



May 2026

In May we celebrate mothers on a specific Sunday every year. It is usually very special with maybe a brunch in a nice restaurant (so Mom does not have to prepare a meal); a thoughtful gift to let her know how important she is; and even, in Lima, a dance recital. It is usually a day we do not let pass without letting our mothers know the impact they had on our lives and how we appreciate them. These memories made me curious to read more about the mothers in the Bible.

- **Eve** (Genesis) was the first mother of the Bible and she is known as the mother to all. She had the extreme sadness of dealing with the loss of one son, Abel, by the hands of another son, Cain.
- **Sarah** (Genesis) was unable to have a child with her husband, Abraham, long past the age most would expect to bear children. God sent three angels to deliver the message to Abraham that Sarah would bear him a son. Sarah was 90 years old and laughed at the idea that she would carry a son, despite this she gave birth to Isaac.
- **Jochebed** (Exodus) was the mother of Moses. We do not all recognize her name, but we remember her sacrifice. She floated baby Moses in a basket as the Pharaoh was threatening to have all Hebrew male babies killed. The daughter of Pharaoh rescued Moses and as an adult he was the leader of the Hebrews who led them out of slavery.
- **Hannah** (I Samuel) prayed fervently for God to bless her with a child as she was barren. She vowed that if God blessed her with a son she would dedicate him to be a servant of God. She gave birth to Samuel and when he was weaned she took him to the temple to serve and learn under Eli, the priest.
- **Elizabeth** (Luke) was the mother of John the Baptist. The angel Gabriel brought the news that Elizabeth, despite being of an advanced age would bear a son. While she was pregnant she had a visitor named Mary who was also with child. It is recorded in the Bible that Elizabeth's son jumped for joy in his mother's womb when hearing Mary's voice. John, as we know, grew up to be John the Baptist and foretold the coming of Jesus.
- **Mary** (Luke) the mother of Jesus was one of the most revered and beloved women of the Bible. She was delivered the message of being with child by the angel, Gabriel and she faced this news with courage and faith. She accepted her role of being the mother of Jesus even though she most certainly was filled with anxiety being a virgin mother.

All of these mothers faced adversities and challenges with grace and faithfulness. May we all embrace the characteristics these mothers of the Bible demonstrated in their lives. I hope that they inspire us and remind us that God is with us at all times and through all.

Prayers for all the mothers of St. Luke's to have a wonderful Mother's Day this year and in the upcoming years.

Blessings to you all,
Marcy Reeves

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL 2026			
4/5 (141)	4/12 (59)	4/19 (83)	4/26 (52)

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MONTH
 Join us for Worship weekly in the SANCTUARY at 10:15 am.

5th Sunday of Easter ~ May 3 ~ Pastor Bob Gibson , presiding:

Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today’s gospel includes Jesus’ promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father’s house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus’ mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

6th Sunday of Easter ~ May 10 ~ Pastor Bob Gibson, presiding:

Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord’s table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

7th Sunday of Easter ~ May 17 ~ Pastor Deb Monnin, presiding:

Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today’s gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Day of Pentecost ~ May 24 ~ Pastor Steve Nelson, presiding:

Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God’s presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God’s presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God’s redeeming love to all the world.

The Holy Trinity ~ May 31 ~ Pastor Deb Monnin, presiding:

Genesis 1:1—2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

Though the word *trinity* is not found in the scriptures, today’s second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

Daily Devotions



Each day, Monday through Saturday, Pastors Beth and Dave publish brief devotions based on the Sunday texts. You may also access them on the St. Luke’s website: www.stlukeslima.org



Our Daily Bread, the soup kitchen of Downtown Lima, serves thousands of trays of food every year. Open every day but Sunday, the kitchen serves meals for those in need in Lima.

Reaching out in faith, St. Luke's helps with volunteers on the fourth Friday each month, 11 am – 1 pm. This month, our service date is **Friday, May 22nd**. You many volunteer to serve by contacting Linda Mann at 419-303-9793.

WHAT'S UP AT CUP?

In March 2026. CUP served 1,068 people with 9.612 meals provided. CUP registered 56 new households to us and 21 of those were new to any food pantry in our area. That is compared to last year when we registered 34 new households to CUP and only 12 of them were new to any food pantry in our area.

St. Luke's hygiene product for the month of May is shampoo. As always we are glad to have any personal hygiene item you would like to contribute. Used grocery bags are very much appreciated. If you have reusable bags that you wish to get out of your home, we will take them too.

Thank you St. Luke's for your continued prayers, financial support, and your gifts of bags, food, and hygiene items for the ministry of CUP. Our hungry neighbors are very appreciative of the food and hygiene items we provide.



Thank you to all that helped with our community meals! Whether you brought delicious desserts, helped serve the chili or helped with clean up, I am grateful for your service. We served over 258 people and gave out over 800 servings of chili with both eat ins and to go orders! Plus we had a good time being together! This is a ministry that is near and dear to my heart. (Shout out to the Bath Boy Scouts for helping at the meals as well. They do a great job!) Thanks again everyone!

