



May 2026 Newsletter

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

Stewardship Moment

Acts 1:11 – "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is ascended, and Christ will come again. We live our lives in this world in the sure confidence of the world to come. We live as people who know our Lord Jesus and who know that He is coming back. This knowledge makes all the difference in how we approach the things of this world.

Bible Studies

Women's Bible Study will meet on May 12th and May 26th 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 May 5th and 19th

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

Our final meeting of the school year will be Tuesday, May 13. We'll wrap up our year with a hot dog BBQ meal and then help clean up St. Luke's Cemetery. All families are invited to join us as we celebrate a wonderful year of learning, fellowship, and service.

Call Committee

At the Church Council Meeting the call committee was decided. The members chosen are Bryan Meichsner, Kathy Niblett, Christie Converse, Scott Ekola, Brad Meichsner, Matt Kvilhaug.

"Guided by Prayer in Our Call Process"

The Call Committee

Scripture: If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. *James 1:5*

Pray for:

- Wisdom and discernment
- Good communication
- Encouragement and joy

St. Luke's Cemetery Association Annual Meeting May 4

May 4, 2026, at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall at St. Luke's Church, Garfield, MN. All are welcome!



May 1 Becca Froemming Sam Knapp	May 2 John Krafthefer	May 3 Delroy Johnson Barrett Larson	May 4 Leah Dalluge	May 6 Florence Chlian	May 7 Nathan Brethorst Bill Kramer	May 8 Kyle Diekman
May 10 Kathy Huston Lee Madole	May 11 Brooklyn Mandt	May 12 Dale Witikko	May 14 Art Isackson	May 15 Gary Bahn	May 18 Akirra Abdallah	May 19 Thatcher Eddy Robert Peterson
May 21 Kayla Thompson	May 22 Jed Fahlin	May 23 Trenton Anderson Mark Chlian Alden Eddy	May 25 Lee Styve	May 26 Jason Carlson	May 27 Hannah Lopez	May 28 Delia Kvilhaug
May 30 Roger Chlian Carrie Wunderlich	May 31 Finlee Giese					

May - June 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.**

May 3:	Amy Ahlbrecht 815-3022	Annie Chlian 491-0202	Beth Krafthefer 701-361-7191	Bonnie Dillon 491-7113
May 10:	Brenda Haak 766-3114	Carol Juul 218-770-4143	Carley Noetzelman 701-205-2849	Carly Wussow 701-367-4007
May 17:	Confirmation/Graduation Brunch Hosted by November Service Group			
	Confirmation Statements of Faith			
May 24:	Cari Eddy 808-4344	Kristie Tollefson 219-1210	Casi Giese 247-2160	Christi Converse 491-4040
May 31:	Cindy Pazdernik 815-4527	Corliss Nelson 766-0916	Diane Richter 808-4646	Emily Ekola 766-1198
June 7:	Erin Giese 290-0008	Florence Chlian 834-2444	Georgia Nelson 760-3455	Heather Kvilhaug 429-5907
June 14:	Holly Carlson 808-4853	Holly Chlian 304-0311	Jill Johnson 815-6679	Julie Fenlason 766-1823
June 21:	Karen Carlson 815-1212	Kate Christopherson 766-8613	Kathy Bahn 429-0424	Kathy Niblett 760-2279
June 28:	Kelly Beilke 491-9293	Kristi Froemming 815-1587	Carrie Wunderlich 766-3440	Leah Dalluge 815-6794

Confirmation Pictures Wednesday, May 13, 6 pm, prior to confirmation class.

Please dress as you would for your actual confirmation.

Confirmand Faith Statements & High School Seniors Graduation Recognition May 17.

Confirmation/Graduation Brunch

Faith Statements will be given during the first and second worship services, as well, graduates will be honored at either worship service. Brunch honoring these young people and their families will be served between the worship services.

Confirmands – Lucas Carlson, Dominic Wunderlich, Lane Noetzelman

Graduates – Addison Chlian, Lydia Esping, Shawn Gebhardt, Ethan Giese, Ian Johnson, Jack Morrissette

April Church Council Meeting Summary

Old Business:

Call Committee is working on setting up meeting dates and times with church doctor.

