



Fall Messenger

Pastor's Corner

I hope this summer has brought you time for rest and renewal. Perhaps it was a vacation, a day at the beach, time in the garden, or simply a little more space to breathe. My wish is that you have gifted yourself time to be replenished.

There is so much in our world that can leave us anxious, weary, or wondering what will happen next? In times like these, being part of a community of faith matters more than ever. We need to encourage one another to open our eyes to signs of God's presence and goodness, even when they are not always easy to see. The community at St. Luke does that for me, and I hope the same is true for you.

Our staff have also taken some much-needed time away. Most of us took vacation, but one moved to begin a new chapter in Clarkston, WA, another had a baby, another got married, and another was newly hired as Administrative Assistant! Throughout all this movement, the staff and congregational leaders have been preparing for all that lies ahead at St. Luke this fall and winter.

Every ministry at St. Luke is connected to the larger calling we share: to show radical hospitality to everyone who comes to worship with us, to nurture deeper relationships with God and with one another, and to serve our neighbors and our wider community.

At our staff retreat in August, we were reminded that we are not only serving the congregation—we are called to care for one another. We need each other's wisdom, creativity, humor, and a reminder that we are in this together. I am grateful for our staff and congregation who give themselves so graciously to the life of St. Luke.

And now, as a new program year begins, there is a sense of anticipation. In the Gospel of John, two disciples ask Jesus where he is staying. Jesus simply says, "Come and see." (John 1:39) It is a wonderfully simple invitation. Not "Come and have everything figured out already." Not "Come because you know exactly what to expect." Just: Come and see.

Come and see what God might be doing in your life. Come and see what happens when we gather as a community of faith. Come and see the ways God is bringing hope, healing, courage, and joy into the world. Come and see just what might be possible when we walk together.

Come and see.

Pr. Patti

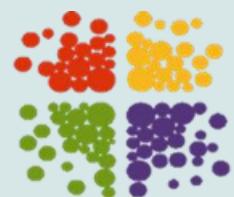
IN THIS ISSUE

Worship	2
Rally Day.....	3
Music Ministry.....	4-5
Children's Ministry.....	6-7
Middle School Ministry.....	8
High School Ministry.....	9
Adult Education.....	10-12
Church Updates.....	13-15
LIFT Update.....	16-17
Connect.....	18-19
Serve.....	20-24
In The News.....	25

St. Luke Lutheran Church
4595 SW California Street
Portland, OR 97219

Phone: (503) 246-2325

E-mail:
office@stlukechurch.com



St. Luke
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPECIAL FALL DATES

September 13

Rally Day & BBQ

One Service at 10:30 a.m.

September 20

Education Hour resumes

September 27

Truth & Reconciliation Sunday

October 4

St. Francis Day/Creation Care Sunday

October 18

Youth-Led Sunday Services

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering

October 25

Reformation Sunday

Fall Festival & Chili Cook-off

November 1

All Saints Sunday

November 8

WELCA Thankoffering Sunday

November 22

Reign of Christ

November 25 | 6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

November 29

First Sunday of Advent

SAVE THE DATE

December 6, 13, 20

Second, Third, Fourth Sundays of Advent

December 2, 9, 16 | 6:30 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer

December 5

Advent Festival

December 24 | Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. Family

5:00 p.m. Modern

10:00 p.m. Traditional

WORSHIP

Join us for worship as together we explore the work of God's restoring, healing power!

Modern Worship: Sunday at 9:15 am

Band-led by the Modern Worship Team

Traditional Worship: Sunday at 10:30 am

Organ, Rejoice Choir, and St. Luke Ringers



CHILDREN AT ST. LUKE WORSHIP

Sunday Education Ministries Resume September 20th

Children's Ministry: Meet in Fellowship Hall, classes held in Room 109

Middle School Ministries: Lower Shalom

St. Luke Youth: Vermont House

Parent Group: Upper Shalom

Children's Church held during the **9:15 a.m.** service.

Nursery care for children birth to five years continues at both services.

Serve in Worship!

Share Your Faith as a Reader or Prayer Leader

Worship at St. Luke is truly "the work of the people." Lay readers and prayer leaders play an important role, bringing a personal touch to the scriptures of the day and the petitions we offer to God.

Rally Day is almost here, and its time to sign up to read or lead the prayers during our services this fall. [Here's the link](#) to sign up.

If you have questions about the process, need help signing up, or would like to be added to the readers list so that you receive email reminders when the sign-ups are updated, please contact Cindy Gibbon.

Help with Communion

Have you ever wanted to help with Communion? You can volunteer to serve Communion, set the table at either service. You can also help cleanup after the 10:30 service.

Questions? Contact Melody Drangstveit.

Your help is truly a blessing!

Virtual Worship

Not able to join us in person? Worship with us online! Our **9:15 and 10:30 a.m. services** are livestreamed on our website and saved on YouTube and Facebook.

Access recordings on [St. Luke's Facebook page](#) or our website: stlukechurch.com.

You'll want your bulletin to participate online! Download your Worship Bulletins at stlukechurch.com.

Join us for our

RALLY DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:30

POTLUCK IN THE OASIS AFTER
WE WILL BE GRILLING UP BURGERS,
HOT DOGS & VEGGIE BURGERS
GF BUNS AVAILABLE
LEMONADE PROVIDED
PLEASE BRING A SIDE OR DESSERT TO SHARE

USE QR CODE TO SELECT YOUR ENTREES



MUSIC MINISTRY

There is something wonderful about the transition from summer to fall.

After months of sunshine, longer days, and more time to slow down and breathe, we begin to feel that familiar shift: cooler mornings, earlier sunsets, and the welcome return of the rhythms of a new program year.

