

# St. Luke's Monthly

*Sharing Christ's love with those around us*



## JULY 2025

### 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

On the western outskirts of Manhattan, Kansas, a city that offers a unique blend of small-town charm and collegiate vibrancy, St. Luke's Lutheran Church stood as a beacon of hope and community, faithfully using Scripture to enable and equip its people to share Jesus Christ's love with those around them.

At the weekend services on a warm June day, Pastor Schmidt's message focused on God's nurturing love and the joy that comes from being part of His family. He highlighted Isaiah 66:13. He pointed out that comfort for God's people comes through his church. Comfort is not a vague feeling or disembodied hope. Comfort is God's presence in this world through his people, gathered around his means of grace and speaking the truth of his Word to one another. The congregation felt invigorated, eager to put their faith into action.

That Sunday afternoon, the members of St. Luke's gathered for a picnic. They brought food to share. Some brought salads or side-dishes. Others brought desserts. (There were always plenty of desserts at these events.) The youth who would be attending the national Youth Gathering in July cooked and served hamburgers and hotdogs. They also provided activities and games for everyone to enjoy. Conversations and laughter flowed for several hours. They embodied the spirit of community.

At the event, several folks made plans to be the "hands of Christ" to care for those who are struggling. They hope to focus on the shut-ins, the recently hospitalized, and those who recently lost a loved one. Others chatted about getting involved in Flint Hills Lutherans for Life. It is their desire to encourage others to be "for life" from conception to grave.

The next day, a group met at a local restaurant and reflected on Galatians 6:1-10. They discussed how they could bear one another's burdens and support each other in their daily lives. They shared stories of faith and encouragement, reminding one another that they were called to serve, not just within the church but in the broader community.

On Monday night, Trail Life and AHG met at the same time. The devotion that evening was from Luke 10:1-20. They heard about the 72 disciples being sent out into the world to proclaim the Kingdom of God through their love and service.

The members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church know they not only make a difference in the lives of others but that they also have a solid faith in Christ. Through the Word and Sacrament, they were reminded of God's unwavering love in Christ, empowering them to continue living out their faith in joyful service. The bonds of community had grown stronger, and the transformative power of God's love was evident in every heart.

The above story is in the genre of historical fiction, based in more truth than fiction.

*- Pastor Schmidt*

## From the Director of Christian Education

In this season of the celebration of Pentecost and the consideration of “How we live out the life God has given us.” I am thinking about habits. Habits can be good or they can be bad. It seems that when a habit is good it is easily thrown off but when it is bad it is really hard to shake!?

As many of you know, Tricia and I have moved into our new home. We feel very blessed. However, I will confess that this move has thrown off some really great habits I had going and brought back a few habits that I felt I had beaten!?

- I had a regular exercise routine and now I have not “exercised” since the move began.
- I had a regular devotional schedule and now I find myself grabbing it “when I have a moment.” It’s been done; but not done well. That is not the mindset I want to have!
- I had a regular eating routine and now I am grabbing food (not usually good food) and eating it on the go. I can literally feel this slide in my body and mind.
- I was spending time with Tricia and Spencer (usually a morning or evening walk) and now it’s an end of the day, last minute, “I guess I should do this” kind of thing. Not the heart that I want to put forth toward the ones I love the most. I want to do better.

I am willing to bet I am not the only one feeling this way or having experienced this. I also believe that our faith, our habits, and our lives are fundamentally tied together.

I am being transparent to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, so that you can encourage me OR join me this month in restoring healthy habits into our lives for God’s glory and to the benefit of those God has placed around us.

This reminds me of Paul’s analogy of his walk of faith and an athlete in the games:

- 1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

I am also reminded of the many Biblical references to the concept of Mutual Encouragement:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:4-28: A great encouragement for all of us!
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-11: The cycle of encouragement: God’s to us and ours to others

Let’s make July the launch pad of some fresh starts and new beginnings for God’s glory and the benefit of those He has placed around us!

- William Prann

# 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, Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Casper WY

Kevin & Joyce Jones, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Laramie, WY

Dan & Diane Murphy, Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis, MN

Scott Stone/Susan Spain, Revolution Church, Salina, KS

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## Are you the next Children's Ministry Chair?

Tiffany Manning has served St. Luke's for the past 4 years as our Children's Ministry Board chairperson! Huge Thanks to her for her spirit of service to St. Luke's Children's Ministry. In light of this, she will be "terming out" and not eligible for another term! We are searching for someone who has a heart for children and is willing to serve in this capacity for St. Luke's!

Please let Tiffany, Pastor, or anyone on the church council, if you might be interested or would like more information about the position. God bless you all as you prayerfully consider your service to St. Luke's!

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## BAKE-LESS BAKE SALE - JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> THRU JULY 27<sup>TH</sup>

A bit of news we have today,  
A Bake-less Bake Sale is on the way.  
These busy days, who has the time?  
To bake pies, cookies or even a cake?

We've thought of a plan that's truly grand,  
And feel quite sure that you'll understand.  
This is the end of our little tale,  
Help make a success of our Bake-less Bake Sale!

