
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.

So, this is what reconciliation looks like ...

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
Ephesians 3:13

We know how this works. I'm sure we have all experienced this in one way or the other. You don't even remember exactly how it started. Probably the usual ... "You could put your things away for once." "Why? It's perfectly tidy." "I'm always having to clean up after you. I'm not your housekeeper." "Yeah, yeah, I'll put it away in a minute." "No. I want you to do it now, otherwise you'll just forget again." And so it goes. One word leads to another. The conversation gets heated until we're shouting at each other. Eventually, a door slams. We stop talking. Each of us waits for the other to make the first move.

But we are stubborn. Each of us believes we are right. Eventually, one of us overcomes their pride and says, "Hey, come on. Peace?" And suddenly, the knot is untied. We embrace. There is relief. There is freedom. Reconciliation feels good.

But what happens when the wounds go so deep that reconciliation seems almost impossible? Think of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Decades of violence and retaliation. One attack followed by another. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." There have been many attempts at reconciliation, but again and again they have failed because simply shaking hands and saying, "Let's make peace," is not enough.

Reconciliation means moving toward one another. It means being willing to leave our own position and encounter the other person. It means not insisting on being right at all costs.

Reconciliation needs fertile ground on which it can grow. Just as a plant needs a seed planted in fertile soil, the seed of reconciliation must be sown. And even then, we cannot simply say, "Okay, now grow!" A plant needs to be nurtured and cared for. It needs patience, attention, and nourishment. Reconciliation is hard work. But I believe the effort is worth it. Every year on September 30, we have set aside a National Day of Truth and Reconciliation to remember the victims of residential schools here in Canada. What do we have to do with this? We didn't do anything! We might not personally, but we must acknowledge the pain and sorrow the system we lived in had on our indigenous siblings – especially as people of faith.

...continued page 2



This shirt has been designed by Lana Moses from St. Matthews and can be purchased through the online shop of the Eastern Synod:
<https://design.tshirtelephant.com/EasternSynod/shop/product-detail/14034623>

We are all expressions of God's love, a love that is present throughout creation. I am a person valued and cherished by God. You are a person valued and cherished by God. May I treat myself with care and compassion, and may I offer you that same care. If I have hurt you, may I have the courage to ask for forgiveness. If you have hurt me, may I have the grace to forgive. And may we both have the courage to take that first step toward one another. May God bless us with the gift of reconciliation, and bless our journey toward one another with peace.

Peace, 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*

Upcoming Activities

Seniors' Cards

Starting back up on Thursday, September 17
1:00 – 3:00 pm followed by fellowship.
We play Solo and Euchre. Join us!

Pie Auction

Attention all Bakers and Pie Lovers!
We are having our fourth annual pie auction on October 4 in the Parish Hall following the Worship Service.

What we need from you:

Bakers: we need you to start planning your most delicious pie and make it to donate to the auction.
Pie Lovers: we need you the most! Start dreaming of the pies you would like to eat and start saving for your purchase, there could be someone else that wants the same pie as you.

More information will be announced on the Sundays before the auction.

Music at St. Luke's

Things are ramping up again for another season of music at St Luke's. We welcome new members to all our choirs, and no experience is necessary. Come and sing with us!

We will begin weekly rehearsals on September 12 at 10:00 am for Loft Choir and 11:30 am for Handbell Choir. Children's Choir will start after church on September 13 following the service.



Image from pixabay.com

Lois will be offering piano lessons on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the evenings. Please contact by phone 226-338-6021 or email at:

lois_horst@hotmail.com

Council Corner

- approved the extension of the copier/printer lease
- approved Pastor Heike's Vacation time
- received updates on the pathway project
- had fans installed in the sanctuary as per the results of the congregational meeting

St Luke's Women

Ladies Night Out

Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 pm

Golf Steak House,

598 Lancaster St. W. Kitchener

Present needs:

- Yarn worsted weight (#4) for prayer shawls, pneumonia vests, winter outerwear.
- Fabric or fancy pillow cases and sheets for girl's dresses for overseas relief.

Mitten Tree and more:

Our mitten tree will be up for the month of November. We also support The Giving Tree at the Stanley Park Community Centre and donate items to our Blessings Box. Some of our hand knitted items are donated to the knitting table at our bazaar.

We are requesting NEW hats, mitts, gloves, scarves, socks, slippers, sweaters and jackets – for these projects, but if you do have used items you would like to donate, we can give them to The Sharing Place give away events held at our church.

Thank you for your continuous support of our other charitable collections: pop can tabs, used batteries, used postage stamps, foreign currency and items for Canadian Food for Children ... which goes to those in need especially in South America and Africa. A special thank you for the regular donation of lovely hand-knitted baby items – very much appreciated and so beautiful!

Ish'N Chips

Every other Wednesday

September 9, 23

October 7, 21



Fish & Chips image from Vecteezy.com

Community Connections Committee

Our community initiatives

The Sharing Place:

Saturday, September 12

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.

The Blessings Box:

What a busy place – very well received by the community. We are always in need, especially of children's books in good condition and current please. For this fall season, we would like to offer school supplies for our neighbour children at Franklin School. We continue to offer hygiene items as well. Any donations are appreciated.

Stanley Park Eats:

Donations needed – Olive oil, croutons (large bag), pasta (small penne) and macaroni, garlic powder, assorted canned beans (kidney, black, chick pea, navy). Items may be placed in the box between the doors at the Sunday school entrance.

Thanks to all who helped with...

Our **Neighbour Day Event** and those who tended our booth at the **Stanley Park Market** on Thursday evenings throughout the summer. We appreciate your efforts in reaching out to our community.

Our **Trunk Sale** proved very successful again this year – thanks to those who put in the hard work! Funds from the rental fees were donated to Stanley Park Eats. Funds from our church garage sale table and the bake table supported efforts to reduce our deficit.

