
Mission Statement: To share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people through the proclamation of the Word, the celebration of the Sacraments and through service in Christ's name.

Have a restful summer!

Come to me all you who are weak and heavy laden and I will give you rest. - Matthew 10:28

Summer! We waited so long for it after the rather cold and wet spring. Finally, summer arrived – days spent outdoors, traveling, enjoying some time for ourselves, recharging our batteries, and having some well-deserved rest. Rest sounds wonderful, doesn't it? God has worked rest into creation (Genesis 1). God thought it was so important that God included it as a part of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). For some of us, it is a hard commandment to follow. We do not feel comfortable unless we are doing something. Once we stop doing something, we feel as though we have lost our worth. We have a hard time believing that somehow God will provide. Will we have enough? If we work harder and longer, we can cut down the odds of a shortfall. But we never know how bad the shortfall might be, if there is any at all.

I find it interesting that in Psalm 23, God, the Good Shepherd, makes us to lay down in green pastures. What a beautiful image this is – you just have to stop thinking about all the insects crawling around you. Have you ever tried to lay down in a 'green pasture'? I did, as a child, with no care in the world, and I especially loved it when the grass was taller than me while lying on the ground. I remember looking up into the sky, seeing all kinds of things in the cloud formations, listening to the buzzing of the bees (but being somewhat scared of a bee sting as well), and smelling the rich fragrances of the field flowers and the grass. I sometimes use this memory when I'm in a stressful situation and need to hold on to a bit of

peace. I usually find it there in the tall grass, on a warm summer day from many years ago. Sometimes, no matter how confident we are in our strength, we are made to rest. Sometimes we just have to trust that God provides what we need. If we don't, we might be using our bodies in ways God our Creator never had in mind.

There are four purposes for rest. First, our bodies need rest. Second, it is a time to rekindle our relationship with God. You are to keep it holy. And although it sounds rather like a paradox: Our relationship with God should not rest, ever. It needs to be nurtured all the time. Third, it is a time to reconnect with family, friends and neighbours, with those who are important to us and with those who we haven't reached out to in a while. Fourth, rest is not exclusively for humans. All nature, including all living beings, the land, the plants, the animals all need rest (Leviticus 25).

Yes, it is hard to rest sometimes. There is so much temptation to work. There are so many things to trust God for. There is a rest that is out of this world. It is the true rest. It is where we can rest from all things which put stress on us. Take time to rest this summer. Take time for your bodies. Take time for God's relationship with you. Take time for family, friends and those whom God has placed before you. Take time to enjoy and care for nature. You will be more whole. Wishing you all a wonderful, peaceful and restful summer.

God bless you as you rest in God's love,
Pastor Heike



Our Love and Prayers go out to all who are in need of God's grace.

Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

*For a visit from the Pastor,
please contact Pastor Heike at 519-212-9952*

September Menu of Events:

Coffee with Friends

Tuesday, September 2 at 1:30 pm

Start the season with a coffee social. Join us for coffee and good conversation.

The Sharing Place

Friday, September 4 at 12:30 – 3:30 pm

Saturday, September 5 at 9:00 – 11:30 am

Free items. Donations of items are welcome.

Seniors' Cards (see page 4)

Council Meeting

Monday, September 15 at 7:00 pm

Walk with Friends

Tuesday, September 16

1:30 pm – meet in the parking lot

Friday with Friends (see page 3)

Ish'N Chips

Every other Wednesday

September 10, 24

October 8, 22

*Possibly into November
depending on weather.*



All Saints Sunday – November 2

On All Saints Sunday, November 2, 2025, we will commemorate all our members who passed away this church year. There will be an occasion as well to commemorate non-members of our church or those who passed away a long time ago. If you have a beloved one who you would like to commemorate on All Saints Sunday, please contact Helga with name and date of passing by October 29.

SUPPER 8

Supper 8 is back!

Supper 8 is an opportunity to get to know fellow members of St. Luke's outside of Sunday mornings.



Everyone is put into a group. Members of the group take turns hosting! Yikes what is hosting?

The host makes a reservation for the group at a local restaurant of their choosing. The group meets there for dinner (everyone pays for their own meal) and then goes back to the host's home for dessert and coffee along with conversation and maybe games.

Singles and couples are welcome.

The groups are mixed up so you will not be with the same people that were in your group this past year.

The sign-up list will be posted in the courtyard bulletin board for those members new to Supper 8 or wishing to withdraw at this time. You do not need to sign the list if you are in Supper 8 and staying in.

