

# The Good News

St. Luke Lutheran Church



December  
2024

## St. Luke Happenings!

Join Us for  
WORSHIP

### St. Luke Worship & Christmas Service Schedule

Sunday Worship 9:30AM  
and live on our Facebook page

Wednesday Edu-Worship 6:45pm

\*We will not meet on Dec. 18th, 25th, or Jan. 1st.

December 24th: 4:30pm at St. Luke Church  
and 7:30pm at Zion Church

\*Dress warm for Zion worship

Christmas, December 25th: 9:30am

### "The Longest Night" Worship Service

While Christmas is a season of joy we acknowledge that not everybody walks into the Christmas season with joy in hand. For many, Christmas is a season where loss, grief, confusion, depression, loneliness, and more take center stage. On December 21st at 7pm St. Luke will host a "Longest Night" worship service. This is an opportunity to bring lament, grief, loss, or any "dark" feelings to God before Christmas Day, and remember together that God oftentimes performs His greatest acts of grace in the dark.



### Join the Tech Team!

We are looking for a few more volunteers to join our Tech Team. No prior skills needed, you will be trained on how to record Sunday morning worship services. Email the office or contact Pastor Eric with questions or to sign up.



### Remember in Prayer...



Keith Brown, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Shawn Fredrixon, Marc Bode, Harlan Reese, Beth Carlson, Gage Miller, Alex Stehr, Maria Starr Quiggle, Perry Fitzgerald, Tanya Bakken, Lorraine Hinsch, Jeff Ferkinhoff, Henry Strauss, Diane Krenke, Colton Zimdars, Steve Pabst, Chase Hanson, and Justin Fette.

### Those recently baptized:

Kip Schafer, the son of  
Ethan & Kenzie Schafer

Delaney McNamara, the daughter of  
Jacob & Rachel McNamara

Ellie Roper, the daughter of  
Annah & Justin Roper

### Those recently married:

Nicole Tyler & Adam Dahlstrom



### ANNUAL MEETING

### Annual Meeting & Annual Reports Due

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St Luke Church is scheduled January 19, 2025 immediately following worship. At that time we will have the opportunity to elect council members & committee members for the coming years. We will be taking a look at the purposed budget for 2025, sharing ideas for ministry in the coming year, & getting an update on our new building progress. Committee chair persons or treasurers of the various committees need to have their annual report into the office by Friday, January 10th so they can be included in the Annual Report.

# Schedules & Events

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## Offering Counting Schedule

December 1: Kelly and Sharon  
December 8: Sheila and Lisa  
December 15: Angela and Sheri  
December 22: Holly and Kelly  
December 29: Sharon and Sheila

## Council Sunday Communion Assistants

December 1: Mitch, Dawn, Scott  
December 8: Maggie, Sue, Kamie  
December 15: Ben, Scott, Calvin  
December 22: Mitch, Sue, Char  
Dec. 24 at 7:30pm Zion: Dawn, Kamie  
December 25 at 9:30am: Maggie, Mitch, Calvin  
December 29: Scott, Char, Dawn

## Tech Team Schedule

December 1: Izzy O'Reilly  
December 8: Murphy Voth  
December 8 at 4pm: OPEN  
December 15: OPEN  
December 22: Tomas Ryan  
December 24 at 4:30: Izzy O'Reilly  
December 25 at 9:30: OPEN  
December 29: OPEN

## Sound Team Schedule

December 1: Collin Baska  
December 8: Cole Tousignant  
December 15: Collin Baska  
December 22: Calvin Ryan  
December 24 at 4:30: Cole Tousignant  
December 25 at 9:30: OPEN SPOT  
December 29: Cole Tousignant

## Altar Care

Deb Huneke

## Ushering Schedule

Dec. 1: Kris Carlson and Lodermeier's  
Dec. 8: Keith Carlson and Troy Opsahl  
Dec. 8 at 4pm Christmas Program: Rehder Family  
Dec. 15: Craig Nord and Danny Mensink  
Dec. 22: Danny Mensink and Troy Opsahl  
Dec. 24 at 4:30pm at St. Luke's: Keith and Tia Carlson  
Dec. 24 at 7:30pm at Zion: Budensiek's  
Dec. 25 at 9:30am at St. Luke's: Tipton's  
Sunday, Dec. 29th: Craig Nord and Kris Carlson

