



ST. LUKE NEWS

July/August 2026

Pastor's Letter



Dear Church Family,

As summer continues and we look ahead to July, August, and September, I am grateful for the life and faith we share as a church. This season offers meaningful opportunities for fellowship, worship, service, and rest. I encourage each of us to stay connected as we continue growing in faith together.

I also want to invite you to something deeper that will shape not only this summer, but the future of our church. Together, let us enter a season of intentional prayer and reflection as we seek to discern where God is leading us.

This invitation does not come because anything is wrong, nor is it rooted in worry or dissatisfaction. Rather, it arises from gratitude, hope, and a sense of possibility. We give thanks for who we are, for what we do, and for the many ways God has worked through our congregation. At the same time, we recognize the importance of remaining attentive and responsive to a rapidly changing world. Faithfulness calls us not only to remember our past, but also to listen for who God is calling us to become.

As we begin this season of prayer, I invite you to reflect on three guiding questions:

- **With gratitude:** What has God been doing in and through our church over the past 135 years? Where have we seen God's faithfulness, provision, and grace?
- **With attentiveness:** What is God doing among us right now? How are we experiencing God's presence and work in this present moment?
- **With anticipation:** Where is God already at work in our community, and how is God calling us to join in that work?

These are not questions for quick answers, but for thoughtful and prayerful reflection. We will hold them together as a congregation in the months ahead, trusting that the Holy Spirit continues to guide and lead us.

In the weeks to come, you will have opportunities to participate in this process through prayer, conversation, and shared discernment. I encourage you to engage as you are able, listen deeply, and remain open to where God may be leading us.

With gratitude, attentiveness, and hope,
Pastor Ivan Milosi

<http://www.stlukelincoln.org>

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COMMUNITY GARDEN

Volunteers are invited to help with the Community Garden this July and August. Assistance is needed with weeding, grass removal, planting new seeds, harvesting produce, and preparing fresh vegetables for distribution.



Garden work times: Tuesday mornings at 8:30am and Wednesday afternoons at 4:30pm.

Harvest and distribution: Produce is harvested on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for Walter Apartments and Food Net, and on Saturdays and Sundays for the Sharing Table.

The Sharing Table is set up in the Fellowship Hall after the early service and then moved to the Narthex for those attending the 10:30am service. Fresh produce is available free to all while supplies last.

If you are available to help at another time please contact Mary Kulhanek. Jesus gave us many examples of feeding those who are hungry. When you help in the Community Garden, you help provide fresh food for neighbors in need.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child is a Year-Round project for St. Luke. We collect small items that will fit in a shoebox. These boxes are shipped outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease.

We have a list and sample of items needed in the narthex and hope you can pick up an item or two to put in the boxes that will be mailed in November.

CALENDAR

- Alcohol Anonymous meets every Wednesday - 6:30pm
- Al-Anon meets every Thursday - 11am
- Men's Fellowship meets every Thursday - 7am at Hy-Vee
- Women's Fellowship meets at 10am on the 3rd Monday of each month at Hy-Vee (July 20, Aug 17, Sep 21)

July 18 Wedding at 12pm

July 25 Fellowship Hall in use 12pm to 4pm

Aug 26 Choir begins rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7pm

Sep 7 Labor Day, Church office is closed

Sep 12 Fellowship Hall in use 1pm to 3:30pm

Sep 13 Sunday School Rally Day and all-church cook-out

Sep 13 One Combined Worship Service at 10:30am

Little Food Pantry in our Parking Lot

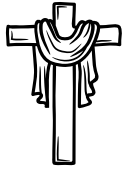
THANK YOU to all who contribute to our little food pantry. The items you place in the pantry **provide food for those who may not have enough**. Please help us by placing non-perishable food in the food pantry in our parking lot.

Thanks to Anne, Carley, and Helen Parrott for covering the pantry shelves.
Thanks to Ray Schacht for regularly checking the pantry and cleaning it up.
Thanks to Karen Karr-Ammons and her friend for their frequent and caring role in stocking the pantry.

RADA FUNDRAISER

Don't forget that Rada is an ongoing fundraiser for St. Luke. Order books are in the Narthex, along with a basket in which you can place your order.





WORSHIP

Sunday Services 8:30am & 10:30am

Communion is the first and third Sunday of each Month.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Great Reversal is a worship and preaching series that explores how God's kingdom turns the world's values upside down through humility, grace, generosity, and strength made perfect in weakness. Join us each Sunday as we discover together what it means to live the upside-down way of Jesus.