MSP to hire Alex Tax and business for quarterly and year end payroll reporting.

MSP to approve the funeral committee to purchase a small refrigerator to be placed in the mechanical room.

Bethany Krepela from Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry will have a table at the fish fry with information regarding LPGM and the students sponsored by St. Lukes.

This is the last year Brenda and Dana Haak will chair the fish fry. We thank them for their years of dedication and coordinating this event. We are looking for individuals or groups to help continue this event next year.

New Business:

MSP to continue to use the Child and Youth Protection Program document from our previous insurer Grinnel Mutual as our insurance company does not have a sample program document.

Discussed the SON Discipleship Training Event that was held on March 21. Will reach out to Pastor Mark Wilhelm to train a discipleship coaching process. Looking to start LIFT Living in Faith Together small group sessions in the fall.

Ice Cream in the Park this summer will be on Wednesday evenings during the months of June, July and August. If you are interested in helping to serve ice cream in the park for one of these months, please contact Kelly Beilke

Pr. Siimon Haamer from Tartu Estonia will be at St. Lukes on Tuesday, April 28, from 6:00-7:30 pm to present updates on the work of Tartu Academy and Home of Hope.

Membership removal requests from Renae and Darrin Quinn.

Hopeful Testimony from Estonia

We are deeply grateful for the support we have received over the years from St. Luke's Lutheran Church, and as a sign of our gratitude, I am coming to share with you how our ministry in Estonia has been growing and how God continues to open new doors for the Gospel. Your faithful support has made it possible for us to bring this hopeful testimony from Estonia. I believe that a message of hope is especially precious in the midst of the uncertainty we all experience around the world today.

Pastor Siimon Haamer

President of Tartu Academy of Theology

Pr. Siimon Haamer of Tartu, Estonia will be visiting **St. Luke's** on **Tuesday, April 28, from 6:00–7:30 p.m.** Please join us for a **light supper**, provided through a **Thrivent Action Team grant**, followed by updates from Pr. Siimon

Grow Together: An Invitation to LIFT

Something stirred at St. Luke's when Pastor Mark Wilhelm, Director of Donor Growth and Formation with Spiritual Orphans Network, visited us recently and introduced a simple but powerful idea: what if discipleship wasn't just something we heard about on Sunday mornings, but something we *practiced together* every week? The Church Council has heard that stirring and voted to bring a LIFT (Living in Faith Together) coaching process to St. Luke's. LIFT is not a lecture series or a Bible trivia program — it is a small-group experience built around one question: *What is God saying to me through His Word, and what am I going to do about it?* Pastor Wilhelm will guide us through at least six sessions designed to help ordinary people learn to follow Christ on purpose, in community, with accountability and grace.

This is an open invitation — especially to you if you've ever wanted more than a pew and a bulletin, if you hunger to grow in your faith and long to see St. Luke's become a place where disciples are made, not just members counted. No prior experience is required. Come kick the tires. See if this is for you. Meeting times are based on group's availability, but we'd like to get started in the first part of May. Sign-up by calling the church office.

JAM Youth Group: Winter and Spring Highlights

The winter and spring months have been full of faith, service, and fun for our Jesus and Me (JAM) Youth Group as we continued growing together throughout the school year.

We kicked off the new year in **January** with fun activities and time together while creating Valentine's for our Faith Partners. In **February**, the group stayed busy making Easter gifts, playing games, and participating in a Bible scavenger hunt that took them throughout the church—an engaging way to explore Scripture and our church space.

March was especially meaningful as JAM hosted the church's Lenten Supper. With lots of help from parents and tremendous support from the congregation, the evening was a wonderful example of serving together as a church family. From **March into April**, youth visited their Faith Partners once again, either with their parents or with Georgia, continuing those special intergenerational relationships.