At St. Luke, that means the sanctuary fills once again with the sounds of singing, ringing, and making music together.

LOOKING BACK: A MUSIC-FILLED SUMMER

It has been a joyful and music-filled summer at St. Luke! We kicked things off in June with a fabulous Marimba Workshop led by musician and educator Jeff Powers. Our Summer Choir gatherings brought spontaneous song, new faces, and a wonderful sense of community to worship throughout the summer.

In July, our Summer Choir celebrated **Pride Sunday**, featuring guest preacher and countertenor **Mikah Meyer**. In August, we continued with a program of **Renaissance and Gospel music**, including music by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585) and contemporary Gospel composer Kirk Franklin. These summer gatherings have been a wonderful reminder that music ministry doesn't always have to be elaborate or highly rehearsed to be meaningful. Sometimes a few singers, a good song, and a willing spirit are all we need.

We have also been blessed by a series of beautiful solo Offertories throughout the summer, featuring members and our women's vocal trio. Each of these offerings has enriched our worship and reminded us of the ways music can touch the heart in a deep and personal way.

LOOKING AHEAD: FALL AT ST. LUKE

As we move into the fall, there are many opportunities to join in—whether you **sing, ring, strum, or simply love to listen**. All our ensembles welcome new and returning musicians, and no previous experience is necessary for many of our groups. There is always room for another voice, another pair of hands, or another person who simply wants to make music with us.

WEEKLY ENSEMBLE REHEARSALS

Starting September 2nd

St. Luke Ringers (Middle School-Adults)

Wednesdays, 7:00–8:00 p.m.
Upstairs Music Room

Starting September 3rd

Modern Worship Team (Middle School-Adults)

Thursdays, 6:00–7:15 p.m.
Sanctuary

Rejoice Choir (High School-Adults)

Thursdays, 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Choir Loft

Starting September 16th

St. Luke Youth Music

Songbirds (K-2): Wednesdays, 4:30–5:10 p.m.
Hosanna Choir (Grades 3-5) Wednesdays, 4:55–5:45 p.m.
Both ensembles meet in Fellowship Hall

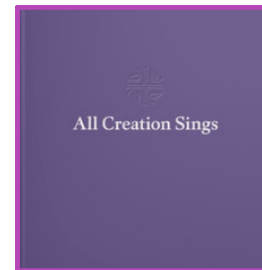


MUSIC MINISTRY

All Creation Sings Hymn Sing

September 19 | 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Come explore the hymnal **All Creation Sings** together: Discover some of this exciting resource's hidden gems and discover new text set to familiar melodies. Bring your requests for organ and piano. Snacks provided!



Rejoice Choir Fall/Christmas Retreat & Potluck

October 3 | 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

A morning of singing, fellowship, food, and preparation for the Christmas season. Rejoice Choir members will begin learning some of the music that will carry us through the fall and into our December concert and Christmas worship.

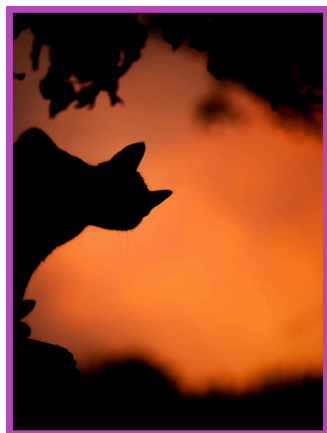


UPCOMING CONCERTS

All Gory, Loud, & Horror!

**Wednesday, October 28 | 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary**

An evening of spooky classical pops featuring organ, piano, and other delightfully frightful sounds. Come prepared for a musical evening that is a little strange, a little dramatic, and a lot of fun!



A Ceremony of Carols

**Sunday, December 13 | 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Sanctuary**

Join us for a festive musical journey through Britain and beyond, featuring Benjamin Britten's beloved *A Ceremony of Carols*, alongside choral favorites and traditional Christmas music. Details this fall!



Come make music with us!

Steven Schaefer, Director of Music Ministry

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

VBS SUMMER CAMP AT ST. LUKE

A HUGE thank you to our VBS team 2026!

June 15-19 VBS Summer Camp here at St Luke was a joy-filled week. In summary, we had **53 registered campers, 32 adult volunteers, 7 St Luke staff, and 19 youth leaders ranging from 5th to 12th grade**. Everyone supported the kids who came through our doors. It was a daily, wonderful *hubbub* in the best meaning of the word possible! Looking back at our wonderful week, seeing rising leaders emerge out of our youth volunteers was a personal highlight for me. I had the daily privilege of witnessing those young leaders take great responsibility, care, empathy for our campers, while bringing fun and energy. Adults lead with an impressive spectrum of teaching skills and organization. Our camp team leaders of all ages - adults and youth - were over the top amazing!

Our **THEME** was inspired by the 2019 ELCA VBS curriculum “**Who Is My Neighbor.**” This theme is so needed right now! Endless connections were integrated into our stations which included small group stories and discussions, games, science/environment, arts and crafts.

Our favorite St Luke children's sermon duo the **Maier Brothers** ended the week with an epic AND goofy interactive skit!
Our friends from neighboring church **West Hills Covenant** provided daily support – a quintessential expression of being good neighbors.

Special thank you to our furry morning greeter **Tilly (pictured at right)**, who welcomed the campers each morning with his owner Dean Gustafson.

When we bring our whole selves together, we co-create these amazing, dynamic, intergenerational communities and human eco-systems.



VBS Photo Book Cover

This week takes loads of planning leading up, yet it unfolds in ways exhilarating, humbling, and magical.

And one last thing: a shout out to our 3 special guests! Click below to check out our good neighbors:

[Join a Drumming Circle with Steven Skolnik](#)

[Learn more about #BeYou Ms. Black Oregon 2026 Carmen Cowan](#)

[Volunteer at Feed the Mass](#)

You can enjoy “footage” of our week a few different ways.

