



October 2025 Newsletter

stlukesgarfield@gctel.com
www.stlukeschurchgarfield.org
PO Box 35 Garfield MN 56332
[320-834-2285](tel:320-834-2285)

"Called by the Truth of the Gospel, enlightened by the Spirit, sent to serve"

Stewardship Moment

Revelation 14:6 – *"Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people."* During the Reformation, this text was used to refer to Luther's ministry and the Lutheran message. We have an eternal Gospel to proclaim. Christ has freed us from our sins without any works on our part. We are saved by grace alone! And, ironically enough, Luther said this should make him the "apostle of works." Once we are freed by grace, we are truly free to serve God in works that flow from thankfulness and praise.

Bible Studies

Women's Bible Study will meet on October 14th and October 28th from 1-3 pm. All women invited!

Men's Bible Study Wednesdays, at 9:45 am – All men invited! The book of Romans

Women's Prayer/Bible Study Group - Thursday mornings at 8:30 am at Common Ground

Sunday Evening Bible Class – In recess

Quilters meet on October 7th and October 21st

Quilts are available to be given to people going through tough times, reminding them of God's love and ours as the family of God at St. Luke's! **Please come!**

Stephen Ministers are there to care!

Stephen Ministers are available to help you through difficult times. Stephen Ministers will walk beside you listening to your concerns as you discover how to cope with whatever your challenge might be.

Sometimes It's Hard to Ask for Help

We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So, we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that's not God's plan. If you're struggling, don't suffer alone. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you. (It's confidential too!) If you'd like someone to talk to, please contact one of our pastors or Rick Truex.

JAM Youth

JAM Youth in grades four through six will be meeting **Wednesday, October 1st from 6:30-8:00** at the church.

Dates for Upcoming JAM Meetings: November 5th, December 3rd, January 14th, February 11th, March 11th, April 8th, May 13th

September Council Meeting Summary

* Transition Team Updates: Contract signed for 12 months with Pr. Brad Miller for the Intentional Interim Senior Pastor position starting October 1st. Contract can be extended by six month increments as needed. Housing provided by Gordie and Nettie Billmark October to May. Oral Report by Church Doctor Ministries on Wednesday September 17th. Staff Debrief and Leadership Dinner on September 18th

* Property: still waiting for painting to be completed on siding by Rollex. Dishwasher to be repaired by Central Lakes Restaurant supply. Awaiting parts. Sidewalks replacement (by anonymous donation) will be sometime next year after the City of Garfield repaves the street in front of the church. Paul Schwartz donated the sealcoating in parking lot. Our neighbor Bob Peterson donated his labor to repaint the sidewalk.

* Stewardship: New campaign will begin sometime in October. Online and QR Code giving options are still being explored

* Pie & Ice Cream Social: approximately \$1800 was raised to purchase military Bible sticks from Faith Comes by Hearing

* MN Adult/Teen Challenge Gala: October 23 at Vie Church. MSP to purchase two tables out of the Mission funds. Sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall and members attending are encouraged to make an additional personal donation.

* Pastor Appreciation Event: September 28th Matt Kvilhaug will be the MC. Following the 11am Church Service there will be a program in the sanctuary prior to the meal catered by Knotty Pine. Final RSVP count is at 260.

* TV Fellowship Hall: (15 years old) needs to be replaced. MSP to purchase up to \$750 for new TV & components.

* Mission Disbursements: MSP to approve 2nd & 3rd quarter disbursement for total of \$4050. Estonia Home of Hope, DC Hospice, Gorecki House, Ronald McDonald House, Someplace Safe, Water to Thrive (Africa), Chosen People Ministries, Dakota Boys Ranch, Habitat for Humanity, Military Vets, Sola Publishing.

* MSP to accept resignation letter from custodian Jennifer Simonson effective October 4, 2025. Position will be posted internally first. Thank you to Jenny for her years of service to St. Luke's!

Next Council Meetings: October 14th @ 6:30 p.m. and November 18th @ 6:30 p.m.

St. Luke's Read Through the Bible Group Meets Oct 6. Please come!

We will be starting the New Testament on Oct 1. please contact Jan or Jenny Dyrdaahl if you have questions.