## Prayer Reading Schedule



December 1: Karen O'Reilly  
December 8: Susie Matthees  
December 15: Larry Miller  
December 22: Sheila Pasch  
December 24 at 4:30: Amie Tipton  
Dec. 24 at Zion 7:30: Ginny Budensiek  
December 25 at 9:30: Harriet Warren  
December 29: Mike Kurtti

## A/V Schedule

December 1: Maggie Voth  
December 8: Mike Kurtti  
December 15: Steve Voth  
December 22: Nettie Ryan  
December 24 at 4:30: Maggie Voth  
December 25 at 9:30: Nicole Horsman  
December 29: Mel Kurtti



## Sunday Hospitality Team Treat Schedule

December 1: Karen O'Reilly  
December 8: Roschen Families  
December 15: Benda & Quade Families  
December 29: OPEN

# Schedules & Events Continued

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## Annual St. Luke Church Fishing Trip

This year St. Luke will take a break from the ice and head to Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park for our annual church fishing trip. All are welcome! The trip will be from Thursday, May 15th through Saturday, May 17th. We will reserve a group campsite (tents only). The cost should not exceed \$25 per person. People may enjoy hiking, fishing, exploring Mystery Cave, and more. Bible study and faith discussion will accompany our experience. The sign-up deadline is December 15th in order to reserve a group site. Please email Tara in the office to sign up ([office@stlukegoodhue.org](mailto:office@stlukegoodhue.org)).

## Adult Bible Study Community!

All are welcome to join us for ABC Bible study! We will meet every Sunday year round (unless noted) from 8:30-9:15am in the church Family Room.

\*We will not meet on December 29th.

*Merry Christmas*

## Moving With the Spirit Classes

Join Maggie Voth for Faith + Fitness classes! We will be doing mobility/strength/cardio movement while also digging into a specific scripture each class. All fitness levels welcome - there will be options/modifications! All are welcome so bring a friend! Please bring an exercise mat if you have one. Additional optional items: light dumbbells and/or resistance band. Classes will take place in the Fellowship Hall at St. Luke. Each class is 1 hour long which includes warm-up and cool-down. Cost: \$8/class (cash/check/Venmo/PayPal). Payment can be made at class. Registration is required - please scan QR code.

Tuesday, December 3 from 4:45-5:45 p.m.

Saturday, December 14 from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Friday, December 20 from 5:30-6:30 a.m.

Monday, December 30 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.



## Aging but Dangerous

Aging But Dangerous is a group for anyone who is older today than they were yesterday. That's everyone! Our next gathering will be December 12th in the church fellowship hall from 5-7pm & will continue on the 2nd Thursday of each month throughout the school year. We'll start with a meal & then Scripture study & prayer. Bring a dish to pass if you'd like. Questions or for a ride, Jeff & Harriet 651-764-3172 or Jim & Vickie 507-358-5750.

## Church Quilting

All are welcome to join to us for quilting in the fellowship hall! The quilters will continue to meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 9:30-12pm through the month of April. Contact Bev O'Reilly with questions.

## Church Council Meeting

Church council will meet on Wednesday, November 13th at 7:30pm in the church Gathering Room. All are welcome to join. Let the office know if you have an item to add to the agenda.

## St. Luke Christian Care Team

The Christian Care Team is looking for new members (Prayer Warriors) starting January 1st. Please reach out to any of the CCT if you are interested in joining a great team or have any questions. Ph: 651-998-7106 or [careteam@stlukegoodhue.org](mailto:careteam@stlukegoodhue.org) Our next meeting is December 1st at 8:30am in the Gathering room at church.



## Choir Rehearsal

St. Luke's choir will practice every Sunday after worship from 10:45 to 11:30am. All are welcome to join!

## Pastor's Page

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Greetings in Christ St. Luke Lutheran Church,

I'm writing this newsletter article as we approach our Christmas program on December 8<sup>th</sup>. For the first time in my tenure at St. Luke, we're able to have our annual Christmas program in our own space. Our kids will tell Christ's story from our own chancel, their voices will reverberate around our own walls, and we'll be able to welcome guests into our own holy spaces. It's exciting, and honestly, it's made the weeks leading up to the program so much easier! I hope I don't sound like a broken record, but I want to offer my gratitude again for the hands that built our new tool for ministry (the building), for the Building Team who led the project and poured so much sweat equity into it, and for all our friends and members who contributed time, talents, and treasures to the build. I hope you enjoy celebrating Christ's birth as much as I will in our new holy spaces.