Besides the photos here in the Messenger, our St. Luke Library has a beautiful VBS photo book, with Tilly on the cover! (See above.)

It was a gift from photographer Dan Burd, make sure to check it out as well.

Until VBS Camp 2027, THANK YOU!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

END-OF-SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Children's Church continues at 9:15 Modern Worship

Nursery is open 9:00-11:30 a.m. for children birth through age 5



Nursery and Children's Church open and offered on Labor Day Weekend, 9/6

RALLY DAY! Sunday, September 13th

One service at 10:30 a.m., followed by a community potluck in our new OASIS!

St. Luke will serve up burgers and dogs. You bring a side dish and/or dessert to share!

FALL CLASSES RESUME SEPTEMBER 20th at 10:30 a.m.

Godly Play stories return at our 10:30 children's education hour!

Children's Church sessions continue at the 9:15 worship service



SAVE THE DATE

Fall Festival & Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, October 25th, 3:00—5:00 p.m.

We're planning an intergenerational event for adults, families, and kids! All ages are welcome to join in the fun. Enjoy a candy-apple-dipping bar, popcorn, and more.

Adults, bring chili to share! Kids, wear your costume and get ready for fall crafts! Look for details coming in early October.

Children's Nativity & Advent Festival

December 5-6

Rehearsal on December 5th at 1:00 p.m., followed by the Advent Festival.

December 6th @ 10:30 service will feature the Nativity Story.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Luke Children's Ministry!

Kim Weber, Director of Children's Ministry

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES

*Immersing Middle Schoolers in the love of God...
so that they can minister with hope & love in St. Luke and the wider world.*

[Click here for your one-stop sign-up shop to bring snacks
and to volunteer for MSM gatherings and retreats!](#)

LOOKING FORWARD

Kudos to our Middle School Ministries Team!

Thank you to everyone who served as a Christ Kin last year!

Christ Kin are St. Luke members & mentors for our middle schoolers. Each Christ Kin models the love of God by praying daily for their student, by connecting with their student through encouraging notes/treats, and by taking part in hands on activities with their student. Christ Kin begins this year at the upcoming **MSM Fall Retreat on Saturday, September 27th!**

Rally Day – Sunday, September 13th

Join us for worship at 10:30 followed by a BBQ in the OASIS!

Sunday Gatherings

Sept. 20; Oct. 4, 11, 25; Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29 @ 10:30 a.m. | Lower Shalom

This is the *Old Testament* year of our three-year cycle, exploring the different characters in Scripture and how they were like us. (The other two themes are *New Testament* & *Questions of Faith*.)

Fall Retreat – Saturday, Sept 26 - Sunday, Sept 27

Parent volunteers needed- Sign up at the link above!

MSM serves in worship!

LOOKING BACK

Thank you to all who helped with Vacation Bible School back in June! Our student leaders came out of the woodwork to make a difference for children in our community.

Thank you to those who drove our students to and from Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherwood!

Thank you to our Caroline Eddy and adult and student volunteers who stuffed backpacks for Grauer. See MSM prepping for Grauer at right!



Pr. Beth Brashear

SLY HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

St. Luke Youth (SLY): Growing in Faith, Community, and Leadership

LOOKING BACK

SLY Summer Highlights

What a summer it's been for SLY! We welcomed our rising 9th graders, started getting excited about the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering, served at VBS, Community Table, and Grauer, volunteered at Marquis Vermont Hills, and spent a great week at Camp Lutherwood.

We also held our first Youth Gathering fundraiser-- a car wash! Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a smashing success.

Our Summer Tuesday Nights included **20** individual youth – **nine** of them new to SLY!

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped make this summer full of service, faith, and fun!

Email Jodi Swigart with questions about all things SLY: jodi@stlukechurch.com.

Did you know?



Our high school youth are always invited to help at Community Table on the last Saturday of each month!

No need to sign up-- one of our SLY adult volunteers will welcome youth and give instructions on how to help.

Last Saturday of the month, 1:00-3:15 p.m.

WHAT'S UP NOW & UPCOMING DATES

September 13: SLY helps with Rally Day

September 20 @: 10:30 a.m.: First Sunday SLY of the school year

*Join SLY as we kick off the fall on Sunday, September 20th
from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Vermont House.*

Come for breakfast, connection, faith, and fun! Yes, there really will be breakfast!

Jodi Swigart, Director of High School Youth

ADULT EDUCATION

“Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God.” (Romans 12:2)



“I hold that there was never a better time to study than right now, not only because knowledge is so abundant and cheap, but also because of the great wealth and honor to which it leads.”

-Martin Luther, 1530

Luther's words sound so true for today and yet it is nearly 500 years since he wrote this.

The Adult Education Ministry Team of St. Luke **ENCOURAGES** you to take advantage of the many educational, learning, discovering and growing opportunities that exist in and near St. Luke. **Beyond going to church, grow in your church!**

Our newly crafted Vision Statement for Adult Education is:

Adult Education at St. Luke Lutheran Church seeks to nurture lifelong spiritual growth as followers of Jesus Christ, through exploring and studying Scripture, theology, faith, and everyday life. This education adopts a Lutheran perspective, and intends to honor the dignity of all God's beloved children, seeking to respect and learn from diverse cultures, perspectives, and religious traditions.

Your St. Luke Adult Education Ministry Team is ready to hear your suggestions.

**See the following pages
for Adult Education opportunities!**

ADULT EDUCATION

FALL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Just Peacemaking

Led by Rev. Dr. Mark Broucker

Tuesdays, September 22-October 27

7:00-8:00 p.m. on Zoom

In March of this year, in cooperation with Israel, our nation embarked on another major military operation in the Middle East, this one against Iran. In February of 2022 Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Support from the U.S. has been crucial to Ukraine's defense.