- Alison Williams








Thanks be to God and all the saints of God at St. Luke's for the wonderful *Aloha* party for my farewell. God has certainly blessed St. Luke's with joyful laughter and warm fellowship. They were both on display my last day, along with some tears.

Special thanks to those who helped with the food set up and service, those who planned the celebration, and especially the choir who shared one of my favorite hymns: *Be Thou My Vision*. I appreciate the special gifts of shirts -one of which is traveling to Europe with us and another that will be on display at the Synod Assembly. Beth and I also give thanks for the monetary gifts and gift cards we received.

May God continue to bless the mission and ministry of St. Luke's. Thank you for the opportunity and privilege of serving the Lord with you.

Pastor Dave

MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
				
3 9:00a Choir 9:00a Bible Classes 10:15a Liturgy of Holy Communion	4 5:30-7:30 BB-NLC	5 6p Altar Guild 7:00p NA (NLC)	6 5:30-7:30 BB-NLC	7 10a WELCA 5-7P BB-NLC
10 9:00a Choir 9:00a Bible Classes 10:15a Liturgy of Holy Communion 	11 10a Financial Meeting 11a Staff Meeting 1p Worship Meeting 6p AGO Dinner (NLC)	12 6p Council Meeting 7:00p NA (NLC)	13 5:30-7:30 BB-NLC	14  5-7P BB-NLC
17 9:00a Choir 9:00a Bible Classes 10:15a Liturgy of Holy Communion 11:30a WECLA Spring Fling Celebration (NLC)	18 5:30-7:30 BB-NLC	19 7:00p NA (NLC)	20 5:30-7:30 BB-NLC	21 5-7P BB-NLC
24 Last Day for Choir 9:00a Choir 9:00a Bible Classes 10:15a Liturgy of Holy Communion NLC Rental	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 11a Mary/Martha 7:00p NA (NLC)	27 10a Herald Assembly 5-7P BB-NLC	28 5-7P BB-NLC
31 9:00a Bible Classes 10:15a Liturgy of Holy Communion 11:15a Graduates celebration	 Find Us on Facebook! To find us on Facebook, search for St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Lima, Ohio. "Like" us and you'll have access to pictures and announcements of ministry happening in the name of Jesus Christ here at St. Luke's.			



Worship Assignments for May 2026

Altar Duties: Jane Williams

Friday	Saturday
1	2 7:30p NA (NLC)
8 5-7P BB-NLC	9 7:30p NA (NLC)
15 5-7P BB-NLC	16 7:30p NA (NLC)
22 11-1 Our Daily Bread 5-7P BB-NLC	23 7:30p NA (NLC)
29	30 1p NLC Rental 7:30p NA (NLC)

May 3 ~ 5th Sunday of Easter

Worship:
 Leader: Pastor Bob Gibson
 Organist: Cathryn Nihiser
 Acolyte: Zoey Kennedy
 Child Mess: Marcy Reeves
 Lector: Rachael Lewis
 Comm Ser: Beth Arheit McCarty
 Julianna Lewis
 Ushers: Lois Kennedy
 Rich Moritz

May 10 ~ 6th Sunday of Easter

Worship:
 Leader: Pastor Bob Gibson
 Organist: Sandy Miller
 Acolyte: Julianna Lewis
 Child Mess: Noisy Offering
 Lector: Mary Stepleton
 Comm Ser: Sandy Gray
 Nancy Rudolph
 Ushers: Mike Gray
 Dick McCarty

May 17 ~ 7th Sunday of Easter

Worship:
 Leader: Pastor Deb Monnin
 Organist: Sandy Miller
 Acolyte: Addi Cardenas
 Child Mess: Dawn Arheit
 Lector: Dale Laukhuf
 Comm Ser: Marcy Reeves
 Marcia Laukhuf
 Ushers: Dee Sherer
 Dick Fisher

May 24 ~ Day of Pentecost

Worship:
 Leader: Pastor Steve Nelson
 Organist: Sandy Miller
 Acolyte: Zoey Kennedy
 Child Mess: Megan Mulcahy
 Lector: Sarah Oleson
 Comm Ser: Lee Moritz
 Jane Williams
 Ushers: Bill Oleson
 Tyler Arheit

May 31 ~ The Holy Trinity

Worship:
 Leader: Pastor Deb Monnin
 Organist: Sandy Miller
 Acolyte: Delaney Cardenas
 Child Mess: Dawn Arheit
 Lector: Lonnie Collins
 Comm Ser: Lois Kennedy
 Mary Trueblood
 Ushers: Phil Trueblood
 Bob Williams

