



## June 2026 Newsletter

[stlukesgarfield@gctel.com](mailto:stlukesgarfield@gctel.com)  
[www.stlukeschurchgarfield.org](http://www.stlukeschurchgarfield.org)  
[PO Box 35 Garfield MN 56332](mailto: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

Romans 5:8 – "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God did not wait for mankind to make the first move. He did not wait for Adam and Even to come looking for Him — He went and found them. And while we were still sinners, still enemies of God, still set against Him, God looked on us with kindness and generosity, and so loved us that He sent His Son Jesus to suffer, die and rise for us. We now seek to grow up into His image as loving, generous and kind sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father.

### Bible Studies

**Women's Bible Study** will meet on June 9<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1-3 pm. All women invited!

**Men's Bible Study** Wednesdays, at 9:45 am – All men invited! The book of 1 Corinthians

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

### Quilters meet on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

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.

### Call Committee

The call committee members are Bryan Meichsner, Kathy Niblett, Christie Converse, Scott Ekola, Brad Meichsner, Matt Kvilhaug.

Note: The Job Description for the Sr. Pastor being called to serve has been submitted and will be posted by the LCMC on the Web Site.

### "Guided by Prayer in Our Call Process"

#### Candidates

**Scripture:** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. *Psalm 32:8*

#### Pray for:

- Clarity for those God is calling
- Peace in their current ministry
- Honest and Spirit-led conversations

### Puerto Rico Mission Trip

9 Members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church will be in Puerto Rico from June 20-26, please lift these people up in prayer: Daryl Giese, Derek Giese, Emily, Ashley, and Carter Giese, Kate Tollefson, Lydia Esping, Dominic Wunderlich, and Pr Sue.

### Ice Cream Cones in Garfield City Park

Sunday nights beginning June 7 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. We are still looking for **volunteers to help serve Ice Cream in the Garfield City Park** in July and August. If interested in helping for one of the months, please contact Kelly Beilke.

## Vacation Bible School 2026

Come, Take a TROPICAL TREK with us to visit an island filled with great adventures, exploring different animals and birds in the jungle and in the water. Discover how Jesus comes to seek and find us in any and every situation we encounter in life. Create some interesting memories, share the best Bible stories ever. And have fun learning while playing and singing along with catchy tunes!

Tropical Trek VBS, 2026 will be held **Sunday through Thursday, July 26 - July 30**. Serving a light supper at 5:30 p.m. VBS runs from 6 pm - 8 pm. with games, songs, learning stations, and crafts. Pre-registration is asked for by June 15 if possible... For more info: please call 320-834-2285, or register online at

<https://vbsmate.com/events/StLukesGarfieldMN/32088>

### Parking Request

As an act of hospitality, the congregation is encouraged to leave the **front row of the parking lot open for those with mobility challenges**. Thank you for helping make our worship space accessible to everyone

**Street construction** near St. Lukes Church is expected to continue for the next four to six weeks. **Valet parking** will be available on Sundays for those with disabilities or other special needs.



<b>June 1</b> Kate Christopherson	<b>June 3</b> Cari Eddy Faye Erlien	<b>June 4</b> Eli Anderson Courtney Brethorst Jillian Sayers	<b>June 6</b> Bryan Meichsner Kim Olhausen	<b>June 7</b> Nate Anderson Julie Fenlason Landen Tatro	<b>June 8</b> Tyler Anderson Delaney Haak Helen Kramer	
<b>June 9</b> Kendon Anderson Jackson Froemming David Wunderlich	<b>June 10</b> John Dahl	<b>June 11</b> Colton Converse Iyris Foster Landon Sullivan	<b>June 13</b> Noah Wilson	<b>June 14</b> Dakota Wunderlich	<b>June 16</b> Parker Tollefson	<b>June 18</b> Josh Smith
<b>June 19</b> Emmett Gran Caleb Meichsner	<b>June 21</b> Logan Rost Lois Swanson	<b>June 22</b> Jeff Anderson Adam Johnson	<b>June 26</b> Stephanie Froemming Walker Giese	<b>June 29</b> Ella Froemming Landon Froemming Donnie Simonson	<b>June 30</b> Tim Christopherson Hunter Riehl	

