
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.

Gratitude

Praise the Lord, my soul, and do not forget all the good God has done Psalm 103:2

You may know that I serve in three nursing homes — Trinity Village, Sunnyside, and Venvi Briarfield Gardens — as part of our outreach ministry here at St. Luke's. Most of my time is spent leading worship services for the residents, but occasionally I am also asked to step in as an emergency backup for the chaplain during vacations. It is deeply fulfilling work, and I am grateful for the connections and relationships that have grown over the four years since I began this ministry.

My favourite part is the conversations that unfold after the service, while residents wait to be escorted back to their living areas. In those moments, I am often given a glimpse into the life stories of the residents. Some of what I hear is beautiful but other stories are heartbreaking. Just as people's life stories are varied and diverse, so too are the ways they carry and process their experiences.

Once a woman recounted the major chapters of her life. She began with the war, describing how difficult those years were for her family and how she lost her father at a very young age. She touched briefly on the post-war years, her immigration to Canada, and how she met her husband. Then she made a large leap to the 2010s, when she cared for her husband until his death. Now she can no longer care for herself and lives in a nursing home. Although everyone in the care home is kind, she still feels that it is the end of the road. "Well, that was my life," she said, and I sensed a great deal of bitterness in her voice. "Where

are the happy moments?" I asked her. At first, she seemed ready to shrug it off, but then she paused and changed her mind. She fell silent for a moment, lost in thought. Then she began speaking about the birth of her children, the house with the beautiful garden where her family once lived, wonderful holidays with her husband — and suddenly the stories just poured out of her. And today? Today she was looking forward to a visit from her son and grandchild. "I'm grateful for that," she added softly.

I often ask myself: why do we remember the painful things first, while the beautiful and good fade so quickly into the background? *Praise the Lord, my soul, and do not forget all the good God has done.* For me, these words from Psalm 103 are both a promise and a reminder. They carry the promise that God leaves footprints throughout our lives. They are not always the most obvious ones. Sometimes I need time to reflect before I can recognize them. But then I begin to see the places — at the corners, crossroads, bends, and even the dead ends of my life — where God was with me and blessed me. Often in ways very different from what I had hoped or expected. At the same time, these words are also a gentle reminder: Remember what God has done for you. You have been richly blessed. And for that, it is worth giving thanks and praise to God.

That does not always come easily. Complaining and dwelling on life's hardships often seem far more natural. But when I learn to give thanks for the good in life, my perspective begins to change. I free myself, at least a little, from this vale of tears, because I remember that nothing can be taken for granted — neither good health nor the love and security of family. And perhaps Psalm 103 verse 5 means that

we are *renewed like the eagle*. Gratitude gives new strength to the soul. And how can we thank God? Quite simply: with a prayer.

I wish you all a wonderful summer, filled with many moments in which we can praise God.

Blessings, 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***

Image from pinterest.com



Council Update

March and April:

- In an effort to keep costs down, we are trying to manage our own blue bins rather than hire a company to pick up blue bin material.
- sent a thank you note to A.I.M. for creating the name tags our volunteers and staff wear.
- sent Aaron Wilke a thank you note for the electrical work he continues to do for us.
- approved the request from the Grand River Ministry area to release the funds held for the joint church picnics. These funds have been donated to *Friends of Creation*.
- declined a request from Franklin Public School to use our tables for a school event.
- Greg Lynch updated us on how the pathway project will be moving forward.
- signed the Memorandum of Understanding from the Region of Waterloo's Build Waterloo Region Pilot Programme.
- no council meetings in July or August unless necessary.

Walkway Update

At the special congregational meeting held on April 26, a majority voted to approve the two-path walkway option. Work has been scheduled to start on July 6, weather permitting. This work will take approximately two weeks. While the work is ongoing, the Narthex and education wing entrance doors will be inaccessible. Entry into the building will be through the doors by the Parlour. There will be no parking allowed in the section of the lot by the education wing. Parking will remain available in our lot along Franklin St. and by the Parlour (north side).