If you require a special arrangement, please contact Cath Wilke.

Schedules will be ready after Thanksgiving weekend.



Thanks,
Cath Wilke
519-744-3044
Wilke_family479@hotmail.com

*Fish & Chips image from Vecteezy.com
Social images from clipcraft.com*

Friday With Friends Is Back!

Join us for a meal and conversation on Fridays from 5:30-7:00 pm. Dates are listed below. Members of St. Luke's and the community are invited. Supper menu will be a surprise!!! Sign-up lists will be posted on the courtyard bulletin board – please add your name so we know the quantity of food to prepare.

Fall dates are:

- September 26
- October 24
- November 28

There is no Friday With Friends in December.

If you have questions: please speak with Cath Wilke or Nahlah Carapanta.

St. Luke's Women

Meeting:

Ladies Night Out

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Watch for details on the bulletin board.

Request:

If anyone is able, we are in need of knitters for pneumonia vests. If you are in need of a pattern, we have some available in our collection area under the stairs in the narthex. There is yarn for this project in the ladies' storage room.

Reminder:

We have prayer shawls available if you would like one to share with someone in your concerns. Please contact Elaine Schwartz.

Fall Project:

Our Mitten Tree will be up again in November to decorate with needed winter accessories. New items only please: hats, mitts, gloves, scarves, socks, slippers. Hand-made or store bought! Items will be distributed to those in need.

Community Connections Committee

The Sharing Place

September 5 & 6

November 7 & 8

Fridays – 12:30 - 3:30 pm

Saturdays – 9:00 – 11:30 am

Clothing, toys and household items are free to those in need in our community. Once again, we already have an overflowing supply of items on hand for distribution!

Christmas Gifts for Shut-Ins

We will be preparing gift bags for those who are no longer able to join us in our church activities, along with a visit and time for socializing.

The Giving Tree

Once again, we would like to support the Stanley Park Community Centre with their Christmas Tree collections: hats, mitts, scarves, blankets, socks, coats etc. – new please. The project runs from November 15 to December 6.

"Donations will be given back to the community."



Image from clipground.com

Changes

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.” — *Plato*

“Without music, life would be a mistake.”
— *Friedrich Nietzsche*

“Softly, deftly, music shall caress you. Hear it, feel it, secretly possess you.” — *Andrew Lloyd Webber*

Over the last several years, St. Luke’s has gone through several changes. We welcomed Pastor Heike, then we had to deal with the ever-changing landscape of Covid-19, and now our beloved Music Director, Gloria Berg, is retiring after 38 years of faithful service to this congregation.

When I read my email from Gloria that she was retiring, I had to read it several times as I couldn’t quite get my head around this news. After I processed it, my first thought was, “what are we going to do?” Indeed, what are we going to do? I called a meeting of the Mutual Ministry Committee. At that meeting, we all agreed that it was going to be difficult to find a new organist/music director. After all, this person will have big shoes to fill! We had to think of all the things that Gloria does so that we could come up with a job description (we are still working on this). We had to come up with a job posting (this we have completed). Then, we had to put that job posting out in the world. Now we wait and see who responds to it.

That may seem obvious and straight forward to many of you, but I can tell you that figuring out what the music director does is a hard job. There are the obvious jobs like playing for the services and directing all the choirs. But there is a myriad of behind-the-scenes jobs like choosing music, working with Helga to report music selections, attending Worship and Music meetings, practicing, etc. It is a big job.

Mutual Ministry is also mindful of how much music means to this congregation. Gloria has spent 38 years developing the music ministry that we have. She has introduced cantatas and had many talented musicians play during various services. Our task is to keep this ministry growing. It is a daunting task to say the least. I started this article with three quotes from Plato, Nietzsche and Andrew Lloyd Webber. All three of these gentlemen represent different time periods and the one thing they all have in common is that they all thought music to be of great importance. I must say, I have to agree. Can you imagine a church service with no music? I can’t. Music really adds to the service. Music touches our souls. It is a vital part of our liturgy. Martin Luther viewed music as “a gift from God and a powerful means of communicating the Gospel. Luther believed music was divinely created and essential for expressing faith, alongside the spoken Word. It serves to engage the congregation, reinforce theological truths, and provide a means of both personal and communal worship.” Or more simply put by St. Augustine, “To sing is to pray twice.”

