

St. Luke's Monthly

Sharing Christ's love with those around us



January 2026

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

Tradition is not about doing “what we’ve always done” for its own sake; it is the living faith handed down from the apostles to the church today. At its heart, Christian tradition is the confession of Jesus Christ crucified and risen, expressed in preaching, teaching, worship, and life together.

What Tradition Is

Holy Scripture speaks of “traditions” as the faithful handing over of the Gospel and sound teaching. Paul urges, “Stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter” (2 Thessalonians 2:15). This is not a call to cling to empty customs, but to the apostolic doctrine that flows from God’s Word.

The Lutheran Confessions gladly receive this apostolic tradition where it is grounded in Scripture. They emphasize that our churches teach nothing contrary to Holy Scripture or the Church’s ancient faith, and they distinguish between human traditions that burden consciences and those that serve good order and the Gospel (Augsburg Confession, Articles VII and XV). In this way, genuine tradition is the living transmission of Christ’s Word and gifts from one generation to the next.

The Tradition of our Church Body – The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS)

The LCMS stands in a rich tradition that is both evangelical and catholic (i.e., universal): centered in Scripture and joyfully receiving the church’s historic confession. Pastors and congregations bind themselves to the Scriptures as the only rule and norm of doctrine and to the Lutheran Confessions as a true exposition of that Word (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

This confessional stance shapes our worship life. The Confessions note that, even after the Reformation, “the usual public ceremonies” were retained, including outward forms such as vestments, not as meritorious works, but for the sake of good order and to teach the people reverently (Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article XXIV, and Augsburg Confession XV). Vestments, then, are not about drawing attention to the pastor, but about serving the proclamation of Christ and highlighting that the pastor acts in a public office given by Christ for the church’s good (John 20:21–23; 1 Corinthians 4:1).

Traditions at St. Luke's

St. Luke's has its own local traditions that put the Gospel into the rhythms of our congregation's life. Gathering for worship, confessing the Ecumenical Creeds, following the church calendar, and singing Christ-centered hymns all serve one goal: that Christ may come to us with forgiveness, life, and salvation in Word and Sacrament. When I (pastor) wear the vestments, when candles are lit, when the liturgy is chanted or spoken, these visible and audible traditions point beyond themselves to the Lord who serves His people.

Our local traditions—Advent and Lenten midweek services, catechism instruction, Bible studies, and families praying with Scripture and catechism at home—are all ways of holding fast to “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). When these practices keep us anchored in Christ and His promises, they are not merely “what we do here”; they are St. Luke's living share in the church's good and saving Tradition.

St. Luke's Traditions in January

Epiphany is January 6 (every year!). This begins the Epiphany season, and it ends the day before Ash Wednesday (which is February 18 this year). Because the day of Epiphany does not land on a Sunday, expect to sing an Epiphany hymn the next weekend, January 10-11. That will also be when we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. On January 17-18, we will celebrate the Sanctity of Human Life.

It is an honor to serve as your pastor.

Pastor Schmidt

From the Director of Christian Education

What a wonderful celebration of the birth of Jesus we had in the month of December! This celebration marks the final phase of God's plan of redemption!

I hope you and your family enjoyed the amazing Advent services, the special gatherings at church, and our Christmas eve and Christmas day services. It is so encouraging and uplifting to think that the God of the universe was willing to humble Himself to walk among us, to teach us about God, and ultimately to experience death for us.

I also hope you had the chance to spread the love of Christ to those that you live and work with! THAT is the message of Christmas! The Good News of God's Love for ALL His creation. YOU have been blessed with this Good News to share with those around you!

On a personal note, January 2026 marks my 2-year anniversary at St Luke's! I have now had the privilege to work with many of the ministry teams to coordinate and execute ministry events and I feel like I have learned so much about our St Luke's family and the Riley County area. I am sure I will continue to learn more as Tricia and I become more involved on our church and in the community. Thank you for your partnership in ministry as we share the Good News of the Gospel with the community in Manhattan and Riley County!

Stay focused: God is growing St Luke's in ministry and in the number of people we call St Luke's family! Make sure you are looking for opportunities to help out with the different ministries AND to warmly welcome everyone that comes through our doors!