Across the globe, people continue to be concerned with terrorist attacks, armed conflict, and the risk of nuclear proliferation. All this conflict raises issues of war and peace.

In August 1995, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly adopted (830-30) a social statement entitled "For Peace in God's World." The first sentence in this statement affirms that as people of faith we are called to be peacemakers. In this class we will focus on what it means to fulfill that call.

We will begin by studying four classic approaches to war and peace: War as Power, the Holy War/Crusade Mentality; Christian Pacifism; and the Just War Tradition. Then we will consider a fifth approach that has emerged in recent decades: Just Peacemaking. In our final session we will identify some of the most significant global threats to peace in our time.

Session Topics

September 22 Introduction to God, War, and Peace

September 29 War as Power

October 6 The Holy War/Crusade Mentality

October 13 Christian Pacifism

October 20 The Just War Tradition

October 27 An Evangelical Lutheran Perspective on Just Peacemaking

Lunch and Learning

Led by Dr. Scott Willis & Jan Peterson

Sundays, September 27-November 15

After the Second Service in the Library

An in-person class that offers a common meal together (simple soup & salad), a brief time of sharing related to the topic, a learning experience on topic, Q & A, and a takeaway to facilitate practice. Topics will focus on spiritual growth, understanding of scripture passages, and developing a deeper understanding of God.

Class Topics

September 27 Knowing, Believing & Hoping

October 11 Imaginative Praying

October 25 Jesus Spoke with a Pair of Bulls
and a Pair of Ducks

November 1 Loving my Broken Neighbor as I
Love My Broken Self

November 15 Entertaining Angels

Walking with Martin Luther

Led by Emily Brabham, Seminarian

October 18th, After the Second Service

Emily Brabham, a congregant at St. Luke and seminarian at Luther Seminary, had the opportunity to attend a travel course to Germany on Martin Luther.

She would like to share her experience of "Walking with Martin Luther." This presentation will feature photos, stories, and discussion.



ADULT EDUCATION

ONGOING EDUCATIONAL & SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Chronological Bible Study **Tuesdays, 8:00 a.m., Zoom**

All are welcome! Ever wonder how things in the Bible fit together? We're "chronologically" reading the Bible, with the aid of different annotated Bibles and the combined wisdom and life experiences of the dozen or so participants who attend on Zoom each week.

We are now in the New Testament exploring the work of the apostles following Jesus's death and resurrection, primarily through the letters of Paul.

We have great discussions every week! Join in and we will share the reading list!

Men's Bible Study **Tuesdays, 8:00 a.m., Zoom**

In September, the Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study group will begin discussing Richard Rohr's book, *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage*.

Meetings are on **Zoom from 8-9 AM on Tuesdays**; all are welcome to participate.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study **Fridays, 7:30-8:30 a.m.** **Miller's Homestead Restaurant**

Join us to study the appointed Bible readings for the coming Sunday. BYOB (Bring your own Bible).

WELCA Gather Bible Studies **Second week of each month**

Gather Bible study groups meet during the second Sunday and Monday of each month, offering various options to accommodate your schedule. Please feel free to attend the group that best fits your availability.

On the second week of each month, we meet:

Sundays, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Conference Room

Mondays, 9:30-11:00 am in the Library

Mondays, 1:30-3:00 pm in Upper Shalom

Parent Group **Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Upper Shalom** **Resumes September 20th**

A ministry carefully built into our Sunday morning schedule, to give you options for worship.

Join us for conversation and fellowship with parents of children of all ages. No homework, no expectations, no judgement, no commitment. Just a hope that everyone leaves feeling a little better than when they arrived!

Table Talks **Led by Rev. Dr. Mark Brouker**

Each monthly Table Talk is offered in-person on a Saturday morning from 11:00a-12:00 noon in the Conference Room and via Zoom on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening, 7:00-8:00p.

Email Devotions

The Holy Spirit is our teacher and teaches us about God. Daily Devotions sent via email are a great way to learn and discover vital spiritual truths important to our growth as people of faith.

Contact annika@stlukechurch.com if you are not receiving these and you'd like them in your inbox!

CHURCH UPDATES

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

When people ask me about St. Luke, I usually tell them I think of it as a “social justice” church. If I gain their attention, I explain that it is the best example I’ve known of a church whose members strive to be Jesus in the world, and who come together as a community to do just that.

Some of it we do in very organized ways—Grauer, Community Table, reaching out to the community with Vacation Bible School, all the work of awarding and distributing the Benson scholarships from the very generous donations of the Benson Family Foundation. I get shivers as I think of all the smiling faces from St. Luke and beyond who volunteer again and again to be part of these outreach activities.

Other examples of “Jesus’s hands” just spring up from one or two members’ good ideas. Do you think we can start a Mini-Pantry for neighbors in need? Let’s do it!

How about we make Welcome Kits for new residents at the Safe Rest Village? Can we gather volunteers to tutor children of the immigrant families we help? Can St. Luke have a presence in the Pride Parade to make sure those attending know we believe in a God and Jesus who welcome, include, and celebrate people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions and carry a commitment to racial equity? I think all of this is exactly what Jesus meant when He said “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matthew 18:20). That is exactly what I feel when I catch up with folks in the narthex between services on everything that is going on. This excitement, this inspiration—it is Jesus among us.

