

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

Few teachings are more central to our Lutheran identity than the confession that we are justified—declared righteous—**by faith alone, on account of Christ alone**. Yet after Luther's death in 1546, this precious doctrine became clouded by controversy. The Formula of Concord (**1577**), especially Article III in both the Epitome and Solid Declaration, was written to restore clarity, unity, and comfort to the Church.

Why This Article Had to Be Written

In the decades after Luther's death, several theological errors arose—some from Luther's own colleagues and students. These errors threatened the heart of the Gospel and created deep pastoral uncertainty.

1. Philip Melancthon's Synergistic Drift

Melancthon, Luther's closest coworker, gradually shifted in his teaching on conversion. In later editions of his Loci Communes and in the **Leipzig Interim (1548)**, he taught that the human will cooperates in conversion by **"not resisting"** the Holy Spirit. This introduced a subtle but real **synergism** into the doctrine of justification.

As Bente summarizes, Melancthon's later position **"opened the door for synergistic interpretations of conversion"** (Bente, Historical Introductions, p. 128).

Melancthon also increasingly defined faith in terms of **renewal and obedience**, blurring the line between justification and sanctification. Kolb/Wengert note that the Philippists **"blurred the distinction between justification and renewal"** (Kolb/Wengert, Book of Concord, p. 475).

The Formula of Concord responds by insisting that:

- Faith justifies **not because it is formed by love**,
- but because it **receives Christ and His righteousness**.

2. Andreas Osiander's Confusion of Justification and Sanctification

Osiander taught that we are justified by **Christ's divine nature dwelling in us**, rather than by Christ's obedience for us. This made righteousness something in the believer rather than something **imputed** to the believer.

Bente describes Osiander's error as grounding justification **"in the indwelling of Christ's divine nature"** (Bente, p. 120).

The Formula of Concord rejects this and confesses that our righteousness before God is **Christ's entire obedience—active and passive—credited to us**.

3. George Major and Justus Menius on Good Works

Major and Menius, both connected to Melancthon, taught that **good works are necessary for salvation** or **that they preserve salvation**. Though intended to encourage Christian living, their formulations placed works into the article of justification.

Bente summarizes Major's position as teaching that **"good works are necessary to salvation"** (Bente, p. 155).

The Formula of Concord restores clarity: Good works necessarily follow faith, but they **do not justify**, preserve, or contribute to salvation.

4. Franciscus Stancarus on Christ's Person

Stancarus argued that Christ justifies us only according to His **human nature**, denying the full unity of Christ's person in the work of redemption. Bente notes that Stancarus **"excluded the divine nature from the work of justification"** (Bente, p. 124).

The Formula reaffirms that the **one Christ**, according to both natures, is our righteousness.

What the Formula of Concord Confesses

The Solid Declaration III gives the Church a clear and comforting confession:

- **Christ alone is our righteousness before God.**
- His perfect obedience, suffering, death, and resurrection are **imputed** to us.
- **Faith alone** receives this righteousness.
- Good works follow faith but **do not justify**.
- The conscience finds certainty only when righteousness rests entirely on Christ.

As Bente beautifully summarizes, the Formula **"sweeps away every admixture of human merit"** (Bente, p. 142).

Why This Still Matters

Every age—including ours—is tempted to smuggle human effort back into the article of justification. But the Formula of Concord calls us back to the heart of the Gospel: **Christ alone is our righteousness. Faith is the empty hand that receives Him.**

This confession anchors our preaching, teaching, and life together at St. Luke's.

Although I am submitting this article before the big celebration on July 26, I want you to know how much I deeply appreciate St. Luke's. It is truly a slice of heaven for me. Thank you for your love, your support, and your faithfulness. It is an honor to publicly exercise the Office of the Holy Ministry among you, declaring and announcing the forgiveness Christ won for us all.

Pastor Schmitt

From the Director of Christian Education

WOW! Summer is going by very quickly!

Here are some things to add to your calendar for the beginning of Fall!

Sept 13th – Beginning of Weekly Sunday School at 9:30am

Sept 16th – Beginning of Midweek (Brothers And Sisters In Christ – B.A.S.I.C.) 6:00-7:15pm

I encourage families to participate! Bring your kids and get involved! It's a great place for your child to learn they are Loved, Valued, and Not Alone because of Jesus at St. Luke's. In addition it's a great place for parents share the journey of parenthood and take your mind off the world while sharing God's love with amazing kids!