Our **April** meeting focused on service and fun. The kids created activity bags for younger children to use during worship and then headed to the Garfield School playground for an egg hunt. Although the weather was cold and windy, teamwork was strong, spirits were high, and everyone worked together to find every egg.

During this transition year, JAM has kept some cherished traditions while also beginning new ones. Devotions between meetings have been well received, and this month each student has been encouraged to memorize one or two Bible verses. As advisors, we're looking forward to hearing their recitations at our May meeting.

Our final meeting of the school year will be Tuesday, May 13. We'll wrap up our year with a hot dog BBQ meal and then help clean up St. Luke's Cemetery. All families are invited to join us as we celebrate a wonderful year of learning, fellowship, and service.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." — Colossians 3:16

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of our families and congregation, whose encouragement makes JAM such a meaningful experience for our youth.

Georgia Nelson, John & Rondi Wussow, Stacey Kvilhaug

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!



May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	2
3 8:30 Worship 9:45 Sunday School & Sr. High Youth 9:45 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship 11:00 – 2:00 Fellowship Hall Reserved	4 5:30 Parish Ed Meeting 6:30 St. Luke's Cemetery Assoc. Annual Meeting	5 9:00 – 11:00 Quilting	6 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation	7 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	8 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	9
10 Mother's Day 8:30 Worship HC 9:45 Sunday School & Sr. High Youth 9:45 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship HC	11	12 1:00 – 3 :00 Women's Bible Study	13 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Confirmation Pictures 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation 6:30 – 8:00 JAM Youth Group	14 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	15 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	16
17 8:30 Worship- Faith Statements 9:45 Confirmation – Graduation Brunch 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship – Faith Statements	18 6:30 Acolyte Training for New Confirmands	19 9:00 – 11:00 Quilting	20 9:45 Men's Bible Study 6:30 – 8:00 Confirmation	21 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office 6:30 Church Council Meeting	22 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	23
24 Pentecost 8:30 Worship HC – Confirmation 9:45 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship HC - Confirmation	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26 9:00 June Newsletter Articles Due 1:00 – 3 :00 Women's Bible Study	27 9:45 Men's Bible Study	28 8:30 Women's Prayer & Bible Study Group at Common Ground 9:00 Bulletin Announcements Due In Office	29 Pr. Davidson's Sabbath Day	30
31 8:30 Worship HC 9:45 Coffee Fellowship 10:00 Choir Practice 11:00 Worship HC						



St. Luke's Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

201 East Ida Street, PO Box 35, Garfield, MN 56332

April 27, 2026

Dear Members of St. Luke's,

The St. Luke's Church Council met and, after careful and prayerful consideration, unanimously decided that it is in the best interest of everyone for St. Luke's to part ways with Pastor Miller. As a result, Pastor Miller's final day serving St. Luke's Church was Sunday April 26, 2026.

We ask that you pray for Pastor Miller and our congregation during this time of transition.

Sincerely,
St. Luke's Church Council

Gracious and loving God,

We come before You with humble hearts as we have taken an important and tender step in the life of our church. You know the full story, every conversation, every concern, every hope we carry. We place it all into Your hands.

Lord, go before us and prepare the way. Soften hearts bring clarity and let this separation be received with understanding and peace. We pray for a smooth and timely resolution that may be accepted without conflict or confusion.

Guard us, O God, from bitterness or division. Where there has been strain, bring reconciliation. Where there has been hurt, bring healing. Remove any spirit of resentment and replace it with grace, humility, and compassion.

We lift up Pr. Miller to You. Surround him with Your care and assurance. May he feel respected and valued, even in this transition. Bless the path ahead for him and grant him peace as he moves forward.

For our congregation, Lord, we pray for unity. Teach us to forgive as You have forgiven us. Knit our hearts together in love and help us move forward with renewed purpose and trust in You. Restore what has been broken and strengthen what remains.

Give wisdom and discernment to each council member. May our words be thoughtful, our actions be guided by Your Spirit, and our decisions reflect Your will.

Above all, remind us that You are still at work in this church. You are our foundation, our Shepherd, and our hope. Lead us forward in faith.

***In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen***



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