And there is another piece of this that warms my heart—seeing all the members who together (or sometimes alone) do the work that is necessary so that St. Luke can be that place where Jesus is. I know this is dangerous territory to name a few when there is not space to name all, but examples are our tremendous pastors and staff, all our tireless Committee chairs and Committee members, the members of the Property Committee who are constantly lending their expertise and their hard work, the LIFT Committee (and subcommittees), our volunteer Treasurer and Bookkeeper, those who set up/clean up coffee every week, our choirs, musicians, readers, communion helpers AND [name yourself here]. Thank you, each and every one of you!!!



TRUST FUND COMMITTEE

By May, the Trust Fund committee had committed over six percent of the 2025 year-end investment funds in grants. We therefore stopped considering funding any further grants for this year. Several of the grants will get paid out in increments over the rest of the year.

We voted to have the St. Luke Treasurer take over the general Trust Fund accounting. The church software will be able to produce various financial reports quickly once our records are fully set up. This transition happened in August. Benson Scholarship accounting will still be handled by the Trust Fund treasurer.

We worked out a plan to reorganize investments after Trust paid the **\$500,000** matching grant to LIFT. This plan was partially implemented but we will need to revise the plan due to not being able to purchase more of one of our longstanding investments.

We will work on revising and tweaking various forms that caused some misunderstanding this past year. We are reorganizing our document storage site to make it easier to research old files. We are clarifying the status of some funds through this research.

In August, the fall invoices for college paid through Benson Scholarship funds arrived. We ended up with eight youth who are receiving these scholarships. Two students decided to attend non-Lutheran universities. We have two students who will be seniors, both of whom have received Benson funds for all four years of university.

We will be working on our Investment Policy and Strategy document, and hope to have this before the Church Council before the end of the year. In November we will transfer any residual Benson Scholarship funds that have not been granted to students to the Social Concerns committee.

Two committee members will be stepping down at the end of their terms in January 2027. Please consider joining this dynamic team, especially if you have accounting skills and/or investment knowledge.

CHURCH UPDATES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Congregation of St. Luke is blessed with a beautiful facility and many opportunities to bring God's work to the community. Along with these blessings comes the financial responsibility of running a thriving church. As chairperson of the Finance Committee, I am fortunate to have incredibly devoted and talented members to manage the financial piece behind the scenes of St. Luke's ministry.

Several major LIFT projects have been paid off, thanks to your generosity. We recently paid off the mortgage of the Vermont House which will be extremely helpful for month-to-month cashflow.

Some of you have noted a change in the format of our quarterly Giving Statements, and certain categories are not in their usual places. Much of this is due to the reorganization using Subsplash, which is a comprehensive church software program that handles not only our giving, but also messaging, registrations, and media. If you note any discrepancies in your statements, please bring these to our attention.

Summer attendance at worship usually lags in the summer months and unfortunately, this means a drop in offerings. We are approximately **\$100,000** short of our budgetary needs for 2026 despite some significant savings in Personnel. To those of you who have continued to give regularly each month, we are extremely grateful. If you haven't been contributing to St. Luke during the summer, we ask for your help now.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our July year-to-date giving was **\$517,770** which was an increase of approximately **\$18,000** over the same period in 2025. As a reminder, our budgeted giving for 2026 is **\$1,050,000**.

After seven months, our budgeted giving was **\$612,500** which means we are short **\$94,730** in giving to budget. This is not an unusual giving pattern at St. Luke but it does mean that we need to receive about **\$532,000** going forward for the period August through December to meet our budget.

As for expenses, I am pleased to report that we are current with our benevolence commitments to both Social Concerns and the Synod. Our expenses are generally in line with or slightly below budget. Thanks to our staff and program committees for diligently and carefully managing our expenses.

We continue to receive gifts to the LIFT Campaign, which totaled **\$409,000** in 2026. Thanks to your pledges and gifts, we have completed the OASIS outdoor area, renovated the elevator, completed the HVAC replacement, and paid off the church mortgage debt. Additionally, we paid off the final mortgage balance on the Vermont House in July. Around **\$270,000** in mortgage debt remains on the commercial property.

Your St. Luke Giving Statement was sent to you in early July. If you did not receive one, please reach out to finance@stlukechurch.com for assistance with this issue.

Historically, our congregational giving has increased during the fall months, and I am confident that this year will be no different. Thank you for your faithful financial support of St. Luke. Your gifts help us to sustain the many ways we live out our faith: worship, service and connection to the wider community.

CHURCH UPDATES

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Stewardship invites us to take part in God's work together. Through this ministry, we encourage the people of St. Luke to discover meaningful ways to serve, grow, and help strengthen our Beloved Community.

The Stewardship Ministry team's current focus is our Spiritual Gifts class preparation, Ministry Teams' communication and planning for Fall Appeal.

Spiritual Gifts Class

- Next class preparation underway
- Next class: **Nov 7 and Nov 14, 9:00-12:00**
- Maximum of 10 participants in the class

[Click to sign up!](#)

Fall Appeal Planning

- Fall Appeal planning underway for 2027 ministry
- Appeal launches on **October 4th**
- Pledge Sunday is **November 15th**

Ministry Teams

- "Spirit of Unity through Ministry" booklet
- Hard copies available in narthex

[Click to download the new booklet!](#)

Ministry Team Highlights

Ministry Teams highlighted in the Weekly Press:

May – Personnel Committee

June – Middle School Ministries (Grades 6-8)

July – Adult Education



**Mark your calendar for
the Library Book Sale!**

**November 15-22
in the Narthex**

**Donate your used books
in the boxes in front of
the Library!**



LIFT Capital Campaign

Leaping in Faith Together, Caring for Creation



FALL 2026 UPDATE

The first anniversary for the three-year LIFT campaign was **June 1, 2026**. As previously reported, our “Celebration Goal” of **\$1.75 million** in pledges was exceeded by a generous combination of promised gifts by members along with a matching gift received of **\$500,000** from the Trust Fund. Again, thank you for your generosity in this campaign.