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.

- 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.

John & Karen Armbrust, First United Methodist, Manhattan, KS
David & Julie Hatesohl, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Prairie Village, KS
Bill & Gerda Robb, Cross of Life Lutheran Church, Rossville, GA

MISSION OF LOVE QUILTING CIRCLE

We completed 2025 by delivering 126 quilts and 12 pillow case dresses to Orphan Grain Train in Wichita. The Lord blessed us with many donations of fabric & batting and willing workers to put tops together and help tie & bind them. We celebrated our year by having Brunch together at Early Edition in December. In 2026 we will be working hard again. If anyone would like to help in this Mission but not able to attend on the 2nd Tuesday morning of the month, we'd welcome tops, fabric donation or Thrivent gift cards to buy batting. Please remember our little Mission & the recipients of our Labors in your Prayers.-Dorothy Burtness 785-341-5530

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

We all have grieved the loss of someone at some point in our lives. Nothing could be more painful than the death of a child. But those who have lost a child because they had an abortion, or were part of an abortion decision, often do not allow themselves to grieve or don't know how to grieve. If you struggle with a past abortion decision, Word of Hope is a special ministry that can help you overcome the pain. Men and women often experience regret, grief, anger, and confusion after an abortion and don't always understand why. There is forgiveness, grace, hope, and restoration available for you, no matter your past or story.

Word of Hope - www.word-of-hope.org, 888-217-8679



HER NAME IS - MOANA

That was in the March 2025 newsletter, when Moana was 9 months old. Now she is 19 months old and by the time you get this, she probably will be back in Washington, KS at KSDS.

Hopefully we have prepared her enough to become a working companion for someone who needs her. (And will receive her free.) I want to thank you for your acceptance of her coming to church and to meetings. It really helped in preparing her to behave when she goes places with her person. Socialization is a big part of her training.

Moana would like to thank YOU for all of the yummy crumbs that were left on the floor!



THEOLOGY ON TAP

We will next meet on Tuesday, January 20th at 7:30 p.m. at Rockin K's (1880 Kimball Ave., Unit 100, Manhattan, KS 66502) or via Zoom. The presenter will be Rev. James Woelmer, Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. Topic: The Nicene Creed - It's historical background, purpose and scriptural foundation.

LLL ANUAL PANCAKE SUPPER

Come and enjoy a plate of pancakes with our LLL group. They will be cooking up pancakes for our Annual Pancake Supper on Sunday February 1st from 4:30 until 6:30. A freewill offering will be in place to provide scholarships for students going into church work. Hope to see you there!

MONTHLY CALENDAR

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

Thursday 1/1

NEW YEAR'S DAY

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday 1/2

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday 1/4

- 9:45 am Adult & Children's Sunday School
- 7 pm LLL Meeting

Monday 1/5

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

Tuesday 1/6

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

Wednesday 1/7

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

Thursday 1/8

- 6 pm JuBellation Handbell Choir Practice
- 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday 1/9

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video

Sunday 1/11

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

Monday 1/12

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

Tuesday 1/13

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

Wednesday 1/14

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

Thursday 1/15

- 6 pm JuBellation Handbell Choir Practice
- 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday 1/16

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video

Saturday 1/17

- 7:30 pm Ice Skating

Sunday 1/18

9:45 am Adult & Children's Sunday School

Monday 1/19

- 6 pm American Heritage Girls
- 6:30 pm Trail Life USA Mtg
- 7 pm Card Making
- 8 pm LCMS-U Fellowship/Bible Study

Tuesday 1/20

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

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Wednesday 1/21

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

Thursday 1/22

- 6 pm JuBellation Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday 1/23

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video
- 6 pm American Heritage Girls Lock-In

Saturday 1/24

- until 3 pm American Heritage Girls Lock-In

Sunday 1/25

- 9:45 am Adult Sunday School
- 12:30 pm Table Talk

Monday 1/26

- 9 am Women's Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Trail Life USA
- 7 pm Card Making
- 8 pm LCMS-U Fellowship & Bible Study