And, as we look around during the Christmas season and see new faces in our new building, let's remember those faces *ARE* the mission. Our holy call as Christians, as spoken in our baptismal promises (which we've heard a lot this year!), is to, "*Proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace (ELW 227)*. All that holy work is done in relationship, and the new relationships we're forming each week gives us new, holy opportunities to do that good work. In fact, on December 21<sup>st</sup>, we're going to try something we haven't done before at St. Luke. We'll be hosting a "Longest Night" worship service (7pm). A "Longest Night" service is held on the winter solstice, during the darkest day of the year. It acknowledges that many people walk into Christmas holding more pain than joy, more loss than gain, and more grief than reasons to celebrate. During the "Longest Night" service we'll acknowledge God's presence in our dark places as a community, and we'll remember that God oftentimes does His best work in the dark. With that service on December 21<sup>st</sup> and our Christmas celebrations on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> we'll walk together through the *full breadth and depth* of what it means to be the people of God: we are people who walk with Jesus through the darkness into the light.

Finally, we approach the end of the year, a few folks have asked how they can make year-end gifts to our Forward In Faith Building Fund in order to continue fueling our new tool for ministry (the building). Year-end gifts, of course, have advantageous tax implications some hope to take advantage of. Here are a couple of tax-wise ways to give that might be of interest to many:

- **Idea #1** - If you are 70 1/2 or older and you have an IRA, you can avoid paying tax on your required withdrawals if you make a gift with those funds instead.
- **Idea #2** – If you own assets like stocks or mutual funds that have grown substantially in recent years, you can gift from those assets, and avoid paying the capital gains tax of a sale.
- **Idea #3** – If you need a way to reduce this year's tax bill, you can take a larger deduction by making a larger gift, and that gift ends up costing you less. Talk to your accountant about that.

If you'd like to learn more about any of these ways to make a gift that will bless the church, please reach out to Pr. Eric.

I already know that when that Christmas Program is over, I'll be full of gratitude for the dozens (maybe hundreds?) of hands and feet that contribute so much time and effort to telling Christ's story in this place. As a pastor, it's a joy and a pleasure always feeling like we're doing mission together, nobody is left to follow God's call on their own. Well done everyone. Merry Advent to all, and let's keep it up,

Pr. Eric Hanson



## **November 13, 2024 at 7:30PM - Council Meeting Minutes**

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**Present: Council Members:** Ben Zillgitt, Susan Majerus, Calvin Ryan, Pastor Eric Hanson, Dawn Tipcke, Maggie Voth, Charlotte Volkmann, Mitch Lindholm, Kamie Lodermeier, Scott Peterson and Sara Nolte – treasurer (non-voting)

**Absent:** No one

- Meeting called to order by President Mitch Lindholm
- Concerns and Affirmations: Jo Buck, Alan Gadiant
- Devotions/Opening Prayer – opening prayer offered by Pastor Eric
- Motion to approve the agenda by Kamie 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ben motion carried.

### **Reports:**

**Secretary's:** Motion made by Ben and second by Sue to approve the secretary's report; motion carried.

**Treasurer's:** Motion made by Kamie and second by Maggie to approve; motion carried.

**Pastor's:** Planning for joint Thanksgiving service with Holy Trinity and St. Columbkil. Initial Zoom meeting with Brenda Moore for Capital Campaign. Looking for "Lead gifts" partners to work with chairperson. Sunday School Christmas program December 8 at 4 PM. Motion made by Ben second by Char to approve; motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Education and Youth:** Kamie Lodermeier – Sunday School Christmas program practice started.

**Extended Ministries/Endowment/Memorial:** Dawn Tipcke,-- Family of Betty Johnson want to donate labor and materials for windows in front of sanctuary.