Currently, **74%** of our pledged LIFT donations were given through June 2026. This is great news as several important LIFT projects are now completed. We expect that continued giving over the next 2-3 years will allow us to complete other important LIFT projects and initiatives.

If you have not made a gift to the LIFT campaign, you are invited to do so!

Outdoor Activity Social Intergenerational Space (“OASIS”)

The **OASIS Educational Panels** will be installed in the OASIS area by Rally Day on September 13th. This is the final piece to this wonderful project. It has been really heartwarming to see all ages here, and seeing folks enjoying our summer OASIS fellowship gatherings.

HVAC Project

The **HVAC project** started in February and completed on-schedule on June 30, 2026. The church building now has a newly-installed heating and cooling system to replace our existing heating system. This is newer technology and as with any new system, we are learning how best to operate it for the comfort of staff and congregation. The new HVAC system is split into six zones, with individual equipment and thermostat controls in each room.

An owners’ meeting occurred in late July to hand off the HVAC system from the contractor to the church. The new maintenance agreement with American Heating more than doubles the maintenance contract costs of our old system. At the same time, we benefit from lower repair costs and the reduced risk of a catastrophic equipment failure. The Property Committee will be tracking ongoing operating costs as we move forward.

Vermont House

Exciting news! The Vermont House mortgage was paid off in July 2026.

The church avoided a 2.2% increase in the mortgage variable interest rate which would have started in February 2027.

This will now free up **\$28,860** on an annual basis to use for other St. Luke ministry areas.





LIFT Capital Campaign

Leaping in Faith Together, Caring for Creation



FALL 2026 UPDATE (cont.)

Next LIFT Priority Projects

In July, Church Council approved the joint LIFT and Finance recommendation for the **Next LIFT Priority Projects**. These projects are considered equally important.

First, fund and pay the LIFT benevolence obligation for campaign donations incurred so far (\$65,000 through June 2026). This is split 50% to Neighborhood House, as selected by Social Concerns, and 50% to the Oregon Synod. This is in the best interest of the church and congregation to put the benevolence funds to work now to address community needs. As future LIFT donations are received from the congregation. Five percent will be set aside until the remaining projected benevolence of **\$25,000** is fully funded and paid at the end of the LIFT Campaign. The total projected benevolence is **\$90,000**. The selected recipient organization will report to the congregation in a Table Talk how the benevolence funds are being used and how it benefits the community.

After benevolence is funded, **set aside funds for replacing the church building windows and doors** including adding tempered glass around the OASIS area that was not included in the earlier bid. The 2025 contract estimate was **\$115,000**. In March 2027 or sooner, a refresh of the initial bids will be requested once funds are available from donations, so work might possibly proceed in summer or fall 2027.

After funding the benevolence and windows & doors project, the excess funds will be used to **pay down the Commercial Property Mortgage** until it is fully paid off.

If unused LIFT funds remain, they will be applied to setting up a property reserve account. If a substantial sum remains, the LIFT Committee will select another project to complete.

LIFT Projects Completed to Date

- OASIS Outdoor Area
- Elevator Modernization
- Mortgages Paid Off
 - Church Building
 - Vermont House
- New Commercial Refrigerator and Freezer for Community Table Ministry
- New HVAC installation adding cooling and heating to church building

For more detailed information on the LIFT projects and timelines, we encourage you to visit the LIFT section of the church website: [LIFT - St. Luke Lutheran Church - Portland, Oregon](#).

Thank you for your continued financial support!
Please direct any questions to Church Office.



CONNECT

FAB (Fifty And Beyond)

The **FAB (Fifty And Beyond)** Planning Team welcomes any suggestions for day trips and coffee-hour activities. Our Planning Team meets the **Second Wednesday of the month, from 10:00-11:30 a.m.** in the Conference Room. Please contact one of the six team members with any ideas you might have for events, or better yet, to say you'll join our team!

Looking Forward

On **Wednesday, September 2nd at 9:30 am**, FAB group will ride the church bus to Canby to visit Swan Island Dahlias, a family-owned farm since 1927. Afterwards, we will enjoy lunch at Gwynn's Willamette Coffee House, also in Canby.

On **Wednesday, September 23rd at 9:30 a.m.**, FAB group will visit Oregon Historic Society in Downtown Portland for the special exhibit entitled "101 at 100: The History of Oregon's Most Iconic Highway." Afterwards, we will enjoy lunch at The Old Spaghetti Factory on Portland's waterfront.

On **Wednesday, October 14th at 10:30 a.m.**, FAB group will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a coffee hour and an encore "bicycle trip" presentation by Nancy Peterson and Dave Ertel. This duo's FAB presentation in March chronicled their trip on bicycles from Alaska to Argentina. More information to follow in upcoming Weekly Press online publication and Sunday bulletins regarding what part of the globe Nancy and Dave experienced on another bicycle trip!

On **Wednesday, November 18th at 1:00 p.m.**, FAB group will ride on the church bus to attend a holiday-themed NW Senior Theatre (NWST) performance at Rise Church in Tigard.

Looking Back

On **Wednesday, June 24th**, 15 of us gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a coffee hour and Medicare educational presentation for both under and over age 65. This non-sales event included conversations about health, health benefits, and health insurance.

On **Wednesday, July 29th**, 11 of us took a trip back in time to visit historical Oaks Amusement Park for a private tour and organ concert in the roller rink.

See photo at right of some of our group with our tour guide Joshua!

On **Wednesday, August 19th**, several of us enjoyed an afternoon picnic at Foothills Park in Lake Oswego.



Memory Café

Second Thursdays from 2:30 — 4 p.m.