The fall is also a great time to start or restart personal devotion! I encourage everyone to grab a Portals of Prayer for a quick and encouraging way to start your day! In addition, there are a few new books that I think are worth a read:

Embracing Your Lutheran Identity – Gene Edward Veith Jr.

Ten Lies Satan Loves to Tell – Andrew R. Jones

Dying to Live – Harold L. Senbeil

Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Grace: God's Purpose in Your Every Day – Martha Van Buskirk

Let us continue to shine Christ's love, Care and Gospel message to everyone we meet! Use words only when necessary!

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.

Jessica Jones, Gedachtniskirche, Speyer, Germany

Heiliggeistkirche, Heidelberg, Germany

Paroisse de la Croix, Strasbourg, France

The Lister Family, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Junction City, KS

Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Denver, CO

Bill & Glenda Moore, King of Glory, Williamsburg, VA

Update from the Church Building Planning Committee

The committee has held two meetings with our architect SPT. During these discussions, the architects reviewed our initial sketches and are now developing plans and adjustments, including some exterior possibilities to achieve a desirable "church look".

The next updates will reflect what is practical, achievable, and cost-effective. We hope to share more detailed updates with the congregation soon.

More Handicap Parking Spots

There have been several occasions where the handicap parking was full, so council approved adding spots north and south of the circle. Bids to do the job were quite expensive so volunteers did the painting saving a lot of cost. It looks pretty good for amateurs!

Volunteer Property Help

A big thank you to our volunteers who do lawn work, landscaping, and minor repairs on the church property. You know who you are so pat yourself on the back. If you would like to be included in communication of opportunities contact Brad Brunkow 580-716-8187. There are many projects that do not require a high level of skill. This work is important in service of God's Kingdom.

HAPPENINGS

Flint Hills Lutherans For Life Presentation on Human Trafficking

Think it doesn't happen in Kansas or Riley County???

Kansas, including its central location and major interstates (I-70 and I-35), is considered a hub for midwestern commerce and exchange points, which can be exploited by traffickers. Children make up a significant portion of victims.

Per Riley County PD report: Recently a 36-year-old woman of Manhattan, was arrested at approximately 4:10 p.m. on June 25 in the 1300 block of Marlatt Avenue on one count of human trafficking; threatening to cause physical injury. A 25-year-old woman was listed as the victim. This arrest stems from a report originally filed in May 2026.

Details regarding a presentation on this matter will be announced.

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY to Cancer Companions at St. Luke's

On August 27, 2016, a small group including Judy Boye, Carolyn Valarius, John Johnson and Jamie Spikes met with Family Therapist Karen Tripp from St. Louis to start a support group for patients, families and survivors of cancer at St. Lukes and within the community. Karen identified cancer as an overriding health issue for a number of her clients. Initially our group had a bit of a problem finding a meeting place. We started meeting in the church basement at put former location and at then at the Blue House. Then we moved to the basement of the local hospital and that was not as private as we needed and would like. Then we moved to the Chapel at Via Christi Nursing Home, and that worked very well. However, with the advent of Covid, we needed to leave there so we started meeting again at our current church location. At each meeting we have a lesson with Bible references, and topics related to dealing with cancer. We share current conditions and treatments, and helpful hints for those who are currently in treatment. Also, Jamie has gone with patients to physician office appointments and to hospital procedures when family members are not able to go with the patient. When the time comes and asked, Cancer Companion members sit with St. Luke's members or family of members at hospice. Besides our in-house Cancer Companions group, there is a CC group of patients and families around the country that meet by Zoom on Tues. evenings. Our group has been invited to and accepted the privilege to pray for and with others involved with cancer during the month-long televised cancer prayers. It is an honor, and we are thankful that God has blessed St. Luke's and those involved with Cancer Campions. We appreciate the various kinds of support St. Luke' members have given to Cancer Companions. With God's help, we hope to celebrate many more birthdays at St. Luke's as Cancer Companions. To God be the glory!