Tuesday 1/27

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

Wednesday 1/28

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

Thursday 1/29

- 6 pm JuBellation Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 7 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Friday 1/30

- 9:30 am ELC Lesson Video



BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 4	Klaus Hagenmaier
JANUARY 5	Ed Klimek
JANUARY 8	Ron Frey
JANUARY 11	Harlon Burnett
JANUARY 12	Marlene Kunze-Dolan Lilly Wyatt
JANUARY 13	Peter Lyons Rylan Hudson Anna Walsh
JANUARY 14	Connie Kasten
JANUARY 17	Sylvia Carter
JANUARY 18	Brigham Redding
JANUARY 10	Vince Redding Kris Burnett David Garcia
JANUARY 21	Liz Beikmann
JANUARY 26	Donna Feld
JANUARY 27	Ian Hartsook Jean Olson
JANUARY 29	Theodore Hartsook
JANUARY 30	Kolter Barber Ben Zier
JANUARY 31	Scott Winter

ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 10	Bruce & Pat Oberhelman
JANUARY 20	Jeff & LeAnn Sturdy



LCMS STEWARDSHIP

"And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true" (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of "new" talk. Parties are held to ring in the "new" year. "New" year's resolutions are made to set a "new" course of life in the "new" year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the "new" year on the dateline.

We use all this "new" talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the "new" resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That "new" person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The "new" habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The "new" person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need "new" talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of "new" is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This "new" comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of "new" is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary's cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ's body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

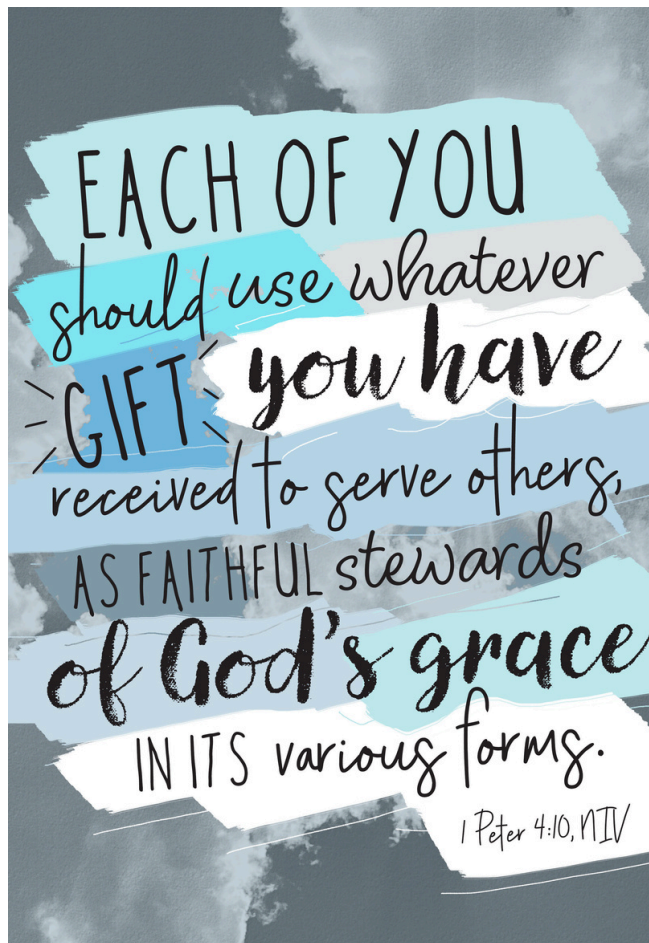
These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God's creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

LCMS STEWARDSHIP

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.



ACOLYTES



ACOLYTES

	Sat 6:00 pm	Sun 8:30 am	Sun 11:00 am
JANUARY 3/4	Brynlee Rengstorf	Teagen Thiele	Jovie Winter
JANUARY 10/11		Samuel Lyons	Claire Deetjen
JANUARY 17/18		Nolan Michael	Wyatt Barber
JANUARY 24/25		Archer Manning	Sarah Oelke

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
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Adult Ministry	Walt Fick, 785-776-0879
Campus Ministry	Jessica Jones, 307-259-2155
Children's Ministry	Tristen Redding
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