Memory Café is a ministry for persons with memory loss and their family/friend care partners to gather together on the 2nd Thursday of the month from **2:30 pm to 4:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

Memory Café is open to the community, welcoming people of all faiths and no faith to gather together on a monthly basis to enjoy fellowship, refreshments and live singalong music.

Here are the dates for the next three months: **September 10th, October 8th, and November 12th.**

CONNECT DATES

Gather Bible Study

Second Sun & Mon of the Month

Wednesday Church Night

Sep 2 – Oct 7 – Nov 4

FAB Team Meetings

Sep 16 – Oct 7

Memory Café

Sep 10 – Oct 8 – Nov 12

Good Words Book Group

Sep 20 – Oct 18 – Nov 15

Cancer Support Group

Contact Office for future dates

CONNECT

Wednesday Church Night



Wednesday Church Nights are all-congregational dinner gatherings on the first Wednesday of each month in St. Luke's Fellowship Hall. Starting at 5:30 p.m., we share a meal, programming, and great company.

September 2 – Wednesday Church Night 101

For anyone who'd like to help with Wednesday Church Night this year: set up, clean up, serving, or helping with the register.

- Learn where things you'll need to use are now kept
- Get hands-on experience with the dishwasher
- Walk through the experience and get signed up to assist with upcoming meals.

Dinner is free! [Click here to RSVP!](#)

October 7 – A word & a practice of hope from Climate Justice Ministries

Learn about smart shopping practices as we share in a delicious dinner! Chef TBD.

November 4 – Rev. Mark Brocker Book Signing!

Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker, our very own Theologian in Residence, is an internationally renowned scholar on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and a published author as well.

Join us as he shares about, and signs copies of, his newest book: *With Courage and Humility: Bonhoeffer's Ethical Approach for Us Today*. Chef TBD.

Save the Date for December 2nd – the first of our weekly Advent Soup Suppers, followed by the cherished Advent tradition of Holden Evening Prayer.

Good Words Book Group

Good Words Book Group resumes **September 20th at 9:15** in the Conference Room to discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. We hope you'll join us!

Our books are chosen by the group, and here are our selections for the fall. If one sparks your interest, we hope you'll read it and join our discussion:

September 20
October 18
November 15

The Correspondent by Virginia Evans
Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson
Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

Please join us!



Cancer Support Group

We meet monthly, usually on Sundays after the last service as schedules permit. We share our questions, concerns. Usually anywhere from four to eight people join us.

We talk about the meaning of test results and fears about upcoming imaging appointments. We support each other and cheer each other on. We discuss questions about post-surgery medications and treatments. Those who are further along in the journey tell newcomers what they might expect from various procedures. Sometimes we write a little, and we laugh often!

We haven't found a consistent meeting day, as we try to work around St. Luke events and our travel schedules. We last met on August 16th in the Library.

All are welcome!



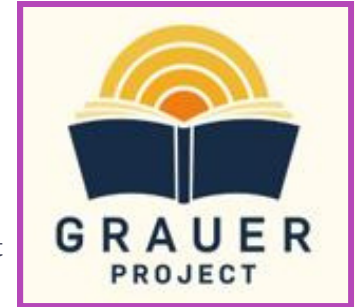
SERVE

Grauer Back-to-School Project

On Saturday, August 8th, St. Luke hosted the annual Grauer Back-to-School Project. We're so grateful to all the hands that made this year's project a success!

Here's the day at a glance:

- We helped **305 students** start the school year better prepared
- Over **100 volunteers** helped the week of the distribution
- **Ten area faith communities** donated school supplies and financial donations
- **Neighborhood House** provided interpreters and information about **Head Start**
- Our friends at **TLC-TNT** provided a new book for every student!



Next year's planning begins in March. If you would like to be part of the lead team or part of preparations, please reach out to Caroline Eddy at caroline@stlukechurch.com.



*Grauer volunteers prepping
for the big day!*



SERVE

Community Table



Thank you to everyone who donated to our **Super Summer Cereal Drive!**
Your generosity provided cereal to over **500 families!**
Our hearts and shelves are full.
Keep an eye out this fall for our **“Yes, We Can-Can”** canned food drive!

This summer, Community Table has seen higher than average numbers of households receiving food from our food pantry. The official number is an uptick of **24%** since spring.

St. Luke volunteers logged **283 hours** working in the Shalom Center in June and July. We are so grateful to St Luke for all of the support and every volunteer that has shown up to help people that come to our campus have access to food.

Our fall distribution dates are September 12 & 26; October 10 & 31; November 14 & 28. Yes, this includes the Saturday after Thanksgiving!

If you would like to join the Community Table crew,
please email Caroline Eddy at caroline@stlukechurch.com.

Christmas in September

St Luke is supporting the efforts at the Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP), a Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) partner program, during their Christmas in September Food Drive.

NEFP meets the emergency food needs of people in Northeast Portland. We will be kicking things off here at St. Luke with a visit from **Andrea Omojola, Director of Community Health Ministries at EMO.**

We will be collecting items at the Christmas tree in the narthex. Please bring your donations in between **September 6th and September 27th.**

Reach out to Caroline Eddy (caroline@stlukechurch.com) with any questions.



Most-Needed Items

Staples: rice, dried beans, oats
Canned goods: proteins, vegetables, fruit, soup, tomatoes
Packaged goods: pasta, mac and cheese, flour, oatmeal, cereals
Frozen goods: meat, vegetables, fruit
Fresh foods: produce (fruits and vegetables), eggs
Dairy products: milk (fresh and powdered), cheese, yogurt
Baked goods: bread, pastries, desserts
Personal care items: toilet paper, soap, cleaning supplies

Always-Accepted Items

UNEXPIRED, UNOPENED non-perishables
Toiletries
Pet food
Charcoal
Laundry detergent
Can openers
Diapers
Paper bags

Let's have another great Christmas in September!