**Outreach/Evangelism:** No report.

**Property:** Ben Zillgitt and Calvin Ryan – front door discussion under Old Business

**Worship and Music:** Sue Majerus – Meeting December 15 after church.

**Stewardship:** Char Volkman and Scott Peterson – Next update is December 8 during church.

### **Old Business/Updates:**

**Ongoing property wish list:** Tabled until January 2025.

**Front door update:** Front door will need to be replaced with sliding door. Motion by Dawn and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott to replace with a sliding door. Motion passed.

**Church window screens:** Motion by Scott and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric to put screens on the church windows.

### **New Business:**

**Approval of New Members:** Ethan, Kenzie and Kip Schafer and Vanessa, David and Zachary Sherer, Motion by Kamie 2<sup>nd</sup> by Char to approve.

**Initial Budget Planning:** Sara has started with 2025 budget, will continue to review and plan.

**Nominating Committee work:** As outgoing council member Kamie will work with committee for new committee members.

**Thanksgiving Baskets:** Calvin has been approached by St. Peters church for anyone who might like a Food basket. Please forward names of anyone who might appreciate.

**Adjournment and Lord's Prayer:** Motion by Kamie to adjourn the meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric motion carried.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday December 11, 2024 - 7:30 PM

*Respectfully Submitted, Susan Majerus, secretary*

# Youth & Families

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## Sunday School

Sundays from 8:30-9:15AM  
3yr Old PreK-6th Grades

\*NO Sunday School December 1st or 29th

## Sunday School Christmas Program "The Wisemen's Journey"

Our preschool through 6th grade Christmas program will be Sunday, December 8th at 4pm. We ask that students arrive at church at 3:30pm. Student attire for the program is "Sunday best". We will be serving treats in the fellowship hall afterwards. All are welcome!

## Children Sing at Goodhue Living

On Sunday, Dec. 15th the Sunday school children will not be meeting at the church, please drop off your PreK-6th grader(s) at Goodhue Living (108 Co. 9 Blvd, Goodhue) at 8:15am. They will be singing the Christmas songs they've been practicing. Pick up your child(ren) from Goodhue Living at 9:15am.

## Sunday School Christmas PJ Party

During the Sunday school hour on Dec. 22nd the Sunday school children will be having their annual Christmas party with snacks, games, and we invite them to wear their pj's!

## 6th Grade Sunday Advent Reflection/Prayer Readers & Advent Candle Lighters

Dec. 1st: Hayden Lodermeier

Dec. 8th: Evelyn Volkmann

Dec. 15th: Henry Luhman

Dec. 22nd: OPEN

## Youth Summer Trip Meeting 9-12th Graders

Sunday, Dec. 8th there will be a SWAG 2025 summer trip informational meeting. All SWAG members & their families are invited to attend! We'll meet after worship at 10:30am.

## SWAG 9-12th Graders & December Events

SWAG group will continue on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30pm, with an optional meal at 6:45pm.

Wed, December 4th is Big Question Night!

Sat, December 7th We're looking for students to help the Christian Care Team during the Goodhue Christmas event 1-3:30PM assist with serving soft pretzels & hot chocolate & help take down the booth after.

Wed, December 11th we'll be heading to Goodhue Living to spread some holiday cheer with Christmas carols & games. We'll meet at Goodhue Living at 5:55 PM. Afterward, we'll have a meal at the church at 7pm, followed by our SWAG night with a White Elephant gift exchange, so please bring a wrapped gift if your child would like to participate.

Wed, December 18th we'll head to Red Wing to shop for Christmas gifts for kids in need. We'll start at the church for the meal at 6:45 PM, then head to Red Wing Target to purchase gifts.

## Confirmation Class

Confirmation "Edu-worship" for 7th and 8th graders is Wednesday's from 6:45-7:30PM.