Mutual Ministry is taking the hiring of an organist very seriously. Until we hire someone, there will be supply organists. We are asking everyone to pray and be patient as this could be a process that will take some time. We need to find not only the right talent but the right fit with our congregation. If you have questions, please talk to anyone on Mutual Ministry (Kathy Thomsen, Donna Finch, and Cathy Dowsling).

— *Kathy Thomsen, Chair of Mutual Ministry*

Seniors’ Card Social

Thursday, September 5 from 1:00-4:00 pm

Join us for an afternoon of cards and good conversation and coffee time.

Confirmation Class for youth born between 2012 and 2013

All Youth entering Grade 7 or 8 (older students are welcome) are invited to join Confirmation Class. Meeting dates will be determined together with the group. Class will start mid-October. Please reach out to Pastor Heike if you are interested.

Rally Sunday on September 7

Sunday School kick off is happening on Rally Sunday, September 7. Let's start into an amazing year of Sunday School with a Blessing during the Worship Service, registration for Sunday School, games and fun in class and an ice cream social after the service. All are invited to fellowship time with some yummy treats.

New!

Talk Faith with Friends on September 23

It is not easy to talk about our faith with others, especially outside of the church walls. In fall we explore the so-called Wreath of Christ which is known as well as Lutheran Rosary. It is a set of prayer beads developed in 1995 by Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bishop emeritus Martin Lönnebo. Each participant will have the opportunity to create their own wreath. Together we will explore how the 'Pearls of Faith' can be a useful tool to deepen our faith life. We meet at 1:30 pm in the Parlour.

Confirmation Sunday on October 5

On Sunday, October 5 we have much to celebrate as two of our youth are getting confirmed. Congratulations to Colton DeCoppel and Carl Toeller. May you always feel surrounded by God's loving care.

Display for Thanksgiving Worship Service on October 12

Attention gardeners – it would be highly appreciated if you could put aside some of your produce for our Thanksgiving Display. Items can be dropped off at the church on the morning of October 11 between 8:30 and 9:30 am. After the Worship Service on Thanksgiving, you can either take home your items or

leave them for donation at church. We will check in with Stanley Park Eats if they have use for them or leave them with our Blessing Box. Sunday School children are invited to bring a fruit or a vegetable to the Thanksgiving Worship Service. The children will have a procession into the church and celebrate Thanksgiving in their classroom.

Friends of Creation Challenge

Starting on Sunday, September 7, St. Luke's will join congregations across Canada in CLWR's Friends of Creation campaign. Over four Sundays, we'll reflect on God's call to steward the earth by looking at how climate intersects with food, water, peace, and local economies around Lake Chad, at the frontlines of climate change. Together, we'll reflect, pray, and have a chance to take action to help restore land and livelihoods in one of the world's most vulnerable regions.

Join us in answering God's call to be friends of creation: clwr.org/foc-challenge

All Saints Sunday – November 2

On All Saints Sunday, November 2, 2025 we will commemorate all our members who passed away this church year. There will be an occasion as well to commemorate non-members of our church or those who passed away a long time ago. If you have a beloved one who you would like to remember in a special way on All Saints Sunday, please contact Helga with name and date of passing by October 27. We will provide sign-up sheets in the weeks leading up to All Saints Sunday as well.

Strawberry Social – Adults in Motion

Thank you AIM, for a delightful afternoon of strawberry dessert and fun. 20 members of St. Luke's attended. We can't wait for the next one.



WEPP Team

Witness Education and Personal Preparation

This end-of-the-summer Newsletter gives opportunity to update the congregation on the WEPP Team and our activities past, present and future. The ministry of Witness Education and Personal Preparation was approved by St. Luke's Church Council at their December Meeting in 2018. It became the responsibility of the WEPP Team to transform its Mission Statement **"To equip the Saints of St. Luke's Church for the ministry of witness through providing growth opportunities such as: Small Group Bible Study, Witness Workshops, Guest Speakers, Prayer and Study Groups, and Retreats"** into mission and ministry activities in the life of St. Luke's congregation.

Over the years the Team offered a variety of Witness and Learning Activities to our people here at St. Luke's and our sister congregations. There were short prayer meetings prior to worship: The Back to Church program, Participation in our National Bishop's Prayer Emphasis for the ELCIC, The Witness Workshop for our members and those of our sister congregations, weekly Sunday Mornings and Thursday evening Bible studies, and the Prayer Box Ministry. We promoted these events with temple talks on Sunday Mornings and with articles in St. Luke's Newsletter.

While only very few members of St. Luke's participated in these activities, we created an evangelistic flavour which filled a void within our congregation's activities.

