschool Education	Marilyn Fick, 785-776-0879
Stewardship	Lori Uffman, 785-410-0119
Youth Ministry	Natalie Winter, 785-409-9141
Head Elder	Shane Rengstorf, 785-556-1277