Pizza is available every Wed. starting at 5:30pm

\*Dec. 18th Confirmation Live Night/No Worship

\*Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st No evening events

## Wed. Confirmation Schedules

Dec. 4 Ushering: Wieme Family

Dec. 4 Pizza Cooking: Lindholm & Sherer Families

Dec. 4 Message/Reading: Max gravemann

Dec. 4 Prayers: Kate Wieme

Dec. 11 Ushering: Aubrey Ryan Family

Dec. 11 Pizza Cooking: Lubahn & Gravemann

Dec. 11 Message/Reading: Kate Wieme, Clara Mandelkowitz

Dec. 11 Prayers: Aubrey Ryan

Dec. 18 Pizza Cooking: OPEN

## Children Sing During Worship

December 24 at 4:30pm: PreK-6th graders sing

January 12: PreK-1st graders sing

January 19: 2nd-6th graders sing



## December Acolytes

Dec. 1: McKenna Dicke & George Bonner

Dec. 8: Jence Fitzgerald & Zachery Gravemann

Dec. 15: OPEN & OPEN

Dec.22: Elnore Ryan & Garret Lodermeier

Dec. 24 at 4:30: Taye Roschen & Lauren Erickson

Dec. 25 at 9:30: Anna Petree & Carter Horsman

Dec. 29: Jaysa Dankers & Lucy Miller

## Financial Gifts

You may identify one of the following means through which you can facilitate continued generosity at any level in your ministry context.

1) Mail a check to St. Luke Church PO Box 276 Goodhue

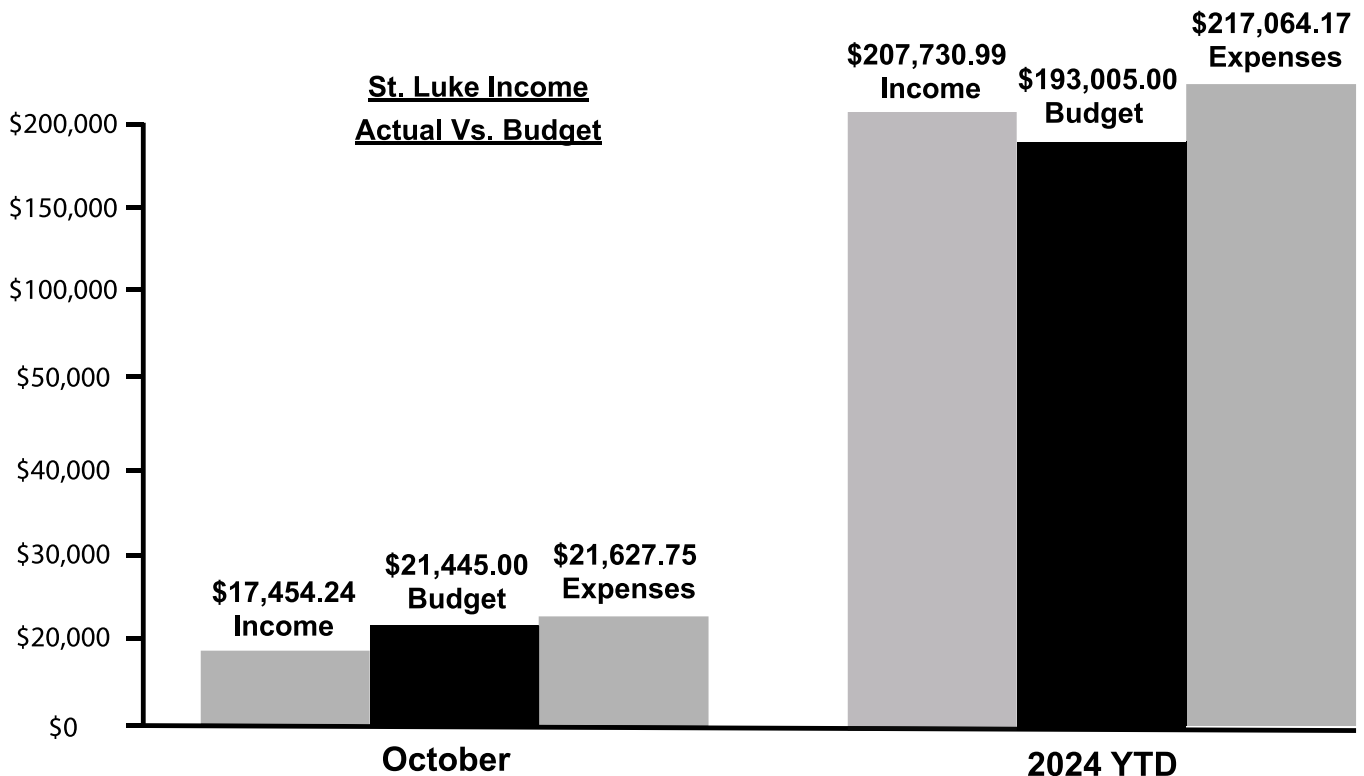
2) Consider your financial gifts through online Giving. We offer the option to give one-time or recurring gifts online through Vanco Services. Everything you need to get started can be found at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHX5> or scan this QR code with your smart phone. Detailed directions on how to give through Vanco can also be found on our website at [stlukegoodhue.org](http://stlukegoodhue.org) under the Online Giving tab.