Fundraiser sponsored by:

St. Luke's LWML Elizabeth Circle

Please make checks payable to: St. Luke's LWML

All proceeds go to Shepherd's Crossing

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# MONTHLY CALENDAR

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

Tuesday 7/1

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

Wednesday 7/2

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

Monday 7/7

- 7 pm Card Making

Tuesday 7/8

- 7 am Men's Bible Study
- 9 am Mission of Love
- 1:30 pm Cancer Companions

Wednesday 7/9

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

Monday 7/14

- 7 pm Card Making

Tuesday 7/15

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

Wednesday 7/16

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

Thursday 7/17

- Sr High departs for LCMS Gathering

Monday 7/21

- 7 pm Card Making

Tuesday 7/22

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

Wednesday 7/23

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

Thursday 7/24

- Sr High returns from LCMS Gathering

Monday 7/28

- 7 pm Card Making

Tuesday 7/29

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

Wednesday 7/30

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

# BIRTHDAYS

JULY 4 DUANE CAMPBELL  
 JULY 5 RYAN KRUSE  
 BETHANY ZIDEK  
 JULY 6 GRACE HAGENMAIER  
 JULY 7 KIMBERLY SPAIN  
 JULY 8 RYAN WILLIAMS  
 EVAN WILLIAMS  
 ANGEL KOHLS  
 EVAN ROSENOW  
 JULY 10 LOGAN REDDING  
 JULY 11 TERESA LYNCH  
 JULY 12 SCOTT STONE  
 DARRIN FREY  
 JULY 13 JOCELYN BROTT  
 OWEN STUCKWISCH  
 DEL GANSKE  
 JULY 14 DONNA MYERS  
 ZACHARY DAVIS  
 JULY 15 AIDAN PROCTOR  
 DIANE MURPHY  
 JULY 16 PAULINA BURKE  
 JULY 17 HEATHER FONG  
 KRISTIHAGEMAN  
 LEVI TUCKER  
 GARRETT LISTER  
 JULY 19 AUGUST HARTSOOK  
 JULY 20 JAKOB HUTTER  
 WILL MIESNER  
 JULY 22 THEODORE HUTTER  
 JULY 23 KEN CULBERTSON  
 JULY 24 SUSAN BRUNKOW  
 JULY 26 MARY LOU MORGAN  
 JULY 28 DONNA SMITH (BURTON)  
 JULY 29 JOSHUA KOHLS

# ANNIVERSARIES

JULY 1 RYAN & TERESA LYNCH  
 JULY 5 DEREK & JANA WINTER  
 JULY 14 JOHN & KAREN ARMBRUST  
 JULY 15 DAN & DIANE MURPHY  
 KEN & CAROLYN CULBERTSON  
 JULY 18 GARRETT & ALYSON LISTER  
 LOGAN & NATALIE WINTER  
 JULY 19 DAVID & DONNA CEDERBERG  
 JULY 24 WILL & TERRY WHEMUELLER  
 JULY 25 MAC & ALICE MCLAIN  
 IAN & GRETCHEN HARTSOOK  
 JULY 26 MARK & DEANNE BURRIS  
 SCOTT & TIFFANY MANNING  
 JULY 31 RALPH & LINDA SIMON

# LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." That "us" is all inclusive. It's you and me. It's the child being passed from one foster home to another. It is the child with a disability. The person in the nursing home who is bed-ridden. And, the unwanted baby in the womb. God loves each and everyone one of us. He values each of us.

When it comes to you and me, do we go 'off script' when talking about life issues? We attend church, we sing the songs and pray the prayers. Then there's the BUT! In other words, are we not "for" life when it doesn't suit our situation? Or, maybe when it affects a family member, or someone close to us. How can we not value human life when God does?

Aren't you thrilled and grateful that God doesn't just pick "some" to love and die for. I know I am! He picks ALL!

## LCMS STEWARDSHIP

### **Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard**

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as "no big deal." St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God's purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.



# LCMS STEWARDSHIP CONT.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord's, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How is He calling me to respond?

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God's glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. Weekly. Daily. Faithfully.



# TREASURER REPORT

In May the church had \$33,549 in income and \$39,113 in expenses. The ELC netted \$5,496 bringing a net loss for the month to \$68. Net income for the year is \$97,7680, this includes \$43,316 raised for Phase II. Total saved for Phase II is \$154,842.

- Logan Winter

## JUNE OFFICIAL ACTS

Transferred In **Kerry & Misty Winter**

Profession of Faith

Baptisms **Bennet William Evans  
James Luther Hartsook**

Marriages **Ethan Willsey & Hallie Wiechman**

Transferred to Kingdom of Glory

## ACOLYTES

	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 8:30 am	Sun 11:00 am
JULY 5/6		Teagan Thiele	Jovie Winter
JULY 12/13		Samuel Lyons	Wyatt Barber
JULY 19/20		Anna Larson	Hunter Gong
JULY 26/27		Archer Manning	Sarah Oelke

# ELDERS

Kevin Jones, 620-388-3497	Scott Ahlgrim, 316-212-3917
Jay Peterson, 785-477-6185	David Hatesohl, 785-845-8124
Chris Deetjen, 785-776-4137	Tim Oelke, 785-565-2369
Andrew Hudson, 308-240-1488	Vince Redding, 785-587-7957
Brett Richardson, 816-876-5263	Shawn Thiele, 785-313-3950
Kyle Larson, 913-633-1570	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	
Christian 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