### June - July Coffee Servers

**1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.**

<b>June 7:</b>	Erin Giese 290-0008	Florence Chlian 834-2444	Georgia Nelson 760-3455	<b>Heather Kvilhaug</b> 429-5907
<b>June 14:</b>	Holly Carlson 808-4853	Holly Chlian 304-0311	<b>Jill Johnson</b> 815-6679	Julie Fenlason 766-1823
<b>June 21:</b>	Karen Carlson 815-1212	<b>Kate Christopherson</b> 766-8613	Kathy Bahn 429-0424	Kathy Niblett 760-2279
<b>June 28:</b>	Kelly Beilke 491-9293	Kristi Froemming 815-1587	<b>Carrie Wunderlich</b> 766-3440	Leah Dalluge 815-6794
<b>July 5:</b>	Lisa Meichsner 808-6165	<b>Mary Ekola</b> 766-0661	Mary Olson 759-2219	Mary Wussow 808-8875
July 12:	Mary Berghuis 760-1707	Rebecca Froemming 815-7090	<b>Rita Metzger</b> 834-3274	Rolene Clarquist 491-6644
July 19:	Rondi Wussow 808-6863	Sandy Thorson 491-1137	Sarah Meichsner 808-6709	<b>Sheila Anderson</b> 815-2867
July 26:	<b>Shelley Diekman</b> 808-7611	Sherry Witikko 305-3291	Stacey Bettermann 760-9945	Steph Froemming 218-770-2871

## May Church Council Meeting Summary

### Old Business:

- \* Transition Team will meet to work on stewardship, developing communication team, and outreach training.
- \* Call Committee will have job posting for senior pastor submitted to LCMC site by beginning of June.
- \* Governing Documents committee has an editable document and will be working with Tom from CDM to update Constitution, Bylaws and church handbook.
- \* Will continue to use pulpit supply for church services with the help of Pastor Sue and Matt Kvilhaug.
- \* The separation agreement has been signed by Interim Pastor Miller a \$40,000 check was issued as part of the separation agreement which is half of what the remaining contract would have been for his remaining time.
- \* MSP to approve \$3600 for circuit board repair in elevator.
- \* Fish Fry netted \$4200 to support missions. They served 420 guests, 300 pounds of fish.
- \* Volunteers needed to serve Ice Cream in the Park for July and August. Contact Kelly Beilke if interested.
- \* MSP to approve purchase Phillips AED with trade in \$400.

### New Business:

- \* MSP for one worship service on Sundays at 9 am for June, July and August. There will only be one musician playing organ/piano during the service. Margaret Kalina and Kirk Landman will alternate Sundays.
- \* VBS is July 26-July 30 6-8 pm. The theme this year is Tropical Trek.
- \* Street construction near St. Lukes Church is expected to continue for the next four to six weeks. Handi-capped parking will be in front row of the parking lot or valet parking will be available on Sundays for those with disabilities or other special needs.
- \* MSP approval for membership removal requests from Dick Gulbranson, Jim & Sheila Gardner.

### *Annual Fish Fry Reels in Dollars for Mission*

The town of Garfield, located in central Minnesota's Douglas County, has a population of 332. The night of St. Luke's Church (LCMC) annual Fish Fry for Missions, however, the town grows by about 500.

This year's annual event, held April 24, netted \$4,200 to support a long list of nonprofits, from local to national and worldwide, including LPGM. In fact, this one event raises the funds to sponsor seven girls at our partner's Lutheran boarding homes in India.

Georgia Nelson, a longtime member of St. Luke's and LPGM sponsor, claims the fish fry goes back 32+ years. It began as a "thank you" to the congregation from the Church Council, who even caught their own fish. "It was small back then," Georgia recalls, "but it's really evolved."

This year, the crew served 420 guests 300 pounds of fish, four roasters of baked beans, 60 pounds of cole slaw, and 35 pans of cheesy hash brown potatoes, plus cookies and dipped pretzel sticks galore!

"It's a great gathering of people, a good community event, and a great fundraiser for several missions," says co-chair Brenda Haak. She and her husband, Dana first visited St. Luke's fish fry in 1995, and soon after became members of the church. "We thought, wow – this could become a bigger event and raise even more funds!" This year was their 23<sup>rd</sup> year chairing the fish fry.

From the men frying the fish in the outbuilding behind the church, to the decorations crew, servers, dishwashers, ticket takers, beverage pourers, and even joke tellers who keep hungry guests entertained in the sanctuary while waiting for their number to be called, the event requires a small army of people of all ages, including young children.

Brenda's advice to other churches looking to launch a fundraiser for missions?

"Ask a variety of members with different skill sets to help. (We even have non-members help.) Let them do their thing without micro-managing. (That's what we do with the decorators.) Keep really, really good records so you don't have to recreate the wheel every year."

Thanks to everyone who attends the fish fry and to the hardworking folks at St. Luke's for their 26 years of partnership with LPGM!

#fishfry #foodformissions

- *This article is from the LPGM June newsletter with their permission to share in our SL newsletter: Bethany Krepela joined LPGM as Development Director in 2020. She's enjoyed visiting St. Luke's over the past years and was excited to finally get to taste the fish this spring, which helps provide education to girls in India.*

## New Children's Worship Activity Bags!

The JAM Youth Group is excited to share new activity bags for children to use during worship! These bags were decorated and filled by JAM youth and are hanging on the coat rack at the top of the stairs, just outside the sanctuary doors.