## St. Luke YTD new building pledges VS. YTD pledge dollars received



As of November 27, 2024



## Getting to know our members! Rick and Donna Buck's Interview for St. Luke

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Rick remembers joining St. Luke when he was in the 4th grade (1970), prior to that his family attended Trinity Lutheran in Wanamingo. Donna was a member of Grace Lutheran before joining St. Luke in 1992 after her Mom passed away.

Donna's earliest memory here at St. Luke is that EVERYONE is welcome to partake in communion and the little ones receive a blessing. To this day Rick and Donna believe St. Luke is a place where we come together spiritually to grow in our faith and make and meet new /old friends. They do miss the children reciting memory work in front of the congregation and when Sunday school ended the children would go running to their parents and showing them the lesson they worked on. Now it is the music, singing and choir that hold special memories for them. So grateful for our talented soloist Michelle Matthees, Katie Schafer, Sara Strusz, Izzy, Aleaha and all others that sing. It's so powerful to listen in awe and rejoice that our church is filled with such musical talent.

When asked who was or what is the most profound or impactful memory or person from St. Luke, both Rick and Donna agreed Bryce Breuer had a great affect/influence on them. Finding out his favorite songs got them listening to the KTIS radio station. They also enjoyed when Arnie Stenlund would do the readings as "his voice would be truly captivating." Rick also remembers Chuck Munson being his Sunday school teacher. Rick and Craig Kurtti would talk about how easy it would be to be a pastor because you only have to work one day a week, throw something together for a sermon and that's it. Mr. Chuck Munson called them out on it and the whole class had to pick one of the Ten Commandments and do a sermon on it. A special service was held at Zion where they all had to deliver their sermon. That subject of becoming a pastor was never brought up again. That service at Zion could be why Rick and Donna both love the Sunrise and Christmas services held at rural Zion. As for confirmation classes Rick remembers walking to St. Luke on Wednesdays after school. He remembers Pastor Hasselquist as his teacher.

Rick's Grandma Eva was their spiritual mentor as she had an unwavering trust in God. She would read the bible every year, and did daily devotions. They also believe that all of our pastors have been good spiritual leaders in their own special ways. They really enjoyed Pastor Allen as he delivered his message/sermon he would start to sing part of a song. Pastor Eric is also a favorite of theirs, his sermons are understandable and always leaves you with a thought to ponder. He also did a beautiful grave side service for Mike (Rick's brother) whom Pastor Eric had never met but, was able to make it very touching for the family.

Rick and Donna are very grateful for our St. Luke church family. Because of all the talent, time and treasures along with the determination, sweat and commitments we have this new beautiful space to come together and worship. They believe that the legacy of St. Luke to be "The doors are always open and we welcome everyone to become a part of our faith filled church family."

Two inspirational sayings that they see first thing in the morning and the last thing at night:

1. For we walk by Faith not by Sight...2nd Corinthians
2. I Lift up my eyes to the hills-where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of Heaven and Earth. Psalm 121

Thank you Rick and Donna for sharing your memories, talents and faith with us!!

*Blessings*  
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE



# The Gift of Giving

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## Blessing Barn

Our Blessing Barn contains a variety of supplies and is staying at our old church location. Take what you need and give what you can!



Self care items such as deodorant, shampoo, toothbrushes/paste; cleaning items like laundry soap, dish soap; & baby care items are most needed. A donation bin is in the entrance at church.

## Christmas Project

St. Luke's will be supporting four local Goodhue County families in need this Christmas season. These families have experienced domestic violence. Some of the families have stayed at a local domestic violence shelters in the last year, and some have been able to stay in their homes after making them safer. Tags with gifts to purchase are in the narthex. These families could also use additional gift certificates for activities/ experiences (movie gift cards) the kids can do during their holiday break or to local restaurants. Presents need to be wrapped with the tag attached to the outside of the present & returned in the narthex by Sunday, Dec.15th. No late gifts accepted. Please include a gift receipt. Questions call or text Sara Mangan 507-951-3687.