Introducing Our Intentional Interim Pastor

We are excited to welcome the Rev. Dr. Brad Miller as our new Intentional Interim Senior Pastor! Pastor Miller brings over 30 years of parish ministry experience, including work in redevelopment and church construction. He has also worked with congregations through various transitions — from long-tenured pastors, to times of sudden loss, financial challenges, and staff realignments. Through it all, he has offered steady guidance, wisdom, and encouragement.

Pastor Miller has served in mission work on six continents and in more than 30 countries. He has authored several books on church health, growth, interim ministry, and leadership, and is rostered with both the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

Those who know him describe Pastor Brad as someone who brings humor, humility, and expertise in ways that help people engage with God's Word and each other. Pastor Miller's family: his wife, **Rev. Pamela Schroeder** along with their two adult children Emily and Byron. We look forward to getting to know them and sharing in fellowship with their family as part of our church family. Please give Pastor Brad and his family a warm welcome as we enter this important season of ministry together!

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 100 countries. **Collection items** are dolls, stuffed animals, watercolors, balls (foam, tennis, or w/manual pump), small musical instruments, blocks, toy trucks, cars, boats, play dough, puzzles, marbles, stickers, binoculars, yo-yo, playing cards, fishing or sewing kits, garden tools. **Hygiene & Accessory:** combs, hairbrushes, toothbrush, wash cloth, bar soap, band aids, blanket, flashlight (solar or extra batteries), compact mirror, lip balm, wristwatch, sunglasses, bandanas, hair accessories, tote bag, purse. **School Items:** pencils, erasers, manual sharpener, colored pencils, markers, crayons, pens, notebooks, pencil case, index cards, blunt-tip scissors, ruler, solar-powered calculator, protractor, glue sticks, tape to be shared with children locally and around the world. The collection box is in the main entry.



October 2

Josapha Craig
Olundon Ekola
Dominick Wilson

October 3

Lane Noetzelman

October 6

Greg Niblett
Emmalyn Stoltz

October 7

Paul Tollefson
Michael Wussow

October 8

Nettie Emblom
Carla Fahlin

October 9

Sydney Sholts
Dominic Wunderlich

October 12

Andy Eddy
David Stoltz

October 13

Cameo Eddy
Joey Richter

October 15

Shelley Diekmann
Corliss Nelson
Gage Feeken
Cassie Tatrow

October 17

Mari-ann Bartlett

October 18

Raylynn Foster
Diane Richter

October 19

Brooke Anderson
Steve Davidson

October 22

Jack Krafthefer

October 23

Julie Anderson
Kristi Froemming
Anne Gran

October 24

Chad Carlson
Colton Pearson

October 25

Rolene Clarquist
Paige Meichsner

October 26

Trent Froemming
MaryAnn Ostlund

October 27

Rita Metzger

October 28

Kya Christopherson
Olive Smith

October 31

Jason Dahl
Kathy Johnson
Darrell Lorsung

Giving Suggestions (Coming Soon)

The Bible asks us to give our first and our best back to God, and He will bless the rest. A **tithe** is ten percent of our income. We give back to the Lord ten percent of what He's given us because it all belongs to Him. **Tithing** is a great way to show God that you put Him first and foremost. Giving to St. Luke's can be done with an offering envelope on Sunday mornings, or it can be done online. We also are adding this Venmo QR Code which provides the techier based giving units to support our mission.

Online Offering

Scan the QR code below with your phone camera to securely donate.



October - November Coffee Servers

1st make sure the coffee maker is set up and on. It takes quite a while to heat up. **Please** bring 4 doz. Treats each. Questions? Please contact Brenda Haak 320/766-3114 or Brenda.haak@yahoo.com **If your name is in Bold print, please contact the rest of the servers as a reminder. Sunday School parents please call Brenda Haak to sign up if you haven't already. More servers are needed.**