A donation was made to **Marillac Place** thanks to your contributions to our spare change jar through May and June.

Confirmation Class for youth born between 2013 and 2014

All Youth entering Grade 7 or 8 (Grade 6 students and older students are welcome) are invited to join Confirmation Class. Meeting dates will be determined with the group. Class will start mid-October. Please reach out to Pastor Heike if you are interested.

Rally Sunday on September 13

Sunday School kick off is happening on Rally Sunday, September 7. Let's start 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.

Season of Creation

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator, and acknowledge to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth. This year, the theme for the Season is 'Living Water'. At St. Luke's we will celebrate the 'Season of Creation' on Sunday, September 27 during the Worship Service.



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER
Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Talk Faith with Friends

Talk Faith with Friends meets every last Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm. The first meeting is on September 29. This season we work with the book 'Praying the Catechism' by Donald and Susan Johnson (the former National ELCIC Bishop). We reflect on the core of our faith in light of twenty-first-century challenges and practice different expressions of our spirituality.

Display for Thanksgiving Worship Service on October 11

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 12 between 8:30 and 9:30 am. After the Worship Service on Thanksgiving, you can either take home your items or leave them at church to be donated. 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.

All Saints Sunday – November 1

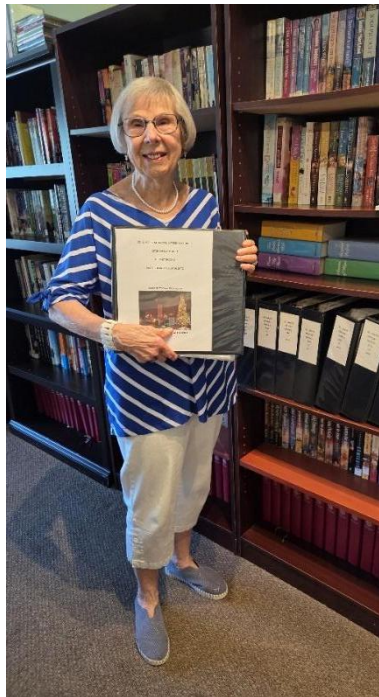
On All Saints Sunday, November 1, we will commemorate all our members who passed away this church year. At this time, we will also commemorate non-members and those who have passed away a long time ago. If you have a beloved one who you would like to remember in a special way during the Worship Service, please put your information on the sign-up sheets which will be provided in the weeks leading up to All Saints Sunday.

Disciples in Action: Donna Finch

Celebrating the people who make ministry happen at St. Luke's

Donna is active in manifold ways at St. Luke's. She is a member of Council, the St. Luke's Dream Team, the Worship and Music Committee, the Socialites, and the Mutual Ministry group. She sings with the Loft Choir and rings with the Bell Choir. When the choirs take their summer break, Donna steps up as a Worship Assistant. She also lends a hand with the Sharing Place, the Bazaar, Stanley Park Market, and Neighbours Day. No one knows Burinot's Rules quite as well as Donna does, and she is our go-to person when it comes to bylaws, policies, procedures, and archives.

But did you know that Donna also puts our History Books together? With great care, love, and attention to detail, she tells the story of St. Luke's congregational life through photographs and words. If you have ever tried scrapbooking, you know just how much time and work goes into something like this!



Our History Books are kept in the Parlour and are accessible to everyone. So, why not take some time to browse through them? Make yourself comfortable in one of our grand leather chairs, perhaps get yourself a cup of coffee, and enjoy the colourful story of St. Luke's—and the many people who have been part of it.

Thank you, Donna, for keeping our history alive and up to date, and for helping to tell the story of St. Luke's with such care and love. We are grateful for all of the ways you share your gifts with our congregation!

Pastor Heike

National Church Council (NCC)

I have served on NCC for the past year after being elected at last year's national convention. So, what is NCC about? We carry out many of the same functions as our congregational councils. We are responsible for the financial donations the ELCIC receives. We look after governance issues pertaining to the national church. Members of NCC serve on committees to facilitate this work.

The chair of NCC is our national Bishop – Larry Kochendorfer. We have a vice-chair, secretary and treasurer. We have representation from all 5 synods who are elected at convention. There is one rostered and one lay member from each synod as well as one additional lay member from the synod with the most membership (currently Eastern Synod). We can serve up to 3 three-year terms on NCC – for a total of 9 years.

We meet in person, twice a year. This past March, we met in Calgary. We continued with the work of Facing Today – Dreaming for the Future. The goal of this initiative is to shape our national church into a sustainable structure for the future. 90% of the investment return on our Mission fund is allocated to the Synods and National Church for their work. We were updated on the ELCIC's work with our international ecumenical partners and programmes, including CLWR's Friends of Creation. To finish off our weekend meeting, we worshipped with various churches in the Calgary area. I attended service at Lutheran Church of the Master in Airdrie.

Ongoing, lots of learning.

Cath Wilke

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 on.

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

Schedules will be ready after Thanksgiving weekend.



Social images from clipcraft.com

Update from your Finance Committee

We hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. There have been many welcome improvements to the premises over the last few months funded by the Building Fund and St. Philip's Fund.

Our current account has funded our regular operating expenses including salaries, utilities, maintenance and office expenses. Even with the generosity of our members over the past several months, current donations have been lower over the summer months and as a result we are once again in a deficit position in our current account. We ask members to consider increasing their current donations for the remainder of the year so that we end 2026 in a surplus position.

- Christine Petersen, Cathy Wilke, Nancy MacLean

Prayer List Change

Coming in October, the prayer list is going to change.

Names will be added to and on 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.

Pathway Project



All are welcome in this place.

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 Jan-Mar 2027 Newsletter
is December 15, 2026.**