Items for the bags were generously funded through a **Thrivent Action Team grant** and will be rotated throughout the year to keep things fresh and engaging. JAM kicked things off by decorating the bags and filling them with the first round of goodies—they can't wait for everyone to enjoy them!

We ask for everyone's help in making sure all items are returned to the bags and rehung after the service. We are also looking for volunteers willing to help with maintaining and refreshing the bags during the year. If you'd like to help, please contact Georgia Nelson or Rondi Wussow.

These activity bags are an **additional option** for families and will not replace the long-standing crayon bags and activity sheets that many have enjoyed for years.

Thank you for helping us care for this new ministry and supporting our JAM youth!



## A Message from Dr. Tracee J. Swank, Church Doctor Ministries

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To the members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church,

Greetings in Christ!

As the leader of Church Doctor Ministries and the lead consultant to your congregation, I want to reach out to you during this season with both honesty and hope.

We are aware of the interim pastor situation, and we share in your frustration and disappointment. This is something we have not encountered in our consultation work with churches, and we are genuinely sorry for the difficulty it has caused. We are taking steps to ensure that no other church we serve faces this kind of situation again. Most importantly, we are praying for you, your congregation, and your leaders as you move through this next season.

I also want you to know that the work is moving forward. I am working directly with the call team, and Tom Schaeffer will continue to provide coaching support to Pastor Sue and the leadership team. Together, we are taking a number of important steps. A position description for your new pastor has been finalized, and we have prepared a short profile of your congregation along with promotional materials to help share this opportunity widely. In the weeks ahead, the call team will invite the congregation to join in this effort through prayer and through practical steps to help spread the word.

Beyond filling the pastoral role, our commitment remains to help St. Luke's grow as a church that lives out the Great Commission, as a community of disciples who make disciples.

A word about your church. We know that this season has carried some discouragement. At Church Doctor Ministries, we are optimists, anchored in the hope and promises of God. Having spent time with you, we have experienced firsthand that God is alive and well at St. Luke's. We do not gloss over the real challenges you are facing. Still, we are confident that God is moving among you and that, with hope and faithfulness, St. Luke's can be a vital presence in Garfield, Alexandria, and the surrounding community.

We do not take the opportunity to serve you lightly. We thank God for you, and we will continue to pray for you and to serve you faithfully, both as we search together for your next pastor and as we help St. Luke's become a thriving community of disciples who make disciples.

Any member wishing to speak with me directly is welcome to do so. You may schedule an appointment through my assistant, Becca, at [becca@churchdoctor.org](mailto:becca@churchdoctor.org), or email me directly at [traceeswank@churchdoctor.org](mailto:traceeswank@churchdoctor.org).

Serving the mission with you,  
Dr. Tracee J. Swank  
Church Doctor Ministries

# June



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 5:30 Parish Ed Meeting	<b>2</b> 9:00 – 11:00 Quilting	<b>3</b> 9:45 Men's Bible Study	<b>4</b> 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office 6:30 Puerto Rico Mission Team Meeting	<b>5</b> Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship  6:00 – 8:00 Ice Cream Cones in Garfield Park	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1:00 – 3 :00 Women's Bible Study	<b>10</b> 9:45 Men's Bible Study	<b>11</b> 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	<b>12</b> Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day  Fellowship Hall and Kitchen Reserved 12:00 – Sat.	<b>13</b>  Fellowship Hall and Kitchen Reserved until 4:00 pm
<b>14</b> 9:00 Worship HC 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:15 Church Council  6:00 – 8:00 Ice Cream Cones in Garfield Park	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 – 11:00 Quilting	<b>17</b> 9:45 Men's Bible Study	<b>18</b> 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	<b>19</b> Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	<b>20</b> 9:00 – 3:00 Fellowship Hall and Kitchen Reserved  <b>Puerto Rico Mission Trip</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 Worship 10:15 Coffee Fellowship  6:00 – 8:00 Ice Cream Cones in Garfield Park  <b>Puerto Rico Mission Trip</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 June Newsletter Articles Due  <b>6/20 – 6/26</b>	<b>23</b> 1:00 – 3 :00 Women's Bible Study  -----	<b>24</b> 9:45 Men's Bible Study  -----	<b>25</b> 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office  -----	<b>26</b> Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day  -----	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 Worship HC 10:15 Coffee Fellowship  6:00 – 8:00 Ice Cream Cones in Garfield Park	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				



# St. Luke's Church

*Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ*

**PO Box 35  
Garfield MN 56332**