DATE	SERMON TITLE	SCRIPTURE
July 12, 2026	Week 1 Spiritual Growth	Matthew 18:1-5
July 19, 2026	Week 2 Obedience	1 Corinthians 7:22; Matthew 20:24-28
July 26, 2026	Week 3 Scale	Luke 7:36-48; Matthew 17:20
August 2, 2026	Week 4 Generosity	2 Corinthians 9:6; Mark 12:41-44
August 9, 2026	Week 5 Power	2 Corinthians 12:9-12, Matthew 19:30
August 16, 2026	Week 6 Striving Side by side	Philippians 1:21-30
August 23, 2026	Week 6 In Full Accord	Philippians 2:1-13
August 30, 2026	Week 7 Rejoice in The Lord	Philippians 4:1-9

Join Our Prayer & Discernment Group

As we look to our church's future, we are forming a team dedicated to prayer, reflection, and listening for where God is calling us next. Whether you want to join the group or simply share your ideas and concerns, Pastor Ivan wants to hear from you.

To connect, scan the QR code or call the office at 402-477-2032.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

A Special Rally Day is planned for September 13th at 10:30am followed by an all church cookout. We are looking for people to help with Rally Day and Sunday School! Sunday School is where children first learn Bible stories, Christian values, and how to apply God's Word to everyday life. Please let Pastor Ivan or Nancy McMeen know if you can help!



September 13th will be a Combined Worship Day

Both Worship Services (8:30 and 10:30am) will be worshipping together at 10:30am on Sunday, September 13th.

After the 10:30am service we will be grilling hamburgers/hot dogs and are asking those that attend to bring a side dish. To have a balance between salads and desserts, we are asking those whose last name begins with A to L to bring a dessert, and those with a last name beginning with M to Z to bring a salad.

By mid-August there will be a sign up form in the Narthex to indicate how many in your family will be attending, so we know how much meat to get.

You won't want to miss this service!

The Combined Worship and Cook-out Day is a St. Luke annual tradition that provides an opportunity to see people you may not have seen for a while and get to know other people in the St. Luke family. We hope everybody is able to attend!

(We will return to regular services at 8:30 and 10:30am on September 20th.)



THANK YOU Volunteers



60's Themed Fundraiser



The 60's themed Peace & Love fundraiser held on June 13th was an overwhelming success! Thanks to the Team that put this event together - Karen Karr-Ammons, Nancy McMeen, Dianne Sasse and Shirley Gibson did a wonderful job! Reports are that a fun time was had by all. It was a GREAT time of fellowship for our church members, family and friends. **PLUS**, we raised funds to pay for replacing our stolen air conditioner! Thank you to those that attended, participated, contributed and even prayed about this event.



Do Any of These Distinguished Gentlemen Look Familiar to You?

These costumed St. Luke men played the roles of Christ's Disciples at the Annual Good Friday services the Friday before Easter. Their reflections made the Easter story more meaningful. Thank you to each one of them!

Front Row: John Berry, Erick Brosh, George Scheel, Brad Memming, Al Rouse, Charles Zabel
Back Row: Russ Parrott, Karson Fix, Ray Schacht, Scott Opfer, Jay Stoa, Jeff Wathen

**Thank
You!**

Judy Buresh, Mike & Cheryl Lang, and Kim Memming have done a great job with some of our flowered areas and the Prayer Garden. Thanks for making our Church look so attractive!

THANK YOU ST LUKE CHOIR



The St. Luke Choir, directed by Jun Terasawa, and accompanied by Karen Karr Ammons, presented "A Journey to Hope" on Sunday, March 29th. What a beautiful, outstanding, and touching program! Thanks to each member of the Choir for sharing this amazing program with us.

Interested in Membership?

Let's Talk!!

Exploring membership at St. Luke UMC? Pastor Ivan hosts a brief, casual meetup over coffee/tea and donuts every last Sunday of the month at 9:45am and 11:40am. Or any other day by appointment. Learn what we believe, how we serve, and how you can make St. Luke your church home. We warmly welcome all who are interested!

ST LUKE MUSIC MINISTRY



The St. Luke Choir takes a break during the summer and will resume fall practices on Wednesday, August 26th.

If anyone has any special music that you'd like to share in the summer, please give the office a call or let Pastor know.