SUNDAY MORNING GENERAL OFFERING FOR APRIL 2026

4/5	\$7,056.09
4/12	\$8,575.20
4/19	\$2,131.66
4/26	\$1,217.00

All generously given
to make known
the Gospel of Jesus Christ



ALTAR FLOWERS

May 3	Lois Kennedy Sandy Miller
May 10	Lyn Mulcahy Liz Ebbing
May 17	Gus & Lisa Steinke open
May 24	Lee Moritz Mary Stepleton
May 31	Lois Kennedy Lee Moritz

* NLC = New Life Center

A Glance at our 2026 Budget as of 4/27/26

Income: \$69,387.29
Expense: \$106,512.33
Net Income: -\$37,125.04



Congratulations to Our 2026 Graduates

Adrian Lewis, son of Sara Julian & Joe Lewis

School: Graduating from Lima Senior High School

Future Plans: Adrian will be attending Ohio Northern University majoring in Entertainment, Design and Production.

Ella Moritz, daughter of Richard & Dana Moritz

School: Graduating from Shawnee High School Summa Cum Laude

Future Plans: Ella will be attending The Ohio State University (Columbus) majoring in Health Science.

Lauren Williams, daughter of James & Alison Williams

Graduating Magna Cum Laude from Ohio Northern University with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Social Studies, Education and History

Lauren is hoping to teach grades 7-12 in our area.

PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY, MAY 31ST IN THE GATHERING AREA FOR CAKE AFTER SERVICE



WOMEN OF THE E.L.C.A. (WELCA)

YOUR WELCA BOARD

President: Sarah Oleson **Vice President:** Mary Trueblood
Secretary: Sandy Gray **Treasurer:** Alison Williams
Missions Director: Jane Williams

They will meet on the 1st Thursday of the month, at 10:30 am in the Gathering Area

Mary/Martha will be held on Tuesday, May 7th @ 11:00am

May WELCA Projects

Spring Luncheon Sunday, May 17th, 11:30am - 1:00pm in the NLC. Discussion continues for this luncheon. A "good-will" offering will be taken with the proceeds going to support the Samaritan House. It will be held immediately following our church service. The menu will be: Shredded Chicken Sandwiches, Ham Sandwiches, Chips and beverages (provided by WELCA) and side dishes and desserts being provided by the congregation. A Sign-up sheet for dishes will be available in the gather Area.

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

If you have worshipped at St. Luke's for even a short time, you have likely noticed the abundance of musical gifts and talents with which we are blessed. Our chancel choir serves us weekly, throughout most of the year, offering praise to our Lord and guiding us in the liturgy and in our congregational song. We thank you, O God, for our choir!

During the summer months, our choir takes a break, allowing for individuals and ensembles from the congregation to offer their musical gifts. Have you been blessed by God with a musical talent? Would you consider offering your gift in worship? Please sign-up (a sign-up sheet is ready in the Gathering Area) or let Sandy Miller know if there is someone or something you would like to hear in your worship services this summer.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

- Colossians 3:16

It has been a tradition in recent years to invite the whole congregation to select hymns for use in our weekly liturgies during the summer months. Now is the time to begin submitting your requests. The requests need to be turned in by Sunday, May 24th. Try to pick just one!!



Adult Bible Study

Each Sunday morning, 9 am, come and explore the Bible with your friends at St. Luke's. Meeting in the Pastor's Office, and led by Mila, the class discusses the Bible passages scheduled for that Sunday. Come, enjoy the conversation, and find renewal in the Word of the Lord.

Mark Your Calendars

"The Messiah" composed by G.F. Handel is a beloved oratorio throughout the world. **Starting June 7, from 9:00 until 10:00** in the pastor's study, you will have an amazing opportunity to enjoy the scripture and the music of "The Messiah". You will discover things that may surprise you and maybe enhance your enjoyment of "The Messiah". The leaders for this study are Mila Schwabero and Sandy Altenbach. We look forward to seeing on June 7 from 9:00-10:00 in the pastor's study.

NOISY OFFERING



The **April** offering was **\$129.90** and went to the usual recipient of this offering Churches United Pantry (CUP). Your generosity helps our neighbors in need.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
209 W. North Street
Lima, OH 45801-4324

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Dated Material

Liturgy of Holy Communion
Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
www.stlukeslima.org

How to Reach Us:

By Phone:
419-227-1961

Church Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 9:00a-2:00p

Via email:
Robin Hefner, *secretary* secretary@stlukeslima.org

Staff

Interim Pastor – Dave Westphal (Cell:419-455-0513)
Interim Hospital Visitation Pastor - Samuel Payne (Cell:419-371-9774)
Organist – Sandy Miller
Choir Director – Brian Reeves
Office Secretary – Robin Hefner

Congregational Leaders

President - Rich Moritz
Vice President - James Williams
Secretary - Lois Kennedy
Treasurer - Alison Williams
Marcy Reeves, Susie Cornell,
Jane Williams, Perry Luhn, Tyler Arbeit



St. Luke's Renewed Website is up and running. Be sure to check it out.

www.StLukesLima.org