Currently, the WEPP Team is offering the ongoing Sunday morning Bible Study under shared leadership and the Thursday afternoon study lead by Pastor Heike to commence again this fall. Participants of these studies will have opportunity to decide their program.

When participating in the Bible Studies, people will not only read the Scriptures together out loud, but, as Dr. Martin Luther said, are "opened to the Holy Spirit who speaks to us through Scripture and many other means", and who grows our trust and faith in Christ. In addition, we improve our ability to verbalize our faith convictions, which is so very important for our daily witnessing activities.

The other ongoing opportunity offered to our members is the Prayer Box Ministry, which first and foremost provides opportunity for our members to insert those special prayer concerns which have sprung up during the past week and trouble us. The Prayer Ministry reads these prayers immediately after the worship service around the altar praying. The people who pray over the petition are any member of the congregation who believes in the ministry of prayer, wishes to improve her/his skill to join in group prayer, and feels invited and welcomed to join the group at the altar under the leadership of a member of the WEPP Team.

The WEPP TEAM needs your input about what you believe we should plan for and provide to St Luke's ministry program activities. Please pray for us and give us your feedback. Thank you!

Faithfully, for the WEPP Team Pastor J.R.

WEPP TEAM Questionnaire


How important are WEPP TEAM activities: very _____ somewhat _____ not at all _____

The Mission statement presents a need for our congregation yes _____ somewhat _____ not at all _____

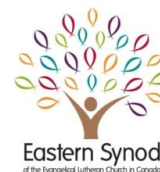
The Mission statement should be revised to include: _____

To exclude the following: _____

Please complete, cut off, and place on the plate with the offering on Sunday. Thank you!



AN **EASTERN SYNOD**
TWO RIVERS and
GRAND RIVER MINISTRY
AREA GATHERING



Future Visions:

Dreaming Together

for Tomorrow

SATURDAY
**OCT
4**

9:00 am – 12:00 noon

An invitation to all who are interested in dreaming together about the future of our churches in the Grand River and Two Rivers Ministry Areas in the Waterloo and Wellington Regions.

We welcome the Eastern Synod Officers to facilitate the conversation.

QUESTIONS?

Rev. David Malina – dmalinachurch@gmail.com

Rev. Heike Toeller – pastor.heike@gmail.com

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
317 Franklin St. N., Kitchener

Council Members:

Council Chair: Kathy Thomsen
Vice Chair: Brent Clarke
Secretary: Donna Finch
John Carapanta
Nahlah Jeorje-Carapanta
Cathy Dowsling
Barb Pitz
Don Snow
Dennis Willfang

Standing Committee Chairs:

Finance: Christine Petersen
Mutual Ministry: Kathy Thomsen
Worship and Music: Kathy Thomsen
FMT: Dennis Wilfang
Property Mgmt: Roger Wyatt and Ken Wolfe
Christian Ministry & Parish Life:
- Community Connections:
Gay Anderson & Heather Meyer-Kraft
- Sunday School: Darlene Brooks,
Dianne Metcalf, Rachel Sutton
- WEPP: Pastor Heike Toeller
Dream Team: Pastor Heike Toeller

Church Office:

(519) 893-3826
Email: info@stlukeslutheran.ca
OR stlukeslutheran317@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Mon/Wed 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Thu 9:00 – 3:00 pm

Website:

stlukeslutheran.ca

Pastor Heike

(519) 212-9952
Email: pastor.heike@gmail.com

Weekly Offerings

We appreciate your support to meet our financial obligations. Please send your offerings in through the mail or drop it off in the church's mailbox on the left side of the doors to the narthex.

We also accept e-transfers, which are set up as automatic deposits. Please send e-Transfers to our email address at stlukeslutheran317@gmail.com

When the transfer is sent, you can put the designation into the comment box (current, benevolence, building, etc.).

If you have any questions, please contact Dave DeCoppel at stluketreasurer317@gmail.com

Our mailbox is checked regularly; however, for your peace of mind, arrangements can be made with Helga to ensure your offering is retrieved the day you drop it off.

We are thankful for all who have joined PAR for their contributions. For PAR information, please contact the church office.

We graciously thank all who have continued their generous offerings.

Keep in touch...

Visit our website at www.stlukeslutheran.ca
for our online worship services, Newsletters, and updates.

Like us on Facebook and subscribe to our
YouTube Channel under
St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kitchener

**DEADLINE for Dec 2025-Feb2026 Newsletter
is November 15.**