October 5: Diane Richter
808-4646

Sandy Thorson
491-1137

Kristie Tollefson
219-1210

Dawn Voit
815-3754

October 12: Sherry Witikko
305-3291

Carly Wussow
701-367-4007

Mary Wussow
808-8875

Rondi Wussow
808-6863

October 19: **Alice Knapp**
808-7594

Alicia Morrisette
219-9398

Amy Ahlbrecht
815-3022

Annie Chlian
491-0202

October 26: Beth Krafthefer
701-361-7191

Bonnie Dillon
491-7113

Brenda Haak
766-3114

Cari Eddy
808-4344

Nov. 2:	Carley Noetzelman	Carly Wussow	Carol Juul	Carrie Wunderlich
	701-205-2849	701-367-4007	218-770-4143	766-3440
Nov. 9:	Christi Converse	Cindy Pazdernik	Corliss Nelson	Dawn Voit
	491-4040	815-4527	766-0916	815-3754
Nov. 16:	Diane Richter	Emily Ekola	Florence Chlian	Georgia Nelson
	808-4646	766-1198	834-2444	760-3455
Nov. 23:	Heather Kvilhaug	Holly Carlson	Holly Chlian	Jan Dyrdaahl
	429-5907	808-4853	304-0311	304-4901
Nov. 30:	Jill Erickson	Jill Johnson	Julie Fenlason	Karen Carlson
	491-1225	815-6679	766-1823	815-1212

MN Adult & Teen Challenge Gala

Join us at the MN Adult & Teen Challenge Gala on Thursday October 23rd 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at VIE Church, 2671 S. McKay Ave., Alexandria.

St. Luke's Missions is sponsoring two tables. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall to reserve your spot. There's no cost to attend the event, we simply encourage you to give as you're able during the event. *Sign up deadline is Sunday October 12th.*

Letter of Farewell

September 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With a heart filled with mixed emotions, I write this farewell message to express my deep gratitude and affection for all of you. It is with a sense of both sadness and excitement that I bid farewell to the beloved congregation of St. Luke's, which has been a central part of my life for the last 35+ years.

As I reflect upon my time at St. Luke's, I cannot help but be overwhelmed by the countless blessings that God has showered upon me and my family. Each day, I have witnessed the power of faith and the transformative love of our Lord working through the lives of so many of you. Your unwavering commitment to your faith has been an inspiration to me, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have been your pastor.

Throughout my time at St. Luke's, your prayers have been a source of immense strength and support. The knowledge that I was lifted up in prayer by this community has sustained me through both the joys and challenges of my ministry. Your prayers have been a reminder that we are all interconnected, united in our faith, through Jesus Christ.

I am particularly grateful for the trust you placed in me during the most intimate moments of your lives. It has been an honor and a privilege to baptize your children (211 baptisms), to bless your marriages (37 weddings), and to accompany you in times of grief and loss (123 funerals/memorial services). These sacred moments have deepened my own faith in the profound love that God has for each of us.

If in *any way* I have sinned against you, I do earnestly ask for your forgiveness. If I have helped you in any way, please give thanks to the Lord our God. Please have no concern about personal things you have shared with me in confidence. Confidentiality continues until my last breathe. Needless to say, any time we make changes, life can be difficult. I humbly ask that you continue to pray for me and my family, even as our paths separate.

I have no doubt that St. Luke's will continue to grow in faith, love, and service, as you are guided by the Holy Spirit. God has a plan for you and will provide a new shepherd to be your pastor. (At 12:01am on October 1, 2025, I will cease to be your pastor.) I will not be available to officiate at any occasion. I will not be available for visitations or advice. Pr. Brad Miller will be serving you as the Intentional Interim Pastor until you can issue a call to a new shepherd.

As I move on in the ministry God has prepared for me, I take with me the memories and experiences I have shared with all of you. You have left an indelible mark on my heart, and I will forever cherish the relationships we have formed.

No matter the distance that separates us, God continues to unite us, for all eternity, through our faith in Christ Jesus. I pray that you continue to grow in faith, as you hold fast to the word of God. I pray that you will be a light shining in the darkness, and that you will open your doors and your hearts to all those who are in need.

Paul writes to Timothy: *Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.* ¹² *Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.* 1 Timothy 6:11-12

May God bless and keep you in His grace!

Pastor Gran

Thank you one and all!