St Luke's Women

Next meeting:

Ladies Night Out

Thursday, October 8, 2026 (save the date)



**Women's Inter-Church
Council of Canada**

Moving forward in collaboration with the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, our collection of coins in the spare change jar January-February will be donated to support the World Day of Prayer. We are unable to continue with the Fellowship of the Least Coin as there is no longer a Canadian Branch of this organization.

The World Day of Prayer, held on the first Friday in March is a global ecumenical movement that brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. In this way, it is possible to enrich our Christian faith as it grows deeper and broader in an international, ecumenical expression.

Thank You: A special thank you to all who support St. Luke's Women's various projects, collections and responsibilities!

Needed:

Prayer Shawls
knitted or crocheted
*Thank you for your
assisting.*



The Sharing Place

Community Connections Committee

Upcoming Events

The Sharing Place

Saturday, June 6

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

What a wonderful joint effort with Rosemont United Church to enrich our community in need with clothing, household items and toys. It is a time of fellowship and joy as we assist them in their selections and share refreshments.

Neighbourhood Day

Saturday June 20,

beginning at 12:00 noon

Once again, this year we will be enjoying the entertainment of Ben Rollo, starting us off at 12:00 noon. We have plans for more musical entertainment, refreshments and games for children (of all ages). Feel free to participate.

Bring your friends!

Stanley Park Market

Once again, we will be joining the community with our presence at the market, sharing our ongoing activities and gifting the children with small books and toys and some crafting.

If you are wanting to assist with this endeavour, there is a sign-up sheet on our bulletin board.

Thanks to all who volunteer with this venture!

Prayer List Changes

Coming in October 2026, the prayer list is going to change. Names will be added to the list for a month. At the end of each month, a new list will be started. You must notify Pastor Heike or the office to have names remain on the list. This is a new idea and Worship and Music would like your feedback. Please speak with anyone of the following members: Pastor Heike, Kathy Thomsen, Cathy Wilke, Donna Finch, Debbie Gastmeier, Brent Clarke, Marilyn Colquhoun or Lois Horst.

Summer Student and Youth Volunteer in June and July

In June, we will welcome two young people working in our congregation. First, we will have a summer student who has been hired as a Community Development Worker under the Canada Summer Jobs Grant. The student will help with our Community Projects (The Sharing Place, Neighbours Day and Stanley Park Market) as well as develop future community outreach projects and take care of our Social Media accounts. The student will be with us from June 1 until the end of July. In addition to the summer student, we will welcome Pastor Heike's godson from Germany as a youth volunteer. Julian will volunteer at St. Luke's and with AIM from June 8 until June 26. Please welcome both young people warmly and connect with them – especially with Julian as he is supposed to improve his English-speaking skills.

Summer Fun Activity Day Camp

Together with our student and youth volunteer, we are planning a Summer Fun Activity Day Camp for children ages 6 to 12 on Friday, June 26, from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm (drop off 8:30 am and pick up 4:30 pm). Many different activities from outdoor sports to indoor crafts will be offered. The participation is free of charge. Please register by June 21 via email: pastor.heike@gmail.com or call the office: 519.893.3826. More information and online registration to follow.

Neighbours Day

We are hosting a Neighbours Day Porch Party on Saturday, June 20 from 11:30 until 3:00 pm, in our parking lot. At 12:00 pm Ben Rollo will give a free concert. Ben Rollo is a well-known and very versatile local musician – an absolute gem. In addition to this, we are planning to have a concert with our own musicians from St. Luke's at 1:30 pm. Celebrate with us, bring friends. Sitting space in the shade will be provided. This will be a fun afternoon with free tuck and lemonade, kids' activities with prizes, good music and fellowship.

Stanley Park Market

We are signed up to participate at the Stanley Park Market on Thursday evenings from July 9 to August 27 – 5:00 – 8:00 pm. We offer different activities at our booth which vary from simple craft activities for children and giving out free items from our blessing box. Our goal is to be present and connect with the people living in our neighbourhood. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please sign up on the schedule posted on the Community Connections Bulletin Board in the courtyard hallway.