## Year End Forward In Faith Giving

Thank you St. Luke friends and members for your continued giving to our Forward In Faith Building Fund. We are currently servicing our monthly loan payments of \$8,324 from the Building Fund. As you prayerfully discern year-end gifts, we invite you to think of the Building Fund as a repository for those gifts as we continue to use our wonderful new spaces to serve Christ's mission. We remind the congregation that Building Fund giving should be done in addition to, not instead of, gifts to St. Luke's general fund.



## Zumbrota Area Local Food Shelf

Donations of non-perishable foods or basic necessities are welcomed. Cash donations are also welcomed & can be placed in the offering plate during worship. A collection bin is located in the narthex at church. Hours and info is on their website: <https://www.findfoodgoodhuecounty.com/find-food-zumbrota>

## Hospitality Team

Ever wonder how those delicious treats show up after worship? Ever have a good conversation with somebody over a cup of coffee and a brownie right after church? If so, somebody provided that opportunity for you! St. Luke's hospitality team is looking for people interested in providing treats and making coffee on Sunday morning. Interested? Tell Pr. Eric or contact Tara in the office ([office@stlukegoodhue.org](mailto:office@stlukegoodhue.org)).

## Helping Hands Service Team

"Helping Hands" is a group of St. Luke members ready to help members of our community who are in need of assistance due to limited resources or mobility. If you or someone you know is in need of a "Helping Hand" please contact Tara in the church office (651-998-7106, [office@stlukegoodhue.org](mailto:office@stlukegoodhue.org)) or Pr. Eric, (612-834-2149, [anspachh2002@gmail.com](mailto:anspachh2002@gmail.com)). If it is an immediate need, please contact Pastor at 612-834-2149. Examples but not limited to: grocery delivery, gutter cleaning, appt. rides, yard work, etc.

## Health Care Kit Donation

We would love to deliver more kits to the Homeless Shelters this year. You can drop your items at the church. Items needed but not limited to: Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Band-Aids, Q-tips, Hairbrush, Ibuprofen, Lotion, Shaving Cream, Mouthwash, Tweezer, Nail Clipper, Vitamins, Washcloth etc.

# Stewardship

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## Giving to God “What I am Learning About Stewardship”

### Part 3: Generous Gift Giving

Generous. What does it mean? The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as: liberal in giving, marked by abundance or ample proportions, and characterized by a noble or kindly spirit. When I think of the word generous, I also think of the word generosity, which is the fact of being generous or the act of being generous. We are surrounded by generous acts of generosity on a regular basis within our church community, the Goodhue community, and beyond. It's as simple as baking ample amount of the most delicious bars for fellowship after church to giving monetary church offerings to the Forward in Faith Fund and general fund to providing donations to the Food Shelf or the Blessing Barn. I see all these examples as an expression of love for others and God. People generally give with a generous heart with no expectation for anything in return. The gift giving in turn glorifies God as it showcases His character.

The Bible tells us that generosity isn't just about giving money or material things. It's about our willingness and desire to offer our time, talents, love and resources to help and benefit others. 2 Corinthians 9: 11-13 states this: *“He will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank God for your gifts which they receive from us. For this service you perform not only meets the needs of God's people, but also produces an outpouring of gratitude to God.”*

There are many generous givers in the Bible. In Genesis 18, Abraham was one of them. He had three visitors that came to him during a very hot day. He didn't just offer to give them a place to rest; he prepared a feast for them. This story reminds me of my neighbors growing up, Bertel and Evelyn. You could not visit them without being fed a entire meal. Evelyn would always insist that our family stay to have lunch or supper with them. When I think back to the several times this happened over the course of my childhood, Bertel and Evelyn were quite like Abraham with their outpouring of generosity and kindness.

In closing, the Bible reminds us we all have the opportunity to show generosity in many forms through time, talents, and treasures. We also have the opportunity to embrace and receive generous acts of others with a gracious heart.

*-Char Volkmann*



Give

Serve



Attend

Grow

Stewardship