The love and care you've shown through your words and gestures remind us of how blessed we are to have walked beside you all these years. Our unity and love in Christ make our work—sharing the Gospel, serving our community, and building God's kingdom—all the more meaningful. Thank you for your prayers, partnerships, and loving hearts! We are so very grateful for each of you! God loves you and so do we! Anne and Pr. Dave



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation 6:30 - 8:00 JAM Youth Group	2 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office 5:30 Parish Ed Meeting	3 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	4
5 8:30 Worship 9:45 Sunday School & Sr. High Youth 9:45 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship LCMC Annual Gathering	6 6:30 – 7:30 Read the Bible Group and Convention	7 9:00 – 11:00 Quilting Oct. 5 - 8 at	8 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation Hosanna Church Lakeville, MN	9 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	10 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	11
12 8:30 Worship HC 9:45 Sunday School & Sr. High Youth 9:45 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship HC 1:00 – 3:00 Fifth Grade Holy Communion Class	13	14 1:00 – 3:00 Women's Bible Study 5:30 – 6:30 Church Council & Transition Team 6:30 Church Council	15 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation	16 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	17 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	18
19 8:30 Worship 9:45 Sunday School & Sr. High Youth 9:45 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship	20 9:00 November Newsletter Articles Due 6:30 – 7:30 Read the Bible Group	21 9:00 – 11:00 Quilting	22 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation	23 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	24 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	25
26 Reformation Sunday 8:30 Worship HC – Fifth Graders First Holy Communion 9:45 Sunday School & Sr. High Youth 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship HC – Fifth Graders First Holy Communion	27	28 1:00 – 3:00 Women's Bible Study	29 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation	30 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	31 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	

The Interim Ministry Process—A Nautical Analogy

Keep the Boat Afloat

Continue the basic ministry operations of Word & Sacrament, education, and pastoral care with as little interruption as practical. Deal with typical church crises and challenges as they arrive.

Churches, like ships, contain a complex set of systems—all of which can consume resources and attention. Staying afloat is priority #1!



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Take Bearings

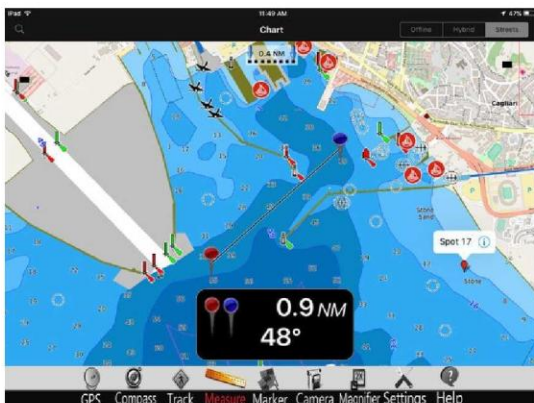
Assess the basic health of the congregation, especially in context of its history and future. Examine the findings and reflect on the most relevant insights.

Whether by sextant or GPS, ship handlers need to know where they are at all times and what condition all systems are in.

Underway Overhaul & Replenishment

While the congregation grieves the recent past, fix the things that need immediate attention—so that when the next settled pastor arrives his or her starting months are not dominated by overdue essential tasks.

Ships sometimes have the luxury of a Dry Dock. When in Dry Dock, the crew depart and all functions stop during extended maintenance. Churches never have that luxury! Churches are always “underway” and need to continue to function while fixing various systems.



Set General Heading

Help congregational leaders chart a general course forward. This is essential for the Call or Search Committee to be able to seek and communicate with the best possible candidates. Implementation and fine-tuning of a future path will commence once the new settled pastor is on board.

Ships must be equipped with proper supplies and charts and staffed for the voyage ahead. Churches, too, need to ready themselves for the expected challenges and opportunities in the next 3 to 7 years.

Prepare for Change of Command

A good Interim process is all about transition. These months are the pivot point between history and future. Though the Interim Pastor needs to be amenable and possess good people skills, they also need to always be thinking about how interactions prepare the way for the next settled pastor.

Command sounds a bit too corporate or military for many churches. But, regardless of how team-centric or empowerment-based your next pastor may be, their unique style and personality will mark a new era.





St. Luke's Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

**PO Box 35
Garfield MN 56332**