Confirmation 2027

Calling all youth in Grade 7 and 8 or older for Confirmation Class 2026/2027. A new class starts mid-October (day and time will be determined with the group). With hands-on and fun activities, we discover our faith and learn some new things. The Summer Lutheran Youth Camp, which always takes place during the last week of summer break, is a mandatory part of the confirmation experience at St. Luke's. At the end of the Confirmation time, we celebrate our accomplishments in a festive Worship Service and affirm our baptism. Parents of youth on our membership list will receive an invitation to confirmation class by August. Please reach out to Pastor Heike if you have any questions.

Summer Worship Services and Summer Safety

We continue with one outdoor worship service per summer month. If the weather does not cooperate on a scheduled Outdoor Worship Service Day, we will move into the sanctuary and postpone the outdoor worship service to the next Sunday. Please note that the outdoor worship services will be more contemporary with shortened liturgy. You don't need to bring your own lawn chair to the outdoor worship services, unless you want to and we kindly ask you to bring umbrellas, hats, water and sunscreen for your own safety. Because of the expected work on our driveway, the outdoor services will move to the other side of the building and take place in the entrance area facing Franklin School. Depending on how the driveway work develops, we might move back to the spot in front of the education wing. We will play it by ear and adjust to the situation. Outdoor services are scheduled for July 26 and August 23.

Worship Services in July and August will not be live streamed. The Summer Sermon Series from the ELCIC will be presented every week on our YouTube channel.

With regard to summer safety: As you all know our sanctuary can be very hot during the summer months. We will have fans set up, but they only can do so much. Please bring a water bottle to church, remain seated during liturgy when you aren't able to stand for longer periods, and feel free to stand up and go outside to get some fresh air. Should it be very

hot on summer Sundays, Pastor and Worship Assistants will refrain from wearing liturgical clothing. In addition to this we will provide hand fans, water and cooling towels. If you use the fans and cooling towels, please return them so they can be reused (towels will be washed).



Image from pixabay.com

Summer Worship Service Schedule

July 5 – Indoor Worship Service with Holy Communion

July 12 – Indoor Service of the Word

July 19 – Indoor Worship Service with Holy Communion

July 26 – Outdoor Service of the Word

August 2 – Indoor Worship Service with Holy Communion

August 9 – Indoor Service of the Word with Baptism

August 16 – Indoor Worship Service with Holy Communion

August 23 – Outdoor Service of the Word

August 30 – Indoor Worship Service with Holy Communion at the railing (Pastor Heike at Summer Lutheran Youth Camp – pulpit supply to be determined)



Outdoor Worship Service

Pastor Heike will be at the
Summer Lutheran Youth Camp
with youth from our congregation from
August 30 – September 4
and will reply to Emergency Calls.

Updated Directory

If you would like an updated directory list, please notify Helga in the office. A copy will be made available. This will be the most current information we have for addresses, phone numbers and emails. Please note that the Members portal of St. Luke's website is unfortunately unavailable.

Outdoor Worship Service image by lockportemmanuelumc.com

the sharing place



free • clothes | toys
household items

Saturday June 6, 2026
9:00 am – 12:30 pm

**St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

317 Franklin St N, Kitchener
Bus Route #28, between Ottawa and Weber

More Info:

The Sharing Place KW
on Facebook

Email: thesharingplace.sl@gmail.com





Image from inspiredpencil.com.

Council Members:

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

Standing Committee Chairs:

Finance: Christine Petersen
Mutual Ministry: Kathy Thomsen
Worship and Music: Kathy Thomsen
Rentals: Cathy Dowsling
Property Mgmt: Roger Wyatt and Ken Wolfe
Christian Ministry & Parish Life:
- Community Connections:
Gay Anderson & Heather Meyer-Kraft
- Sunday School: Darlene Brooks,
Dianne Metcalf, Jeni Metcalf,
Rachel Sutton, Brenda Robinson
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 9:30 – 3:30 pm

Website:

stlukeslutheran.ca

Facebook and YouTube

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Kitchener

Instagram: [stlukeskw](https://www.instagram.com/stlukeskw)

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 Sept-Nov Newsletter
is August 15.**