Caroline Eddy, Volunteer/Service Coordinator

SERVE

Climate Justice Ministry

Looking Forward

Over the summer months, Climate Justice Ministry has discussed our climate initiatives for the fall at St. Luke.

Climate justice can be an overwhelming issue for many of us. There have been many setbacks in recent times, but there have also been encouraging changes. As a community of faith, how do we move forward together while remaining mindful of how our choices affect not only our city and state, but indeed our entire planet?

Our climate education and action this fall will hopefully help identify the next steps we can all take to become better stewards of our planet.

Here is what we have planned for the fall:

Rumble on the River #33

**Wednesday, September 30 | 5:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

St. Luke will host **Rumble on the River #33** on **Wednesday, September 30th**. This will be the third time St. Luke has hosted Rumble on the River.

Doors open and information tables begin at 5:30 p.m., with the forum beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Rumbles bring together expert voices to share the latest information and perspectives on issues including the CEI Hub, the Columbia and Willamette River ecosystems, effective and ineffective responses to climate disruption, urban forestry, community building, data center expansion, salmon restoration, transportation, and other timely topics.

Join us at **5:30 p.m.** for information, updates, and action ideas concerning the **CEI Hub, data centers, nuclear realities, and the proposed refinery at Port Westward on the Columbia River Estuary.**

The forum will begin at 6:30 p.m., with this Rumble focusing on data center expansion. Panelists will include Audrey Leonard, Staff Attorney at Columbia Riverkeeper and Jacob Roloff, Helvetia farmer and manager at Roloff Farms.

Groundswell Documentary Screening

**October 4th
Fellowship Hall**

Groundswell (2026) is an uplifting environmental documentary directed by Joshua Tickell and Rebecca Harrell Tickell, narrated by Demi Moore and Woody Harrelson.

As the final installment in a soil-focused trilogy following *Kiss the Ground* and *Common Ground*, the 94-minute film travels across five continents to showcase how regenerative agriculture can restore biodiversity, sequester carbon, and revitalize local economies.



SERVE

Climate Justice Ministry (cont.)

Fall Programming (cont.)

Smart Shopping

October 7th

Wednesday Church Night Supper | 5:30 p.m.

Presentation and Discussion | 6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Climate Justice Ministry leads October's Wednesday Church Night with **"Smart Shopping,"** a presentation and discussion led by Climate Justice members.

We all go to the grocery store for our needs and face an amazing variety of food goods. How can we have fresh grapes in January? Where did that olive oil come from? What does GMO mean?



If we are environmentally conscious, what we buy at the market is one of the most important decisions we can make. Industrial-based agriculture affects every type of food product, raises questions about the use of pesticides, involves genetic engineering, depletes soil, contaminates water, leads to microplastic pollution, and creates its own market forces.

Smart Shopping is a presentation that will delve into how we, as individuals, can be smarter about what we buy and consume and feel better about our care for creation.

CJM invites you to join us, learn with us, and take part in caring for our planet!

WELCA News

Looking Back

Gather Bible Study groups took a break in July and August, but we held our Summer Luncheon on August 23rd. Pastor Beth led our Bible study, with the theme **"You Are Worthy."** We had the amazing company of about 20 women, and we feasted on delicious salads, fruits, and desserts. **See photo at right!**

Earlier in the summer, a few ladies spent a morning learning how to make cards.



Looking Forward

Thankoffering Sunday will be on November 8th. Exciting plans are underway so keep your eye out for details! If you would like to usher, serve communion, read scripture or lead prayers, please reach out to either Marilyn or Melody.

December will bring our pajama, robe, and slipper drive for West Women's and Children's Shelter residents, not to mention other Christmas giving opportunities. Check upcoming issues of the Weekly Press for details!

SERVE

Moving Forward with Support for Housing Justice

In early September, a small St. Luke group will meet to discuss what has been happening in the SW Portland and City of Portland/Multnomah County for housing needs.

Some St. Luke members continue to meet regularly with other faith communities, Friends of Multnomah Safe Rest Village and SW Outreach.

Watch for additional actions and events through the fall and early winter in the Weekly Press.

West Women's and Children's Shelter

The clothing room at this domestic violence shelter is called Anita's Closet, after our dearly-missed friend Anita Brackensick who started and staffed it until she passed away. Your faithfulness in donating clean, gently-used clothing has kept it going, providing for women who often have to leave unsafe situations with very few belongings.

Currently, food is purchased each week and donations delivered from the bin in the Ministry area. Aside from clothing, needed items include spices, cooking oils, salad dressings, breakfast bars, toilet paper, diapers and feminine hygiene products, to name a few.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." - 1 John 3:17-18

Mini Pantry: Our Non-Perishable Food Ministry



The well-used and loved, bright and cheerful St. Luke Community Mini Pantry: an initiative to make it as simple as possible for community members and St. Luke members to provide food items for our food-insecure neighbors.

Share this need of food for our neighbors with your family or friends, drop non-perishable items in the pantry along the driveway or drop them in the Ministry Center on the main level of the Church. There are food bins against the back wall of this large corridor space near the staircase.

Sign up to tidy and add items to the pantry from the bins in the Ministry Center. Sign-ups are set for Sundays and Wednesdays here: [Mini Pantry Sign-Up](#)

IN THE NEWS

Pulpit Swap with Bethel Lutheran

Pastors Patti Welch and Leon LaCross, from Bethel Lutheran Church in North Portland, enjoyed a pulpit swap on Sunday, August 9th!



St. Luke Lutheran Church
4595 SW California St.
Portland, OR 97219

503-246-2325
www.stlukechurch.com
office@stlukechurch.com



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