MONTHLY CALENDAR

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

Saturday 8/1

- 9 am AHG Leader Retreat

Sunday 8/2

- 9:45 am Adult Sunday School

Monday 8/3

- 5:45 pm Children's Ministry Mtg
- 6:30 pm Trail Life USA Mtg
- 7 pm Card Making

Tuesday 8/4

- 7 am Men's Bible Study
- 10 am LWML Elizabeth Circle
- 1:30 pm Cancer Companions
- 7 pm Elders' Mtg

Wednesday 8/5

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

Friday 8/7

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video
- 10 am Building Design Cmte

Sunday 8/9

- 9:45 am Adult Sunday School

Monday 8/10

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

Tuesday 8/11

- 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 8/12

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

Friday 8/14

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video

Sunday 8/16

- 9:45 am Adult Sunday School

Monday 8/17

- 6 pm AHG Open House
- 6:30 pm Trail Life USA Mtg
- 7 pm Card Making

Tuesday 8/18

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

Wednesday 8/19

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

Friday 8/21

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video
- 10 am Building Design Cmte

Saturday 8/22

- 9 am AHG CPR Class

Sunday 8/23

- 9:45 am Adult Sunday School

Monday 8/24

- Women's Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Trail Life USA Open House
- 7 pm Card Making

Tuesday 8/25

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

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Wednesday 8/26

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

Friday 8/28

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video
- 6 pm Hunter's Education Class

Saturday 8/29

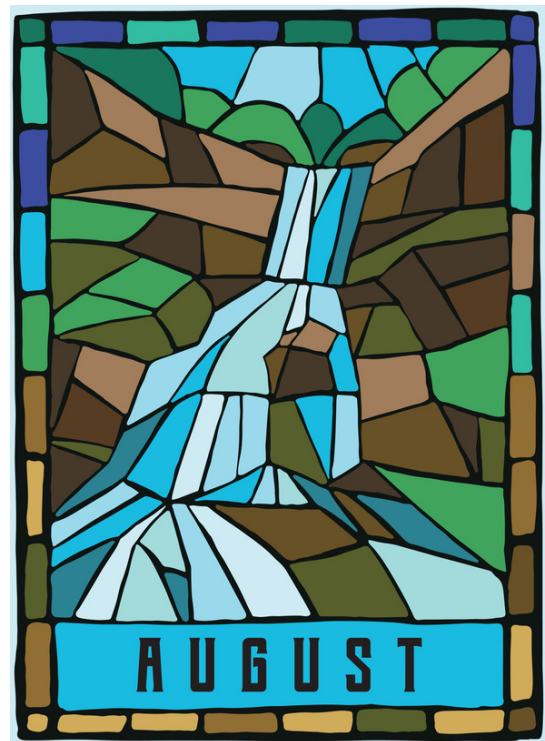
- 8 am Hunter's Education Class

Sunday 8/30

- 9:45 am Adult Sunday School

Monday 8/31

- 7 pm Card Making



AUGUST 1	Breanne Jones Cohen Hagenmaier
AUGUST 2	LeAnn Sturdy
AUGUST 3	Addy Larson
AUGUST 5	Nora Stuckwisch
AUGUST 6	Ann Zier
AUGUST 7	Morris Olson Grant Kohlmeier
AUGUST 8	Glenda Moore Kaitlyn Barber Sheila Frihart Jordan Frihart
AUGUST 9	Mac McLain
AUGUST 10	Audrey Hammons
AUGUST 12	Anna Murphy
AUGUST 15	Warren Michael
AUGUST 16	Lowell Kohlmeier Michael Havenstein
AUGUST 20	Diana Havenstein Joan Spiker Perry Reid
AUGUST 21	Jim Kroenlein
AUGUST 22	Isaura Garcia
AUGUST 23	Jase Rengstorf Diane Mosier
AUGUST 24	Tristen Redding Larry Wesche Terry Barta
AUGUST 27	Ali Gordon Martha Mooneyham
AUGUST 28	Douglas Newland
AUGUST 29	Janet Beach
AUGUST 30	Riley Lynch
AUGUST 31	Dale Grunewald

ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST 11	Chuck & Fran Veatch Larry & Liana Eagan
AUGUST 15	Steve & Gayle Heitman
AUGUST 16	Randall & Amy Juracek
AUGUST 20	Terry & Mary Lynn Barta Dennis & Bonita Tegtmeier
AUGUST 23	Mike & Kristina Schmidt
AUGUST 30	Kyle & Sarah Larson



LCMS STEWARDSHIP

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Define Your Life by How You Give
Originally Published in August 2023

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living have on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

ACOLYTES



ACOLYTES

	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 8:30 am	Sun 11:00 am
AUGUST 1/2		Stella Hammons	
AUGUST 8/9	Brynlee Rengstorf	Olivia Badamo	Wyatt Barber
AUGUST 15/16		Anna Larson	Jovie Winter
AUGUST 22/23		Samuel Lyons	Claire Deetjen
AUGUST 29/30		Archer Manning	

ELDERS

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Paul Stuckwisch, 785-577-6687

Tim Oelke, 785-565-2369

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Head Elder